



# Regional EST Forum in Asia



Clean Asia Initiative

- Location
- Project Background

Asian region

The Asian region has witnessed extraordinarily rapid urbanization in recent years. Without major efforts to address air pollution and green house gases (GHGs) from the transportation sector, growing vehicle ownership and usage in developing countries, growing accidents, and the trend of urbanization would undermine human health, urban environmental quality, economic productivity, social equity, and all other aspects of sustainability. With an understanding that efforts to promote environmentally sustainable transport (EST) will result not only in the improvement of human health through the reduction of urban air pollution but will also have important complimentary benefits, including the reduction of GHG emissions, deaths and injuries from road accidents, harmful noise levels, and traffic congestion levels, the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) and the Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan, has jointly organized the "Regional EST Forum in Asia" since 2005. The Regional EST Forum comprises: (1) high-level government representatives (from the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry of Health); and (2) a subsidiary group of experts in various thematic areas related to EST.

- Objectives

The objectives of the Regional EST Forum in Asia are as follows:

- (1) Facilitate policy dialogues and provide a strategy for sharing best practices, policy instruments, tools, technologies, in relations to various aspects of EST among Asian countries
- (2) In consultation with the subsidiary expert groups, facilitate and provide necessary advisory support for the formulation of national EST strategies and action plans on EST for selected countries
- (3) Support the implementation of the action plans into practice through the participation of international organizations and international development and donor agencies
- (4) Help establish linkages with other ongoing regional and international activities/initiatives in promoting EST

### Intergrated EST Strategy

01	Public health	08	Cleaner fuels
02	Road safety and maintenance	09	Strengthening road side air quality monitoring and assessment
03	Traffic noise management	10	Vehicle emissions control & standards & Inspection/Maintenance
04	Social equity and gender perspectives	11	Land use planning
05	Public transport planning & Transport demand management (TDM)	12	Strengthening knowledge base, awareness and public participation
06	Non-motorised transport		
07	Environment and people friendly infrastructures		

- Member Countries

10 ASEAN Countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam), 8 SACEP Countries (South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme) (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka), China, Japan, Republic of Korea, and Mongolia (alphabetical order)

- Project Achievements

The Regional EST Forum in Asia has been held five times, since the first forum held in Nagoya, Japan, in August 2005. As major outcomes of the past Forums, the *Aichi Statement* (2005), the *Kyoto Declaration* (2007) and the *Seoul Statement* (2009) have been adopted for the promotion of EST in Asia. At the Fifth Regional EST Forum in Asia, recently held in Bangkok, Thailand from 23 to 25 August 2010, around 200



participants including senior government officials (mostly from Environment and Transport Ministries) from 22 Asian countries, representatives from international organizations, bilateral and multilateral agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and research organizations, and sustainable transport experts were in attendance. The major achievements of the Forum are as follows:



The Fifth Regional EST Forum in Asia

- (1) The high-level representatives from 22 Asian countries participated in the Forum shared and discussed the progress and achievement on EST in their countries including best practices and successful policy instruments in promoting environmentally sustainable transport.
- (2) The participants discussed innovative approaches and best practices at local and national level in the areas of partnerships, urban and regional rail, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), fuel efficiency, and freight transport.
- (3) The participating countries of the Forum discussed and agreed on a voluntary declaration, "*Bangkok Declaration for 2020 – Sustainable Transport Goals for 2010-2020*", in order to demonstrate the renewed interest and commitment of Asian countries towards realizing a promising decade (2010-2020) of environmentally sustainable transport. This good-will Declaration is expected to influence the decisions of governments and various transport stakeholders in the region over the next decade.

#### Efforts towards EST in Asia

2004	Preparatory inaugural meeting in Manila, Philippines
2005	The Inaugural Regional EST Forum in Nagoya, Japan adopted " <i>Aichi Statement</i> "
2006	The Second Regional EST Forum in Yogyakarta, Indonesia
2007	"Asian Mayors' Policy Dialogue for the Promotion of EST in Cities" in Kyoto, Japan adopted " <i>Kyoto Declaration</i> "
2008	The Third Regional EST Forum in Singapore Special Event of Asian Mayors for the Signing of the <i>Kyoto Declaration</i> for the Promotion of Environmentally Sustainable Transport in Bangkok, Thailand
2009	The Fourth Regional EST Forum in Seoul, Korea adopted " <i>Seoul Declaration</i> "
2010	Special Event of Asian Mayors for the Signing of the <i>Kyoto Declaration</i> for the Promotion of Environmentally Sustainable Transport in Seoul, Korea The Fifth Regional EST Forum in Bangkok, Thailand adopted " <i>Bangkok Declaration for 2020</i> "

#### Progress of the Regional EST Forum in Asia

	Inaugural Forum	Second Forum	Third Forum	Fourth Forum	Fifth Forum
Number of Participating Countries	13 countries	14 countries	22 countries	22 countries	22 countries
Number of Participants	approx. 80 participants	approx. 100 participants	approx. 120 participants	approx. 150 participants	approx. 200 participants
Number of Participants over Deputy Ministers Level	3	5	8	18	22
Number of Supporting Organization	3	5	7	17	14
Number of Participating Organization	32	27	35	42	49
Venue	Nagoya, Japan	Yogyakarta, Indonesia	Singapore	Seoul, Korea	Bangkok, Thailand

- **Planned Activities**

- **Project Partners**

- **Related URL**

The Sixth Regional EST Forum will be held in India in the second half of 2011.

United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) / United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) / World Health Organization (WHO) / German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) / Asian Development Bank (ADB) / Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia) Center / The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) / Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) / International Association of Public Transport (UITP) / Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Environmentally Sustainable Transport: <http://www.env.go.jp/en/air/est/index.html>

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