



United Nations  
ESCAP

# Regional Cooperation for Integrating Climate Policies and Actions towards Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

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# Main Discussion

- *Climate Change and Development*
  - *Development = Growth stays as primary concern for AP to overcome persistent poverty challenge*
  - *Current development pattern is no longer sustainable vis-à-vis consideration of environmental carrying capacity (climate change is one but not a sole factor.)*
  - *Efforts needed to improve eco-efficiency of the development pattern.*
- *ESCAP works for Green Growth*
  - *implements programmes for promoting improvement of eco-efficiency in several fronts*
    - *National development planning*
    - *Line agencies / Sectoral policies*
    - *Local government initiatives*
    - *Yardstick on sustainable development*
  - *Activity relevant to international response to CC impacts (V&A)*
    - *Dust and Sand Storm (DSS)*
  - *More specific initiatives on climate change*
    - *Unilateral CDM with discounting scheme*
    - *AP Regional Process for supporting G-8 Gleneagles Dialogue*



# Introduction

- ***What ESCAP is...?***
  - UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
  - One of the five Regional Commissions under ECOSOC, like ECE, ECLAC, ESCWA, ECA
  - Regional arm of UN in AP region
  - Secretariat for Commission - main economic and social development forum within UN system in AP



# Introduction

- ***What ESCAP does...?***
  - Convenes Commission and other important fora in the region (multi-disciplinary socio-economic topics and multi-ministerial outreach)
  - Follows-up and coordinates the implementation of their recommendations (specific programmes and projects for regional and subregional cooperation and integration)
  - Altogether, promotes sustainable economic and social development



# Introduction

- Just a few examples of Regional Fora
  - Organizes Five-yearly ***Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED)*** and coordinates inter-agency implementation of their recommendations.
  - Coordinates ***Regional Process for CSD***
  - Initiated ***AP Seminar on Climate Change*** in cooperation with Ministry of Environment GOJ



# UN ESCAP Approach to Environment and Sustainable Development

- UNESCAP Environment and Sustainable Development Division (ESDD)
- ESDD Mandate : Integrating Environment into Socio-economic Development
- Monitor and assist countries to achieve MDG1 (Poverty) and MDG7 (Environment)



# UN ESCAP Approach – Green Growth

- **Key Messages of SOE 2005 discussed in MCED2005**
  - AP still need to pursue economic growth to address persistent poverty
  - Current pattern of growth cannot be sustained as already exceeding the region's environmental carrying capacity
  - Lack of sustainability, including, but not limited to Climate Change context



# UN ESCAP Approach – Green Growth

- Action Needed
  - Harnessing economic growth in an environmentally sustainable manner
    - Minimizing the environmental pressure arising from economic growth on limited carrying capacity
    - Eco-efficiency of economic growth pattern needs to be improved





# UN ESCAP Approach – Improving Eco-Efficiency

- **Eco-Efficiency**
  - Achieving more economic outputs from less environmental inputs (energy/material use, waste/pollution, ecological resources as sink, etc.)
  - Decoupling of economic growth and environmental pressures
  - A must for achieving SD in AP
- **Intervention for Its Improvement**
  - Focusing on Economic and Social Policy Instruments
  - Regional and Subregional Programmes backed up by Analytical and Research Work



# UN ESCAP Activity Focus

- Analytical and Research Work
  - State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific in 2005
    - Provide a theoretical basis / rationale for green growth and eco-efficiency improvement
  - Eco-Efficiency Indicators
    - A tool to evaluate effectiveness of different policies to promote eco-efficiency



# UN ESCAP Activity Focus

- Policy advocacy, facilitation of dialogue (1)
  - Facilitate mainstreaming sustainability concerns in national development planning
  - targeting finance and development planning ministries
  - A series of Green Growth policy dialogue being conducted on Economic Policy (Budget / Tax Reform, Market-based approach, etc.) and National Policy Framework for SCPP
  - Setting-up ESCAP/UNEP Regional Help Desk on SCPP in collaboration with NRDC, China
  - Leadership training programme for (future) policymakers



# UN ESCAP Activity Focus

- Policy advocacy, facilitation of dialogue (2)
  - Awareness raising and capacity building on options for integrating sustainability concerns in sectoral policies
  - Targeting environment and other sectoral ministries
  - Initial focus on infrastructure (energy, transport, water) development planning
  - Policy Consultation Forum of the Seoul Initiative on Green Growth: “Promoting Sustainable Infrastructure Development” 6-8 September 2006



# UN ESCAP Activity Focus

- Promoting of Local Initiatives
  - Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment
    - adopted at MCED 2000 held in Kitakyushu, Japan in 2000
    - Draw lessons from the practices and experiences of Kitakyushu and other cities > achieve measurable improvement in urban environmental quality
    - Promotes local initiatives with common elements
      - Achieving tangible improvements in environmental quality
      - Quantitative goals and targets (benchmarking)
      - Multistakeholder participation
      - City-to-city cooperation



# UN ESCAP Activity Focus

- Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment
  - First Cycle 2000-2005
    - Networking over 60 cities
    - Database of Successful Practices
    - Information Dissemination by Thematic Seminars, etc.
    - Pilot / Demonstration Projects
  - Second Cycle 2006-2010
    - Based on Positive Evaluation by 5th MCED in 2005
    - Strengthening Integrated Approach (Environment – Economy, multiple benefits)
    - More Replication



# UN ESCAP Activity Focus

- Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment 2006 - 2010
  - Increasingly highlighting Integrated Approach to Multiple Benefits
    - Local Environment
    - Global Environment
    - Local Economic Livelihood
    - Poverty Alleviation
    - Governance / Stakeholder Partnership
    - Self Sustainability (Financial, Socio-Economic)
  - Climate Change components being strengthened
    - More efficient energy use in municipal facilities
    - CDM as additional financial possibility (MSW, ESCO, etc.)
  - Case collection / analysis + Information exchange
    - Workshop in Tokyo, June 2006
    - Side event in BAQ2006
  - Ready to support replication projects



# UN ESCAP Activity Focus

- *Activity relevant to international response to CC impacts (V&A)*
  - Prevention of DSS in NE Asia (ADB/GEF Funded)
    - Collaboration among China, Mongolia, Japan and RO Korea + ADB, UNESCAP, UNEP, UNCCD
    - Implemented 2003-2005 with conclusion of a Master Plan including monitoring network (UNEP) and Investment Strategy (UNESCAP)
  - Development of Follow-up Project, e.g.
    - Joint Demonstration Project for Preventing and Controlling DSS in Source Areas
    - Capacity-Building in Drought Preparedness and Reduction of Vulnerability to Climate Change





# More Specific Highlights on Climate

- **Advocating Innovative Framework for Beyond Kyoto “Unilateral CDM linked with CER discounting scheme”**
  - To facilitate voluntary participation of non-Annex I countries in mitigation action Without imposing binding targets
  - To achieve Net-global Reduction
  - Potentially, also to provide a mechanism, e.g.
    - to control the CER price in the market
    - to provide different treatment to countries with different development stages
    - to provide different treatment to CER from different types of CDM projects according to their contribution to SD
  - Further action needed:
    - Dialogues and consultations among negotiator
    - More systematic analytical studies (price elasticity; merit and demerit etc.)



# More Specific Highlights on Climate

- **Asia Pacific Process to follow-up G-8 Gleneagles Summit in 2005**
  - Workshop on Mainstreaming Policies and Investment in Low Carbon: Opportunities for new approaches to investment and flexible mechanisms 30-31 August 2006
    - To enhance AP countries awareness and participation in this global dialogue
    - To review the emerging trend and opportunities for enabling policy and institutional environments for enhancing investment in low carbon development
    - To brainstorm on regional steps for future climate resilient, lower carbon economy/society
  - To be reported to the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Gleneagles Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development (Monterrey, Mexico on 3-4 October 2006)



- **Consultation ongoing with potential donors and partners**
- **Seek for inter-agency / inter-programme collaborations**
- **Any comments, suggestions, proposal welcome**

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**Thank You**



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SOE2005