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Co-benefits Approach to Climate Change in the Region - Implication of the Socio Economic Development -

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Introduction

- **UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)**
 - Regional Arm of UN Secretariat - one of the five Regional Commissions under ECOSOC, like ECE, ECLAC, ESCWA, ECA
 - Organize regular "Commission" and other important development fora in the region (multi-disciplinary socio-economic topics and multi-ministerial outreach), e.g.
 - Five-yearly **Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED)**
 - **Regional Process for CSD**
 - Initiated **AP Seminar on Climate Change** in cooperation with Ministry of Environment GOJ
 - Altogether, promotes sustainable economic and social development in the region



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UNESCAP promotes Synergy

- Attempt to respond to mandates given by UN and UNESCAP member countries
- Environment and Sustainable Development Division (ESDD) to integrating Environment into Socio-economic Development
- Millennium Development Goals agreed upon by the World Leaders
 - Mainly, MDG1 (Poverty) and MDG7 (Environment)
 - Other concerns includes Health, Gender, Primary education, Human Rights, etc.
- Win-win Approach “Green Growth”
<Environmentally-sustainable Economic Growth> highlighted in MCED 2005



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Green Growth – a Key Approach

- SOE Assessment on AP Region’s 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 achieve development paradigm shift (Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth = Green Growth)
- Two Tracks of Action for promoting Green Growth
 - Intervention at Policy Level
 - Green tax and budget reform;
 - Development of sustainable infrastructure;
 - Promotion of sustainable consumption and production;
 - Greening of markets and business, and
 - Development of Ecological Efficiency Indicators
 - Promotion of Local Initiatives



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Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment (KI)

- **UNESCAP's primary instrument to promote local environmental Initiatives**
 - **Adopted** at the 4th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED2000) held in Kitakyushu, Japan.
 - Attempts to draw lessons from the practices and experiences of Kitakyushu City and other cities in Asia Pacific
 - Mandate to **achieve measurable progress in improvement of the urban environment in Asia and the Pacific**
 - Promotes **local initiatives** targeting control of air and water pollution, minimization of all kinds of wastes, taking selected technical, institutional, regulatory and participatory measures



KI Second Cycle 2006 - 2010

- **Built on Positive Evaluation of 1st Cycle (2000 - 2005) at MCED2005 in Seoul, ROK**
 - **Green Growth Focus Strengthened**
 - **Increasingly highlighting Integrated Approach to Co-Benefits**
 - Local Environment
 - Global Environment
 - Local Economic Livelihood
 - Poverty Alleviation, Health, Gender Equity
 - Governance / Stakeholder Partnership, Human Rights
 - Self Sustainability (Financial, Socio-Economic), etc.
 - **Climate Change components being strengthened**
 - More efficient energy use in municipal facilities
 - CDM as additional financial possibility (MSW, ESCO, etc.)



Environment and Socio-Economic Co-Benefits

- **An emerging concept based on...**
 - **Environmental Co-benefit (Climate Change Action and Local Environmental Management, etc.)**
 - **Socio-economic Co-benefits (Poverty Alleviation, Health, Gender and Human Rights, etc.)**
 - **Synergy amongst MDGs**
- **Addressing to overcome technical and financial as well as political barriers to undertaking environmental protection measures at different levels**



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Challenges of Local Environmental Actions

- **Challenges are often cited in terms of...**
 - **Local Capacity (technical / instrumental)**
 - **Lack of legal /regulatory instruments**
 - **Financial resources**
 - **Awareness and support**
- **Background problems**
 - **Policy Priority amongst mounting multiple challenges (poverty, slums, housing, infrastructure, health, social welfare, economic livelihood) > More competition than synergy**
 - **Perception – Environmental protection measures are financial burden (Prevailing both in city managers, donors and investors)**
 - **Environmental Departments relatively weak**



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How Co-benefit Approach works?

- Environmental Protection Measures often have the socio-economic co-benefits
- Such co-benefits, if explicitly demonstrated, will contribute to
 - Enhancing the priority in local policy making
 - Creating more synergy amongst different department
 - Attracting more financial opportunities (grants) from broad range of sources
 - Strengthening public support with enhanced awareness
- Economic return will help
 - Revolving investment for project expansion / replication
 - Attract more financial opportunities (loans and investments)
 - Engage expertise commercially available



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Exemplar Cases of Co-benefits (1)

- Typical Municipal Solid Waste Management can simultaneously address:
 - Environmental benefits:
 - Improvement in MSW Management / health implications
 - Reduction of GHG gas emission
 - Socio-economic co-benefits:
 - Engagement of Informal Sector
 - Generating incomes for the poor and marginalized
 - New business opportunities
 - Partnership amongst NGO, Private Sector and City Hall
 - Urban Governance / Transparency
 - Social equity and gender perspective
 - New Finance through Landfill Gas CDM project



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Exemplar Cases of Co-benefits (2)

- **Promoting Public Transportation / Demand Side Management for Urban Transport will generate:**
 - **Environmental benefits:**
 - Improvement in local air quality
 - Reduction of GHG gas emission
 - **Socio-economic co-benefits:**
 - Direct return from energy saving
 - Avoiding the cost of traffic jam
 - Stimulate economic livelihood / competitiveness
 - Equitable mobility and safety
 - New business opportunities
 - New Finance through Urban Transport CDM project



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KI Support for Co-Benefit Approach

- **Identifying emerging innovative approach + dissemination:**
 - Tokyo Workshop (June 2006) focusing on Lifestyle Changes
 - Yogyakarta BAQ Pre-Workshop (Dec 2006) focusing on Environment and Socio-Economic Benefits in urban AQM programmes
 - Fourth Meeting of KI Network (June 2007) with special session on innovative financial mechanisms for urban SD projects
- **Guidebook**
 - Energy Efficiency Improvement in Public Buildings
 - Municipal Solid Waste-related CDM Projects
- **Promoting replication of successful practices:**
 - Series of Study Tours for replication of successful practices
 - Distant Learning Events
 - Incubation of more city-to-city cooperation
- **Demonstration/ Pilot Projects with Seed Finance**



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Expected Impacts (Sus. Development)

- Implementation of <Local Sustainable Development – Urban Environment Management> project facilitated, through *inter alia*:
 - Enhancing the priority in local policy making
 - Attracting more financial opportunities from broad range of sources, including CDM
 - Strengthening public support with enhanced awareness
 - Engaging expertise commercially available
- Achievement of environmental and other MDG goals accelerated



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Expected Impacts (Climate Change)

- More CER generated through unilateral CDM
- Net Global Reduction through Innovative Institutional Arrangement, e.g. CER Discounting Scheme
- De-facto participation of non-Annex I countries in Global Climate Action
- Contribution to Post-Kyoto Dialogue



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- Consultation ongoing with potential donors and partners
- Seek for inter-agency / inter-programme collaborations
- Activities on co-benefits in adaptation mainstreaming in preparation
- Any comments, suggestions, proposal welcome

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Thank You



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