The 3rd Meeting of Research Coordination Committee of the Asia-Pacific Environmental Innovation Strategy Project 8-9 March 2004, Beijing, China

Organized by
National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES)
in collaboration with
Institute for Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR)

Chairperson's Summary (Draft)

1. The 3rd Meeting of Research Coordination Committee of the Asia-Pacific Environmental Innovation Strategy Project (APEIS) was held at the meeting hall in Institute for Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR)， Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) on 8-9 March 2004, Beijing, China. About 30 participants from governments, research institutes and other organizations in the Asia-Pacific region contributed to the deliberations (Participants List is attached as Appendix 1). The meeting was jointly opened by Dr. Masataka WATANABE, National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan, and Dr. Jiyuan LIU, IGSNRR. Dr. Kun Zhang, Director of The Sino-Japan Friendship Center for Environmental Protection, State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), and Dr. Jian LIU, Deputy Director of Resources and Environment Bureau, CAS, delivered welcoming addressees. The Integrated Environment Monitoring (IEM) sub-project at NIES served as the secretariat of the meeting.

2. Mr. A. TAKEMOTO, Ministry of the Environment, Japan made a presentation on the review and prospect of APEIS activities emphasizing that the success of APEIS will depend on the extent to which the outcome of the project is of actual use to policy-makers. In this regard, APEIS should enhance the interactions with policy-makers, international organizations and projects. Mr. A. TAKEMOTO reported that APEIS has been registered as a Type 2 Partnership Initiative at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, a Portfolio of Water Actions at the Third World Water Forum as well as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA). Following Mr. A. TAKEMOTO's presentation, participants indicated that APEIS should collaborate with other ongoing initiatives such as, CSD – Focus on Social Dimension, ECO ASIA 2004， and the UNEP's Global Environment Outlook (GEO4), GEF project on National Performance Assessment and Sub-regional Strategic Environment Framework in Greater Mekong Sub-region (SEF II), the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), Group of Earth Observations (GEO). As for the future direction, Mr. A. TAKEMOTO pointed the following aspects:

- Continuously input to ECO-ASIA, which will be held on June 19-20 2004, Yonago, Japan; to endorse APFED Report;
- To come up with APEIS Phase II in one year, including the necessity to keep the present framework or the selection and concentration of research aspects as well as expansion of scope;
- To find the synergies with other international process.

3. Each of the sub-projects of APEIS, namely Integrated Environmental Monitoring (IEM), Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) and Research on Innovative and Strategy Policy Options (RISPO) respectively made progress reports for Year 2.

4. Major progress highlighted by the IEM sub-project included: development of satellite and ground-truth monitoring network system; monitoring of environmental disasters; monitoring of environmental degradation and formulation of environmental indices; and establishment of land/atmospheric process and ecological functions. The representatives of IEM monitoring network in Australia, China, Japan and Singapore reported on their activities respectively. Strengthening the ground-truth validation, the standardization of products among the five stations and the issue of extending the geographical coverage of the monitoring network to Russia and other countries were raised in the discussions. IEM expanded its activities including the second capacity building workshop in Australia in collaboration with the APN, and publishing a special issue in Journal of Geographical Sciences (Vol.59, No.1, 2004), as well as contributing to MA Sub-global Assessment and China Council.

5. Major progress highlighted by the IEA sub-project included: a set of integrated assessment models (second version); policy case studies using the models; advanced version of strategic database with socio-economic scenarios, innovation strategy options and environmental indicators; organizing a training workshop in Thailand. The IEA reported that its Asia-Pacific Integrated Model (AIM) contributed to MA for qualification of global long-term scenarios of natural and social environment. It was noted that while technological innovation potentials for the environment are large but varied among countries, regional collaboration and integration with social innovation options are required and earlier environmental investment is more cost effective in a long run. IEA published a book entitled "Climate Policy Assessment for India –application of Asia-Pacific Integrated Model (AIM)".

6. Major progress highlighted by the RISPO sub-project included: development of the *Good Practice Inventory* (GPI) and making it available on the web, and continuous collection of good practices; development of the framework and format of *Strategic Policy Options* (SPOs) common to all the eight sub-themes; development of the strategies and SPOs for each sub-theme; development of the prototype database of SPOs; launch of the overall analysis to

present innovative sets of policies in a systematic manner based on the outcomes of the eight sub-themes; and establishment of networks with stakeholders including policy makers in the region. Progress of research activities in Thailand, India and China was reported by the representatives of research institutes of respective countries. In the discussion, it was pointed out that in conducting the research on inter-boundary recycling materials, it is necessary to consider the aspect of the international agreements on tradable materials and the importance of allocating consumption between the developed and developing countries.

6. In the special session of Interaction with International Groups and Policy-makers, we had several interesting presentations. Dr. Josep Canadell, CSIRO, Australia introduced the activities of IGBP/IHDP Global Carbon Project, and highlighted the following issues: consequences of land use change, fire, sensitive ecosystems (wetland/peat lands), less C-intense pathways for regional development. Mr. KONUMA, the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, introduced the activities of APN, including its strategic programme CAPaBLE, which was registered as WSSD type II Partnership Initiative as well as APEIS, and emphasized the cooperation with APEIS for capacity building workshop and networking. He also stressed on the possibilities for future cooperation between APEIS and APN, which includes capacity building on data collection, analysis and utilization; utilization of strategic database and dissemination activities to policy-makers and civil society. For the cooperation with Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), Dr. Jiyuan LIU, CAS introduced the framework of MA Sub-global Project on Western Development of China. Dr. WATANABE and Dr. KAINUMA introduced the contribution of IEM and IEA to MA. Dr. SUKHININ from Russia Academy of Sciences presented a very interesting project in Russia on the remote sensing monitoring of wildfires in central Siberia. The possibility of future cooperation on development of MODIS network and 10 years fire database in Asian Russia was discussed.

7. Participants agreed to provide suitable information to facilitate the development of the APEIS Homepage (http://www.ecoasia.org/APEIS/). Participants also welcomed the establishment of APEIS Information Mailing List (apeis-info@iijnet.or.jp).

8. Dr. Zhang, SEPA assessed that APEIS project has been very successful despite it was launched only three years ago. He also commented that the goal of APEIS project matched the strategies of Chinese environmental protection and it was significant and helpful to future ecosystem conservation. He expressed the appreciation to the great support of the Ministry of Environment of Japan and the all the organizations and scientists in this projects. He suggested that IEM sub-project has successfully applied into the river catchments and contributed to MA, it is highly hoped that it can be applied to other environmental protection areas, especially in ecosystem reservation. He hoped that through successful cooperation of the APEIS project, it is necessary to enhance the combination of the remote sensing data and

regular ground measurements to build up a new platform and improve the standard and regulation for monitoring of the ecosystems for sustainable environmental development. Dr. Hu, from SEPA, also commented the necessity to establish the economic mechanism for linking the ecosystem service provider and the beneficiary.

9. Following presentations by each sub-project, participants discussed the Implementation Plan of APEIS for Year 3, including synergies and collaboration among sub-projects and capacity building activities.

IEM plans to continue the activities to expanse of APIES-IEM Network; to continue monitoring the land cover changes and environmental degradation such as dust storm; to improve ecosystem modeling on water and carbon aspects in support of policy issues; to evaluate food, water and wood productivity and supply. The 3rd Capacity Building Workshop of IEM will be held in Singapore in November, 2004.

IEA plans to extend its activities such as the provision of integrated environmental assessment with AIM Family models, and application of strategic databases to selected countries, and to explore the possibility of holding a training workshop, policymaker's workshop, stakeholder's meeting in collaboration with APN. IEA plans to provide modeling results to GEF/SEFII-ADB project on Greater Mekong Sub-region and interaction with APN's CAPaBLE project.

RISPO plans to develop the database framework of SPOs and GPI including the linkage with the strategic database of IEA, to implement overall analysis; to enrich SPOs and GPI, based on review by policy-makers and other policy audiences, to conduct scenario analysis to assess the impacts of application of the SPOs in selected location collaborating with IEA, and to examine feasibility of proposed policy options through interaction with stakeholders, including workshops with selected policy makers of the region and collaboration with GEF/SEFII-ADB project on the Greater Mekong Sub-region.

For Phase II, preliminary ideas were proposed from each sub-project. IEM proposed the development of comprehensive environmental monitoring and assessment system including expansion of APIES-IEM Network and regional ecosystem model for sustainability in Asia-Pacific Region. IEA proposed that AIM models for APEIS and strategic database are able to apply not only regional/national environmental innovation strategy but useful to propose strategy to improve local and specific environmental problems effectively in Asian countries. However the environmental impacts from future high economic growth in Asia by cooperative economic system will be varied at local-level, they can be moderated by the integration with technological and social environmental innovation strategy. A preliminary idea from RISPO was suggested for consideration, which focused on economic and political integration of the region to be promoted by FTAs.

Interactions with national and local policy-makers, monitoring research conducted by IEM, social/instrumental innovation options research conducted by RISPO are key factors to

build up effective local and national policy options for sustainable development. These research activities will contribute to IPCC/AR4, ESCAP/SOE, UNEP/GEO4, capacity building, etc.

10. Mr. A. TAKEMOTO, MOEJ, introduced the Draft Guidance to Overall and Technical Summaries of Annual Report of APEIS emphasizing ways to make APEIS contribute effectively to innovative policy-making for sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region. It was agreed that APEIS would prepare an overall summary, technical summaries of sub-projects， and sub-project reports in line with the suggested format (Guidance to Overall and Technical Summaries is attached as Appendix 3).

11. The IEM sub-project leader, Dr. Masataka WATANABE, will act as coordinator of the RCC secretariat for year 3 and have responsibility for organizing the work to be performed by RCC members and others on behalf of the RCC for the next 12 months.

12. Participants expressed their appreciation to the Governments of China and Japan for their participation in the meeting as well as for their support to the APEIS project. They also expressed their thanks to the IEM sub-project for acting as Secretariat for the APEIS/RCC and to IGSNRR, CAS for their cooperation.

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Appendices

1. List of participants of APEIS/RCC3, 8-9 March 2004
2. Implementation Plan (as of 03/03/31)
3. Guidance to Overall and Technical Summaries