

**The 5th Meeting of Research Coordination Committee
of the Asia-Pacific Environmental Innovation Strategy Project
30 March 2006, Hayama, Japan**

Organized by
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

Chairperson's Summary (Draft)

1. The 5th Meeting of Research Coordination Committee of the Asia-Pacific Environmental Innovation Strategy Project (APEIS) was held at the meeting hall of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). 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 opened by Mr Hideyuki MORI, Project leader Long-term Perspective and Policy Integration, IGES. Mr. Naoya TSUKAMOTO, Director of Research and Information Office, Ministry of the Environment, Japan, delivered a welcome address. IGES which is responsible for Research on Innovative and Strategy Policy Options (RISPO) II sub-project served as the secretariat for the meeting.

2. 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 FY2005.

3. Dr. Mikiko KAINUMA of the Integrated Environmental Assessment (APEIS-IEA) sub-project made a presentation on major progress, highlighting the scenarios for promotion of sustainable development which have been analyzed in the context of regional economic and environmental integration, through AIM model application linked with the Strategic Database (SDB) from the viewpoint of environmental policy linkage related to Millennium Development Goals. The IEA sub-project has supported model building in Asian countries through AIM/APEIS Training Workshops. The IEA reported that its Asia-Pacific Integrated Model (AIM) contributed to UNEP/GEO4 for qualification of Asia-Pacific mid term scenarios of natural and social environment and focused on environmental problems in each country such as solid waste management, energy security and water resources. Dr. XIULIAN Hu, Energy Research Institute and Dr. KAINUMA reported the main results of the case studies on policy analysis in China, India and Thailand, focusing upon the biomass energy.

4. In the discussion, clarifications were sought on the relations between the conventional scenarios based on the controllable and external variables, and the scenarios

used in the sub-project. It was pointed out that the scenarios used in AIM also take into account the technological advancement. It was also suggested that the database produced can be uploaded to the data portal of GEO-4. It is confirmed that it may take time to deliver the data.

5. It is noted that international collaboration and dissemination have been conducted and facilitated through international projects such as Eco-Asia, UNEP/GEO4, COP11 and COP/MOP1, CAPaBLE, AEEMF and SEFII.

6. Dr. Satoshi KOJIMA and Dr. Peter N. KING of IGES, and Prof. Paul THOMASSIN of McGill University made presentations on the major components of this sub-project. Major progress highlighted by the RISPO II sub-project with a focus upon economic integration in East Asia included: development of policy analysis methodologies, narrative scenarios, and model analysis involving 6 countries in Asia, namely, China, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Japan. Under the RISPO II, key sectors will be selected for detailed analysis, and the research work shall be also consolidated as a regional study. The key methodologies will include strategic environmental assessment, multi-criteria analysis, and social capacity assessment to conduct an integrated policy impact assessment. For modeling analysis, the GTAP (Global Trade Analysis Project) model shall be used to analyze the impacts of intensified trade and economic integration in the region and to examine the potential effects of proposed policy packages in order to develop strategic policy options for pursuing sustainability.

7. In the discussions, it was emphasized that the various sub-components and related activities must be undertaken in a way that will ensure their complementarities. It was also underscored that it would be important to produce and make available the outcome of the work in order to facilitate the policy formulation and development processes through the provision of relevant inputs into the UN policy documents and publications, FTA processes and other relevant policy forums including the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and the UNEP Governing Council. In applying environmental co-efficiency analysis, it was suggested to take into account the temporal changes of environmental co-efficiency to be prompted, for instance, by technological advancement.

8. Prof. Masataka WATANABE of Keio University and Dr. Jiyuan LIU, Chinese Academy of Science made presentations on IEM. Major progress highlighted by the IEM sub-project included: continuously monitoring of environmental disasters and environmental degradation by using satellite and ground-truth monitoring network system; formulation of environmental indices and establishment of ecosystem models, with which the ecosystem services and processes, such as agricultural water use, carbon and nitrogen exchange and

storage as well as crop production has been evaluated. The IEM activities have contributed to international projects, such as MA, ECO ASIA, GWSP, GLP and GCP, and the achievements of IEM have been reported in many international conferences, such as the 7th International CO2 Conference (Colorado, USA), 9th ISPMRS (Beijing, China), and the 2nd EAFES International Congress (Niigata, Japan). IEM expanded its activities including attending an international conference in Mongolia on August of 2005, when the “Memorandum of Understanding” was signed in order to promote further cooperation between Chinese, Japanese and Mongolian environmental scientists. After then, IEM organized a Japan-China-Mongolia Joint Workshop in Beijing, China on Mar. 13, 2006, when an “Implementation Plan for Establishment of Early Detection and Assessment Network of the Global Warming Impacts” has been signed. Major efforts in FY2006 will contribute to expanding an integrated monitoring system in Mongolia Plateau.

9. It was pointed out the need to validate, adapt and assimilate scenarios and models to further refine the research work. It was also underscored a merit of exploring and initiating follow-up to the recent Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and linking APEIS work to such follow-up. APEIS members have a great potential of consolidating biophysical monitoring and policy/institutional assessment.

10. Ms. Sachiko TSUKAHARA, Research and Information Office, Ministry of Environment, Japan made a presentation on Implementation Plan of FY2006. APEIS provides a framework of policy research for supporting policy development and implementation aimed at sustainable development and effective environmental management. The APEIS Phase I outcome was presented for ECO Asia in 2005, a regional environmental ministerial conference. The outcome of IEM was presented at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). In the APEIS Phase II, renewed focuses are placed on each of APEIS sub-projects. In principle, focuses shall be given to better demonstrate clear and concrete targets/objectives, widely provide research achievements, make the outcome more relevant to policy makers, and facilitate the interactions of policy makers.

11. The meeting welcomed the suggestion that IEA will represent APEIS at the forthcoming session of the CSD in New York in May 2006. IEM and RISPO were requested to provide required information for the IEA staff’s presentation and, if necessary, to ask their staff to provide further support.

12. In order to enhance the collaboration and interactions among three sub-projects of APEIS, one way of pursuing such a goal would be to set a common geographical area or topic in the future. Collaboration can be also promoted at the national level in the APEIS participating countries. The newly initiated Global Agriculture Assessment, European Union’s

work for integrating modeling and policy analyses and some other international assessment/research initiatives offer an opportunity to make APEIS outcome available for related research and policy work and to expand APEIS partnership.

13. An emphasis was given to the need to publicize the outcome of the research. It is also important to present the outcome in a way that is more convincing to the Japanese financing authority to continue substantive funding to APEIS. The leaflet to be developed for such purposes should be concise using visual images, and showing the responsiveness of APEIS to the demand and the international policy agenda, usage of research outcome and cost/work sharing among research partners given the resource constraint/competition currently prevalent for research activities such as APEIS.

14. Participants expressed their appreciation to the Government of Japan, specifically the Ministry of Environment for supporting the organization of the meeting and APEIS implementation. They also thanked the IGES for facilitating the meeting as the secretariat for the APEIS/RCC meeting.

15. The meeting participants agreed that the next RCC meeting will be hosted at the IEM.

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Appendix

1. List of participants of APEIS/RCC