3. How can the APEIS-RISPO products be applied for policy formulation/implementation works?

RISPO products provide policy-makers with tested ideas and strategic policy options for achieving sustainable development. When developing policy to address an environmental problem, one of the good approaches is to consult past experience. *Good Practices Inventory* offers a list of lessons identified and categorized from various past practices in the Asia-Pacific region. *Strategic Policy Options*, which are a combination of good practices validated with pilot studies, offers practical solutions in selected area that can serve as models for actual policy development.

Good Practices Inventory is a compilation of good (or unsuccessful) practices, with analyses of those instruments considered critical for success. Users can search the database for cases that apply to them. Currently, a prototype is available on the Internet.

Strategic Policy Options are packages of policy proposals that will support policy-making toward sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region. Stakeholders can identify and refer to the proposals applicable to policy areas of interest, taking into account their own environmental, socio-economic, and cultural backgrounds. Preliminary *Strategic Policy Options* will be developed by March 2004.

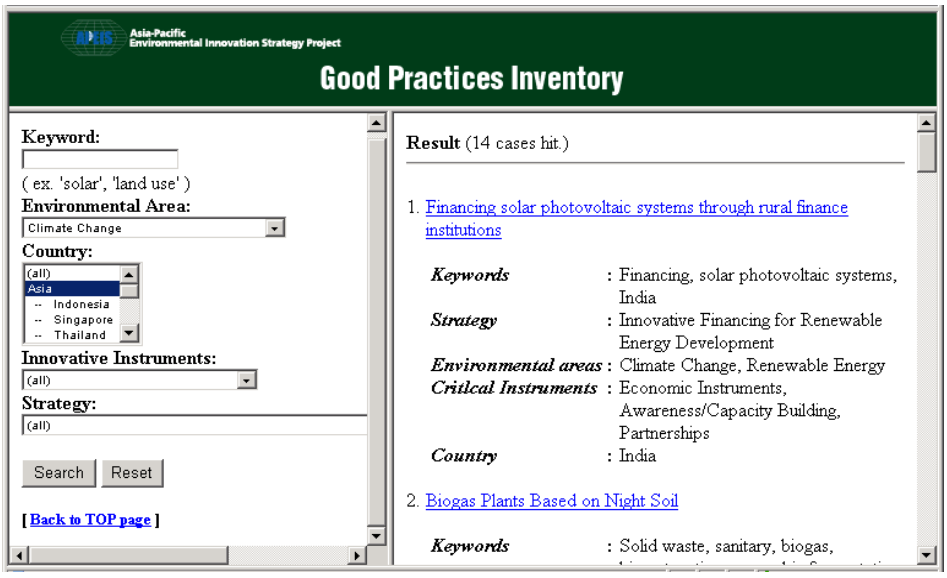
To demonstrate the feasibility and effectiveness of Strategic *Policy Options,* some of them will be implemented as pilot projects. The findings from these RISPO outcomes will be incorporated in capacity-building activities to enhance the knowledge and skill of policy-makers and/or the awareness and participation of other stakeholders.

Current Progress

Approximately 50 good practice examples are searchable in the prototype of *Good Practices Inventory* on the website (http://iges.or.jp/APEIS/RISPO). They include examples of renewable energy, recycling, cleaner production, resource management, and environmental education.

Cases can be searched not only by environmental area, but also by keyword, country, innovative instruments and/or strategy.

A detailed description of each case can be retrieved by clicking on the title. Each case provides information on the following items: (1) summary of the practice; (2) analysis of what was innovative in the use of critical instruments and why and how the instruments have contributed to success; (3) qualitative and/or quantitative impacts on the environment and the socio-economy; (4) lessons learned from the practice; (5) potential for application of the practice, and other relevant information. The box on the next page shows examples of cases with high potential for application.



Search interface of Good Practices Inventory

Examples of cases in *Good Practices Inventory*

Example 1: Developing a Market-Oriented Institutional and Financial Model for Decentralized Solar Systems, India

Summary of the Practice The Uttam Urja initiative addresses the limitations of subsidy-driven programs for decentralised solar systems, particularly with respect to technology customisation and delivery mechanisms. The project is developing a grassroots Energy Service Network (ESN) comprising the local NGO, dealers and retailers of electronic systems, financial intermediaries, and manufacturers of solar home systems (SHS). It represents the provision of a 'package' of energy products and services for rural people, rather than the provision of just the product, as used to be done in various initiatives undertaken by the government.

Critical Instruments The Uttam Urja model combines a unique institutional model, technology and awareness, and capacity-building to showcase the commercial viability of SHS markets.

Impacts Between 1999 and March 2003, close to 1000 domestic lighting systems comprising lanterns, home lighting systems and solar panels were sold without the need for government subsidy.

Lessons Learned Setting up local assembly facilities and entrepreneurship-based product dissemination can reduce the system and service costs. Customers are willing to purchase at real market price (without subsidy) if products and services are of high quality. Instead of upfront subsidy to customers, the effort should be on facilitating entrepreneurial ventures and the provision of soft credit to customers.

Potential for Application The ESN institution provides a model that builds on previous experiences and can be easily replicated.

Example 2: Ban Wang Lung Nature and Environmental Conservation Group at Khao Luang National Park, Thailand

Summary of the Practice The main activities of the Nature and Environmental Conservation Group, formed in 1988, are forest plantation, forest fire control, forest patrol and surveillance. In 1999, villagers started a community-based tourism operation, which brings additional income and supports forest conservation.

Critical Instruments The most critical instrument that makes this community-based tourism successful is the awareness of local people of forest conservation. Another is the partnerships with several institutions.

Impacts Involvement of locals in forest conservation; earning of supplementary income; creation of social bonding; increasing partnerships with protected area authorities.

Lessons Leaned Importance of flexibility on the part of the park authorities in exercising their authority and regulations; understanding of park organization objectives by both the park officials and local people leads to cooperation in tourism management by the community; the need for locals to acquire hospitality skills.

Potential for Application To examine the applicability of this practice, studies have been conducted by the Ministry of Interior and the Thailand Research Fund. Nature study groups in schools have also stayed at Khao Luang to learn from the experience of the Conservation Group.

Participating Organizations

(as of April 2003)

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan
Bangladesh Resource Centre for Indigenous Knowledge (BARCIK), Bangladesh
Energy Research Institute (ERI), China
The University of Hong Kong, China
Department of Forests, Government of Uttranchal, India
The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India
Indonesian Ecotourism Network, Indonesia
RMI – The Indonesian Institute for Forest and Environment, Indonesia
University of Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
University of Indonesia, Indonesia
National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan
Sustainable Society Promotion Center, Japan
Management Association of the Philippines, Philippines
Korea Environment Institute (KEI), Republic of Korea
Asia Institute of Technology, Thailand
Kasetsart University, Thailand
Mahidol University, Thailand
National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (Biotec), Thailand
Thailand Environment Institute (TEI), Thailand
Vietnam National University, Vietnam
United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Collaborating Centre on Energy and Environment (UCCEE)

Websites

Research on Innovative and Strategic Policy Options (RISPO)
http://www.iges.or.jp/APEIS/RISPO/

Asia-Pacific Environmental Strategy Project (APEIS)
http://www.ecoasia.org/APEIS/

Integrated Environmental Monitoring (IEM)
http://www.nies.go.jp/basin/index-e.html

Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA)
http://www.nies.go.jp/social/aim/apeis/

Web site

Research on Innovative and Strategic Policy Options（RISPO）　*http://www.iges.or.jp/APEIS/RISPO/*

This picture is painted by Yuri Nakajima

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