

**Chair's Summary**  
**First ECO ASIA Panel**  
**Hayama, Kanagawa, Japan**  
**July 29-30, 2002**

1. The First ECO ASIA Panel, hosted by the Japanese Ministry of the Environment (MOEJ), was held in Hayama, Kanagawa, Japan on July 29-30, 2002. The Panel was attended by 68 participants from 14 governments and eight international organizations.
2. The Panel Secretariat called the meeting to order and introduced Mr. Hironori Hamanaka, Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs, MOEJ, who gave the Panel's opening remarks.
3. Proceeding his remarks, Panel participants appointed Mr. Hamanaka as Panel Chairman (Chair).
4. The Chair then requested comments on the provisional agenda for the conference. After the Secretariat distributed a detailed time schedule, the Panel approved the agenda.

The following agenda topics were outlined:

- a. Terms of Reference of the ECO ASIA Panel.
- b. The Asia-Pacific Environmental Innovation Strategy Project (APEIS).
- c. World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Type 2 Partnerships/ Initiatives.
- d. Report on the next Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific (ECO ASIA 2002).
- e. Report on Side Events at the WSSD.

**Terms of Reference of the ECO ASIA Panel**

5. After the Chair's opening comments, the Secretariat gave the first presentation on the ECO ASIA Panel Terms of Reference.

6. After the Secretariat's presentation, the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There were many comments, for example, the importance of linkages between research and policy formulation, same Panel participant attendance and the proper exchange of valid and clear information were discussed.
7. Recognizing the difficulty for some organizations to send the same representative to the Panel for each meeting, the Chair stated that while it is not a condition of participation, it is preferable that Panel members remain the same. Also, the Panel Secretariat should keep participants informed of all relevant information.
8. After comprehensive discussion, the ECO ASIA Panel Terms of Reference was endorsed.

### **The Asia-Pacific Environmental Innovation Strategy Project**

#### ***APEIS Project Proposed Design Plan***

9. Mr. Yuji Kimura, MOEJ, began the session with a presentation on the proposed APEIS design plan.
10. Following Mr. Kimura's presentation, a Panel discussion on the design plan was conducted. Some participants emphasized the necessity of institutional capacity building as well as personal capacity building in the implementation phase of APEIS. Some other participants discussed procedures for participation in APEIS and possible modification of the research plan after the WSSD.
11. The Chair stated that institutional capacity building as well as personal capacity building should be part of the key elements of APEIS. Also, APEIS should, when feasible, include wide participation of research institutes as well as governments and agencies.
12. After discussions, the Panel endorsed the Terms of Reference and Organizational Arrangement for the Research Coordination Committee of APEIS.

#### ***APEIS Proposed Implementation Plan***

13. Dr. Tsuneyuki Morita, Japanese National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), presented the Proposed Implementation Plan for APEIS.
14. Following Dr. Morita's speech, the floor was opened for comments. Many participants expressed their high expectations for APEIS and made important comments, including: a) the need for a realistic set of expectations for developing countries with fewer institutional capacities; b) the difficulty in filling the gaps between developing countries' environmental situations and sustainable development; c) the necessity to address regional common model issues, trans-boundary pollution and data protection; d) the need for an appropriate selection process for research institutions with limited capacities; and e) the importance of clear linkages between the outcomes of APEIS research and policy development.
15. The Chair stated that these suggestions should be fully taken into account in the implementation of APEIS. However, he stated that it is difficult to address all of them in the short term and a step-by-step approach was suggested. In addition, the nomination of research institutes by governments is highly appreciated and encouraged; however, in the meantime, sub-project leaders may select their partners based on capacities and available resources. The ECO ASIA Panel may wish to elaborate upon this selection process in the future.
16. After a comprehensive discussion, the Panel endorsed the first phase of the APEIS Implementation Plan.

***Asia-Pacific Environmental Innovation Strategy Sub-projects***

17. Professor Jiyuan Liu, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, China Academy of Sciences, gave the first presentation of the APEIS Sub-projects session on Integrated Environmental Monitoring.
18. Professor Priyadarshi Shukla, Indian Institute of Management, gave a presentation on the topic of Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA). The presentation illustrated the adaptation and use of Asia-Pacific Integrated Models (AIM) for India to assess future trends and thereby address key policy questions and design response strategies. The presentation concluded with an outline of planned work on IEA in India, which will address capacity building for modeling, database development and assessment.

19. Ms. Santivipa Phanichkul, Thailand Environment Institute, delivered a presentation on the third sub-project of APEIS, Research on Innovative and Strategic Policy Options (RISPO). Her speech highlighted research procedures and possible categories of innovation to be sought in future RISPO research activities.
20. Following these three presentations, some Panel participants made comments, including: a) the need for clear identification of RISPO outputs; b) the consideration of the social and human dimensions in these projects; c) the utilization of existing databases and best practice experience and literature; d) the importance of a fair selection procedure of capacity building workshop participants; and e) the strong need for interaction between the science and research communities and policy makers.
21. The Chair recognized that further scoping and elaboration are needed, in particular, during implementation of the RISPO project to produce meaningful outputs in three years and that suggestions from the Panel should be fully taken into account. Equal participation opportunity in capacity building workshops should be provided whenever possible. Finally, policy maker inclusion and interaction in APEIS capacity building activities should be explored.

#### *APEIS Partner Activities*

22. Mr. Sombo Yamamura, Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), opened the session with an overview of APN and highlighted its role in APEIS, especially regarding capacity building.
23. Professor A. H. Zakri, United Nations University, discussed the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, focusing on its close linkage with APEIS.
24. Mr. Masami Tsuji, Asian Development Bank (ADB), outlined a proposed GEF medium-sized project on National Performance Assessment and Sub-regional Strategic Environment Framework (SEF) in the Greater Mekong Sub-region. The project was prepared by ADB, IGES, NIES and UNEP to implement national and sub-regional performance assessments, as well as, in the second phase, capacity building in the participating countries. This project is an ADB technical assistance project.

## **WSSD Type 2 Partnerships and Initiatives and Exchange of Views**

25. Mr. Naohisa Okuda, MOEJ, gave the first presentation on Biodiversity Conservation, introducing new and on-going initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region. He discussed Japan's contributions on biodiversity "hot spot" conservation. He concluded by calling for actions to strengthen partnerships in the region.
26. Mr. Yuji Kimura, MOEJ, gave the second presentation on Scientific Capacity Building for Sustainable Development in Developing Countries under the framework of APN. This project includes the initiation of joint research activities on climate change, led by developing country experts. Mr. Kimura ended his presentation by inviting Panel participants to join this initiative.
27. Mr. Takashi Matsumura, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), introduced the Recommendations and Commitments of the Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED). Mr. Matsumura also wrapped-up by calling for Panel participants to join these initiatives. Professor Akio Morishima, IGES and APFED Member, added that APFED welcomes Panel participants to provide any relevant information as an input to APFED initiatives.
28. Mr. Peni V. Gavidi, Fiji Ministry for Local Government Housing Squatter Settlement and Environment, delivered a presentation on Fiji's WSSD Type 2 projects. Specifically, these projects focused on capacity-building, climate change mitigation and adaptation.
29. Mr. Aboejoewono Aboeprajitno, Indonesian Ministry of the Environment, discussed Indonesia's Type 2 projects on good governance, mandatory disclosure of automotive emissions, sustainable mining, sustainable eco-tourism and biodiversity as common ground for future partnerships.
30. Dr. Krista Singleton-Cabbage, Environment Australia, introduced Australia's Type 2 partnerships covering sustainable ocean management, which includes a workshop on high-seas biodiversity conservation, an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) coral reef and fisheries network and protection of migratory bird species.

31. Ms. Makiko Koriyama, United Nations Development Programme, made a presentation on UNDP and WSSD Type 2 Partnership Initiative Proposals in the key areas of capacity development, water sanitation, energy, agriculture and biodiversity.
32. Mr. Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury, Bangladeshi Department of the Environment, raised the issue of the extinction of Sundarban, the world's largest mangrove forest which is located in Bangladesh and management of ecologically critical areas such as coastal zones and wetlands. He also raised the concern of Bangladesh's vulnerability to climate change. He requested assistance from APN or the ECO ASIA Panel to study adaptability to climate change. Dr. Davoud Rahbar, Iranian Department of the Environment, distributed a paper on Iran's Innovative Policies for Sustainable Development.
33. After the presentations, the Chair yielded time for comments and questions. The Panel participants shared information and discussed relevant topics toward expanding partnerships.

#### **Other Matters**

34. An outline of the next Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific meeting (ECO ASIA 2002) was delivered by the Secretariat.
35. The Secretariat delivered a report on Japanese WSSD side events and invited Panel participants and their colleagues to join these side events at the Japan Pavilion in Johannesburg.

#### **Conclusion**

36. The Panel participants expressed their appreciation to MOEJ, IGES and other parties involved in organizing the meeting.
37. After adoption of the Chair Summary, the First ECO ASIA Panel was concluded by the Chair.