

The 14th Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific (ECO Asia 2006)  
Saitama City, Japan  
24 – 25 June 2006  
at Urawa Royal Pines Hotel

Provisional Agenda and Programme of Work

**Main Theme : Towards Sustainable Societies**

**Objective:** The main theme for discussion at ECO Asia 2006 is “Towards sustainable societies aimed at exploring how citizens, communities and the Asia – Pacific region should promote their activities at their own levels.

- Given the nature of ECO Asia as a high-level forum for informal exchanges on environmental policies, all participants are invited to participate in interactive dialogues focusing on the policies necessary for the region.
- Discussions for each session will be promoted by facilitators and lead-off speakers.

**Friday 23 June**

**19:00-20:30 (Venue: Royal Princess on 4<sup>th</sup> Floor)**

- **Reception hosted by Mr. Soichi AIKAWA, Mayor of Saitama City, Japan**

**Saturday 24 June**

**9:00-9:30**

- **Registration**

**9:30-10:30 (Venue: Royal Crown on 4<sup>th</sup> Floor)**

- **Opening Session**
  - Opening address by H.E. Ms. KOIKE Yuriko, Minister of the Environment, Japan
  - Welcome remarks by Mr. Soichi AIKAWA, Mayor of Saitama City, Japan
  
  - Reporting on the outcome of GEA Virtual Globe Environmental NPO/NGO Meeting
  - Award-giving ceremony for the ECO Asia Foreign Students' Essay Contest “Mitigate global warming – means and measures in my home country”
  
  - Group photo session
  - Coffee break

**11:00-13:00 (Venue: Royal Crown on 4<sup>th</sup> Floor)**

- Election of Chairperson
- Adoption of Agenda and Programme of Work

• **Session 1 : For vitalizing Actions by Citizens**

**Objective:** Many traditional and indigenous lifestyles such as the outfit that doesn't require air-conditioners are beneficial to environmental protection. This session aims at identifying the policies and measures that should be promoted by the national governments in order for each individual to recognize the value of such lifestyles.

Facilitator: H.E. Ms. KOIKE Yuriko, Minister of the Environment, Japan

Lead-off speakers (6 minutes each):

- Mr. Soichi AIKAWA, Mayor of Saitama City, Japan
- Dasho Paljor J. DORJI, Special Advisor, National Environment Commission, Bhutan
- Mr. Tan Yong Soon, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, Singapore

**Suggested points of discussions:**

- What are environmentally sound and traditional lifestyles in each country?
- How can we apply traditional lifestyles and knowledge to modern lifestyles?
- What policies and measures can be shared with other countries?

- Participants are invited to have free discussions at this session on how we can promote actions at individual level.
- Lead-off speakers will make remarks prior to the discussions.

**13:00-14:30 (Venue: 21 Banquette Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> Floor)**

• **Luncheon hosted by H.E. KOIKE Yuriko, Minister of the Environment, Japan**

- Presentation on the activities by elementary school children and a NGO (the Women's Conference for Recycling) of Saitama City
- Presentation of the award-winning essays in the Essay Contest

**15:00-17:00 (Venue: Royal Crown on 4<sup>th</sup> Floor)**

• **Session 2: For Invigorating Actions by Communities**

**Objective:** This session is intended to explore what kind of policies and measures should be promoted by the national governments to facilitate innovative community-based activities by local governments and public bodies.

Facilitator: Dr. Emil SALIM, Member, Asia – Pacific Forum on Environment and Development (APFED) and former Minister for the Environment, Indonesia

Lead-off speakers (6 minutes each):

- Mr. CHUNG Rae Kwon, Director for the Environment and Sustainable Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
- Mr. TANG Ding-ding, Deputy Director-General, Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, State Environmental Protection Administration, China

**Suggested points of discussions:**

- What is an expected role of local governments to formulate environmental policies?
- What are the innovative policies and measures promoted by local governments?
- What are policies and measures promoted by national governments to promote/support the activities by local governments - good practice can be shared with other countries?

- Participants are invited to discuss how to promote activities at the local and community levels

**17:00-17:30 (Venue: Royal Crown on 4<sup>th</sup> Floor)**

- **Session 3: For promoting collaboration in Asia and the Pacific region**

**Objective:** The activities for protecting the environment in Asia and the Pacific region are essential for protecting the global environment. This session is aimed at exploring how to formulate policies and promote measures for facilitating collaboration to protect the environment in Asia and the Pacific region.

Facilitator: Prof. Hironori HAMANAKA, Director-General, International Lake Environment Committee

- Presentation on “Eco-Action Partnership for Asia” by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan

**Suggested points of discussions:**

- Only the presentation will be made. Questions/answers and discussions will be held at the session on the following day.

**17:40-18:10 (Venue: Royal Crown on 4<sup>th</sup> Floor)**

**Side Event:** “State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific 2005 Report” organized by UNESCAP

**18:30-20:00 (Venue: Royal Princess on 4<sup>th</sup> Floor)**

- Reception hosted by H.E. Ms. KOIKE Yuriko, Minister of the Environment, Japan

Sunday 25 June

**9:00-11:00 (Venue: Royal Crown on 4<sup>th</sup> Floor)**

• **Session 3 (Continuation): For promoting collaboration in Asia and the Pacific region**

**Objective:** The activities for protecting the environment in Asia and the Pacific region are essential for protecting the global environment. This session is intended to discuss what policies and measures should be promoted for facilitating collaboration to protect the environment in Asia and the Pacific region.

Facilitator: Prof. Hironori HAMANAKA, Director-General, International Lake Environment Committee

Lead-off speakers (6 minutes each):

- Dr. Hans van GINKEL, Rector, United Nations University (UNU)
- Dr. Masataka WATANABE, Special Visiting Fellow, National Institute for Environmental Studies

**Suggested points of discussions:**

- What policies and measures are required for promoting environmental protection in the region?
  - Various initiatives for environmental protection already exist in the region. How can collaboration be promoted for facilitating the effective implementation of such initiatives?
- At this session, participants are invited to discuss how to promote activities at the regional level of Asia and the Pacific.

**11:00-11:30 (Venue: Royal Crown on 4<sup>th</sup> Floor)**

• **Closing Session**

**12:00-**

**Excursion organized by Saitama City**

### **ECO Asia related Events**

- 31 May “Cool Asia” organized by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan
- 23 June “Saitama Environment Forum 2006” Environmental Symposium organized by Saitama City
- 23 June “GEA Virtual Globe Environmental NPO/NGO Meeting” organized by GEA
- 23 June “Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment: International Workshop on Local Initiatives Addressing Transformation of Lifestyles toward Achieving Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific” organized by the UNESCAP in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan, Institute for Global Environment Strategies and the City of Kitakyushu, Japan
- 24 June “State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific 2005 Report” organized by UNESCAP