

JEJU DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Having met at the Second Ministerial Regional Forum on Environment and Health in South-East and East Asian Countries, jointly organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Offices for the Western Pacific and South-East Asia, and hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea, on 15 July 2010 in Jeju, Korea,

Recalling our meeting in the First Ministerial Regional Forum on Environment and Health in South-East and East Asian Countries, on 9 August 2007, in Bangkok, Thailand,

Understanding that the environment in which we live affects our health and recognizing that our common goal is the attainment of healthy lives and sustainable environments,

Recognizing the need to achieve the goal by ensuring clean air and water, environmentally sound treatment and safe disposal of waste, safe management of chemical substances, adequate response and adaptation to climate change and swift actions in environmental health emergencies, and assessment of health impacts of these and other environmental hazards,

Conscious of the need to cooperate to share good examples and technologies, since, from a global and regional perspective it is essential to pursue international cooperation to strengthen national capacity for environmental health management,

Noting with appreciation linkages established by several of the Regional Forum's thematic working groups, such as the cooperation of the Thematic Working Group on Air Quality with the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution Forum, the cooperation of the Thematic Working Group on Toxic Chemicals and Hazardous Substances with regional activities of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), the Tokyo 3R Statement's¹ call for the Thematic Working Group on Solid and Hazardous Waste to serve as a regional platform for sharing information on reducing reusing and recycling wastes, and the call of the Manila Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene in East Asia² requesting the Thematic Working Group on Water Supply, Hygiene and Sanitation to act as the regional platform for facilitating cooperation towards the improvement of sanitation and hygiene;

¹ Inaugural Meeting of the Regional 3R Forum in Asia, 12 November 2009, in Tokyo, Japan

² 2nd Ministerial Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene in East Asia, 29 January 2010 in Manila, Philippines

We the Ministers of Environment and Health and heads of delegations from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam reaffirm our adoption of the Charter of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in South-East and East Asian Countries, with the addition of health impact assessment as a new regional priority for 2010-2013, and establishment of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health as described in the Charter,

- Agree to cooperate to develop and implement national environmental health action plans, or equivalent plans, that aim to improve environmental quality; to enhance public health, including child health; and to ensure the health of future generations in our countries,
- Agree to study ways and means to create within the region an environmental health capacity-strengthening programme, since the strengthening of national capacities for environmental health management requires research, training, and sharing technologies and leading examples,
- Resolve to strengthen our cooperation to improve inter-agency, multi-sectoral, regional and international cooperation, coordination and planning, to facilitate capacity building, the exchange of information, technology and resources and the management of trans-boundary and common issues,
- Urge government departments, private sector, civil society including non-governmental organizations, academia, labour, and media anew to be actively involved in this process, further building ownership and commitment,
- Approve the composition and work plans of Thematic Working Groups on (1) Air Quality, (2) Water Supply, Hygiene and Sanitation (hereafter known as Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), (3) Solid and Hazardous Waste, (4) Toxic Chemicals and Hazardous Substances, (5) Climate Change, Ozone Depletion and Ecosystem Change, (6) Contingency Planning, Preparedness and Response in Environmental Health Emergencies, and (7) Health Impact Assessment; and request the seven Thematic Working Groups to implement their work plans as agreed, taking into account the availability of resources, and the importance of addressing some issues in an integrated manner.

- Endorse the cooperation established by several of the Regional Forum's Thematic Working Groups with regional mechanisms relevant to environment and health, and urge all of the Forum's Thematic Working Groups to similarly cooperate with other regional mechanisms in their respective themes and serve as regional platforms for facilitating technical cooperation among South-East and East Asian countries,
- Approve the establishment of a Task Force reporting to the Regional Forum's Advisory Board, to review governance, institutional and partnership issues affecting the Regional Forum and the impact of the Regional Forum at country level, and to complete its work by making recommendations through the Advisory Board to the Forum's sixth meeting of High Level Officials,
- Urge the members of the Regional Forum to consider establishing sustainable and effective mechanisms to finance the operations of the Forum and direct the aforementioned Task Force and the Secretariat to study options for establishing such mechanisms
- Request UNEP and WHO to continue serving as joint Secretariat to support the operations of the Regional Forum and its subsidiary bodies,
- Call upon international and regional development partners anew to support the implementation of the Charter of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health and specifically to support research and training centres on environment and health and the activities of the Forum's Secretariat, Thematic Working Groups, Advisory Board and Scientific Conferences, and the Task Force on governance and institutional issues and partnerships, and
- Agree to meet again in three years to review our progress in building capacity for environmental health management, the work plans of the Thematic Working Groups, recommendations of the Task Force on governance and institutional issues and partnerships as may be approved or amended by the sixth Meeting of High Level Officials, and to discuss and agree on new directions and priorities for our collaboration.

We thank the people and governments of Jeju and the Republic of Korea for hosting and supporting the Second Ministerial Forum and other related meetings.

15 July 2010, Jeju, Republic of Korea