Regional Cooperation in Promoting Eco-efficient Society through 3R in Asia and the Pacific

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Mandate and context of ESCAP activities

We are...
- Regional Arm of the UN secretariat in Asia-Pacific
- Mandated from GA and ESCAP Member States to integrate environment into socio-economic development

We do...
- Support the achievement of the **MDGs** in particular
  - MDG 1 (poverty reduction) and
  - MDG 2 (environmental sustainability)
- Create synergies between the economy and the environment: promote environmentally sustainable economic growth – “**Green Growth**”
- Focus on **co-benefits**
ESCAP promotes to Asia 3R via Green Growth

3R and Green Growth

- Both addressing improvement of eco-efficiency of production & consumption
  - showcases a political commitment to provoke actions across ministries and agencies
  - addresses policy principle to impact comprehensively C & P pattern in the entire society
  - Promotes regulatory, incentive & technical tools providing practical guidance and methodology

- Partnering with ADB, UNEP and AIT for 3R Knowledge Hub
- Ready to supply / share experiences on Green Growth
ESCAP’s Key Strategy
= Green Growth

Green Growth = Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth

- Primary Approach adopted by Asia Pacific Ministers in 2005
- Addresses environment / economy integration
  - Internalizing externalities
  - Focusing on improvement of eco-efficiency of the society
  - Decoupling of economic growth and environmental pressures
- Regional and Subregional Programmes in operation
  - Focusing on Economic and Social Policy Instruments
Green Growth – Ongoing Programme Intervention

- Focusing on Economic and Social Policy Instruments

- Tracks of Action for promoting Green Growth
  - Intervention at Policy Level
    - Green tax and budget reform;
    - Development of sustainable infrastructure;
    - Promotion of sustainable consumption and production;
    - Greening of markets and business, and
  - Development of Ecological Efficiency Indicators
  - Promotion of Local Initiatives on Environmental and Socio-Economic Co-benefits
An emerging concept based on...

- Environmental Co-benefit (Climate Change Action and Local SD / Environmental Protection)
- Socio-economic Co-benefits (Economic Livelihood / Competitiveness, Poverty Alleviation, Health, Gender, Governance and Human Rights, etc.)
- Self Sustainability (Financial, Participation)
- Synergy amongst MDG1, 7 and more!

Addressing to overcome technical and financial as well as political barriers to undertaking environmental protection measures at local level
Challenges of Local Environmental Actions

- Challenges are often cited in terms of...
  - Local Capacity (technical / instrumental)
  - Lack of legal / regulatory instruments
  - Financial resources
  - Awareness and support

- Background problems
  - Policy Priority amongst mounting multiple challenges (poverty, slums, housing, infrastructure, health, social welfare, economic livelihood) > More competition than synergy
  - Perception – Environmental protection measures are financial burden (Prevailing both in city managers, donors and investors)
  - Environmental Departments relatively weak
How Co-benefit Approach works?

- Environmental Protection Measures often have the socio-economic co-benefits
- Such co-benefits, if explicitly demonstrated, will contribute to
  - Enhancing the priority in local policy making
  - Creating more synergy amongst different department
  - Attracting more financial opportunities (grants) from broad range of sources
  - Strengthening public support with enhanced awareness
- Economic return will help
  - Revolving investment for project expansion / replication
  - Attract more financial opportunities (loans and investments)
  - Engage expertise commercially available
Exemplar Cases of Co-benefits

- Typical Municipal Solid Waste Management can simultaneously address:
  - Environmental benefits:
    - Improvement in MSW Management / health implications
    - Reduction of GHG gas emission
  - Socio-economic co-benefits:
    - Engagement of Informal Sector
    - Generating incomes for the poor and marginalized
    - New business opportunities
    - Partnership amongst NGO, Private Sector and City Hall
    - Urban Governance / Transparency
    - Social equity and gender perspective
    - New Finance through Landfill Gas CDM project
Support for Co-Benefit Approach

- Identifying emerging innovative approach + dissemination:
  - Guidebooks:
    - Municipal Solid Waste-related CDM Projects
  - Promoting replication of successful practices:
    - Study Tours for replication of successful practices
    - Distant Learning Events
  - Incubation of city-to-city cooperation
    - Landfill-to-energy CDM
    - MSW-CDM linked with Composting / Mini-enterprises.
    - Non-CDM cobenefits
      - Waste bank / Eco-money Schemes
      - Efficient Waste Collection using GPS
  - Demonstration/ Pilot Projects with Seed Finance
Actions for Improving Eco-Efficiency

- Green Growth Policy Dialogues
- Eco-efficiency Partnership for NE Asian Countries, incl.
  - Upstream/ Downstream Policy Options for Promoting Sound Material Cycle
  - Research/ Dialogue on Asian EPR / RoHS / Eco-Design Schemes
- Sustainable Urban Infrastructure, incl.
  - Urban Planning integrated with Waste Management Cycle (Collection/ Treatment/ Recycling / Disposal) + Recycling Industry
  - Together with Energy / Transportation / Water etc.
- Eco-Efficiency Indicators (Sectoral / Societal)
For Future Cooperation

- Consultation ongoing with potential donors, partners and participating cities
- Seek for inter-agency / inter-programme collaborations
- Activities on co-benefits in adaptation mainstreaming in preparation

- Any comments, suggestions, proposal welcome

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Thank You