

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

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Introduction

■ What is ESCAP?

- UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- One of the five Regional Commissions under ECOSOC, like ECE, ECLAC, ESCWA, ECA
- Biggest regional arm of UN in AP region
- Serving as the secretariat for main economic and social development forum within UN system in AP
- Promoting sustainable economic and social development through regional and subregional cooperation and integration;
- Multi-disciplinary (Statistics, Trade, Transport, Information Technology, Poverty Reduction, Population, Gender, Handicapped, etc.)

ESCAP Approach to Environment and Sustainable Development

- Integrating Environment into Socio-economic Development
- MDG1 (Poverty) and MDG7 (Environment)
- Regional and Subregional Forums and Programmes backed up by Analytical and Research Work
 - Policy advocacy, facilitation of dialogue, information exchange/ dissemination, capacity building, pilot/demonstration projects, etc.
- New overarching focus set by 5th MCED in March 2005
 - Promotion of Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth = **“Green Growth”**
 - Pursue economic growth to address poverty without jeopardizing environmental sustainability
 - Minimizing the environmental pressure arising from economic growth on limited carrying capacity
 - Unique A&P strategy to pursue SD

Green Growth highlights

- improvement of the eco-efficiency of economic development pattern (consumption & production) of our society as a whole
- Creating a synergy between the environment and the economy - environment as a growth opportunity rather than burden and costs
- Encouraging application of broad-based socio-economic policy instruments (financial, market-based, business, information, statistics, gender, etc.)

Green Growth and 3R

- 3R in GG context
 - Both addresses improving eco-efficiency of production & consumption, but...
 - 3R is particularly significant, as it
 - showcases a political commitment to provoke actions across ministries and agencies
 - addresses policy principle to impact comprehensively P & C pattern in the entire society
 - Promotes regulatory, incentive & technical tools providing practical guidance and methodology
 - 3R is certainly a practical and useful tool to achieve GG
 - Synergy to be explored

ESCAP Work on GG (1)

- **Analytical Work**
 - **Consumption patterns in the region**
 - Trends of eco-efficiency of the current consumption patterns in fast growing countries in AP
 - Role of public policy in providing appropriate sustainable consumption choices to the consumer
 - **Eco-efficiency of the economic growth pattern in the region**
 - Trends and patterns of eco-efficiency of the economic growth of the countries in the region
 - Review/Development of indicators of eco-efficiency and GG
 - Development of an indicative policy framework to improve eco-efficiency of economic growth

ESCAP Work on GG (2)

- **Regional Policy Dialogue**
 - **First RPD - November 2005, Seoul, ROK**
 - Shared the significance of eco-efficiency of the economic development and growth among target audience – senior officials from ministries of finance, development planning, etc.
 - Reviewed various country examples for successful eco-efficiency measures
 - Identified different types of market based economic and budgetary measures – e.g. green and environmental taxation, levies, green budget reform and revenues.
 - **Second RPD - May 2006, Beijing, China**
 - Role of Public Policy in Providing Sustainable Consumption Choices
 - Resources Saving Society and Green Growth

Seoul Initiative for Green Growth

- Adopted also by 5th MCED to provide a regional cooperation framework to promote GG in AP region
- Implemented in partnership with ROK (MOE and KEI)
- Basic Functions under Development
 - Policy consultation forum – a platform for senior officials of environmental ministries
 - Capacity Building
 - Networking (SINGG)

Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment (1)

- Adopted by 4th MCED held in Kitakyushu, September 2000
- Acknowledged by WSSD/JPOI in 2002 as a major regional initiative
- Progress reviewed by 5th MCED in 2005 and recommended for continuation for 2010 (Second Cycle)
- Supported by GOJ and implemented in partnership with IGES
- Mandate to achieve measurable progress in improvement of the urban environment in Asia and the Pacific, principally through the local initiatives targeting control of air and water pollution, minimization of all kinds of wastes.
- New highlight reflecting outcome of 5th MCED, to strengthen emphasis on the policy integration at the local level between urban environmental management and promotion of local economic livelihood (poverty reduction)

Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment (2)

- Basic Features
 - Focus on ground-level activities
 - Successful Practices – Identification, Analysis and Transfer
 - Pilot Projects for Replication
 - Networking / Matchmaking - KI Network operated by IGES Kitakyushu

- Solid Waste /3R related activities include:
 - Dhaka – Policy analysis on linking solid waste management groups and local fertilizer industry
> Replication ongoing
 - Nonthaburi – A pilot project on participatory programme for promoting waste reduction and recycle
 - Successful implementation and self-replication
 - Study tour to facilitate transfer to other cities

Future Track

- Continuation/expansion of existing activities on GG + KI
- More activities in preparation
 - Sustainable Consumption Patterns linking with Cultural Values and Traditional Lifestyles
 - Subregional Assessment of Eco-efficiency – Trend, Opportunity and Challenges in NE Asia
 - Education for SD
 - Access to Environmental Information
 - Important tools to promote sound consumers/investors choice

Possible Synergy

- Share information and experiences with other 3R-related programmes, in areas of:
 - Policy advocacy
 - 2nd Regional Policy Dialogue
 - Policy research / analysis
 - Eco-efficiency indicators
 - Material flow indicators
 - Showcase / demonstration projects
 - Public Sector Intervention in Providing Sustainable Consumption Choices
 - Kitakyushu Initiative – Bettering local waste management practices with strengthening 3R components, etc.

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