

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

Masakazu ICHIMURA
Chief, Environment Section
Environment and Sustainable Development
Division (ESDD)
UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and
the Pacific (ESCAP)



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 Scio-Economic Co-benefits**

A Highlight - Environment 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

Contact:

Environment and Sustainable Development Division (ESDD)

UN ESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand

(escap-esdd-evs@un.org)

Thank You