

The 1st phase outcome of the Joint Study on Environmental Management of Northeast Asia among China, Japan and Korea

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March 14, 2007
Ulsan, Korea



Outline

- Background
- Objectives
- Progress
- Main Contents and Preliminary Findings
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Background

- Problems
 - lacks unified coordination and management between existing cooperation mechanisms
 - the relationships between existing cooperation schemes are not necessarily clear
 - most of the environmental cooperation schemes do not yet have sound financial mechanisms
 - ...
- These problems were also noticed and addressed by TEMM in its Joint Communiques (TEMM6 and TEMM7)




Objectives

- to find out possible and efficient ways to improve the overall efficiency of environmental cooperation efforts in NEA
- to find out measures on how to make TEMM play a more important role, improve the performance, and better coordinate with other mechanisms



Progress

- Started in Dec. 2005
- 2 workshops have been held
- 5 Telephone Conferences have been held
- Draft report of phase I has been finished



Main Contents and Preliminary Findings

- Structure of the report
- Preliminary Findings



Structure of the report

- Chapter 1 Introduction
- Chapter 2 Environmental Challenges for NEA
- Chapter 3 Review of Current Cooperation Mechanisms
- Chapter 4 Suggestions on Future Environmental Cooperation
- Chapter 5 Conclusions



Preliminary Findings


- Mechanisms/activities
- Evaluation of individual Mechanisms/activities
- Gap Analysis

Mechanisms/activities

- Generic Mechanisms
 - Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM),
 - North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC)
 - Northeast Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation (NEAC)
 - others
- Issue Specific Mechanisms and Activities
 - Air pollution: EANET and LTP
 - Marine environmental issues : NOWPAP and YSLME
 - Dust and sandstorm: DSS-RETA
 - Desertification, land degradation and afforestation
 - Biodiversity
 - Waste
 - Chemicals
 - Environment and energy

Evaluation of individual Mechanisms/activities


- Criteria for Analyzing Mechanisms and Activities
 - relevance
 - effectiveness
 - efficiency
 - participation of stakeholder/actors
 - sustainability



Evaluation of individual Mechanisms/activities (con't)

- Generic mechanisms—TEMM


- The only regular ministerial meeting on Northeast Asian environmental management
- Simple but versatile institutional set-up
- Enhanced trust and working relationship among ministers and officials of three countries
- Potential to represent the interests of the entire region



Evaluation of individual Mechanisms/activities (con't)


- Generic mechanisms—NEASPEC

- Stated objectives need to be updated and refined to endow NEASPEC with a stronger *raison d'être* and a unique focus to harness its full potential
- Clear mandate should be given to NEASPEC in implementing projects for the training and capacity building of the government of the region so that it can raise necessary funds more effectively
- Widest geographical coverage but at a lower level of political representation, resulting in deadlocks in making important political decisions
- Diverging views among member states on institutional and financial arrangements
- Diverted funds to other regional cooperation projects lower the efficiency of NEASPEC




Evaluation of individual Mechanisms/activities (con't)

- Generic mechanisms—NEAC
 - Unique forum of multi-stakeholder dialogue
 - It has fully served its original purpose and can be transformed into a side-event of another regional mechanism




Evaluation of individual Mechanisms/activities (con't)

- Generic mechanisms—Other mechanisms and activities
 - Important regional environmental cooperation activities are undertaken at different levels, by local governments and by different social actors
 - Such activities allow interactions of equal partners across the border, but each works only within their domain, and the outcomes and outputs are less known to outsiders




Evaluation of individual Mechanisms/activities (con't)

- Issue Specific Mechanisms and Activities—EANET and LTP
 - EANET has a clear and concrete objective to guide its monitoring and data collecting activities
 - Additional legal instrument is needed to implement new activities



Evaluation of individual Mechanisms/activities (con't)

- Issue Specific Mechanisms and Activities—NOWPAP and YSLME
 - NOWPAP provides appropriate geographical coverage and comprehensive objectives with flexibility which enables to address any prioritised and/or emerging issues; while UNDP/GEF YSLME Project addresses a smaller geographical area with specific focuses which enables solid on-the-ground activities;
 - NOWPAP provides a solid institutional arrangement as intergovernmental cooperation mechanism as a part of UNEP Regional Seas Programme; however, financial arrangement issues for maintaining and strengthening NOWPAP activities remain unsolved;
 - NOWPAP receives thrust and momentum obtained through the recent establishment of RACs and RCU; however, gaps and overlaps in RACs' activities and difficulties in operating two RCU offices are not yet solved;
 - Achievement of NOWPAP so far is somewhat limited to the establishment of institutional arrangements and basis for information gathering and sharing; while UNDP/GEF YSLME Project is making advanced achievements by developing and implementing strategic action plan including pilot projects; and
 - Some important issues such as sustainable management of fishery and other marine and coastal resources are not fully addressed.



Evaluation of individual Mechanisms/activities (con't)

- Issue Specific Mechanisms and Activities—DSS-RETA
 - DSS issues are highly prioritised at ministerial level policy dialogues in the region, so that high level decision-making can be translated into the development of regional action plan and necessary on-the-ground activities;
 - Stakeholders, both relevant national governments and international organizations, are adequately involved in the process; while further participation by local stakeholders will be necessary in the follow-up activities;
 - No permanent secretariat body or annual regular budget for regional activities so far;
 - Securing financial resources for the step-by-step implementation of the Master Plan is one of the most urgent and important tasks; and
 - Common but different interests between two groups, namely China and Mongolia versus Japan and Korea: the former is concerned about desertification and sandstorm while the latter is concerned more about depositions.



Gap Analysis

- Five criteria for Gap Analysis
 - Geographical coverage
 - Environmental issues addressed
 - Level of action undertaken
 - Financial constraints in view of efficiency
 - Stakeholder involvement



Gap Analysis-- Generic mechanisms

--*Geographical coverage*

- China, Japan, Korea are major actors
- how to involve other NEA countries?

--*Environmental issues*

- Some emerging issues are not adequately covered
- lack of strategic action plan and domestic implementation scheme

--*Level of action*


- lack of legal and authoritative comprehensive mechanism

--*Financial constraint*

- new resources bases need to be developed
- weak condition of some participants for providing resources
- low effectiveness due to overlapping and disperse use of resources

--*Stakeholder involvement*

- narrow composition of *Actors/Stakeholders*
- lack of communication among *Actors/Stakeholders*
- lack of efficient role assignment among *Actors/Stakeholders*



Gap Analysis—EANET and LTP

--*Geographical coverage*

- low consideration of geographical differentiation of acid deposition problem;

--*Environmental issues*

- the scope of EANET is relatively narrow;

-- *Level of action*

- lack of legal mechanism;

-- *Financial constraint*

- lack of well- balanced resource base structure and weak ownership of countries

--*Stakeholder involvement*

- low development of independent experts network and absence of multilateral agreement of pollutants reduction.



Gap Analysis—NOWPAP and YSLME

--*Geographical coverage*

- DPRK is not included

--*Environmental issues*

- emerging and important problems are not yet addressed
- weak partnership between NOWPAP and UNDP/GEF YSLME

-- *Level of action*


- the weak framework for implementing crucial projects to address real and concrete environmental problems in marine and coastal area

-- *Financial constraint*

- face financial constraint to implement current identified activities to measure emerging and important new issues in future

--*Stakeholder involvement*

- lack of participation of relevant actors like environmental agency and cooperative activities among them in domestic level of each country.



Gap Analysis—DSS-RETA

--*Geographical coverage*

- DPRK is not included

--*Environmental issues*

- low interest of damage side activities and blank of ground level monitoring for forecasting

-- *Level of action*


- too low grade of action level in compared with action level for implementing the activities of DSS-RETA

-- *Financial constraint*

- lack of actual resources for launching individual projects in DSS-RETA report

--*Stakeholder involvement*

- too low social capacity compared with the request of master plan in the DSS generation area.



Gap Analysis--no mechanisms to address the following issues

- biodiversity
- environment and energy
- land degradation and desertification
- waste
- chemical



Next Step

- The third workshop will be held on March 15, 2007 in Ulsan, Korea
- To modify and complete the draft report of phase I (chapter 1,2,3) based on the comments and suggestions
- To finish chapter 4 and chapter 5 before Sept. 2007



Thanks for your attention!!