

An announcement on the launching of an “Asian Co-benefits Partnership”

November 15 2010

The Japanese Ministry of the Environment (MOE) promotes a co-benefits approach which achieves environmental pollution control measures simultaneously with reduction of GHG emissions. The launch of an “Asian Co-benefits Partnership” was announced on November 9, at the “Better Air Quality 2010” conference held in Singapore. The objective of the partnership is to support the mainstreaming of co-benefits into sectoral development plans, policies and projects in Asia.

1. Background

The MOEJ promotes a Co-benefits approach which enables Asian countries to achieve environmental pollution control measures (such as air pollution control measures, water pollution control measures) simultaneously with reduction of GHG emissions. They have been becoming one of the key issues especially in developing countries. Project examples: improvement of the efficiency of a thermal power station, methane recovery and power generation in wastewater treatment

With a keen interest in a Co-benefits approach Asian countries are showing, the launch of an “Asian Co-benefits Partnership” was announced on November 9, at the “Better Air Quality 2010 conference (organized by the Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities)” held in Singapore.

2. Overview

(1) Goal

The goal of the Partnership is to support the mainstreaming of co-benefits into sectoral development plans, policies and projects in Asia (including the contribution to nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs)).

(2) Partnership members and target audience

The partnership members may include various stakeholders working on co-benefits in Asia, including government agencies, international development organizations, academe, civil society and the private sector.

(3) Major activities

1) Information sharing and knowledge dissemination

Gather and manage the information of co-benefits in Asia and promote co-benefits projects.

2) Development of co-benefits policies and projects in Asia

Develop the methodologies to quantify co-benefits through a joint research,

develop and disseminate guidelines and manuals for co-benefits projects, implement capacity building targeting policymakers as well as co-benefits projects.

3) Promoting cooperation among relevant countries and organizations

Identify organizations that involved in co-benefits approach, invite them to join the Partnership, and contribute actively to their activities. Share the efforts on co-benefits approach through holding of seminar/s and workshop/s.

4) Strengthening of regional cooperation in Asia

Make efforts to raise awareness on co-benefits at high level policy dialogues. Explore an appropriate funding scheme, as well as better use of existing funding schemes to promote/accelerate co-benefits policies and project in Asia.

(4) Implementation arrangements

1) Secretariat :

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

The main tasks include:

- Develop documents on the Partnership activities including Partnership work plans for review and comments by Partnership members;
- Oversee implementation of Partnership work plan;
- Organize Partnership activities among relevant countries and organizations;
- Carry out other activities including seminars, workshops etc.

2) Advisory Group includes:

- Relevant country representatives in Asia;
- International organizations (the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-ASIA), GAPF (Global Atmospheric Forum))
- Other organizations including sectoral agencies

The functions of the Advisory Group include:

- Set and review strategic priorities for the Partnership activities;
- Review the Partnership work plan and recommend the working method of the Partnership

Attached File:

Asian Co-benefits Partnership Work Plan (2010-2011)

Relates websites:

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

<http://www.iges.or.jp/en/index.html>

Better Air Quality 2010 (BAQ2010)

<http://baq2010.org/node/1432/>

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