

ESCAP Intervention in Session 1

1) Promotion of actions for improving resource efficiency

ESCAP has been advocating “Green Growth”, or Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth. As ESCAP’s five yearly flagship publication, SOE 2005, addressed that the region’s ecological footprint far exceeds the region’s bio-capacity, Asia Pacific region needs a paradigm shift in the way it pursue economic growth. As the meeting have probably noted, this idea has been well picked up by the recent ADB/IGES report presented by the discussant, which ESCAP is so pleased to acknowledge as ESCAP co-organized one of the key workshops based on which ADB/IGES developed the said report. ESCAP therefore wishes to endorse the list of essential actions proposed by ADB. We are already operationalizing country specific activities in different countries in Asia and Pacific region, based on their specific needs and policy direction. Such activities include synergies with circular economy in China and sufficiency economy in Thailand.

2) Co-benefits

In fact, Co-benefit approach is a key strategy of ESCAP in promoting integration of economy and environment, and mobilizing additional financial resources as well as political wills in implementing sustainable development projects in Asia-Pacific developing countries. One such example in a concrete term is the recent publication of **A Guide to CDM Projects Related to Municipal Solid Waste Management**, which targets on the managers at local and national government levels, highlighting the advantages in seeking synergy in simultaneously addressing a local environmental challenge (solid waste management) and global climate change mitigation.