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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The Thirteenth Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of NEASPEC

20-21 March 2008

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

REVIEW AND PLANNING OF THE CORE FUND

(Item 8 of the provisional agenda)

Note by the Secretariat

I. THE STATUS OF THE CORE FUND: 2007-2008

1. The financial contributions of member countries to the Core Fund have significantly contributed to maintaining the relatively stable financial status of NEASPEC and expanding the scope and number of joint activities. Using the Core Fund, NEASPEC has also been able to cover the basic operational costs of the Secretariat.

2. As shown in Table 1, the Core Fund has US\$600,568.13 available for the period 2007-2008. In 2007, two member countries, China and the Republic of Korea, made contributions of US\$49,985 and \$100,000, respectively, to the Core Fund.

[Table 1] Statement of NEASPEC Core Fund: 2007-2008

Budget Items	Amount (US\$)
REVENUE	
Balance brought forward from 2006	431,473.00
Contribution from the member countries in 2007*	149,985.00
Interest income in 2007	19,110.13
Total revenue	600,568.13
EXPENDITURE AND ALLOCATED BUDGET	
Expenditure for nature conservation project and secretariat operation in 2007	19,277.18
Allotments to secretariat operation and activities for the period September 2007 - August 2009	254,250.00
Total	273,527.18
Total Unallocated Resources	327,040.95

3. As reported to the 12th SOM, the Secretariat made best efforts to save the approved budgets for the Nature Conservation Project, secretariat operation and meetings. As a result, the Secretariat was able to save US\$129,462 and return it to the Core Fund account.

4. The allotments to secretariat operation and activities for the period September 2007 - August 2009 are in accordance with the decisions of the 12th SOM on the proposed activities and budget. The 12th SOM reviewed an activity and budget plan, requesting the allocation of US\$ 322,050 from the Core Fund for secretariat operation and activity implementation. The meeting requested the Secretariat to revise the budget plan in accordance with decisions of the 12th SOM on proposals for preparing "North-East Asia Environmental Outlook" and allocating the Core Fund to support the participation of non-ADB member countries in the air pollution project.

5. Based on the above decisions and according with UN rules and regulations, the Secretariat prepared an internal project document, "Technical Assistance on Environmental and Sustainable Development Cooperation in North-East Asia: Secretariat of NEASPEC", containing a budget plan of US\$254,250 for the following activities:

- Operate the NEASPEC Secretariat, including facilitation of communications among member countries, dissemination of information through publication and website, development of strategies and activities of subregional cooperation
- Organize expert group meetings to discuss subregional environmental issues and develop activities of NEASPEC
- Organize the 13th and 14th Senior Officials Meetings
- Undertake follow-up activities to the Nature Conservation Strategy and Resolution
- Develop and undertake activities for the Eco-efficiency Partnership in North-East Asia
- Implement the project of Transboundary Air Pollution from Coal-fired Power Plants in North-East Asia

[Table 2] Budget Plan for the Period September 2007 - August 2009

Activities	Budget Items	Total
Management of NEASPEC Secretariat and Meetings	Programme Assistants	40,000
	EGMs and SOMs	40,000
	Staff travel	10,000
	Website and publication	15,000
	Sundry	5,000
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>110,000</i>
Eco-efficiency Partnership in North-East Asia/ Follow-up to Nature Conservation Strategy	Meetings/trainings	90,000
	Consultants/resource persons	15,000
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>105,000</i>
Air Pollution Project	Meetings (staff travel)	10,000
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>10,000</i>
Subtotal		225,000
Programme Support Cost		29,250
Grand Total		254,250

II. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

12. The Meeting may wish to accept the report on the NEASPEC Core Fund.

13. The Meeting may wish to express the appreciation to the member countries' contributions to the Core Fund and request for continuing commitments of all member countries.