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REVIEW OF PROGRAMME PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

(Item 5 (d) of the provisional agenda)

Eco-efficiency Partnership in North-East Asia

Note by the Secretariat

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I. OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS

1. Considering environmental pressures resulting from current economic development in North-East Asia, eco-efficiency was discussed and recognized at the 10th SOM in 2004 as a new approach to economic growth and policy tool for improving sustainable development in North-East Asia.
2. Upon request from the 10th SOM, a paper on the scope and approach of actions on improving eco-efficiency in the subregion was developed and presented to an Expert Group Meeting held in conjunction with the 11th SOM in 2005. In addition to the consultation paper, country reports on eco-efficiency also underlined the need for undertaking actions to improve eco-efficiency in North-East Asia.
3. The second Expert Group Meeting on Eco-efficiency in North-East Asia was held in May 2006 in Beijing as the follow-up to the 11th SOM. The EGM further recognized the significance of improving eco-efficiency in North-East Asia and the applicability of the concept to subregional actions. In this context, the EGM decided to propose a project entitled “Eco-efficiency Partnership in North-East Asia” in the 12th SOM in 2007. This project aims at (a) creating a common view and knowledge among major stakeholders, (b) facilitating the creation of subregional common policies, (c) assisting in strengthening national capacity and (d) raising public awareness.
4. The 12th SOM approved the project proposal and also reviewed a preliminary action plan for joint activities, including (a) publishing reports on eco-efficiency to disseminate information and raise awareness, (b) facilitating dialogues among key stakeholders, i.e. government officials, national experts, business organizations and civil society and (c) organizing training programmes.
5. Subsequently, the secretariat prepared a guidebook “Eco-efficiency: A Practical Path to Sustainable Development” in 2007. In addition, a series of consultations with the national focal points of NEASPEC and national institutes of the member States were conducted during 2007-2008 for developing a detailed plan of the Partnership.
6. The 14th SOM reviewed a draft activity plan on eco-efficiency partnership which at the same time seeks synergy with the extensive work of ESCAP on Green Growth. As a result, three major components, i.e. Eco-Tax Reform Partnership, Public-Private-Civil Society Partnership, and Urban Governance Partnership, were proposed to be incorporated in the activity plan.
7. The further consultation with key national institutes in China and Republic of Korea after 14th SOM identified the need for subregional cooperation on green labeling. In this regard, an EGM on Eco-efficiency Partnership was organized back-to-back with the 15th SOM in 2010 to identify areas of subregional cooperation on green labeling programme, in particular. The EGM and 15th SOM, however, noted that any future activities on energy

efficiency standard and carbon footprint initiative should focus on information-sharing and capacity building for experts.

II. PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN 2011

8. **Public-Private-Civil Society Partnership:** In response to the recommendations from 15th SOM and the EGM, the secretariat has worked on the development of a capacity building programme for experts on eco-labeling and carbon footprint initiatives. In this regard, the secretariat has consulted with Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute (KEITI) of Republic of Korea and decided to undertake joint activities of NEASPEC Eco-efficiency Partnership and KEITI Asia-Korea Carbon Footprint Partnership Program. This will allow NEASPEC to utilize the expertise and financial resources from Programme while KEITI would benefit from partnering with a multilateral programme, NEASPEC. Under this programme, the secretariat and KEITI plan to hold the Asia-Korea Seminar on Carbon Footprint and Asia-Korea Workshop for Carbon Footprint Partnership on 13-14 October 2011 in Seoul.

9. The Asia-Korea Carbon Footprint Partnership Program aims to promote knowledge sharing on carbon footprint and carbon labeling schemes as well as strengthen multilateral cooperation among Asian countries. In this connection, the proposed seminar and workshop intend to facilitate experts from relevant national agencies on developing and implementing carbon-labeling programs through a comprehensive review of existing national initiatives and an in-depth exchange of views and experiences.

10. KEITI and NEASPEC secretariat plan to invite two experts from about 10 countries in North-East Asia and South-East Asia. Thus, the meeting will facilitate information-sharing within and beyond national agencies in NEASPEC member States. The provisional meeting programme is prepared as follows.

Seminar on Carbon Footprint Initiatives

Thursday, 13 th October 2011	
09:00 - 12:00	Low Carbon Green Growth EXPO 2011
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch
13:00 - 13:30	Registration
13:30 - 13:50	Opening ceremony
13:50 - 14:20	International Carbon Footprint Status
14:20 ~ 14:50	Low Carbon Green Growth Roadmap
14:50 ~ 16:40	Cases for Business Response to Climate Change
16:40 ~ 17:10	Carbon Labeling Scheme in Asian Countries
17:10 ~ 17:40	Promotion Policy for Accelerating Eco-labeling Scheme

Asia-Korea Workshop for Carbon Footprint Partnership

Friday, 14 th October 2011	
09:30 ~ 10:00	Climate Change Policy and Carbon Footprint Labeling
10:00 ~ 10:30	Introduction of Carbon Labeling Certification Procedure
10:30 ~ 11:00	Guidelines for Carbon Labeling Certification
11:00 ~ 11:20	Coffee Break
11:20 ~ 12:00	Introduction of Low Carbon Certification Scheme
12:00 ~ 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 ~ 15:30	Presentation of Issue Paper from Each Country
15:30 ~ 16:30	Discussion
16:30 ~ 17:30	Tour of Low Carbon Green Growth EXPO 2011

11. **Urban Governance Partnership:** Concerning the component of Urban Governance Partnership, the secretariat in collaboration with Suwon City, the capital of Gyeong-gi Province, Republic of Korea, plans to organize the “North-East Asian Forum on Eco-efficiency for Low Carbon, Green Cities”, which aims to (1) Review the current status of policies and programmes for low carbon, green cities in North-East Asia and discuss policy approaches for improving eco-efficiency, (2) Build partnership among cities to facilitate knowledge sharing and cooperation, and (3) discuss the role of local government in support of Rio+20.

12. In particular, the forum will provide officials from city government and experts in member States with an opportunity to have a comprehensive understanding of various national and local initiatives for low carbon city development in this subregion and identify innovative policy measures and key partner institutions for further promoting the on-going initiatives.

13. The city generously agreed to cover the cost of the forum while NEASPEC would take the major responsibility for developing the forum programme, inviting participants from NEASPEC member States, and facilitating discussions to develop a plan for Eco-efficiency Partnership. The provisional meeting programme is prepared as follows.

North-East Asian Forum on Eco-efficiency for Low Carbon, Green Cities

Monday, 17 October 2011	
8:00 – 8:30	Registration

8:30 – 9:15	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Remark <i>Mayor of Suwon City</i> • Welcoming Remark <i>Director of UNESCAP SRO-ENEA</i> • Keynote speech
09:15 – 10:15	Session 1: Policy and Strategy for Low Carbon, Green City
10:15 – 10:30	Tea Break
10:30 – 12:00	Session 2: Low Carbon, Green City in North-East Asia
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:30	Session 3: Concept of Eco-Efficiency in the Context of Urban Policy
15:30 – 15:45	Tea Break
15:45 – 17:30	Session 4: Rio+20, Green Economy and the Role of Cities
Tuesday, 18 October 2011	
09:00 – 10:30	Session 5: Building Partnership for Eco-Efficiency
10:30 – 10:45	Tea Break
10:45 – 12:30	Session 6: Plan for the Eco-efficiency Partnership
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 17:00	Field Visit in Suwon City

III. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

14. The meeting may wish to express its support for the Asia-Korea Carbon Footprint Partnership Program and North-East Asian Forum on Eco-efficiency for Low Carbon, Green Cities and request member States to recommend relevant national agencies and experts to attend the meetings.

15. The meeting may wish to provide guidance on follow-up activities to be discussed and formulated at the meetings.

16. The meeting may wish to seek proposals from member States on specific activities to be implemented under the Eco-efficiency Partnership and roles of their respective national agencies in the proposed activities.

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Annex I: Broadening Eco-efficiency Partnership and the Role of Youth and University: proposed activities by the Subregional Forum for Youth Participation in Policy-Making for East and North-East Asia

I. OVERVIEW OF PROCESS

1. The Subregional Forum for Youth Participation in Policy-Making for East and North-East Asia was organized by the UNESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia (SRO-ENEA) on 15-17 August 2011 to implement the internationally agreed “World Programme of Action on Youth (1995)” which promotes youth participation in decision-making as well as to mark the closure of the International Year of Youth observed from 12 August 2010 to 11 August 2011 in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/64/134.
2. The Forum provided opportunity for young people of the subregion to discuss some of the most persistent socio-economic issues of North-East Asia while particular focus was given to three themes: 1) human well-being and the concept of happiness; 2) sustainable development; and 3) youth unemployment.
3. The subregional youth from China, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation held very insightful and deliberate discussions on the theme of sustainable development bearing in mind the upcoming Rio+20 Conference and importance of youth as one of the major stakeholder groups.
4. The youth participants of the Forum discussed a wide range of topics in the context of three main pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental - and scrutinized possible ways of linking together these three aspects.
5. In order to propose concrete policy measures and points for action the representatives of the subregional youth grouped the variety of discussed topics into three areas, namely, climate change and sustainable energy, sustainable infrastructure, and social dimension of sustainable development. Later, these areas were approached from subregional, regional and global perspectives and analyzed to propose concrete avenues for involvement of youth in policy and decision making.
6. One of the issues discussed by the meeting participants, which has specific relevance to university students, is the promotion of the concept of *green campus* in North-East Asia. Particularly, the representatives of the subregional youth expressed their concern that university campuses are becoming major green house gases (GHG) emitters in their countries. For instance, 23 universities are placed among 190 top GHG emitting organizations in the Republic of Korea. Some fragmental measures have been taken in the subregion to reverse this trend, including Gyung-gi Province Association for Green Campus Initiative and Korean Association for Green Campus Initiative in the Republic of

Korea and Todai Sustainable Campus Project and Campus Climate Challenge in Japan. The participants agreed that in order to achieve more tangible results across North-East Asia a more coordinated action on the subregional level should be taken. One of such measures could be establishing a subregional green-ranking of universities and inception of the North-East Asian Green University Award.

II. PROPOSED ACTION BY YOUTH

7. Thus, as a result of discussions the representatives of the subregional youth proposed specific policy measures to tackle the identified issues. Such policy suggestions included: i) implementing universal education on sustainable development at all levels of education and promotion of the role of youth in prioritizing sustainable development at national level; ii) launching campaigns for greening of universities (campuses) and involvement of youth in national efforts to publicize energy and resource saving; iii) promoting the use of clean and affordable public transportation by all members of the society; iv) promoting eco-friendly products through provision of benefits and incentives to producers and consumers of green products; and v) urging private and public sector actors to facilitate easier access to information on environmental issues to all members of public.

8. Furthermore, the participants proposed concrete activities to be undertaken at subregional and national levels. The activities include: i) nurturing future subregional leaders on sustainable development through specialized youth programmes and camps, exchange programmes, and peer-to-peer education ; ii) establishing national and subregional green ranking of universities (specifically as the North-East Asian Green University Award) to measure the efforts taken in order to green campuses and promote energy saving by universities – establish relevant university networks to exchange best practices in this regard; iii) advocating sustainable development in local communities and engage in volunteer activities to promote measures to save resources and energy and prevent environmental pollution ; and iv) organizing eco-fairs at universities to promote the wider use of eco-friendly products and connect youth from organizations related to sustainable development both nationally and internationally.

9. In this regard, the Secretariat wishes to seek the support of member States to the implementation of the proposed activities including Green University Award, in particular. The Secretariat also plans to facilitate the participants to formulate a joint statement to be submitted to the Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for Rio+20 and the compilation document of Rio+20 as an input from youth group.

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