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REVIEW AND PLANNING OF THE CORE FUND

(Item 9 of the provisional agenda)

Note by the Secretariat

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I. THE STATUS OF THE CORE FUND AND PROJECT-BASED FUND

1. As shown in Table 1, the Core Fund's balance brought forward from 2009 was US\$706,741. During January 2010 – June 2011, China and Russian Federation made contributions of US\$50,000 and US\$150,000 to the Core Fund and project-based fund, respectively. In addition to interest income, the total balance of the project account and the common account of the Core Fund as of June 2011 was US\$927,555.

[Table 1] Status of NEASPEC Core Fund and Project-based Fund

For the Period of January 2010- June 2011

| A. Revenue | Amount (US\$) |
|--|----------------------|
| Balance Brought Forward from 2009 | 706,741 |
| New Contribution in 2010- June 2011 | |
| - Core Fund | 50,000 |
| - Project-based Account (<i>Nature Conservation</i>) | 150,000 |
| Interest Income in 2010-2011 (<i>as of 30 June 2011</i>) | 20,814 |
| Total Revenue | 927,555 |
| B. Balance of Project Account and Common Account of the Core Fund | |
| Dust and Sandstorms | 220,350 |
| Nature Conservation | 198,170 |
| Programme Planning and Management (<i>Jan 2010-June 2011</i>) | 144,864 |
| Programme Planning and Management (<i>July 2011- June 2013</i>) | 244,000 |
| Common Account (unallocated core fund) | 120,171 |
| Total Beginning Balance | 927,555 |
| C. Less: Expenditure by Project Account | |
| Dust and sandstorms (<i>Jan –June 2011</i>) | 20,146 |
| Nature Conservation (<i>Jan 2010-June 2011</i>) | 84,904 |
| Programme planning and management (<i>Jan 2010-June 2011</i>) | 102,251 |
| Programme planning and management (<i>July 2011- June 2013</i>) | 0 |
| Total Expenditure | 207,301 |
| D. New Balance by Project Account | |
| Dust and sandstorms | 200,204 |
| Nature Conservation | 113,266 |
| Programme planning and management (<i>closed in July 2011</i>) | 42,613 |
| Programme planning and management (<i>July 2011- June 2013</i>) | 244,000 |
| Common Account (unallocated core fund) | 120,171 |
| TOTAL BALANCE (<i>as of 30 June 2011</i>) | 720,254 |

2. The major expenditures excluding sundries and programme supporting costs in the three project accounts during the period of January 2010-June 2011 are as follows.

- Programme planning and management: (1) US\$17,913 for an EGM and the 15th

SOM, (2) US\$46,190 for project development and secretariat management (including consultants, official missions of staff, programme support costs and sundry), and (3) US\$28,791 for the support of the initial process of the project on dust and sandstorm.

- Dust and sandstorm: US\$17,700 for consultations with member States and a consultant to conduct research on successful practices of combating desertification in North-East Asia. In the second half of 2011, the expenditure of US\$140,000 will be incurred for organizing a training programme for Mongolian policy-makers and technical experts in China and implementing the pilot project in Zamyn-Uud.
- Nature Conservation: (1) US\$52,622 for the EGM on Nature Conservation in Transboundary Areas in North-East Asia, and (2) US\$25,000 for the Russian partner institute and Chinese consultant to obtain substantive support to the project implementation.

3. In addition to the budget shown in the table 1, the secretariat expects to receive contributions of US\$100,000-US\$120,000 from the Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute (KEITI) and Suwon city for two joint activities, namely, the Meeting of Asia-Korea Carbon Footprint Partnership Program to be held on 13-14 October 2011 and the North-East Asian Forum on Eco-efficiency for Low Carbon, Green Cities to be held on 17-18 October 2011. The budget will be directly executed by the two organizations instead of transferred to the Core Fund.

4. As of July 2011, excluding the allocated budget for individual activities, the balance in the common account of the Core Fund is US\$120,171, which is the only remaining fund for any new proposed activities. However, this balance does not include interest income and expected contributions from member States to the Core Fund in 2011.

II. PROGRAMME PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT: JULY 2011-JUNE 2013

5. As shown in the [Table 2], the budget for the programme planning and management which was approved by the 15th SOM will be US\$244,000 from July 2011 to June 2013. This budget allocation will support outputs and activities presented as follows:

[Table 2] Budget Plan for July 2011 - June 2013

| Activities | Budget Items | Amount (US\$) |
|--|---|---------------|
| Management of NEASPEC Secretariat and meetings | Professional project staff/ consultants | 55,000 |
| | EGMs and SOMs | 60,000 |
| | Staff travel | 15,000 |

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|----------------|
| | Website and printing | 7,000 |
| | Equipments | 4,000 |
| | Sundry | 4,930 |
| | <i>Subtotal</i> | <i>145,930</i> |
| Implementation of ongoing activities and development of new initiatives | Meetings/trainings | 50,000 |
| | Consultants/resource persons | 20,000 |
| | <i>Subtotal</i> | <i>70,000</i> |
| Total | | 215,930 |
| Programme Support Cost (13%) | | 28,070 |
| Grand Total | | 244,000 |

Output A

Policy makers from the ministries of environment and sustainable development are able to analyze progress achieved in subregional cooperation and review priority areas and supporting mechanisms for strengthening subregional cooperation within NEASPEC.

Key activities:

- A.1 Review progress of implementation of ongoing programmes and activities under the framework of NEASPEC and organize expert meetings and consultation processes to evaluate progress, assess commonly shared environmental issues and identify priority areas for future activities.
- A.2 Support dialogue among Member States on strengthening the role of NEASPEC in facilitating subregional environmental cooperation.
- A.3 Organize the annual Senior Officials Meeting including preparation of meeting documents, logistic arrangements and preparation of the outcome document, including the adoption of schedule of activities and the secretarial supporting arrangements.

Output B

Ongoing activities of NEASPEC are successfully implemented by policy makers in the ministries of sustainable development and new joint initiatives will be developed.

Key activities:

- B.1 Support member Governments and key stakeholders to develop and implement activities of Eco-efficiency Partnership.
- B.2 Support the implementation of the project on “Mitigation of Transboundary Air Pollution from Coal-fired Power Plants in North-East Asia” in accordance with the institutional arrangement with the Asian

Development Bank and support the wide participation of Member States in the project implementation.

- B.3 Facilitate dialogue among key stakeholders in Member States as well as other relevant subregional, regional and international organizations to identify and develop new joint initiatives.

Output C

Enhanced capacity of policy makers and other stakeholders to strengthen information sharing on the objectives and results achieved under NEASPEC and its activities

Key activities:

- C.1 Enhance the function of the NEASPEC website as a medium for effective outreach by improving its system and updating information.
- C.2 Publish the outcomes of NEASPEC projects and activities for wider dissemination of information.

6. In addition to those activities under the framework of NEASPEC, SRO-ENEA plans to utilize resources from Incheon City and Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC) of the UN Secretariat for subregional activities in support of the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015, adopted by the 6th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED-6); the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and other major multilateral environmental agreements; policy development for promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy; and inter- and intra-subregional cooperation for knowledge sharing. While the activities will be implemented outside the framework of NEASPEC, SRO-ENEA will ensure their linkages and synergies with NEASPEC activities through close consultations with member States.

III. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

7. The Meeting may wish to accept the report on the NEASPEC Core Fund and request strengthened commitments of all member States to the Core Fund.

8. The Meeting may wish to express the appreciation to the Government of China for the annual contribution to the Core Fund and the Government of the Russian Federation for providing project-based fund.

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