

Regional Environmental Governance in
Asia and the Pacific: Review of NEASPEC
and other subregional programmes

NEASPEC Secretariat

Table of Contents

Chapter One: Institutional Review of NEASPEC

I.	Introduction.....	1
II.	Institutional Evolution.....	3
	Preparatory Meeting in 1992	
	<u>Summary of Key Points</u>	3
	<u>Discussions on Institutional Development</u>	3
	<u>A Proposal on Financial Mechanism</u>	6
	<u>Potential Areas of Cooperation</u>	7
	SOM-1 (1993)	
	<u>Summary of Key Points</u>	7
	<u>Institutional Mechanism</u>	8
	<u>Financial Mechanism</u>	8
	<u>Joint Activities</u>	9
	<u>Conclusion</u>	10
	SOM-2 (1994)	
	<u>Summary of Key Points</u>	10
	<u>Institutional Mechanism</u>	10
	<u>Financial Mechanism</u>	11
	<u>Joint Activities</u>	11
	<u>Conclusion</u>	12
	SOM-3 (1996)	
	<u>Summary of Key Points</u>	13
	<u>Institutional Mechanism</u>	13
	<u>Financial Mechanism</u>	16
	<u>Joint Activities</u>	17
	<u>Conclusion</u>	20
	SOM-4 (1998)	
	<u>Summary of Key Points</u>	20
	<u>Institutional Mechanism</u>	20
	<u>Financial Mechanism</u>	26
	<u>Joint Activities</u>	27
	<u>Conclusion</u>	30
	SOM-5 (1999)	
	<u>Summary of Key Points</u>	30

	<u>Institutional Mechanism</u>	30
	<u>Financial Mechanism</u>	35
	<u>Joint Activities</u>	35
	<u>Conclusion</u>	38
 SOM-6 (2000)		
	<u>Summary of Key Points</u>	38
	<u>Institutional Mechanism</u>	38
	<u>Financial Mechanism</u>	42
	<u>Joint Activities</u>	44
	<u>Conclusion</u>	46
 SOM-7 (2001)		
	<u>Summary of Key Points</u>	46
	<u>Institutional Mechanism</u>	47
	<u>Financial Mechanism</u>	50
	<u>Joint Activities</u>	54
	<u>Conclusion</u>	56
 SOM-8 (2002)		
	<u>Summary of Key Points</u>	56
	<u>Institutional Mechanism</u>	56
	<u>Financial Mechanism</u>	59
	<u>Joint Activities</u>	60
	<u>Conclusion</u>	65
 SOM-9 (2004)		
	<u>Summary of Key Points</u>	65
	<u>Institutional Mechanism</u>	65
	<u>Financial Mechanism</u>	67
	<u>Joint Activities</u>	68
	<u>Conclusion</u>	74
 SOM-10 (2004)		
	<u>Summary of Key Points</u>	74
	<u>Institutional Mechanism</u>	74
	<u>Financial Mechanism</u>	74
	<u>Joint Activities</u>	75
	<u>Conclusion</u>	80
 SOM-11 (2005)		
	<u>Summary of Key Points</u>	81
	<u>Institutional Mechanism</u>	81
	<u>Financial Mechanism</u>	84

<u>Joint Activities</u>	84
<u>Conclusion</u>	88
Concluding Remarks for Chapter One.....	88
Chapter Two: Environmental Cooperation Initiatives in North-East Asia	
Northeast Asia Conference on Environmental Cooperation (NEAC).....	89
Tripartite Environment Ministers' Meeting (TEMM).....	90
The Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP).....	90
<u>Organizational Structure and Major Activities</u>	91
<u>Financial Matters</u>	94
Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET).....	96
The Environment Congress for Asia and Pacific (Eco-Asia).....	97
Chapter Three: Regional Environmental Programmes in Asia and the Pacific	
ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASEAN-ASOEN)	
<u>Introduction</u>	99
<u>Organizational Overview</u>	99
<u>Financial Matters</u>	102
<u>Major Activities</u>	104
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)	
<u>Introduction</u>	112
<u>Organizational Overview</u>	112
<u>Financial Matters</u>	116
<u>Major Activities</u>	124
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)	
<u>Introduction</u>	133
<u>Organizational Overview</u>	133
<u>Financial Matters</u>	142
<u>Major Activities</u>	148
Chapter Four: Conclusion.....	154

ABBREVIATIONS

AADCP-ASEAN Australia Development Cooperation Programme
ACF-ASEAN Cultural Fund
ADB- Asian Development Bank
ADORC -Acid Deposition and Oxidant Research Center
AEGE-Experts Group on the Environment (ASEAN)
APFED- Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development
ARCBC-ASEAN Regional Center for Biodiversity Conservation
ASEAN- Association of South
ASEP- ASEAN Environment Programme
ASOEN-ASEAN Senior Officials of Environment
AusAid- Australian Government's Overseas Aid Programme
CC- Consultative Council
CC: TRAIN- Climate Change Training Programme
CBD-*Convention on Biodiversity*
CEARAC-Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center
CIDA- Canadian International Development Aid
CITES- *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species*
DG- Director General
DINRAC-Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center
DPRK-Democratic People's Republic of Korea
DSS- Decision- Support System
EANET-Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia
EGM-Expert Group Meeting
ESCAP- (United Nations) Economic and Social Commission of the Asia and the Pacific
GC- Governing Council
GCM-Governing Council Meeting
GEF- Global Environment Facility
HABs-Harmful Algal Blooms
HPA- Hanoi Plan of Action
ICIMOD -International Center for Integrated Mountain Development)
IEP-Island Ecosystems Programme
IGO- International Governmental Organization
IMO-International Maritime Organization
IUCN-World Conservation Union
JECF-Japan ESCAP Cooperation Fund
JWRC Japan Wildlife Research Center
KEPRI Korea Electric Power Research Institute
KRAs-Key Result Areas
MCED-Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development
MDGs-Millennium Development Goals
MERRAC-Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Center
MoC-Monitoring Committee
NBRU-National Biodiversity Reference Unit
NBSAPs -National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
NCSD-National Council for Sustainable Development
NEAC-North-East Asia Conference on Environment Cooperation

NEAREP-North-East Asian Regional Environment Programme
NEASPEC-North-East Asia Subregional Programme for Environment Cooperation
NEMS-National Environment Management Strategies
NETTLAP- Network for Environmental Training at Tertiary Level in Asia and Pacific),
NFP-National Focal Point
NGO-Non governmental Organization
NIAs-National Implementation Agencies
NIER- National Institute for Environmental Research
NORAD- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NOWPAP-Northwest Pacific Action Plan
NPO- Non Profit Organization
NRL- Non-Reimbursable Loan
PF-Pacific Future
PICCAP- The Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme ()
POMRAC- Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center
RAC- Regional Activity Center
RCU-Regional Coordinating Unit
RENRIC-Regional Environmental and Natural Resources Information Center
RETA-(ADB)-Regional Technical Assistance
RHAP- Regional Haze Action Plan
SAARC-South Asia Association of Regional Cooperation
SACEP-South Asian Co-operative Environment Programme
SASEANEE- South and South East Asian Network for Environmental Education
SASP-South Asia Seas Programme
SEAMCAP-Strengthening Environment Assessment and Monitoring Capabilities in Asia Pacific Region
SENRIC-South Asia Environment and Natural Resources Information Center
SEI-Stockholm Environment Institute
SEPA- State Environmental Protection Administration
SIDA-Swedish International Development Agency
SoE-State of Environment
SOM- Meeting of Senior Officials
SPAE- Strategic Plan of Action on Environment
SPBCP- The South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme
SPC-South Pacific Commission
SPREP-South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SSP- SACEP Strategy and Programme
TEMM-Tripartite Environment Ministers' Meeting
The ROK-The Republic of Korea
TRADP- Tumen River Area Development Programme
UNDP- United Nations Development Programme
UNEP- United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP_GRID-UNEP Global Information Database
UNEP_RRC. AP- UNEP Regional Resource Centre for the Asia Pacific
UNESCO-United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC- United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change
UNFPA- United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNGA-United Nations General Assembly

WMO-World Meteorological Organization
WSSD- World Summit on Sustainable Development

Chapter One: Institutional Review of NEASPEC

The Eleventh Meeting of Senior Officials (SOM-11) of North-East Asian Sub-regional Programme for Environment Cooperation (NEASPEC) reviewed the recommendations by the ministers¹ and requested the interim Secretariat to prepare a paper presenting the institutional mechanisms (options) for the Future of NEASPEC, which should be sought consultations from member governments in advance of the SOM-12. This background paper, prepared alongside the official paper for institutional options, focuses on the NEASPEC institutional review and briefings of other regional environmental cooperative organizations, leading to the justification for NEASPEC institutional upgrading. It is hoped that this paper provides a basis of understanding to the past and the necessity of the future institutional reforms.

I. Introduction

Prior to the end of the Cold War there was little cooperation on environmental issues at the sub-regional level, with the exception of that at bilateral level. A political break-through was achieved when more than 100 Heads of State acknowledged that all nations are part of one global system at the 1992 United Nations Conference of Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro. The idea of one global system included the notion that all nations must benefit from sustainable use and management of the Earth's resources and all nations are jointly responsible for the welfare of the globe. At the conclusion on UNCED, the parties delivered *Agenda 21*, a global action plan for sustainable development, which promotes joint efforts that adhere to the idea of one global system.

Shortly following the adoption of *Agenda 21*, ESCAP member states began

¹ Ministers of NEASPEC member countries gathered to discuss during Ministerial Conference on the Environment and Development 2005

looking towards implementation of efforts for environmental cooperation. Recognizing the importance of the mandate in Chapter 38 of Agenda 21, ESCAP assumed a lead role of preparing the documents and organizing the first Meeting of Senior Officials (SOM-1), along with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), marking the official launch of North-East Asia Sub-regional Programme of Environment Cooperation (NEASPEC).

38.7. The overall objective is the integration of environment and development issue at national, sub-regional, regional and international levels, including in the United Nations system institutional arrangement.

38.30. The regional commissions, as appropriate, should play a leading role in coordinating regional and sub-regional activities by sectoral and other United Nations bodies and shall assist countries in achieving sustainable development

38.33. Regional intergovernmental technical and economic organizations have an important role to play in helping Governments to take coordinated action in solving environment issues of regional significance.

---Agenda 21---

Box-1

Such a sub-regional cooperation on the matter of environmental concern requires viable institutional arrangements to coordinate its activities and to summon up support from member states and to raise the public awareness in addressing the environmental imperatives facing the whole sub-region. It can be readily seen that the mandate under paragraph 7(f) of Chapter 38 of the Agenda 21 of UNCED has been that of promoting regional cooperation through such institutional arrangements.

With the launch of NEASPEC, its institutional and financial mechanisms have been among the major concerns of the member countries, as can be seen from the following review.

To facilitate understanding, we present key outcomes of each SOM at the forefront. Also we categorize the discussions based on various themes:

proposals for institutional and financial reforms ahead of each SOM and the decisions made by SOM concerning these proposals. The summary of activities carried out between SOMs is incorporated to illustrate how the expansion of project scope calls for progress of institutional and financial mechanisms.

II. Institutional Evolution

Over the last fourteen years, NEASPEC has evolved and has struggled to form a common identity to summon up long-standing support from its member countries. So far with a *Framework of NEASPEC* adopted in 1996 by SOM-3 and a *Vision Statement* adopted in 2000 by SOM-6, the Programme has taken shape and started to fulfill its mandate of facilitating sub-regional environmental cooperation through the successful implementation of its projects.

Preparatory Meetings in 1992

To tap the potential of environmental cooperation in response to the global agenda, as well as national and transboundary environmental needs, two expert meetings were convened in 1992 in Niigata, Japan and Seoul, The Republic of Korea (ROK). Experts from six countries assembled and expressed their interest in supporting regional cooperation efforts on environmental issues of shared concern. These preparatory meetings began to lay the foundation for what would later become NEASPEC.

Summary of Key Points

The preparatory meetings brainstormed different aspects of the institutional structure of NEASPEC.

Discussions on Institutional Development:

During the Niigata meeting², a comment set the tone for the institutional development of the North-East Asian Regional Environment Programme (NEAREP, the original name for NEASPEC) thus meriting special mentioning. It was about the initial mode and dimensions of such cooperation: '[NEAREP] **should start with something simple, easy to implement, not costly, but useful and effective.**'

Despite the modest inauguration proposed, the need for **a strong institutional arrangement** for such cooperation was stressed by an attendee:

'One should not lose sight of the fact that a strong institutional and financial base is essential for sustaining such cooperative efforts. The experience elsewhere in forging such a sub-regional cooperation suggests that enthusiasm engendered during the initial phase of such efforts generally peter out unless the cooperative activities under the framework are mutually rewarding and beneficial. It is, therefore, desirable to choose a few but important and practical areas of cooperation, so that the initiative can be sustained over a longtime frame.'

Upon the identification of such a necessity, the nature, contents, modes and prospects of sub-regional environment cooperation were discussed. Among others, a succinct observation made by UNDP was quite relevant and suggestive of the **cooperative modes**:

'Regional agreements on environmental issues often include provisions for information exchange, coordination of research activities, and development of compatible database as a first step. The next stage could include activities such as cooperative environmental

2 The following direct quotes are from the meeting documents.

monitoring and technical cooperation. An institutional framework such as a secretariat or a regional commission or institute is often established'

Training and human resource development, technology transfer, environmental emergency/disaster alleviation were identified as other potential areas of cooperation.

For specific arrangement on the **organizational structure**, the meeting also suggested that

*'the July (1992) Meeting of policy level officials may transform itself into a **governing body** for an interim period until a viable and functioning institutional arrangement is established on a permanent basis. Each participating government could then identify **National Focal Points (NFPs)**, who would assist in the formulation of work plan for the NEAREP and be responsible for its implementation at the national level. NFPs of participating governments could also function as member of a **coordinating committee** to coordinate activities of NEAREP. But for a mid-term or long time basis, it is desirable that a permanent **secretariat** is established for NEAREP.'*

Responsibilities supposedly assumed by the **secretariat** would be 'publication of periodic newsletters, establishing and management of steering committees, preparing an environmental roster (inventory) e.g. Environment Who's Who in North-East Asia, or preparing database.'

A scheme for **responsibility sharing** in the development, planning and coordination of activities in the identified areas of cooperation was introduced, which implies that a country with special expertise in certain subject areas may wish to offer to act as an '**activity coordination center**' for

the sub-region. If no subject area is assigned to any country after it is identified, the responsibility of the activity coordination center may be assigned to a country on a rotational basis.

The attendees were also briefed on other regional environment cooperation programmes, such as South Pacific Regional Environment (SPREP), ASEAN Environment Programme (ASEP), South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)³, for as predecessors, the latter may provide some valuable experience and lessons for NEAREP to adopt and avoid.

In respect to institutional development, the meetings **concluded** that, since it is the prerogative of sovereign states to adopt the form of institutional arrangement they wish to promote, **a gradual procession would be preferred for tangible effects**. However, the meeting also recognized that **only through strong institutional and financial mechanisms can the programme sustain itself**.

A Proposal on Financial Mechanism:

The preparatory meetings recognized that an institutional structure could not sustain itself without reliable financial resources. Funding sources for NEAREP could derive from:

'Possible fund sources for programmes: voluntary contributions and/or mandatory contribution; funds from other states other than members, who are interested in the activities of NEAREP; funds from international organizations; funds from multilateral and bilateral agencies; in-kind contribution by NEAREP participating institutions; among other sources agreed to by participating governments at a later stage; trust fund, following the examples of SPREP and SASP of SACEP.'

3 These regional environmental cooperative organizations will be introduced in the following chapter.

Besides financing projects/programmes, the fund needs to cover expenditures on the administrative services of the Secretariat:

'Annual member contributions⁴ to finance the operation of the secretariat to phase out the role of international organization on the administrative support provided at the initial stage';

Potential Areas of Cooperation

As a result of the previous discussions, the Meetings identified major environmental issues of shared concern based on the analysis of Agenda 21 of UNCED and National Reports of UNCED. The indicative list of activities is as follows:

- ✧ *Environmental impact assessments of major development projects;*
- ✧ *ESSD technologies (environmentally sound and sustainable development technologies)*
- ✧ *Energy and environment;*
- ✧ *Eco-system management*
- ✧ *Public support and participation*
- ✧ *Capacity building*

Through the brainstorming processes above, the two preparatory meetings laid a conceptual foundation for the decisions made by SOM-1 on the priority issues and institutional setup of NEAREP (NEASPEC).

SOM-1 (Seoul, ROK; February 1993)

Summary of Key Points

SOM-1 was attended by representatives of China, Russia, Mongolia, Japan, and ROK. UNEP, UNDP, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) were also in

⁴ Nature of these contributions was not yet decided at that point.

attendance. Following reports on environmental conditions and concerns in each State, the parties identified three initial areas for cooperation: 1. energy and air pollution, 2. capacity building, and 3. ecosystem management (particularly desertification and deforestation). ESCAP was identified as the interim Secretariat until a permanent one could be established. The parties recognized the need for long-term funding and suggested that future SOMs consider this.

Institutional Mechanism

SOM-1 was the first attempt at promoting regional cooperation at the intergovernmental level. The meeting acknowledged the importance to establishing some form of institutional arrangements to ensure viability, continuity and efficiency in the formulation and implementation of regional activities. SOM-1 made the following decisions regarding the development of institutional mechanisms:

- ✧ *A **cautious approach** should preferably be adopted in building institutional structures for regional cooperation. Consultations should be continued at the **senior official level** for developing programmes until such time as institutional arrangements are in place;*
- ✧ *In the interim period, **ESCAP**, in cooperation with UNDP, UNEP and ADB, **should continue to provide professional and secretariat support** for development of regional cooperation;*
- ✧ *The meeting noted the **designation of focal points** by China (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Japan (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Mongolia (Ministry of Nature and Environment), The Republic of Korea (ROK) (Science and Environment Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Russian Federation (Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources)*

Financial Mechanism

The meeting reaffirmed the **need for long-term funding** to support both the institutional development and joint activities of the Programme. The meeting

noted with gratitude that funding support for the development of the project profiles and organization of the next meeting of the senior officials might be available from UNDP sources, including 'Capacity 21.'

Joint Activities

Due to different development stages, technological capacities, and economic and environmental aspirations of the member countries, the North-East Asia sub-region has abundant opportunities for environmental cooperation. The meeting reviewed the potential areas of cooperation proposed in the preparatory meetings and suggested a set of **initial criteria for the selection of specific activities**. Selected activities (projects) should:

- ✧ *Have a strong regional component, with the majority of the member countries participating in and contributing to the project;*
- ✧ *Be specific, well focused and practical;*
- ✧ *Provide direct benefits to the sub-region as a whole, keeping in view the mutuality of interest;*
- ✧ *Be identified keeping in view the existing bilateral and multilateral efforts already under way in the region.*

Following the discussion on criteria for projects, representatives from member countries presented their national environmental priorities as a way to identify common regional themes. Based on convergent environmental concerns, the Meeting identified **three initial priority areas** within which specific projects for regional cooperation should be developed and considered at SOM-2. They are:

- ✧ ***Energy and air pollution;***
- ✧ ***Capacity building;***
- ✧ ***Ecosystem management, specifically deforestation and desertification.***

Additionally, there was discussion on **data collection and interpretation**. The

meeting suggested that inter-calibration exercises should be considered in the regional cooperation efforts.

Conclusions

SOM-1 established some initial guidelines and protocol based on extensive discussions of the five parties present at the meeting. Many elements relating specifically to institutional development and the financial mechanism were left to be decided by SOM-2, with delegates preferring a step-by-step approach. NEED TO CAPTURE SPIRIT OF MTG HERE.

The ESCAP Secretariat was requested to prepare a document that would collate, analyze and synthesize information on ongoing programmes and projects of bilateral sources and multilateral agencies and transmit it to the participating countries. Member countries were also requested to submit their priority areas for the ESCAP to analyze and develop a few project profiles in line with international practices, on the basis of commonalities of interest and in consultation with UNDP, UNEP and ADB. The ESCAP should make further efforts in seeking the participation of the DPRK.

SOM-2 (Beijing, China; November 1994)

Summary of Key Points

SOM-2 was attended by all six parties and was joined by representatives from UNEP, UNDP, ADB and the World Bank. The bulk of the meeting focused on reviewing the recommendations made by the Expert Group Meeting (EGM), which submitted five project proposals to SOM-2. The EGM, in their meeting prior to SOM-2, established two working groups (WGs) to deal with five areas of issues: overall strategy and framework; energy and air pollution; ecosystem management and capacity-building.

Institutional Mechanism

At the request of SOM-1, the representative of ESCAP presented a document (ENR/SO/ECNA/3⁵) that outlined some preliminary ideas and concepts for an overall NEASPEC strategy and framework. It included some options for a decision-making structure, national-level coordination, project coordination and management, the role of collaborating agencies, financial mechanisms and criteria for project selection. The meeting noted that the document could serve as a basis for the development of an overall strategy and framework for regional cooperation. However, the meeting was of the view that it might be premature to discuss the document in detail and to consider establishing a permanent secretariat and institutional structure for regional cooperation.

The meeting set 1997 as a timeframe for achieving tangible results in regard to institutional development in order to be prepared for the comprehensive review of *Agenda 21* by the United Nations General Assembly in 1998. It was recommended that member continuously communicate their views concerning institutional development to the ESCAP secretariat, so that an appropriate policy document could be achieved by 1997. This document on NEASPEC could then be presented as an overarching achievement for the implementation of *Agenda 21* in the sub-region.

Financial Mechanism

No specific action was taken in regard to the establishment of a financial mechanism. There was a suggestion by UNDP to create a North-East Asian trust fund. However, minimal discussion followed the suggestion.

Joint Activities

Prior to SOM-2, the EGM was convened to reaffirm the priorities identified

⁵ The document is not retrievable now.

previously and to decide on the specific project activities NEASPEC would undertake. The representatives from member States started from introducing the State of the Environment in their own countries to facilitate the project selection.

The meeting discussed and reaffirmed the guidelines for project selection determined at SOM-1. The EGM proposed activities in each priority area established by SOM-1. SOM-2 endorsed the following **five projects**:

- ✧ *Operations and maintenance training for reduction of sulphur dioxide in older coal-fired electricity generation;*
- ✧ *Demonstration of clean coal-fired power plant technology;*
- ✧ *North-East Asian biodiversity management programme;*
- ✧ *North-East Asian seed research and information base for forests and grasslands;*
- ✧ *Environmental pollution data collection, inter-calibration, standardization and analysis*

In addition, the meeting suggested that relevant projects should include the development of **a regional information base** and the provision of training courses aimed at the training of trainers.

Conclusion

SOM-2 can be described as the activity-oriented meeting. The majority of discussions focused on potential areas of cooperation that would produce on-the-ground results. The meeting reaffirmed the desire to take a step-by-step approach and carefully contemplate the institutional and financial development of NEASPEC.

SOM-2 determined that arrangements for the development, financing and implementation of the endorsed projects should be undertaken in close

consultation with the designated focal points of the programme, so that tangible benefits could be seen in time for SOM-3 in early 1996. .

Regarding the modalities for approval of the project, the meeting recommended that, once the project documents were formulated, they should be transmitted to the national focal points to solicit their comments and suggestions on various support arrangements, including scheme of co-financing. It was recommended that focal points submit their comments a month after the receipt of the project documents. The secretariat should finalize the project documents immediately thereafter and transmit them to the funding agencies so that they could be approved and implemented in a timely fashion.

SOM-3 (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; September 1996)

Summary of Key Points

SOM-3 made great strides in terms of institutional development. A *Framework for NEASPEC* was adopted, and the parties decided that the Senior Officials Meetings would act as the governing body for NEASPEC. The SOM committed to seek consensus in establishing a trust fund for the programme. The meeting also identified new potential areas for cooperation. All six parties were in attendance.

Institutional Mechanism

SOM-3 made an institutional breakthrough by adopting the ***Framework for the North-East Asian Sub-regional Programme of Environmental Cooperation***⁶, which elaborated the geographic coverage; programme objective; governing body; participation, coordination and management; collaborating agencies, financial mechanism and criteria for project/activity selection. The meeting reaffirmed the role of the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 to provide policy guidance on sub-regional cooperation in North-East Asia.

⁶ See Annex-1

The following were identified and agreed upon in the Framework:

- ✧ *The **geographic scope** of the Programme is defined as the areas under the jurisdiction of the following parties: China, DPRK, ROK, Russian Federation, Mongolia and Japan. Other Parties and relevant institutions that have interest and commitment in furthering cooperation in North-East Asia may be invited to join in the Programme activities and provide financial support, as appropriate.*
- ✧ *The principal **objective** of the Programme is to promote sub-regional environmental cooperation and sustainable development efforts for enhancement of quality of life and well-being of present and future generations in line with the spirit of UNCED.*
- ✧ *The activities under the Programme are intended to enhance capacities of the Member states in environmental management efforts through sub-regional cooperation. To facilitate complete and effective participation of national institutions at all levels in sustainable development efforts, activities of the programme will be primarily aimed at strengthening their relevant technological and managerial capabilities.*
- ✧ *The Framework took it as advantageous to have a **step-by-step and practical approach** towards this sub-regional cooperation and consolidate the results as the Programme develops in the future. The approach was recommended as building blocks for strengthening sub-regional cooperation over time.*

The Meeting decided that the Senior Officials Meeting on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia (SOMECEA) would act as the **governing body** for the Programme and provide overall policy guidance, as well as project coordination and management. The SOM would be held, in principle, annually in one of the member countries on a rotating basis and would work towards **step-by-step practical institutional and financial arrangements** of the Programme, as appropriate. SOM was tasked with the following **responsibilities**:

- ✧ *Keep under constant review the Programme with a view to identifying further areas of cooperation and project-related activities in a step-by-step approach;*
- ✧ *Review the progress in implementing the Programme/projects and evaluate the results achieved;*
- ✧ *Approve the budget and work plan of the Programme/projects;*
- ✧ *Attempt to formulate a common framework of policies on sub-regional/international environmental issues over time, on the basis of the Rio Declaration;*
- ✧ *Review the institutional and financial arrangements for the sub-regional cooperation and suggest appropriate mechanisms;*
- ✧ *Serve as a forum for sharing experiences on policy matters, information exchange, consultation and stocktaking on activities that promote environmental cooperation in North-East Asia.*

Each Participating Party should designate **National Focal Points (NFPs)** with the following responsibilities, *inter alia*:

- ✧ *Undertake routine work in connection with the relevant Programme activities;*
- ✧ *Act as official channel of communication between the institutions participating in the Programme, the Senior Officials Meeting on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, the ESCAP secretariat and other collaborating agencies and institutions;*
- ✧ *Consult with and provide guidance to the relevant national institutions in connection with the implementation of the approved projects;*
- ✧ *Collate and present on the implementation of the approved projects and activities, as appropriate;*
- ✧ *Assist participating and collaborating institutions and international agencies in undertaking the implementation of the approved projects and activities.*

The Meeting requested that, in the interim period, the **secretariat support to the SOM continue to be provided by ESCAP in collaboration with UNDP, UNEP,**

ADB and the World Bank and other relevant institutions pending the final decision on the future institutional arrangements of the Programme. However, the meeting, in light of the ongoing staff cuts in the UN system, requested the Government of ROK to consider possible ways of assistance to the secretariat, for example, providing an **environmental expert on non-reimbursable loan basis** to or extra budgetary support to recruit an expert in the relevant division of the ESCAP secretariat so as to enable it to effectively fulfill its responsibility as a secretariat to NEASPEC.

The meeting decided that **the secretariat would generally implement the activities under the Programmes.** The SOM may also designate one or more agencies to assume overall responsibilities for implementing any specific project. The secretariat and the designated agencies would accordingly develop project proposals and activities including budgetary support requirements, seeking funding support and present periodic reports, as desired. The participating institutions (such as government agencies, research centers, laboratories, universities, etc.) would be designated by the Member states to implement and carry out the relevant approved activities under the Programmes. Regional consultants and institutions would be used, to the extent possible, for the implementation of approved projects/activities.

Financial Mechanism

The meeting did not take any specific action regarding the development of a financial mechanism, but they did recognize ways in reach to obtain funds for the programme and activities. Potential sources of funding were identified as the following:

- ✧ *Member states voluntary contribution in cash or in kind or both;*
- ✧ *Collaborating agencies on a project funding basis;*
- ✧ *Bilateral and multilateral donors' contributions;*
- ✧ *Private sector on a project funding basis; and*

✧ *Other contributions*

The SOM did commit to reach a consensus on establishing **a trust fund**, to be funded by donors/collaborating agencies and member states on **a voluntary basis**, to ensure effective and efficient Programme implementation over a longer time frame.

With regard to the funding of all the activities, SOM-3 requested the ADB to consider co-funding the preparatory phase of the North-East Asian Biodiversity Management Project.

Joint Activities

The following **criteria for project/activity selection** were crystallized in the *Framework*:

'commonality of interest, contribution to capacity-building, priority setting by the countries themselves, the impact on environment and sustainable development efforts, tangible sub-regional environmental benefits, and cost effectiveness will be the principal factors in the selection of projects for sub-regional cooperation.'

Based on recommendations for five priority areas from SOM-2, the ESCAP secretariat introduced proposals for the following joint activities:

- a) Implementation of projects: reduction of SO2 in older coal-fired power plants; demonstration of clean coal technology; Environmental pollution data collection and management;*
- b) Biodiversity management and the development of a research and information base on forests and grasslands*

Out of the project profiles endorsed by SOM-2 in the areas above, ADB and ESCAP have collaborated with each other to start implementing the following

three projects within the first category above:

**Project 1: Training for Sulfur Dioxide Reduction in coal-fired plants
(Phases 1 and 2 only);**

This project is implemented in six phases. The activities included in the ADB-Regional Technical Assistance (RETA) project have covered two phases. A new RETA document on this area was developed for phases three to six of the project.

**Project 2: Demonstration of Low-Air Pollution Coal-fired Power Plant
Technology**

The Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) offered to host the first demonstration-cum-workshop at Tong Liao Power Plant of the Northeast China Electric Power Group Corporation to be organized in the end of October 1996. The participants were management personnel from power plant.

**Project 3: Environmental Pollution Data Collection, Standardization, and
Analysis (steps 1 and 2 only)**

SOM-3 recommended that the emphasis of this project should focus on the standardization of the monitoring methods and data comparability. In light of that, the meeting suggested the title changed into 'Environmental Pollution Data Collection, Comparability and Analysis'.

For the second category on the **North-East Asian Biodiversity Management**, SOM-3 considered the project proposal and the development of a research and information base on forests and grasslands one of the top priority areas of sub-regional cooperation. However, it was felt that the proposal in its present form was too big in terms of its scope and financial implications. The meeting, therefore, decided to treat Phase I and II of the project proposal separately.

The Phase II of the project needed to be budgeted at the conclusion of Phase I. The cost estimates for Phase I needed to be reviewed.

SOM-3 also recommended that Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding may provide financial resources for this Project and therefore requested the ESCAP secretariat to facilitate transmitting the approved project to GEF on behalf of the six member states after their endorsement.

The total cost of three projects was estimated to be US\$ 619,000 equivalent, of which US\$ 495,000 would be provided by ADB and US\$ 40,000 would be provided by ESCAP. The host Governments would provide in kind support US\$ 84,000 equivalent by way of salaries of counterpart staff, office equipment and supplies, etc. The Government of Japan, through JECF, has supported in some the follow-up phases to the projects 1) and 2) and also for the preparatory phase of the North-East Asia Biodiversity project.

In the Items 6 of SOM-3, namely, 'Sub-regional Aspects of the Implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000', the meeting, following the 'step-by-step' strategy, tentatively **broadened the scope of the activities** by discussing additional realms of potential cooperation, keeping in mind the availability of funding sources:

- ✧ *Environmental education, public awareness and training: China, Mongolia;*
- ✧ *Implementation of the international environmental conventions and appropriate regional conventions: Mongolia;*
- ✧ *Environmental impact and risk assessment and environmental audit: Mongolia;*
- ✧ *Use of economic instruments: Mongolia;*
- ✧ *Natural resource accounting: Mongolia;*
- ✧ *Air quality: The Republic of Korea;*
- ✧ *Urban environmental issues: The Republic of Korea;*
- ✧ *Environmental and natural resource monitoring and assessment: The Republic*

of Korea;

❖ *Toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes: Russian Federation.*

Conclusion

SOM-3 proved to be a milestone for NEASPEC's institutional development. It also signaled a new phase in the activities of the programme, as areas of cooperation were concretized into several projects and started to produce positive results.

SOM-4 (Moscow, Russian Federation; January 1998)

Summary of Key Points

SOM-4 focused their discussions on project-based activities, endorsing four projects and requesting that ESCAP seek funding for implementation. There were significant discussions on the financial mechanism for the programme. A resolution was also agreed upon to elaborate on the institutional and financial development of NEASPEC and to make efforts towards the establishment of a trust fund. The resolution also made a few requests for additional support from International Governmental Organizations (IGOs), Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), governments, and the private sector.

Institutional Mechanism

The results of the nineteenth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly⁷ in June 1997 took stock of the commitments made at the Rio Summit and adopted a comprehensive document on the programme for the further implementation of *Agenda 21*. The Special Session, among others, recognized the need to strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation to address environmental problems.

North-East sub-regional environmental cooperation benefited considerably from the Session not only for the commitments on the environment and development made by the leaders of NEASPEC member states during the Session, but also because that the decisions reached at the Session would

⁷ See Annex-2

therefore provide momentum for the institutional construction of NEASPEC. Accordingly, SOM-4 recommended strengthening the activities of the NEASPEC in full conformity with the objective of the Special Session.

In addition, a resolution adopted by ESCAP on sub-regional environmental cooperation in North-East Asia⁸ and the decision adopted by the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council at its nineteenth session on technical support to North-East Asian sub-regional cooperation provided supports for both the institutional and activity enhancement of NEASPEC.

Based on guidance of the *Framework of NEASPEC* and the above key documents, SOM-4 considered document ENR/SO/ECNA(4)/3⁹- '**Framework for the North-East Asian Sub-regional Programme of Environmental Cooperation: Institutional Aspects and the Feasibility of Establishing a Trust Fund**'. The subsequent items presented in the document are summarized below:

I. Major environmental issues and policy measures in North-East Asian countries.

The document first listed environmental threats posed by rapid economic growth and major tackling methods taken by respective governments in the sub-region

II. Potential scope for environmental cooperation in North-East Asia: lessons from sub-regional environmental cooperation programmes in the ESCAP region.

The document sketched a number of intergovernmental environmental cooperation mechanisms in the Asian and Pacific region and summarized the commonalities in their objectives, modalities of trans-boundary cooperation and the importance, preconditions, and positive results of

⁸ 50/8 Strengthening of Sub-regional Economic Cooperation in North-East Asia adopted in April 1994.

⁹ See Annex-3

local initiatives.

III. Options for institutional and financial arrangements.

Based on the experiences above, some options were provided that could be utilized to enhance the institutional components of NEASPEC.

Option One maintains the current arrangements though it is considered costly in terms of time and energy wasted and should not be continued long.

(a) Governance structure:

Annual senior officials meeting (SOM), held in a member country on a rotational basis, is decision-making body for all substantive and financial matters related to the Programme.

(b) Secretariat:

ESCAP secretariat, collaborating with UNDP, UNEP, ADB, World Bank and other relevant international and regional institutions.

(c) Project development and implementation:

A few priority projects are to be decided and managed by SOM, either partially funded internally and externally.

(d) Financial mechanism:

Voluntary contributions from the member states in cash, kind or both, and project supports are from collaborating agencies, multilateral and bilateral donors, and from private sector and other contributions. A **trust fund on a voluntary basis** may be created by donors, collaborating agencies and member states.

SOM-4 felt that Option One was the most practical at that stage and would lend itself to the step-by-step approach.

Option Two is an ideal choice, but is not a realistic one at present. It

should be kept alive in the backburner, as it may fit future situations.

(a) Governance structure:

A governing council meeting annually, with the functions and responsibilities mentioned in Option One, will govern a 'North-East Asian Centre for Environmental Cooperation', an independent sub-regional institution.

(b) Secretariat:

An independent secretariat, like the one for SPREP, will be installed to execute the work programme.

(c) Project development and implementation:

Major sources of programme/project funding will be sought from voluntary contributions of member states, bilateral and multilateral donors and private sector including foundations.

(d) Financial mechanism:

Contributions from member states, worked out in some proportion to GDP and per capita GDP, and host country's institutional support would be the major funding source. The realization of a trust fund set up by voluntary contributions may be a long, enduring process to member states and negotiating intermediaries.

SOM-4 felt that the option two was unrealistic at that stage as it required the establishment of an overambitious mechanism to implement the Programme.

Option Three essentially entails a flexible, decentralized, building-block approach, may require immediate attention, as a most feasible

modality at least during the interim period until realization of Option Two. It will open to all parties, national and local governments, public- and private-sector enterprises, academic and research institutions and NGOs through joint and collective actions.

(a) Governance structure:

SOM will act as a governing body with all those functions, responsibilities and meetings as spelt out in Option One. In addition, there will be a few technical committees appointed by SOM to oversee different types of projects approved by SOM.

(b) Secretariat:

ESCAP will be requested to service SOM. Counterpart institutions including local governments involved in twinning projects will provide secretariat services for each of the approved projects. An environmental expert could also be made available to ESCAP by some participating countries on a non-reimbursable loan basis.

(c) Project development and implementation:

Project proposals can be submitted to SOM by any agency in the member states. Projects will be overseen by respective technical committees which will make periodic reports of progress to SOM.

(d) Financial mechanism:

(i) To meet the cost of SOM, there could be a small fund available to the ESCAP secretariat.

(ii) The member states making the project proposal will normally be responsible for financing the project either entirely or partially. Suggestion may be made to join their forces together with local and

other institutions of governments, or advice may be provided to the member states to ally themselves with other better-funded on-going projects and programmes for environmental cooperation.

A trust fund to be established by different actors of member states, be they national or local governments, private sector, academic and research institutions or NGOs, should be used mainly to supplement the existing trust funds in terms of the volume of financing, the type of project priorities that may not be suitable to other funds. For this reason, the trust fund proposed should apply only to those projects that call very much for the joint, collective action of all the member states rather than for only one or two member states.

(iv) The Programme will be better off with **a programme fund** if a trust fund cannot be immediately in place. The Programme Fund will have to have all the six participating countries as its contributors, in addition to other collaborating donors and institutions, with the amount varying among them.

SOM-4 felt that Option Three was also unrealistic, as it would have to count on the participation and cooperation of several entities, including non-governmental organizations, which were beyond the concept of the Framework.

An issue concerning the constraints facing ESCAP in providing secretariat support thus needing immediate attention was brought up by a representative of the ESCAP secretariat, in view of the recent reduction of the regular budget resources caused by the ongoing United Nations reform.

The Meeting decided to continue the existing institutional scheme but

recommended that the further deliberations on institutional and financial arrangements of the Programme be carried out in subsequent SOMs.

Financial Mechanism

SOM-4 concentrated heavily on the financial matters of the Programme. The deliberations on financial issues ranged from the appropriate time for decisions on the financial arrangements (including a **trust fund**), the need for further elaboration on the objectives and modalities with identification of sources of funding, and the use of existing funds.

The secretariat also suggested that the co-financing support required for the projects as conditions for obtaining funds from donors such as ADB and the funding needs for organizing the Meeting of Senior Officials were the **immediate financial needs** that the Senior Officials should address through a trust fund or other arrangements. However, there was a general sentiment that it would be difficult for SOM-4 to decide on the establishment of a trust fund, instead another paper on the institutional and financial matters could help the senior officials to carry out more focused discussion at their subsequent meetings, including the feasibility of seeking financial contributions from donors outside the region as well as a time schedule towards reaching an agreement on the matter. Consequently, **SOM-4 adopted a unanimous resolution indicating that a consensus on the modalities of the trust fund would be arrived at, possibly at its sixth session.**

NEASPEC member countries, who were meanwhile the members of the governing body of the Global Environment Facility, were encouraged to request the governing body to provide funding support for the North-East Asian sub-regional biodiversity project.

While developing projects under the Framework of NEASPEC, the secretariat

was recommended to ensure that **such projects should not adversely affect funding of other similar bilateral cooperation projects**. It is therefore necessary for the ESCAP secretariat to focus in those areas which did **not overlap** with ongoing or proposed bilateral projects.

SOM-4 again requested ADB to fund follow-up activities of the foregoing phases of air-pollution in coal-fired power plant projects, whose successful implementation thus far was also attributable to the financial support provided by ROK and Japan, and other member countries' hosting of various events of the projects.

Overall, SOM-4 held the view that the **existing financial arrangements** provided by the Framework were practical and feasible and **should continue** with the support provided by the cooperating agencies such as ADB, UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank, together with the secretariat support provided by the ESCAP. The meeting, however, recognized the shortcomings of the present arrangement in terms of limitation of funds resulting in delayed implementation of endorsed projects and the constraints faced by ESCAP.

Joint Activities

SOM-4 reviewed the first phases of air pollution project, discussed their impact in the region, and recommended follow-ups activities. On the whole the Meeting recognized progress in relation to their on-the-ground projects. A summary of the discussions on joint activities is presented below.

First Phase Projects

Project I: Training for sulfur dioxide reduction in coal-fired power plants

A conference of Electricity Utility Plant Operations Experts was convened in June 1997 to discuss various techniques and technologies that helped to reduce emissions of SO₂ and NO_x in old power plants.

Project II: Demonstration of low-air pollution coal-fired power plant technology

Six technology demonstration and on-site workshops have been conducted to discuss various aspects of clean coal technology applied to electric power generation facilities respectively in China, ROK, Russian Federation, Japan and Mongolia. Several of the major recommendations¹⁰ arising from the workshop participants have been formulated into technical assistance project profiles or investment project profiles. Five of these project proposals were presented at the SOM-4, among which four were endorsed.

Project III: Environmental Pollution Data Collection, Comparability and Analysis

The project was implemented in three steps:

- ✧ *An EGM reviewing State of Environment(SOE), pollution monitoring and analysis; recommending the establishment of a monitoring network and comparability of emission inventory data, and an environmental data center*
- ✧ *A detailed work programme developed to accomplish the five objectives¹¹ of the project;*
- ✧ *Execution of the work programme.*

SOM-4 reviewed a report from the Mid-term Review Meeting on Technical Assistance for Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, held at Bangkok on 20 and 21 October 1997. The Meeting considered this report on ADB/ESCAP projects under implementation and reviewed the following five project proposals submitted for endorsement by the senior officials:

Project I: Pollution reduction in coal-fired power plants

¹⁰ The recommendations included 5 categories: upgrading particulate matter removal capabilities, enhancing regional monitoring capabilities, promoting appropriate clean coal technologies, improving operation and maintenance (O&M) at power plants and developing institutions through specialized training.

¹¹ Five objectives of the project III were to a) develop approaches to ensure international comparability of national environmental data; b) identify data gaps and way to augment data collection; c) identify training needs for technicians and scientists to implement monitoring; d) identify equipment needs to implement a regional emissions deposition survey; and e) discuss models to represent regional transport and deposition of pollutants.

Project II: Environmental monitoring, data collection, comparability and analysis

Project III: Efficiency improvement of electrostatic precipitators in existing power plants

Project IV: Demonstration of dry sorbent duct injection flue gas desulphurization technology.

Project V: Flue gas desulphurization technological information exchange project.

The meeting endorsed projects 1-4 after incorporating the comments and amendments provided. The ESCAP secretariat was asked to prepare tentative cost estimates of the follow-ups of those projects for consideration by various donors.

Concerning the priority areas proposed in SOM-1, SOM-4 recommended the following actions taken in regards to joint activities:

- ✧ ***A sub-regional environmental information system** be set up urgently and national capacities strengthened for the monitoring and surveillance of environmental pollutants;*
- ✧ *Despite considerable progress in the area of clean coal technology through demonstration and on-site workshops and EGMs, there was a need to achieve similar progress in the areas of **biodiversity management** and introduce **new technologies on renewable energy** to reduce air pollution;*
- ✧ *SOM-4 noted a suggestion for the **consideration of the Tumen region as a pilot area** for the endorsed project **on biodiversity management**, as a potential opportunity to enhance sub-regional cooperation.*

The meeting recognized that NEASPEC's activities raised public awareness in the member countries of the importance of environmental protection. It also

enhanced national capacities in the identified priority areas to be better able to cope with the challenges through assessment, policy-making, implementation and surveillance. As a result of these advances, the meeting recognized a need to enhance further sub-regional environmental cooperation in North-East Asia. Despite serious efforts by the countries and the implementation of several legal frameworks, most of the global environmental problems continued to exacerbate instead of abate. In order to effectively combat environmental degradation, the meeting noted that national efforts needed to be supplemented by sub-regional efforts and efforts from multi-stakeholders to achieve substantial results to improve environmental sustainability.

Conclusion

Despite the decision to maintain the *status quo*, the proposal made prior to SOM-4 has considerably stepped up in the discussion on institutional upgrading as it, among others, has incorporated a multi-stakeholders' approach into the intergovernmental scheme. The *Resolution*¹² adopted at SOM-4 recommended further discussion on the institutional and financial upgrading, in light of active participation of private and non-governmental sectors besides participating governments.

SOM-5 (Kobe, Japan; February 1999)

Summary of Key Points

At the outset, the meeting recognized the importance of cooperation in order to realize a century of peace and prosperity. SOM-5 also concluded that there was no need to extend the scope of the financial mechanism beyond what is outlined in the Framework. Five out of six member countries were in

¹² The *Resolution* is attached as an Annex-4.

attendance (DPRK was not present.)

Institutional Mechanism

Based on the recommendation of SOM-4, SOM-5 recognized the need to further discuss the institutional and financial arrangements and therefore devoted agenda Item 6 *ENR/SO/ECNA (5)/3*¹³ of the meeting to the topic of institutional and financial upgrading.

Based on the previous attempts to enhance the institutional mechanism of the programme, the document brought forth comprehensive options for substantive reforms in institutional and financial mechanisms of the Programme:

I. Governance/policy making structure

- a) periodical ministerial participation;
- b) senior level officials' participation;
- c) appointment of a chairperson during the interregnum period between SOMs;

II. Secretariat

- a) rationale for an independent Secretariat;
- b) options;
 - i) continue with the existing arrangement
 - ii) rotating secretariat
 - iii) interim secretariat
 - iv) programme secretariat
- c) location of the secretariat;
- d) staff requirements;

III. Programme Planning and Implementation

- a) Establishment of (Expert) Working Groups (EWGs) in the identified

¹³ See Annex 5.

priority areas;

- b) Essential features of EWGs;

IV. Programme Coordination

The *Framework of NEASPEC* has delineated the role of NFPs, national institutions and subregional institutional institutions in programme coordination.

V. Linkage with other relevant subregional initiatives/projects

- a) North-East Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation;
- b) Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP);
- c) Tumen River Area Development Programme;
- d) North-East Economic Initiative (NEAEI) under the Sasakawa peace foundation;
- e) Acid Precipitation Monitoring Network in East Asia;
- f) Bilateral Cooperation among the countries of North-East Asia;
- g) Subregional Project activities of international bodies and multilateral financing agencies;

VI. Financial Mechanism

- a) the secretariat's staff funding
- b) financial support (sources)
- c) ESCAP Project Trust Fund (scale of assessment)
- d) Management of the financial mechanism

VII. Issues for consideration

SOM decisions on the options above:

SOM-5 reaffirmed the *Resolution* adopted at SOM-4 in 1998 and recommended that the subregional environmental cooperation should follow **a practical approach** and should be developed on a step-by-step basis to implement projects in the agreed priority areas.

The meeting emphasized that the *Framework*, adopted at SOM-3 and

endorsed by the 53rd ESCAP Commission Session, provided an excellent basis for institutional and financial arrangement and there was no need then to extend the scope of such arrangement beyond those included in the Framework. The meeting, however, recognized that the **Framework would continue to be an interim agreement** and could **be developed further**, when considered necessary.

The meeting reaffirmed that the **SOMs continue to be the governing body** for policy decisions on all substantive matters and, as such, will continue to be the most appropriate and valuable institutional arrangement for policy guidance. The Meeting recommended that the participation at SOM should be at fairly senior level, to be decided by the individual member states. The Meeting was of the view that there was no need for institutionalized ministerial participation. It was, however, stated that **higher level segment** might be considered should there be a need to facilitate important issues, e.g. those related to the evolution of future institutional and financial arrangements. It also noted that improving the visibility of the Programme could be helped by mobilizing **greater public support**.

The meeting recognized the need for **policy guidance to the secretariat during the interregnum periods** of two SOMs and recommended that the secretariat should consult the governments through their nominated NFPs.

The meeting recognized that there was the need for guidance by the senior officials for programme planning and implementation. It, therefore, agreed that one half to one day might be devoted in subsequent SOMs to discuss programme planning and implementation matters.

The meeting noted that there were a number of subregional initiatives and projects for environmental cooperation in North-East Asia. In order to maximize

the benefits, the Meeting recommended **inter-secretariat information sharing** and exchange on regional initiatives and projects.

The meeting agreed that in view of enhanced financial implications in the establishment of a **secretariat** and the financial crisis during the late 1990s in the member states, it was premature to consider establishment of any new secretariat arrangement. It was also decided to keep the various options for the secretariat pending till such time as the senior officials decide to take up the matter again.

The meeting noted that with the implementation of UN reform, the ESCAP secretariat environmental programme had undergone reduction both in staff and financial resources. It, therefore, expressed its sincere appreciation to the Government of Japan for its offer to generously dispatch an **NRL expert** to the Environment Section of the secretariat, whose function, among others, would be the implementation of NEASPEC activities. It also expressed the hope that other participating governments could second additional experts to assist the secretariat in strengthening cooperation.

The meeting agreed that **local government authorities** could play an important role in supporting the cooperation promoted under NEASPEC. However, it felt that the initiative should take place on voluntary basis by interested parties and coordinated by the concerned national governments.

With regard to the *Resolution* adopted at SOM-4 concerning financial arrangements including a trust fund, SOM-5 felt it was not in a position to take action on this matter, since many divergent views were expressed by member states, thus making a consensus impossible. Therefore, the Meeting requested the ESCAP secretariat to prepare **more detailed options and alternatives for financial arrangements**, and then submit them for consultations with the

partner agencies, relevant donor countries and organizations regarding the extent of financial support which could be available to the Programme. Finally the results of such consultation should be reported to the next SOM for its decision.

The meeting urged that each member state make efforts to secure financial resources from bilateral and multilateral donor and collaborating agencies. In that regard, their delegations to the governing bodies of the partner agencies should highlight the activities of NEASPEC for attracting additional financial support for the Programme. In order for the bilateral and multilateral donors to join in funding approved projects, the meeting suggested that it would be useful to **invite potential donors to the SOMs**, as appropriate. However, the meeting felt that such invitation should be extended after having indication of donor's interest to support the projects.

Additionally, the meeting noted that the **private sector** could be an important source of financing the activities of NEASPEC and, therefore, requested the secretariat and the participating governments to explore possibility of private sector contribution to and participation in the programmes on a project funding basis.

Financial Mechanism

Based on the response of SOM-5 to the proposal for a trust fund, the meeting recommended the **continuation of the existing arrangement** for securing financial support for implementing NEASPEC on a project funding basis by the ESCAP secretariat, in cooperation with its partner agencies namely UNEP, UNDP, ADB and the World Bank.

Joint Activities

SOM-5 again recommended that the projects within NEASPEC should be

practical, concrete and results-oriented. The meeting encouraged the continuance of various subregional activities with the focus on the capacity building and updating and exchange of information.

The major outcomes of the 'first phase' activities¹⁴ were increased human capacities for efficient operation and improved environmental control in existing coal-fired power plants, technology transfer and cooperation through dissemination of information on the efficiency and clean operation of coal-fired power plants, increased cooperation and capacities on pollution data collection and monitoring, and analysis for comparability of ambient and emission data from power plants. With funding from ADB¹⁵, Project I to III endorsed by SOM-4 were finally implemented.

SOM-5 reviewed the three projects being implemented and took note of the 'Outline of Training Manual on Pollution Reduction from Coal-Fired Power Plants' prepared under **Project I**¹⁶ and expressed deep appreciation for the expert assistance provided by the Korea Electric Power Research Institute (KEPRI) in the development of the outline.

In respect of **Project II**¹⁷, the meeting preferred 'subregional centre' to 'subregional clearing house centre' for the name of the information center. The meeting agreed that the subregional centre be established at the National Institute for Environmental Research (NIER) in ROK, for its capacities in:

- ✧ *Hosting training courses on environmental monitoring;*
- ✧ *Storing, processing, and analyzing available information on environmental monitoring from member states in the sub-region;*
- ✧ *Communicating with environmental monitoring centers within each of the*

14 The 'first phase' project started from 1996 and generally completed at 1998 with certain activities postponed to 1999.

15 The financial package, named Technical Assistance for Transboundary Environmental Cooperation in Northeast Asia, includes USD 350,000 grant by the Bank.

16 This is a continuation of the project: Training for sulfur dioxide reduction in coal-fired power plants.

17 This is a continuation of the project: Environmental pollution data collection, comparability and analysis

North-East Asian countries and international environmental programmes for the purpose of sharing information;

✧ Gathering and disseminating information on updated environmental monitoring technologies, methodologies, analytical techniques, and air pollution models.

SOM-5 took note of the request of the EGM on the future activities to improve emission monitoring and estimation capacities, as a part of Project II. It identified the following activities to be included in the project:

✧ Collection and analysis of available emission estimation data from the member states;

✧ Case studies to learn more about emission monitoring and estimation methodologies;

✧ Development of recommendations on methodologies of emission monitoring and estimation and an establishment of a regional task force of experts for this purpose;

✧ Development of recommendations for further promotion of the follow-up projects.

The meeting welcomed Japan's proposal to contribute to the above-mentioned activities by commissioning a research project and convening task force meetings in consultation with the member states through the secretariat and the NFPs.

In general, the meeting agreed that the series of projects on energy and air pollution had yielded **modest but tangible results** and had been very well received by the member states, therefore it requested ADB and other collaborating agencies to continue their support to those projects in order to maintain and enhance this subregional cooperation.

Conclusion

The proposal prior to SOM-5 further broadened the scope of institutional discussions to embrace all key aspects of a sound institutional structure of NEASPEC, though few advances were made in bringing the discussion into reality. In addition, the establishment of a sub-regional information center under the project of air pollution in coal-fired power plants has marked a fruitful beginning for further sub-regional cooperation.

SOM-6 (Seoul, ROK; March 2000)

Summary of Key Points

The preparatory meeting for SOM-6 put forward a *Vision Statement* for NEASPEC, as well as offered suggestions for the establishment of a Core Fund. They also presented options for institutional development. The idea of *ownership* of NEASPEC was brought into every level of discussion at SOM-6. There was extensive discussion on the rationale for a Core Fund, and generally the parties agreed that a Core Fund would aid in achieving the goals of NEASPEC. Overall, SOM-6 concluded with a number of discussions and ideas for institutional development, but no concrete steps were taken for the establishment of an independent secretariat. A Core Fund was established and ESCAP was requested to administer the Fund.

Institutional Mechanism

In the Preparatory Meeting for SOM-6, document ENR/SO/ECNA (6)/1¹⁸, entitled 'Institutional and Financial Arrangement for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme' was introduced for deliberation and endorsement. Along the lines of a step-by-step and practical approach in the evolution of the institutional and financial mechanisms, it was decided that cooperation should evolve through implementation of projects in the agreed priority areas. The preparatory meeting recommended that SOM-6 address the following areas:

¹⁸ This report, which was prepared in January 2000, took after the document for the EGM occurred in November 1999 in Seoul. See Annex-6 for the whole document.

- a) As a new driving force for the programme, the meeting felt that the present Framework of NEASPEC should be developed into **a comprehensive programme** which should address institutional and financial matters as early as possible.
- b) Since the adoption of the Framework, achieving consensus in institutional reform has continued to be a challenge. SOM-5 recognized the need to further elaborate institutional arrangements. However, an independent secretariat would have considerable financial implications beyond the capacity of the member countries stricken by the 1997 Asian financial crisis. Therefore, the meeting considered the option premature and left the proposal pending for future SOMs to address.

While the ownership of the programme by the member states was important for future funding of projects, it may be appropriate that the decision on a secretariat for NEASPEC could make some progress **by the year 2002** to enable reporting to the Rio + 10 Assembly by which time the ESCAP resolution would also have five-year tenure.

- c) A **core fund** based on voluntary contributions by the member countries was recommended as a seed to attract additional funding from different donors and to provide reliable resources for project implementation. When establishing this fund, the Senior Officials should consider a non-binding formula as guidelines for contribution. The contribution formula of Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) may provide some insights in this regard.
- d) Taking into account the nature of decision making process at SOMs, the level of representation was recommended to be senior level, with

specific representatives to be decided on by individual countries, as was agreed upon at previous SOMs.

In response to the above-mentioned recommendations at both the EGM and the Preparatory Meeting, SOM-6 adopted the *Vision Statement for Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia* and recommended that it, together with the *Framework of NEASPEC*, should provide policy guidance to NEASPEC in the 21st Century. The meeting also emphasized that countries should effectively implement its commitments so as to make a valuable contribution for improving environmental quality in the sub-region.

With regards to institutional development, SOM-6 agreed to:

- ✧ **Periodically review the environmental conditions** and trends as well as the implementation of priority projects in the North-East Asian sub-region with an eye to **identifying additional priority** areas for cooperation;
- ✧ Promote **common policy dialogue** on approaches and views and coordinated actions on subregional environmental issues;
- ✧ Develop the present *Framework* for North-East Asian Subregional Programme on Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) **into a comprehensive Programme for environmental cooperation in North-East Asia, preferably by SOM-8**. This development should bear in mind the realistic constraints of member countries, considering the diversity of member states.
- ✧ Request the **ESCAP secretariat to continue to provide secretariat support to NEASPEC**, in collaboration with UNDP, UNEP, ADB, the World Bank, and other relevant institutions. The SOM will continue to review the institutional

mechanism and its development. The member states shall extend support, as appropriate, to ESCAP secretariat for its efficient operation, which also shall enhance the ownership of member states of NEASPEC.

- ✧ Provide appropriate assistance for 'North-East Asian Centre for Environmental Data and Training (NEACEDT)' and 'North-East Asian Training Centre for Pollution Reduction in Coal-fired Power Plant,' both of which are expected to make a great contribution to the overarching goals of NEASPEC.

- ✧ To forge a mutually beneficial **partnership** with ongoing environmental cooperation initiatives and projects in Northeast Asia such as Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific (ECO-ASIA), North-East Environmental Conference (NEAC) Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), and the Tumen River Area Development Project (TRADP) with a view to enhancing synergies and avoiding duplication and overlap in their activities.

- ✧ Develop **websites** for wider dissemination of information in order to raise public awareness of NEASPEC's activities. The websites shall be developed by each of the member states and the ESCAP secretariat in languages of member states as well as, if possible, in English. The SOM shall also consider other means to strengthen the public awareness of NEASPEC activities.

- ✧ Provide the fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific in 2000 with the information on the achievements of NEASPEC to raise its visibility.

- ✧ Make further efforts to increase the involvement of major stakeholders, particularly the local governments, civil societies, the private sector, and

other interested groups to contribute to NEASPEC.

Financial Mechanism

In order to assist in the elaboration of the financial arrangement of NEASPEC, and to provide a wider focus in relation to other such initiatives in the sub-region, such as NOWPAP, the Government of ROK organized the EGM on Environmental Cooperation Mechanisms in North-East Asia on 10-11 November 1999 at Seoul. The report of the meeting¹⁹ is available as an information base for the Preparatory Meeting for SOM-6. The experts made an in-depth consideration on the financial matters of NEASPEC and formulated a set of recommendations for establishing a **core fund**. The discussion at the meeting also included development of **a vision for NEASPEC for its own secretariat and trust fund**, co-ordination of various cooperation initiatives in the sub-region, and the need for reporting to the Rio + 10 review of *Agenda 21* in 2002.

Since its inception in 1993, NEASPEC has been financially supported by partner agencies together with the assistance provided by the governments of Japan and ROK, as well as the member countries through hosting NEASPEC activities. Since this cooperation has been promoted through project implementation that has yielded concrete results, stable financial resources from member states would be an indispensable prerequisite to sustain such activities. Financial support from member countries based on their capacities would also demonstrate the benefits and the ownership of such cooperation. Being a transitional mechanism to materialize such support, a core fund assumes that the existing secretariat arrangement would continue but it will be a step towards ownership of NEASPEC by the countries till further arrangement of the secretariat is agreed upon as the next step.

¹⁹ See Annex 7.

Section 7 of the Framework for NEASPEC provided guidelines for developing the funding mechanism. The sources of fund were identified as follows:

- ✧ Voluntary contributions from participating parties in cash or kind or both;
- ✧ Collaborating agencies on a project funding basis;
- ✧ Contributions from bilateral and multilateral donor;
- ✧ Contributions from the private sector on a project funding basis;
- ✧ Other contributions.

SOM-6 reviewed the various proposals for a Core Fund as introduced at SOM-4 and SOM-5²⁰. As such, also based on the options above and the immediate need for smooth progress of projects, a **Core Fund based on voluntary contributions** was considered to be the most appropriate arrangement.

SOM-6 considered the establishment of a Core Fund with \$350,000 with a formula for contributions by member states. The meeting identified the following purposes for which the **core fund should be used**:

- ✧ programme development and implementation;
- ✧ capacity-building activities design;
- ✧ studies for assessment of country situation in the priority areas and on trans-boundary environmental issues;
- ✧ awareness raising activities such as preparation of pamphlets, brochures and organizing press briefings;
- ✧ annual meetings of senior officials, inter-sessional meetings such as the meetings of experts for programme planning and strengthening of the cooperation;
- ✧ Leveraging other sources of funds.

²⁰ The proposal at SOM-4 was to establish a programme fund with a total amount of US\$ 350,000 (document ENR/SO/ECNA(4)/3). The proposal at SOM-5 mentioned similar amounts with itemized expense areas (document ENR/SO/ECNA(5)/3).

In response to the recommendations, SOM-6 requested the **ESCAP secretariat to administer the 'Core fund** for North-East Asian Environmental Cooperation', should one or more member states make voluntary contribution for promoting subregional environmental cooperation. ROK generously contributed US\$ 100,000 as seed money towards the full establishment of core fund for North-East Asian Environmental Cooperation.

To follow the recommendation of the SOM-5 over the issue of inter-agency consultation to explore various funding sources, the partner agencies have been contacted. As a consequence, ADB has expressed intention to provide support to the **three of the four approved projects** through ADB's regional technical assistance project (RETA).

The UNDP expressed the possibility of extending support to the project on 'Environmental monitoring, data collection, comparability and analysis.' ADB also provided support for this project, therefore UNDP's support was requested for the unfunded components of the project approved by the Senior Officials.

With regard to the private sector financing of projects, the NFPs were requested to offer suggestions for business enterprises who may be interested in participation in NEASPEC projects, particularly the project "Demonstration of dry sorbent duct injection FGD technology". It was additionally recommended that the large conglomerates in the power sector in this region could be approached after identification of a set of host power plants for selection of the one most suitable technically and effective for demonstration purposes.

Joint Activities

NEASPEC, on the basis of consultation and consensus, aims at strengthening environmental managerial and technical capacities of member states. With

SOM endorsement and financial assistance from ADB, the air pollution project has entered a new phase of implementation. Progress of the different components of the project is summarized below:

In 1999, ADB endorsed funding the second phase of the air pollution projects.²¹ SOM-6 reviewed the titles of ADB_RETAs components and aligned them to NEASPEC follow-up activities.

With regard to the **Project I - Pollution Reduction in Coal-fired Power Plants**, the Government of ROK developed a subregional training center for pollution reduction in coal fired power plants in the Korean Electric Power Research Institute (KEPRI), with the assistance provided by ADB-RETA, to facilitate on-site training of managers and technical personnel from power plants. The training aimed to enhance the participants' capabilities in O&M and equipment upgrades and retrofits. SOM-6 reviewed the preparatory activities for the NEACEDT, including the nomination of the national focal point.

With regard to the **Project II - Environmental Monitoring, Data Collection, Comparability and Analysis**, SOM-5 confirmed that **North East Asian Centre for Environmental Data and Training (NEACEDT)**, would be established based on the support by ROK Government through in-kind contribution by NIER to be provided on a yearly basis. The centre, including staffing, equipment installation, other necessary arrangements, and its website, was planned to start operation in 2000 to facilitate exchange of information on environmental pollution in North-East Asia.

Project II would involve the following activities:

- ✧ *collect and analyze available emission estimation data from the member states;*
- ✧ *develop compatible analytic and data processing methods;*
- ✧ *develop a transboundary pollution projection model;*
- ✧ *analyze present and predict future regional environmental conditions;*
- ✧ *facilitate the exchange of available information;*
- ✧ *establish a subregional monitoring network*

21 The implementation didn't start until March 2001.

Project III, Action Plans for Improving the Efficiency of Particulate Abatement Systems in Existing Power Plants, assisted in the preparation of action plans for improving the efficiency of particulate abatement systems in selected power plants. However, the project did not start until 2003.

For the three projects (or the three components of ADB-RETA financial package), SOM-6 reminded member states to consider providing in kind and cash support so that donor interest to support the NEASPEC projects could be enhanced. This also could be conducive to early demonstration of the tangible results from the preceding project activities in order to attract additional funding.

Conclusion

SOM-6 adopted the *Vision Statement for Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia*²² and recommended that it, together with the *Framework*, should provide policy guidance to NEASPEC in the 21st century. In this connection, the meeting emphasized the need for further development of the present Framework for NEASPEC into a comprehensive programme for environmental cooperation, requested the ESCAP secretariat to administer a core fund to support the projects adopted by the meetings of senior officials and reviewed titles of three project component following the Technical Assistance Project funded by the ADB as follows: Project I: Regional Training for Reducing Pollution from Coal-Fired Power Plants; Project II: Environmental Monitoring, Data Collection, Comparability and Analysis; Project III: Action Plans for Improving the Efficiency of Particulate Abatement Systems in Existing Power Plants.

SOM-7 (Beijing, China; July 2001)

²² See Annex 8.

Summary of Key Points

SOM-7 reiterated that it was premature to establish an independent secretariat and NEASPEC fund. The Meeting reviewed current programs as well as proposals for three additional programs and felt that the three proposals needed further exploration before the SOM could make any decisions on them. Although the meeting determined it was still too premature to establish an independent secretariat, the meeting did set a target time of April 2003 to establish a secretariat in one of the member countries. All member countries were present.

Institutional Mechanism

In the Preparatory Meeting prior to the SOM-7, a document entitled 'Proposal for the Establishment of the Secretariat and the Financial Mechanism for its Operation'²³ was prepared in order to facilitate further deliberations on NEASPEC's institutional development.

In line with the principle of a step-by-step and practical approach towards subregional cooperation as enunciated in the *Vision Statement* and, in the light of the decisions of previous SOMs, it was proposed that for the interim period, the ESCAP secretariat, in collaboration with UNDP, ADB, the World Bank, and other relevant institutions, continue to provide secretariat support to NEASPEC. However, in view of the reduction in both staff and financial resources of the ESCAP secretariat arising from the implementation of UN reform, the meeting suggested that participating governments send experts on assignment to assist the ESCAP secretariat in supporting and strengthening NEASPEC activities. In particular, the experts could assist in monitoring and coordinating the implementation of NEASPEC projects, and in preparing for SOMs. The Japanese government had already sent an expert in 2001 to assist.

²³ See Annex 9

The meeting recognized that with the implementation of Phase II projects and increasing transboundary environmental challenges **there was a need for strong central coordination and monitoring of NEASPEC activities**. Accordingly, it was recommended that **a permanent NEASPEC Secretariat** be established in one of the participating countries by 2003, or 2004 at the latest. The rationale for the establishment of an independent secretariat was identified as follows:

- ✧ *it would enhance the **ownership** of participating countries in the programmes of NEASPEC;*
- ✧ *it would promote **wider participation** of national experts and institutions in programme development and implementation;*
- ✧ *it would **enhance coordination and monitoring** of projects and activities;*
- ✧ *it would provide a **distinct identity** and rallying point for subregional cooperation;*
- ✧ *it would serve as a **permanent custodian for the official records, reports, and other papers of NEASPEC.***

Additional details of an independent secretariat were also discussed. The points are summarized below:

- ✧ *The **location of the secretariat** would depend greatly on the level of interest of a member country to host it and on that country's willingness and ability to provide the needed resources and counterpart funding support. It was suggested that efforts be exerted now to encourage participating governments to make an offer for the hosting of the secretariat. The decision on the final location of the secretariat should be made by consensus of all participating governments.*
- ✧ *In terms of the **structure of the secretariat**, it was recommended that it start with a small staff and modest facilities. In the initial year, the staff might consist only of the Executive Director (as head of the secretariat), one professional staff, and three locally recruited staff to provide administrative, secretarial and support functions. As the subregional cooperation has further grown and intensified, the secretariat might be allowed to expand accordingly. However, it should always remain lean and efficient and not be allowed to become a large bureaucracy. A draft Agreement on the Establishment of NEASPEC secretariat, which contains further details on the nature, functions, operation and funding of the proposed secretariat was prepared for consideration and finalization at*

SOM-8.

- ✧ *With respect to the **funding for the operation of the secretariat**, it was suggested that the capital, operational and administrative requirements of the secretariat be funded from two sources: (a) the counterpart contribution of the Host Country; and (b) the operational account of the NEASPEC Fund, as described in the next section. The Host Country was expected to provide the capital requirements of the secretariat in terms of land, building and facilities, and to contribute a significant amount to the endowment and operational accounts of the NEASPEC Fund in order to insure the effective operation of the secretariat, particularly during the initial years. Other participating governments were also expected to make voluntary financial contributions and to send experts and other seconded personnel to the secretariat with funding from the sending government.*

Once the NEASPEC Secretariat was established in 2003 or 2004, subregional cooperation could be further strengthened by convening **a meeting at the ministerial level in 2005**, where the ministers may decide the frequency of future ministerial meetings, possibly every five years. **A meeting at the ministerial level would be essential in setting a long-term strategic vision** and in providing high-level policy direction for NEASPEC. To keep the ministerial-level meeting short but effective a preparatory meeting of senior officials should precede it. The NEASPEC secretariat should be tasked to assist in its preparations.

As additional subregional cooperation projects were underway, **Expert Working Groups** may be established in the identified priority areas. They were supposed to develop project proposals, identify possible funding sources, and review and assess the implementation of on-going projects, with the assistance of the NEASPEC secretariat. They should meet only as necessary and report to the SOM. The NEASPEC secretariat should be tasked to submit recommendations on this matter for the consideration of the SOM..

In response to the proposals listed above, SOM-8 made the following **decisions** concerning the 'Further Development of the NEASPEC Framework into a Comprehensive Programme for Environmental Cooperation in North-East

Asia.¹

- ✧ The meeting felt that **it was premature to establish an independent secretariat.**

- ✧ The meeting reiterated its confidence in the **ESCAP secretariat and requested it to continue to provide technical and secretariat support for environmental cooperation in North-East Asia.** However, in view of the importance of establishing an independent permanent secretariat in the future, the Meeting suggested that the participating countries be encouraged to submit to the SOM detailed proposals, including contributions as host country for hosting the secretariat.

- ✧ The meeting encouraged the participating governments to **send experts** on assignment to the Environment Section, Environment and Sustainable Development Division of ESCAP to assist in the development and implementation of NEASPEC activities.

- ✧ The meeting recommended **the continuation of SOMs to guide environmental cooperation in North-East Asia.** The meeting discussed the possibility of convening a ministerial meeting for a broad exchange of views and perspectives on environmental cooperation in the sub-region. Such a meeting could be held in conjunction with the next Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, scheduled for 2005.

Financial Mechanism

In the 'Proposal on the Operation of Financial Mechanism', it was suggested that an adequate and reliable source of funds would be essential for the

continuing operation of the secretariat. In its absence, it would be difficult to have effective central coordination and monitoring needed for the efficient implementation and development of subregional cooperation projects. Accordingly, in order to ensure the viability of the operation of the NEASPEC Secretariat in the long term and to provide a reliable source of funding for NEASPEC projects and activities, it was recommended that the **NEASPEC Fund be established also by 2003 or 2004**. In line with the Framework and the Vision Statement, the NEASPEC Fund should be open to voluntary contributions from participating governments, collaborating agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors, foundations, the private sector, and other sources. The NEASPEC Secretariat should keep and manage the Fund.

The details of the fund were proposed as follows:

✧ *The Fund should have **three accounts**: an **Endowment Account, an Operational Account, and a Project Account**. Voluntary contributions to the Fund should be paid into one, any two, or all of the three accounts. The donors should specify the allocation of the contributions to the various accounts. If not specified by the donors, the contributions should be paid to the Endowment Account.*

✧ *The fund of the **Endowment Account** should be invested or deposited in interest bearing accounts in order to earn income. The income from the Endowment Account should be paid to any of the three accounts as decided by the Meeting of Senior Officials. For example, 20 per cent of the income may be paid back to the Endowment Account for capital accumulation, 60 per cent may be paid to the Operational Account, and the balance of 20 per cent to the Project Account. The allocation of the income of the Endowment Account would depend on the initial amount of the NEASPEC Fund, the operational needs of the Secretariat, and the amount of income earned. The primary objective should be to ensure the availability of funds to support the operation and activities of the Secretariat while also providing for the long-term growth of the Fund.*

✧ *The **Operational Account** should be used primarily to support the operation and activities of the NEASPEC Secretariat, and secondarily the convening of Meetings of Senior Officials and other meetings, as approved by the Meeting of Senior Officials.*

✧ *The **Project Account** should be used for the implementation of subregional cooperation projects and other activities approved by the Meeting of Senior Officials. In the initial years of operation, this would supplement, but not replace, the Core Fund in order to allow the completion of on-going activities. Subsequently, however,*

voluntary contributions intended for the Core Fund might be directed instead into the Project Account, if agreed by the Senior Officials.

✧ *For planning purposes, it was suggested that the participating parties provide the Meeting of Senior Officials with an **indicative, non-binding level of possible contributions to the Fund over a period of ten years**, showing the amounts allocated to the three accounts. Multilateral and bilateral funding agencies and other donors may also be requested to provide the same.*

'The Establishment of the NEASPEC Fund' was a draft Agreement on the nature, operation and management of the Fund in greater detail for the consideration and decision at SOM-7. To further assist the Senior Officials in their discussions concerning the proposed Fund, a brief description of the Relevant Experience in ASEAN in Establishing Funds to Support Subregional Cooperation was presented separately.

Nonetheless, the **NEASPEC Fund was considered premature** by the SOM-7

With regard to '**Modalities of Administration of the Core Fund for NEASPEC**', due to the financial difficulty, SOM-7 made the following suggestions:

Following the letter of agreement between the ADB and ESCAP, the "Regional Technical Assistance for Transboundary Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia" funded by ADB became fully disbursable. The implementation of NEASPEC Project I, II and III was started and expected to continue steadily on this firm financial basis, along with in-kind technical and financial contributions from member states.

It should be noted, however, that there had been considerable suppression in project implementation for the previous two years, due to the inter-phase period between two phases of financial support by ADB. Additionally, gaps in implementing capacity with the secretariat were frequently observed as the limited human resources had been depleted for concluding the inter-organizational administrative arrangement for financial transfer. **Occurrence of such gaps can be noted as an inevitable weakness of maintaining the subregional cooperation dependent upon project-based**

funding only.

In addition, Some SOM-approved project, namely, the 'Demonstration of Dry Sorbent Duct Injection FGD Technology' project areas that have yet to attract sufficient financial commitment by donor agencies. All relevant parties, including ESCAP Secretariat, collaborating agencies and participating countries were encouraged to continue efforts to draw donor attention to those financially-uncovered project areas. However, such effort may also contribute to depletion of the project implementation capacity of NEASPEC.

Considering that the firm, stable and independent financial basis was indispensable for steady and effective project planning and implementation, it is crucial that the financial rules be developed so that the Core Fund could be used for the purpose of financing NEASPEC projects. A corollary to these financial gaps was the 'Proposal for the Establishment of the Secretariat and the Financial Mechanism for its Operation'

SOM-7 expressed deep appreciation to ROK for its announcement of an additional contribution of US\$ 100,000 to the Core Fund for the year 2001. It also welcomed the announcement by China that it would make a lump-sum donation to the Fund according to its economic capabilities.

It was emphasized that in using the Core Fund, **priority should be accorded to the projects approved by SOMs** and then to the preparation and development of potential projects for funding by other international organizations, such as GEF, as well as for urgent and special needs. The meeting requested the ESCAP secretariat to administer the Core Fund in accordance with the United Nations rules and regulations.

While considering the **modalities of operation of the Core Fund**, it was emphasized that utilization should follow the principle of transparency. In addition, owing to the different levels of economic development of the

participating countries, contributions to the Fund must **not be based on predetermined assessments or scales**. Instead, each participating country should make a voluntary contribution in cash or kind to the Fund to make the Core Fund sustainable.

SOM-7 noted that the establishment of the Core Fund reflected the will and determination of NEASPEC countries to strengthen subregional environmental cooperation. It was emphasized, however, the Core Fund could not solely depend on contributions from the governments of participating countries. Financial support for projects should not be solely dependent on the Core Fund. The Meeting requested the ESCAP secretariat to intensify its work, in cooperation with relevant international organizations and donor countries, to raise funds from bilateral and multilateral donors and other financing channels, especially the five sources stipulated in the *Framework for NEASPEC*.

Joint Activities

With regard to the **Project I - Pollution Reduction in Coal-fired Power Plants**, the Government of ROK offered to host the "North East Asian Training Centre for Pollution Reduction in Coal-fired Power Plant" at KEPRI in Daejeon. ADB-RETA project provided assistance to the development of the Training Centre, in particular by helping design the detailed objective and scope of plans for the Training Center's activities. For this purpose, ESCAP recruited an international consultant to assist KEPRI in formulating the preliminary **Work Plan** of the Centre. The draft was expected to be finalized and circulated by the end of September 2001, among participating countries for further consultation. Member countries would also be consulted for the 'Training Manual on Pollution Reduction from Coal-Fired Power Plants', as well as possible linkage between the Training Center's activities and Project III.

With regard to the **Project II - Environmental Monitoring, Data Collection,**

Comparability and Analysis, the First Meeting of the NFPs of NEACEDT was held at NIER from 14 to 16 February 2001 with the support from ADB-RETA project and co-financed by the Government of Japan and the Government of ROK. The meeting reviewed the draft '*Recommendations of Methodologies on Air Pollutant Emission Monitoring*' and suggested that it be fully utilized in the training programmes for national capacity building in participating country to be arranged by NEACEDT in the future. Besides, the meeting formulated a set of recommendations on NEACEDT's development for submission to SOM-7

During the NFPs meeting, the Task Force on Air Pollutant Emission and NEACEDT conducted a joint study tour to the Seo-Inchon Power Plant of the Korea Electric Power Corporation, Inchon, ROK on 16 February 2001. The participants visited the telemetric monitoring system (operation room) and the stack emission monitoring station, and were briefed by the Plant staff on the technical specifications on those systems.

An international consultant was then recruited for a draft Work Plan of the Center covering the activities for the next two years.

In addition to the projects being implemented, the ESCAP secretariat proposed three other programmes, namely, **the Comprehensive Clean Technology Programme**, **the North-East Asia Nature Conservation Programme** and **the Environmental Monitoring and Data Collection Programme**. SOM-7 considered them interesting but required further exploration and consultation at EGMs.

With regard to the Nature Conservation Programme, it was agreed that the programme should initially focus on training and general information exchange, based on consensus among the participating countries, and should avoid duplication of relevant regional programmes of other international organizations. SOM-7 requested that the ESCAP secretariat formulate a project on biodiversity in consultation with participating countries

to propose for GEF funding.

Conclusion

Institutionally, SOM-7 did not make a breakthrough despite the proposal made on the independent secretariat and NEASPEC Fund. However, to tackle the financial constraints facing the project implementation, priority of Core Fund was recommended to be given to projects approved by SOMs. SOM-7 discussed ongoing projects as well as the sub-region's preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It also considered three programmes that were proposed by the secretariat, i.e. 1) Comprehensive Clean Technology Programme, 2) North-East Asia Nature Conservation Programme, and 3) Environmental Monitoring and Data Collection Programme.

SOM-8 (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; June 2002)

Summary of Key Points

It was at SOM-8 that NEASPEC received support from the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM). The meeting parties recognized the importance of international regimes and encouraged member states to join and ratify relevant regimes to which they were not yet a party. SOM-8 once again felt that it was premature to establish an independent secretariat. A sense of ownership was again recognized as a necessary component, thus SOM-8 encouraged member states to contribute to the Core Fund to enhance this sense of ownership. A budget for NEASPEC was approved. Additionally, a draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for a working group on nature conservation in North-East Asia was introduced. DPRK was absent from the Meeting.

Institutional Mechanism

In the Preparatory Meeting to SOM-8, a 'Report of the Workshop on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia Jeju Island, ROK, 13-14 December 2001' was deliberated and recommendations were provided. The

institutional aspects of the Report were as follows:

- ✧ *There was only some limited **coordination and information exchange** among regional initiatives (with varied objectives and in different areas) in the sub-region. There was therefore need for closer coordination in future within the existing institutional framework.*
- ✧ ***Linkages should be established at local, national and subregional levels** especially when addressing transboundary issues in North-East Asia.*
- ✧ *A cost effective mechanism for **information exchange** between various ongoing initiatives in North East Asia should be promoted **through hyperlinks on the website of NEACDT.***
- ✧ *There was a need for developing greater **public awareness** especially with regard to NEASPEC and for promoting cooperation with other ongoing initiatives in the sub-region.*
- ✧ *NEASPEC, with its full geographical coverage and broad-based subject areas as well as project implementation mandate, was the most suitable mechanism to initiate the process of promoting coordination among the ongoing initiatives in the sub-region.*
- ✧ *Acknowledging the need to strengthen the political support to subregional cooperation efforts NEASPEC should consider holding a North East Asia **Ministerial Meeting** back to back with the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific organized by ESCAP every five years.*
- ✧ *Networking was a practical mechanism to promote cooperation among the local, national and subregional institutions involved in various initiatives in the sub-region, such as the coordination between and among ongoing programmes such as Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), North-East Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation (NEAC) and Tumen River Area Development Project (TRADP). An **institutional mechanism** was needed to promote*

cooperation between those programmes and NEASPEC, perhaps through institutionalized networking.

- ✧ *Practical orientation and an **output-based approach** should continue to guide activities of NEASPEC.*

- ✧ ***A step-by-step gradual approach is more suited presently as compared to legally binding regime which could be adopted in future** for the promotion of environmental cooperation in the sub-region.*

- ✧ *There is the need to develop **a comprehensive strategic environmental action plan** for North East Asia based on issues and spatial needs as well as identified subregional tasks.*

- ✧ *A **participatory approach** involving various stakeholders such as private sector and NGOs is desirable in the promotion of environmental cooperation in the subregion.*

SOM-8 requested ESCAP to continue as the Secretariat of NEASPEC because the situation then was not considered feasible for the establishment of an independent secretariat. The Meeting recognized that **the issue of establishment/setting up of an independent secretariat would depend on the willingness of member countries**. It therefore recommended to ESCAP to consult countries concerned and report to SOM-9. The issue could also be considered by the Ministerial Conference of NEASPEC to be organized back to back with the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific 2005.

The Meeting recommended that matters of NEASPEC, other than those related directly to projects, needing attention during the inter-sessional period (between Senior Official Meetings) should be resolved using telecommunication means.

Recommendations of NEASPEC should be presented to the ESCAP Commission Session and any feedback in this regard should be communicated to NEASPEC-SOM.

Financial Mechanism

SOM-8 took note of the observations of the Mid-term Review Meeting for the Regional Technical Assistance for Transboundary Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia supported by ADB, held in Ulaanbaatar on 18 June, 2002. This review noted that the reallocation of **funding was required on an urgent basis** so that the new budget allocation could better accommodate the provisions set in the Work Plans.

The meeting proposed that the **Core Fund might be utilized on an emergency basis**, for temporary funding on the project activities which were already approved by SOMs and for which financial resources were confirmed. The meeting considered this contingency funding appropriate in order to avoid any disruptions in the implementation of project activities. The meeting reiterated that the NEASPEC Core Fund should primarily be used by consensus for the projects endorsed by SOMs. The contribution to the Core Fund should continue on a **voluntary** basis and all member countries were encouraged to participate as well as raise additional funds from external sources to enhance the **sense of ownership** of NEASPEC.

The ESCAP Secretariat was requested to continue its efforts, in cooperation with relevant international organizations and donor countries, to explore new and additional financial resources acknowledging that sustained and diversified financial basis is indispensable for steady and effective project planning and implementation.

In exploring the **mobilization of financial resources** for promoting

environmental cooperation in North East Asia, it is important to explore project funding from bilateral as well as multilateral sources such as the GEF and ADB. In addition, the potential of private sector financing should be explored for funding for NEASPEC projects.

The meeting also noted that four of NEASPEC's member countries serve on the GEF Council. This provided an opportunity for the countries to enter into consultations prior to the next GEF Assembly Meeting in October 2002 in Beijing to arrive at a common understanding for proposing the sub-region's needs for funding at the next Assembly Meeting.

Joint Activities

SOM-8 reviewed the ongoing projects as well as reviewed proposals for additional projects. The reviews and recommendations are summarized below.

Ongoing Projects

Project I - Pollution Reduction in Coal-fired Power Plants

Directly following SOM-7, a Work Plan for the Training Centre was drafted and was finalized by October 2001. In accordance with it, the first training course was held by the North-East Asian Training Center for Pollution Reduction in Coal-fired Power Plants at KEPRI from 10 to 21 December 2001, to the satisfaction of the participants, who were power plant managers, government officials, and other national experts from Mongolia, China and Japan. The Second Training Course on Pollution Reduction in Coal-fired Power Plants in North East Asia was held in preparation for SOM-8.

Unfortunately it was indicated that KEPRI might not be able to continue hosting the Training Center after completion of the current project period. This posed a serious problem, in particular, towards the future development of the North-East Asian Training Center for Pollution Reduction in Coal-fired Power Plants. ESCAP requested the Government of ROK to look into the matter and to advise on how the country could meet its commitment.

During the process of developing the work plan for the North-East Asian Training Centre for Pollution Reduction in Coal-fired Power Plants in **Project I**, it was also consulted with the host institution, KEPRI, on how the Training Centre's activities can be linked with **Project III**, considering that both projects have a number of common elements in addressing the air pollution problems of electric power plants. However, due to the limited technical and administrative capacity of the Training Centre, it was proposed that the **Project III** should be implemented separately from the activities of the Training Centre.

SOM-8 observed that the measures for improving the effectiveness of the training course included readjustment of curriculum according to the needs of trainees, introduction of presentation by trainees and exchange of information among trainees. The Meeting also requested that KEPRI should continue hosting the subregional training activities and encouraged ROK to make further efforts in this regard. ROK assured that it would keep other NEASPEC countries informed of progress on this matter.

Project II - Environmental Monitoring, Data Collection, Comparability and Analysis

In pursuit of the recommendations of the First Meeting of the NFPs, a Work Plan for the NEACEDT was finalized in January 2002.

In accordance with the Work Plan, an EGM on Capacity Building and Data Intercomparability for Ambient Air Quality Monitoring in North-East Asia was organized by NEACEDT from 24 to 26 April 2002 at Incheon, ROK, to review the progress in the data/information collection activity by NEACEDT concerning ambient air quality monitoring in North-East Asia.

To supplement the NEACEDT activity, another EGM on Capacity Building of Air Pollutant Emission Monitoring in North-East Asia was held in Yokohama, Japan from 13 to 15 March 2002, under the initiative of the NEASPEC Task Force on Air Pollutant Emission, with financial and technical supports from Japan.

These two meetings formulated sets of recommendations on capacity building for ambient air quality monitoring and air emission monitoring, respectively, which should be taken into consideration in subsequent development of NEACEDT's activities, in particular, those undertaken by NEACEDT.

SOM-8 recommended that NEACEDT should put further emphasis on the early delivery of the substantive outputs, as identified in the Work Plan, in particular, including the analytical report on monitoring activities and methodologies in North-east Asian countries. All the participating countries were reminded to communicate their latest air quality data to NEACEDT.

Regarding the institutional arrangement for the implementation of the **Project III- Efficiency Improvement of Electrostatic Precipitators in Existing Power Plants**, it was proposed that the first on-site workshop on particulate control in electric power plants might be organized in Guizhou Province, China, in cooperation with the Centre for Environmental Education and Communication, State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), China.

SOM-8 was informed of the progress in informal consultation towards the organization of the first on-site workshop on particulate control in electric power plants in Guizhou Province, China. The proposal was to be formalized and implemented as soon as the necessary financial resources had been confirmed.

Projects Proposed

The Preparatory Meeting for SOM-8 considered a proposal named 'Proposals on Nature Conservation under the North-East Asian Subregional Programme on Environmental Cooperation²⁴', which included the following components:

- ✧ *Introduction, related to how this project came into being since SOM-1 under the NEASPEC;*

²⁴ See Annex 10

- ✧ *Background briefing about the Nature Conservation in North-East Asia: Resources and Threats;*
- ✧ *Policy Framework for Nature Conservation, highlighting the gaps in implementing national action plans and strategies to conserve biodiversity in the member countries;*
- ✧ *International and subregional cooperation; the signing and ratification of MEAs on the part of member countries, as well as bilateral cooperation in biodiversity conservation of the subregion were introduced to highlight the need and the prospect for further actions;*
- ✧ *Prospects and potential for subregional cooperation in North-East Asia;*
- ✧ *Potential areas of cooperation—some tentative ideas for cooperation.*

It was proposed at the report that the first phase of the project would promote exchange of information on existing national and international programmes of nature conservation in the North-East Asian countries. Efforts would focus on identifying existing national centers; assessing capacity-building needs, barriers and available resources; and defining feasible approaches to subsequent cooperative activities in longer terms such as:

- ✧ Establishment of a subregional working group;
- ✧ Development of information exchange mechanisms;
- ✧ Facilitate and enable nature conservation planning;
- ✧ Development of case studies and lessons learnt;
- ✧ Organize subregional information exchange workshops.

In response to the proposals above, **SOM-8 made the following decisions on Nature Conservation:**

- ✧ The NEASPEC countries were encouraged to ratify the international conventions and protocols related to nature conservation, including the Convention on Migratory Species.
- ✧ Undertaking work on the nature conservation was strongly supported with the involvement of stakeholders and several areas for action were recognized such as capacity building, exchange of information and expertise, data base management, scientific research and use of Geographical Information System (GIS).
- ✧ The Meeting recommended establishing a working group of NFPs on nature conservation to identify priority areas for development of projects in nature conservation, to initiate exchange of information to grasp issues and problems and to bring issues to the attention of governments for cooperative action.
- ✧ Taking into consideration the limited resources available, the Meeting recommended that synergies should be developed with ongoing initiatives in the sub-region in nature conservation.
- ✧ SOM-8 also recommended that public awareness of NEASPEC should be raised both at the national and regional as well as global levels. The NEASPEC Website should be fully utilized and the meeting documents should be placed there for information and use by interested parties. A brochure for NEASPEC should be prepared giving its history, objectives, functions and activities including the NEASPEC Framework and the Vision Statement and it should be disseminated widely.

Conclusion

SOM-8 showed satisfaction with the implementation of NEASPEC Projects on pollution control and environmental monitoring, data collection, comparability and analysis. It also recommended the initiation of the programme on nature conservation through the organization of an expert meeting and recommended to establish a working group of national focal points on nature conservation to identify priority areas for development of projects on nature conservation and exchange of information on issues and problems. The Meeting also encouraged the development of the GEF project on dust and sand storms through collaborative efforts of international organizations recommended that public awareness on NEASPEC should be raised both at the national and regional as well as global levels.

SOM-9 (Moscow, the Russian Federation; March 2004)

Summary of Key Points

SOM-9 marked additional progress in the development of NEASPEC. They reviewed and approved an outreach brochure and recommended that NEASPEC move forward with activities under two priorities of the proposed nature conservation project. The meeting reaffirmed the idea that contributions to the Core Fund and Trust Fund should be voluntary. They also agreed that, in the long-run, NEASPEC would need an independent secretariat. Five out of six members were present at the meeting.

Institutional Mechanism

During the SOM-9, extensive opinions were expressed on the part of attendees on the institutional mechanism of NEASPEC.

Besides his appreciation on the secretariat support provided by ESCAP and the achievement NEASPEC made so far, the delegate from **ROK** emphasized that **in the long run NEASPEC should have its own secretariat**. On behalf of ROK, he expressed the willingness to host such a secretariat if agreed by all the NEASPEC member states. He welcomed the proposal to hold a Meeting of the NEASPEC Ministers during the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment

and Development in Asia and the Pacific. He further proposed to use forthcoming 8th GC/GMEF of UNEP to be held in Jeju, The Republic of Korea at the end of March 2004 as an opportunity to discuss strengthening of cooperation in the NEASPEC. Finally, he informed the SOM of the key and current national policies of ROK.

The representative of **China** stated that considerable achievements had been made by NEASPEC since its establishment. Meanwhile, it also has its **weakness and limitations**. To make the mechanisms more effective, modality options were suggested:

- ✧ improve communication among the member states and raise awareness on the NEASPEC issues;
- ✧ deliver tangible and measurable results in the implementation of the projects;
- ✧ develop broad partnerships with international organizations and financial institutions;
- ✧ utilizing practical, pragmatic and step-by-step approach and developing a pool of expertise unique to the NEASPEC.

She underlined the importance for NEASPEC to facilitate the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in this subregion taking into account the needs of the member countries. She emphasized that the Government was committed to sustainable development and would continue to carry out its national strategy for sustainable development and enhance cooperation with other countries and International Organizations.

The representative of **Japan** stated to follow up the outcome of World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), sustainable consumption and production was a priority of Japan. **Sound Material Cycle Society** was a major initiative established for this purpose which could be of interest particularly to China and ROK. **Climate change** was another priority and guidelines had been developed in the country to combat global warming. **Environmental education** was another area of intervention where new laws had been

promulgated to support environmental education and NPOs/NGOs. He stated that considerable benefits could be achieved by **interaction between NEASPEC and other subregional cooperation mechanisms.**

According to the delegate from **Russian Federation**, as a member of both United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and ESCAP, the experience of the Russian Federation in subregional cooperation could catalyze the transfer of knowledge and expertise conducive to NEASPEC activities. He added that other NEASPEC members should seek membership in the UNECE convention on trans-boundary rivers and international lakes, where the Russian Federation participated actively. He also encouraged NEASPEC member countries to develop **a legally binding document defining the principles for subregional cooperation.** He also advocated development of **a subregional action plan** in areas like nature/biodiversity conservation.

The representative of **Mongolia** expressed that the Government's was committed to supporting all the current and any future activities developed in subregion.

SOM-9 finally recommended the continuation of SOMs to guide the environmental cooperation in North-East Asia and suggested to have a meeting of the Ministers of Environment in North-East Asia at their convenience during the ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific for promoting the NEASPEC programme.

Financial Mechanism

SOM-9 noted with appreciation the financial contribution of Government of China to the Core Fund and the intent of the Government of Japan and the Government of Korea to make financial contributions to the Core Fund in the year 2004. The meeting appreciated the remarks of the Russian Federation on initial in-kind contributions with the intent of possible financial contribution to the Core Fund over the long-run.

The Meeting reaffirmed that the contribution to the NEASPEC Core Fund

should **continue on voluntary basis** and all NEASPEC countries were encouraged to contribute to the Core Fund. It was also recommended that as much as possible funding for NEASPEC activities should also be explored from sources other than Core Fund.

The meeting reviewed, approved the budget sheet submitted by the secretariat and appreciated the careful use of Core Fund. It also requested the secretariat to report on the balance to the SOM-10. The meeting also recommended to the secretariat to explore the possibility of generating interest on the Trust Fund.

Joint Activities

The meeting reviewed ongoing projects and recommended that activities under the newly proposed nature conservation project be undertaken. A summary of their discussions and recommendations is below.

Ongoing Projects: Air Pollution

Project I: Pollution Reduction in Coal-fired Power Plants

According to the recommendations of SOM-8, the Second Training Course was co-organized by ESCAP and KEPRI at KEPRI from 3 – 16 December 2002. An evaluation/review session was conducted at the end of the training course where participants expressed their satisfaction.

A comprehensive report was prepared by KEPRI in March 2003 entitled "*Final Report of the North-East Asian Training Centre for Pollution Reduction in Coal-Fired Plants*" for submission as the final report to the SOM-9.

Following the request of SOM-8 that KEPRI should continue hosting the sub-regional training activities, KEPRI indicated its intention to continue to host future training courses. KEPRI was requested to hold two more training

workshops during the next phase pending SOM-9 approval.

Project II: Environmental Monitoring, Data Collection, Comparability and Analysis

SOM-8 recommended that NEACEDT put further emphasis on early delivery of substantive outputs, as identified in the Work Plan in particular, including the analytical report on monitoring activities and methodologies in North-East Asian countries. The meeting also reminded all participating countries to communicate their latest air quality data to NEACEDT.

As a direct outcome of the recommendations made at the EGM on “*Capacity Building of Air Pollutant Emission Monitoring in North-East Asia*” held in Yokohama, the ESCAP secretariat organized a training workshop in Beijing, China on 26-28 February 2003. The China SEPA, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Environment of Japan and NEACEDT, hosted the workshop entitled “*Training on Emission Monitoring and Estimation in North East Asia*”. 40 Delegates from all six member countries attended. Finalized at SOM-8, the “*Recommendations of Methodologies on Air Pollutant Emission Monitoring*” was published in 2002 with funding by the Ministry of Environment, Japan as part of their support for NEASPEC activities. The publication was distributed among attendees. As a result, the participants found both the training and the publication very useful and relevant to their work.

SOM-8 recommended continuation of the training programme, increasing the length of the training period and expanding the programme content to include widely used manual measurement techniques, monitoring dusts and particulate matter as well as discussing on economic estimation of air pollution.

The meeting further recommended the course to include the local

government officials and air pollution control policy makers. The opportunities for exchange of ideas/information and know-how through joint monitoring exercises among engineers in the sub-region should be explored. The on-site demonstrations should be used as practical examples to complement the use of the Task Force-developed document "*Recommendations of Methodologies on Air Pollutant Emission Monitoring*". All of these would provide insights for improving the methodologies that were practiced.

An On-site Assessment Workshop on Capacity Building and Data Intercomparability for Ambient Air Quality Monitoring in North-East Asia was organized 22 to 24 September 2003 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Co-organized by ESCAP and NEACEDT, the workshop included several important aspects of air quality monitoring presented by NEACEDT as well as country presentations.

The participants dwelt on issue of 'Data Reporting Format'. Meanwhile they were offered a visit to the Central Lab of Environmental Monitoring of Mongolia, four monitoring stations and a thermal power plant, the potential pollution source. The participants were informed that Mongolia did not have emission standards for stationary sources therefore there was an urgent need for capacity building.

Based on the evaluation sheet, the participants generally felt that training exercises of this nature were very useful and that more member countries should participate in the future. The workshop also recommended that the NEACEDT website should be further developed by the increased participation of NEASPEC member countries and encouraged the NFPs to send descriptive information regarding national environmental monitoring as well as monitoring data to NEACEDT.

Project III: Efficiency Improvement of Electrostatic Precipitators in Existing

Power Plants

In 2002 the *“First On-site Assessment Workshop on Pollution Reduction in Electric Power Plants in North-East Asia*, was held on 7-9 August 2002, Guiyang, Guizhou Province, China. The workshop produced two sets of observations and recommendations. The first related directly to efficiency improvement of the particulate abatement system in the Guiyang power plant. The other concerned the development of a sub-regional action plan for efficiency improvement of particulate abatement systems in electric power plants in North-East Asia with priority being given to capacity building in developing the NEASPEC Action Plan. These also included future workshops and strengthening of the NEASPEC/KEPRI training courses based on lessons learned in the current workshop.

The workshop stressed the development of both the technological as well as the policy and financial elements of the Action Plan which should encompass control of other pollutants and management of overall energy efficiency and CO₂ emissions as part of an integrated approach together with a comprehensive clean coal programme, which might need to be developed with national and international inputs.

The *Second On-site Assessment Workshop on Efficiency Improvement of Particulate Abatement Systems in Existing Power Plants* was organized in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 25 to 27 September 2003 by ESCAP and the Mongolian Ministry of Nature and Environment. The participants visited and examined Ulaabbaatar's Power Plants. The participants were informed that the lack of automatic emission monitoring equipment had baffled the endeavor to optimize the operation of pollutant emission abatement system in the plant. In the tour to another power plant, Participants were shown that 8 electrostatic precipitators (ESP) were functioning with lower than designed efficiency level due to failures in some sections. The Workshop advised the

latter send engineers responsible for O&M of ESP for the next training programme to be organized by KEPRI.

Consequently, the participants suggested establishing power plant standards; decision makers being given technical and management training; training workshops expanding to other member countries; coal dust screening facility building; getting water price right; CDM opportunity seeking; further development of the Subregional Action Plan for Efficiency Improvement of Particulate Abatement Systems in Electric Power Plants; and expanding discussion topics in the subsequent workshops etc..

In response, SOM-9 appreciated the efforts made in the implementation of the three aforementioned projects, reaffirmed their importance and requested their continuation. The meeting took note of the offer of KEPRI to organize on-site consultations and workshops in NEASPEC member countries upon request from them. The meeting further noted with appreciation the financial support of the ADB, Government of ROK and Government of Japan in implementing these projects and activities.

The meeting reminded all the participating countries to communicate their data to NEACEDT. The Meeting recommended promoting information and communications technology in exchange of data and implementing training programmes. It also emphasized that data the information gathered be shared through the NEASPEC web site, a venue mainly for project information dissemination.

New Projects: Nature Conservation

SOM-8 decided to initiate work on nature conservation in North-East Asia by starting a working group of NFPs on nature conservation to identify priority areas for development of projects in nature conservation, exchange of

information to grasp issues and problems and to bring issues to the attention of governments for cooperative action. Stakeholder involvement, capacity building, information and expertise exchange, and the use of GIS were emphasized. Accordingly, terms of reference²⁵ have been prepared for the consideration by SOM-9.

The Suggested Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Nature Conservation contained Scope and Structure, General Activities and Information related activities of the Working Group.

In response, SOM-9 endorsed the *Terms of Reference* and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Nature Conservation Group, convened by the secretariat in July 2003 in Bangkok at the request of SOM-8. Considering the priorities under nature conservation, SOM-9 recommended to undertake activities under **two priorities** during the first phase, i.e. conservation and recovery of large mammals and threatened species; and conservation, monitoring and cooperative research on important migratory species. The other priorities are to be considered in the later phase. The Meeting recommended that the approaches be based on the protection of the natural habitats and development of nature reserves

The Meeting recommended that countries provide information to the Secretariat on completed and on-going activities in the above two priority areas. The Secretariat would collate this information and convene meetings of the Working Group of the Nature Conservation for the formulation of an appropriate project proposal for the consideration of SOM-10.

SOM-9 reviewed the brochure prepared by the secretariat on the NEASPEC and made some constructive suggestions for its publicity and improvement.

²⁵ See Annex 11.

Conclusion

SOM-9 reviewed status of implementation of NEASPEC Projects on pollution control and monitoring. For the new Nature Conservation project, it decided to undertake activities in two of eight initially identified priority areas and recommended use of modern tools of information and communication technology in the data exchange, implementation of training programmes and documentation on the project activities through the NEASPEC web site.

SOM-10 (Okinawa, Japan; November 2004)

Summary of Key Points

Five out of six member states were in attendance at SOM-10, where most of the discussion focused on the nature conservation projects. Some attention was paid to the funding mechanism, but no definitive action was taken in the way of strengthening the Core Fund or enhancing the institutional development.

Institutional Mechanism

SOM-10 appreciated the efforts of the secretariat for the preparation of the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environmental and Development (MCED-2005) and the initiatives undertaken to make the success of the NEASPEC more visible in such an important forum. The meeting welcomed the proposal extended by the Government of ROK to invite the Ministers of the NEASPEC member countries to an informal meeting during MCED-2005 to be held from 24 to 29 March 2005 in Seoul, ROK.

Additionally there was a desire expressed for NEASPEC to develop into a **regional think tank** addressing subregional transboundary environmental issues.

Financial Mechanism

The Clean Development Mechanism was identified as a possible funding source for developing clean technologies in North-East Asia.

It is also important to note that the World Bank was focusing less on end-of-pipe technologies and more on alternatives and energy efficiency. This could have an implication for future funding availability from the World Bank for NEASPEC energy projects.

Joint Activities

Ongoing Projects: Air Pollution

The Preparatory Meeting of Experts for SOM-10 was held on 24-25 November 2004 in Okinawa, Japan. The agenda item 4(a) was on the 'Terminal Report for the Implementation of ADB-RETA for Transboundary Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia'²⁶, which summarized the process of the implementation and the achievement.

Under **Project I**, The Regional Training Center in KEPRI has developed comprehensive training programme and two training workshops to strengthen the human and organizational capacities of the recipient countries (China, Mongolia and ROK)

Under the **Project II**, ESCAP has established NEACEDT and a regional network to facilitate environmental monitoring, data collection, comparability and analysis and conducted comprehensive training programme to harmonize the data standards and methodologies in the sub-region.

With regard to **Project III**, on-site Assessment Workshops on Efficiency Improvement of Particulate Abatement Systems in Existing Power Plants were organized and the guidelines for the development of the Subregional Action Plan for Efficiency Improvement of Particulate Abatement Systems in Existing Power Plants were developed and approved by the countries in North-East Asia.

²⁶ See Annex 12

A subregional workshop on Action Plan for Improvement of the Particulate Abatement Systems of Coal-Fired Power Plants was organized on 7 to 8 June 2004 Beijing, China to discuss and review the action plans for the selected coal-fired power plants in Mongolia and China and to agree on the structure and process of preparation of the subregional action plan.

The subregional workshop concluded that as coal would continue to be a major energy resource in the sub-region, emissions from the coal-fired power plants would greatly affect the lives of people and the society with economic implications. To tackle the problem, the experts agreed to set up national standards on emissions from coal-fired power plants in developing any projects to reduce emissions. Some countries such as China, Russian Federation and ROK have such standards in place, therefore the meeting agreed to promote establishing subregional standards based on the best practices.

It was also recommended that further analysis on the implications of emissions from coal-fired power plants at the subregional level was needed in order for the governments to develop policy recommendations to be formulated into subregional action plan.

After the final review, based on the recommendation of the workshop, the draft action plans developed for selected coal-fired power plants in China and Mongolia would be submitted to ADB as part of the Terminal Report of the RETA Project with recommendation to consider funding for their implementation. They would also be submitted to the NEASPEC NFPs of the two countries and to the SOM-10.

A series of future activities were put forward by the Sub-regional Workshop on Action Plan and RETA Final Review Meeting:

- ✧ *Develop **investment proposals** based on the action plans for the two selected power plants in Mongolia and China to serve as demonstration projects, including elements and provisions for technology transfer pilot projects;*

- ✧ Develop a **Decision Support System (DSS)**
- ✧ Conduct a needs assessment study for the establishment of **national data collection centers** in the NEASPEC Member States
- ✧ **On-the job-training**
- ✧ Develop the subregional **action plan with targets and timeframe;**
- ✧ **Public awareness activities** – further development of the NEASPEC web site, production of publications and leaflets, stakeholder involvement strategies; etc.

SOM-10 reviewed the Terminal Report by ADB to support the subregional activities for reduction of air pollution from coal-fired power plants and noted with satisfaction the success achieved and expertise acquired during the implementation of the activities. The meeting noted with appreciation that other sub-regions in Asia and the Pacific, i.e. Central Asia, would be willing to utilize the training and data monitoring manuals developed under the project II and to learn from the experience and knowledge of the NEASPEC air pollution experts' network.

The meeting appreciated the continuous support provided by the Government of ROK for maintaining the Regional North-East Asian Training Centre for Pollution Reduction in Coal-Fired power Plants at KEPRI and the NEACEDT at the NIER.

The meeting expressed the overall support of the NEASPEC member countries for the recommended follow up activities and noted with appreciation the interest of the ADB to support a follow up project proposal.

SOM-10 has generally endorsed the Project Concept Paper on Mitigation of Transboundary Air Pollution from Coal-Fired Power Plants in North-East Asia formulated during the Sub-regional Meeting.

Ongoing Projects: Nature Conservation

A working group on nature conservation was established following the recommendations from the SOM—7 in 2001 and during the 1st Working Group

Meeting, held in Bangkok, in July 2003 a set of eight priority areas for subregional cooperation was defined.

During SOM-9, it was recommended to the 2nd Working Group on a project proposal formulated on the two of the priorities, i.e. conservation and recovery of large mammals; and conservation, monitoring and cooperative research on important migratory species for the approval of SOM-10. Accordingly, a questionnaire on on-going activities in the above mentioned areas among the member states was initiated to identify the common needs and activities for cooperation.

To follow up, the ESCAP secretariat organized the 3rd Working Group Meeting on Nature Conservation in North-East Asia from 30 September to 1 October 2004, in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting identified the need for enhanced subregional cooperation in nature conservation as the major precondition for the success of any joint activities. Subregional cooperation needs be strengthened on the following levels:

- ✧ *The decision-making process on nature conservation by establishing a Senior Nature Conservation Officials Forum.*
- ✧ *Subregional strategy for nature conservation and action plans for the conservation of selected threatened species, including pilot projects based on economic tools and participatory approach of local communities;*
- ✧ *A harmonized system for collection, gathering, analysis and management of data on nature conservation, in particular for the identified species;*
- ✧ *A subregional network among experts for identified species;*

During the Preparatory Meeting of Experts for the SOM-10, a project concept²⁷ entitled 'A Framework for Nature Conservation Programme in North-East Asia'

27 See Annex 13.

was proposed for the consideration by the SOM-10. The goal of the project was to achieve joint action by NEASPEC members based on **a strategy and action plan** to nature conservation in the North East Asia Sub-region. The main target group was policy makers, wildlife managers and protected reserves managers.

The project would identify national institutions and with their assistance review problems of and prospects for biodiversity/nature conservation at national and subregional levels (including an analysis of national and cooperative bilateral and other programmes), develop institutional capacity through cooperation and networking and identify measures for subregional cooperative efforts for ensuring that the problems can be contained and further steps initiated to reverse the trends.

SOM-10 has appreciated the efforts of the Nature Conservation Working Group. The meeting approved the project proposal and the proposed budget in principle so that this project could start as planned. The meeting also requested the secretariat to report to the SOM-11 on the progress of the implementation of the project and disbursement of the funds. The Meeting recommended that best efforts should be made to economize the project management cost. Information on the management of the project should be reported to the SOM-11. The meeting further recommended that the detailed implementation mechanism and plan were to be developed at the inception meeting of the project.

New Projects: Emerging Issues

Reflecting upon the overwhelming development trend in North-East Asia, the Preparatory Meeting of SOM-10 has deliberated a paper entitled 'New and emerging issues related to environmentally sustainable economic growth (Green Growth) in North-East Asia'²⁸, which explored how to improve environmental sustainability of economic growth, promote green growth pattern and further take environmental sustainability as a drive for economic growth rather than an impediment.

²⁸ See Annex 14

To put it specifically, the growth paradigm shift would create new investment avenues, new environment markets and industry, new employment opportunities and stimulate development of new clean technologies. Tools and mechanisms identified to exploit these potentials were:

- ✧ *internalize environmental costs;*
- ✧ *reduce environmental pressure from production and consumption;*
- ✧ *ensure growing environmental market for technology and environmental goods and services;*
- ✧ *increase investment opportunities for the environment.*

This Green Growth Pattern requires first and foremost 'de-linking' economic growth from environmental degradation through a range of methods, among which improving environmental sustainability of consumption and production is the key concept. To arrive at this end, some pilot activities were proposed to be considered in the near future:

- ✧ *Eco-efficiency;*
- ✧ *Clean production;*
- ✧ *Economic instruments;*
- ✧ *Sustainable consumption patterns linked with traditional lifestyle and cultural values*

SOM-10 noted with appreciation the paper presented and recommended that the secretariat develop a detailed paper on new and emerging issues related to environmentally sustainable economic growth in North-East Asia and present it to SOM-11. The paper could include possible project concepts, time frame and activities. The meeting also recommended that funding for the preparation of the paper could be provided from the approved expenditure for NEASPEC for 2005 and 2006.

Conclusion

SOM-10 reviewed the Terminal report for ADB-RETA project and noted with satisfaction that the training and data monitoring manuals were being

replicated in CA. The project proposal for a Framework for Nature Conservation Programme in NEA and the proposal budget were approved. The Ministers of NEASPEC countries were proposed to have an informal gathering during MCED-2005 to enhance the visibility of NEASPEC's success. The Meeting recommended that a detailed paper, including project concept, time frame and activities, on new and emerging issues related to environmentally sustainable economic growth in NEA be developed and presented to SOM 11.

SOM-11 (Seoul, ROK; October 2005)

Summary of Key Points

With five countries attending the SOM, the Meeting reviewed NEASPEC activities including the first NEASPEC environment ministers meeting, 'Framework for a Nature Conservation Programme in North-East Asia' and Mitigation of Transboundary Air Pollution from Coal-Fired Power Plants. The Meeting discussed proposals for future activities on emerging issues related to environmentally sustainable economic growth (Green Growth) and North-East Asia Environment Outlook. The Meeting also discussed funding issues related to NEASPEC Core Fund. A new orientation of NEASPEC project, eco-efficiency was brought forth.

Institutional Mechanism

A NEASPEC Environmental Ministers Meeting²⁹ took place during the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED-2005) held from 24 to 29 March 2005 in Seoul, ROK. The meeting intended to bring political will from high level decision-makers to NEASPEC, and in turn enhance the potential for long-term sound development of NEASPEC. In addition, the need to boost the visibility of NEASPEC in such an important forum, MCED, was also perceived as an important objective.

The meeting was attended by the Mongolian Minister of Nature and

²⁹ See Annex 15 for the Meeting document.

Environment; Minister of Environment for ROK; Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment, Ministry of the Environment of Japan; the Head of Division, Department of International Environmental Cooperation, Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation; and Deputy Director-General, Department of International Cooperation, SEPA of China.

ROK Minister of Environment noted the significance of NEASPEC as a key mechanism to resolve transboundary environmental issues in the sub-region. He suggested that NEASPEC member countries discuss the establishment of **NEASPEC ministerial meeting** and the **programme secretariat** as a way to strengthen its institutional mechanism and activities. He also suggested that the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Japan, ROK and China (TEMM) would be able to consider joining forces to hold the NEASPEC ministerial meeting if NEASPEC could provide some feasible mechanisms.

The Japanese representative expressed her anticipation for the evolution of NEASPEC as **a forum of policy dialogue** to resolve common environmental problems in North-East Asia. Regarding the issue of the ministerial meeting, while she principally welcomed the idea, she expressed reservation with explanation that further consultations within the government would be necessary.

The **Mongolian** representative expressed his anticipation for successful implementation of NEASPEC activities and reaffirmed the government's commitments to NEASPEC. However, he made reservation about the proposal for the ministerial meeting by saying that he would inform the secretariat of the government's position on the issue afterwards.

The representative from **Russian Federation** expressed his support for a regular ministerial meeting since the government has established bilateral agreements on environmental cooperation with all NEASPEC member countries. Taking this opportunity, he also informed other governments that the Ministry of Natural Resources has been consulting with relevant financial ministries for making voluntary financial contribution to NEASPEC.

The representative from **China** recognized NEASPEC as a key mechanism for environmental cooperation in North-East Asia, and the meaningfulness of the proposal on ministerial meeting. However, he noted the need to prepare a long-term plan on the financial and institutional mechanisms of NEASPEC before launching a ministerial meeting.

The Executive Secretary from ESCAP concurred with the idea of ROK environment minister on a ministerial meeting and indicated that ESCAP would explore appropriate schemes for the meeting. He also requested the member countries of NEASPEC to make additional endeavors for the active participation of the DPRK in environmental cooperation in North-East Asia.

The meeting constituted a meaningful avenue to promote a common view of the high-level participants on the significance of NEASPEC for responding to subregional demand of collective actions on environmental problems, and the need to strengthen its role. While being organized as an informal meeting, the meeting put forward a key recommendation, i.e. **the consideration of a long-term vision and plan on NEASPEC's institutional mechanisms including the structure of governing and operational bodies, the scope of activities, and coordination mechanisms with other relevant subregional initiatives on environmental cooperation, and financial mechanisms.**

SOM-11 reviewed the recommendations of the informal gathering of the environment ministers of NEASPEC. To respond, the Meeting requested the secretariat to prepare a paper presenting possible institutional mechanisms for the future of NEASPEC, including all the abovementioned key areas, to circulate among the member countries well in advance of the SOM-12 to ensure that substantial consultations were conducted within the governments of the member countries, as well as between the member countries through the appropriate forum.

Meanwhile, the member countries were requested to express, through diplomatic channels, their views as to whether NEASPEC should organize

occasional **ministerial gatherings on an informal basis in the margin of other ministerial forums**. The meeting welcomed the proposal by ROK that it was ready to take a leading role in organizing such informal gathering during the period between SOM-11 and SOM-12.

Financial Mechanism

SOM-11 expressed the appreciation for the contribution of US \$ 50,000 by China to the Core Fund in 2005. It also welcomed the remark by the Russian Federation that, in addition to providing in-kind technical cooperation, she was ready to provide financial contribution to the NEASPEC Core Fund after the appropriate government decisions have been made in accordance with national procedures.

The meeting approved the Secretariat's report on project modification. The meeting supported the view expressed by the Japanese delegation that the budget for "research/ programme assistants" should be used for the costs of staff directly involved in the implementation of this particular project, rather than for general overhead costs. The delegation also expressed that budget revisions should be approved at SOM. Meanwhile, the secretariat expressed the need to maintain a certain degree of flexibility for the smooth implementation of projects.

Joint Activities

Ongoing Project: Nature Conservation

Approved by SOM-10, the project "A Framework for a Nature Conservation Programme in North-East Asia" aimed to assist NEASPEC member countries in undertaking joint action on nature conservation through a subregional conservation strategy and action plan, a common methodology for data collection and management, and activities for awareness-raising. In addition, the project selected target species among feline animals and migratory birds, and to combine in-situ and ex-situ conservation methods so as to formulate a

more feasible and effective mechanism for subregional action.

Based on the project concept and its Work Plan, the Inception Meeting of the project was held on 18-21 July 2005 in Chuncheon, ROK, and Kumkang Nature Reserve, DPRK. Attended by government officials and experts of feline animals and migratory birds from China, Japan, Mongolia, ROK and the Russian Federation, the meeting consisted of two main parts: 1) discussion sessions on the approach and plan of the project; and 2) study tours to the nature reserves in both ROK and DPRK.

The discussion sessions reviewed past and ongoing subregional nature conservation projects, and focused on how to arrange an impact-oriented project framework. The meeting finalized the selection of target species, the overall direction of the nature conservation strategy and action plan, the approach of database development and data collection, working modalities, and collaboration with other organizations.

Since the Inception Meeting, the secretariat has followed up with the NFPs to designate national collaborating centers which would provide required national inputs to a database, a subregional conservation strategy and action plan for target species.

In addition, Japan Wildlife Research Center (JWRC), based on the outcomes of the working group and the Inception Meeting, and the information from relevant strategies, has developed a draft structure of subregional strategy and action plan.

The secretariat planned to organize an EGM early December, 2005 in China to finalize the identification of key components of database, review the development of a strategy and action plan, identify the possible pilot projects,

and decide roles and responsibilities of national collaborating centers.

SOM-11 recognized the significance of the nature conservation project in NEASPEC as the project utilized a major part of the current Core Fund account and expanded the scope of NEASPEC. The meeting noted the efforts of the secretariat in implementing the project to produce concrete outcomes, which could raise the visibility of NEASPEC. Also, the Meeting stressed it would be important to maintain in the revised activity plan the database management and exchange visits.

Ongoing Project: Air Pollution

To implement the follow up project proposed during SOM-10, ADB in collaboration with ESCAP, would select the consultants and research institutes to carry out the study. PRC, Mongolia and ROK would nominate the focal point. It might be necessary therefore that a proper and efficient mechanism be provided to bring DPRK and Russian Federation into the projects. The ADB has included the proposal as an US\$800,000 grant project for the year 2006 (stand-by) and 2007 (firm) in the Bank's Regional Strategy and Program for 2006-2008. Thus, the project was expected to receive the final approval in 2006 or 2007 depending on the funding situation, while it was assured that the project would start no later than the second quarter of 2007.

It was expected that SOM-11 would discuss potential co-financing mechanisms by harnessing other resources such as the Core Fund and other donors.

In response, SOM-11 requested the secretariat to develop possible options to facilitate the participation of DPRK and the Russian Federation in the above-mentioned project. The Meeting also requested the secretariat to initiate appropriate preparatory actions for the timely implementation of the project, which was expected to start in 2007. The meeting also noted the importance of the synergy between other relevant initiatives and ongoing programmes in

the sub-region.

New Project: Eco-Efficiency

SOM-11 appreciated the conclusions and recommendations of the EGM on emerging issues related to Green Growth in North-East Asia. In particular, it agreed to request the secretariat to organize another EGM, most probably in the first half of 2006 to identify priority areas of future cooperation and to undertake further in-depth discussions on the issues related with eco-efficiency.

The meeting appreciated the secretariat for reporting on the MCED-2005 its major outcomes, in particular, the *Seoul Initiative on Environmentally Sound Economic Growth* (Green Growth) and plans for the follow-up activities at the regional level, including the Regional Policy Dialogue on Green Growth, from 8 to 9 November 2005, and the First Meeting of the Seoul Initiative Network for Green Growth (SINGG) from 10 to 11 November, both to be held in Seoul, ROK. Welcoming the successful advancement since MCED2005, the meeting recognized the importance of developing sub-region-specific activities in relation with the regional follow-up to the major outcomes of MCED-2005, which should be tailored to meet the specific needs of the member countries.

New Projects: North-East Asia Environmental Outlook

Considering the request from the SOM as well as the necessity to uphold a sense of environmental community among policy makers, civil society and the private sector, UNEP and the secretariat have developed a project concept on a publication entitled 'North-East Asia Environment Outlook' and presented it for the consideration of SOM-11.

This joint effort was drawn from the recognition of the clear synergy between the mandate and programme of UNEP on environmental assessment and desired roles of NEASPEC in addressing new environmental issues of

subregional cooperation. The project concept was also developed to support NEASPEC member countries in the implementation of the Green Growth Initiative.

SOM-11 reviewed the joint proposal and found it to be in line with the vision of NEASPEC and, therefore, could eventually be taken up as NEASPEC project in the future. The meeting, nevertheless, emphasized the needs for further elaboration of its modality of cooperation amongst relevant international and national institutions, and budget plan. The meeting also stressed the importance of ensuring the maximum use of existing data and information with a view to minimizing the additional budgetary requirement as well as the burden to the national institutions participating in the project. The meeting requested that a revised project proposal be developed and circulated among the member countries for further consultation.

Conclusion:

SOM-11 marked a new orientation of NEASPEC by bringing up two key elements of institutional upgrading, i.e. ministerial meeting and a long-term vision; and by incorporating eco-efficiency (Green Growth related) into its activities. The project has definitely placed higher requirement on NEASPEC's institutional and financial mechanisms to fulfill its role as a policy dialogue forum.

Concluding Remarks for Chapter One

Chapter one went back in time to offer a historical perspective towards NEASPEC evolution and growth, both in terms of institutions and activities. It is hoped that through the historic review, the readers would gain a better understanding to the significance of institutional and financial upgrading urgently in need today.

Chapter Two

Environmental Cooperation Initiatives in North-East Asia

This chapter provides profiles of other sub-regional and regional environmental cooperative organizations to facilitate partnership building, to maximize impact for improving environmental quality and to offer a knowledge basis of the institutional building experiences of other regional organizations for the future of NEASPEC.

Northeast Asia Conference on Environmental Cooperation (NEAC)

NEAC is an inter-agency forum for policy dialogue among officials of environmental ministries and agencies from China, Japan, ROK, Mongolia and Russian Federation. Researchers, local government officials, observers from related international organizations and representatives of NGOs have also been invited to the conferences held annually since 1992. NEAC has provided participants with opportunities to exchange information, share experiences and discuss actions to be taken in the future.

A wide array of topics has been discussed at past Conferences. These included, among others: the role of local governments and NGOs in North-East Asia; major environmental policies in North-East Asia; Urban Environmental Problems; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); integrated coastal area management; establishing sustainable energy policies, Cooperative Measures on the Trans-boundary Movement of Pollutants, etc. The 13th Meeting covered the topics on the 'Species Restoration', 'Ecological Restoration in Local Governments' and

'Sustainable Management of Industrial Complex', in particular, the construction of eco-town and environmentally friendly parks, and shared concrete measures such as clean production programs and eco-efficient management systems. NEAC utilizes a multi-stakeholder approach for environmental cooperation with the participation of the local authorities.

The conference itself does not result in any project or programme-oriented activities.

Tripartite Environment Ministers' Meeting (TEMM)

The late 1990s saw the emergence of environmental collaborative efforts at highest degree of political representation. Following a proposal by ROK, the TEMM among China, Japan and ROK was held yearly since January 1999. The three countries recognized the need to cooperate and to improve the level and quality of environmental cooperation in the sub-region. Ministers of Environment have decided to develop and work on concrete projects, focusing particularly on raising consciousness of the people of the member countries as an environmental community, conducting joint environmental training, preventing freshwater pollution and land-based marine pollution, and on promoting eco-industry or eco-business. TEMM and its projects nurture communication between environmental administrations, creates a broad network of local governments, non-governmental organizations, experts, financial consultants and researchers from the member countries.

The Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

As part of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme, NOWPAP was officially launched in 1994 at the first Intergovernmental Meeting held in Seoul, striving to wisely use and maintain the sustainability of coastal marine resources. Four nations – ROK, China, Japan and Russian Federation - adopted the *Action Plan for the*

Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region.

Organizational Structure and Major Activities

A creative and practical element in the institutional arrangement of NOWPAP is the co-hosted Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) established in November 2004 in Toyama, Japan and Busan, Korea. In accordance with the decisions of NOWPAP member countries, the RCU, serving as the Secretariat for various activities related to the *Action Plan*, is involved in direction-giving, coordination, programme management, financial management, and administration. In addition, its staff is active in seeking partnerships with other projects, programmes and organizations dealing with the marine environment.

The implementation of the *Action Plan* comprises the projects running in parallel. These projects are entrusted to national institutions based on their institutional and technical strength. In turn, the institutions are supported by relevant regional and international organizations. In this connection, four Regional Activity Centers (RACs) were established in 2000-2002. Each NOWPAP member state hosts one RAC and they are respectively located in Beijing (China), Toyama (Japan), Daejeon (Korea) and Vladivostok (Russian Federation). Staff salary, office space, equipment and other related administrative expenses are covered by the host country of each RAC as in-kind contributions.

The RACs are: the Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center in China (DINRAC), the Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center in Japan (CEARAC), the Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Center in Korea (MERRAC); and the Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity

Center in Russia (POMRAC).

Thus far, seven priority project areas have been identified and pinned down for implementation. They are:

- ✧ *the establishment of a comprehensive database and information management system;*
- ✧ *a survey of national environmental legislation, objectives, strategies and policies;*
- ✧ *the establishment of a collaborative, regional monitoring programme;*
- ✧ *the development of effective measures for regional cooperation in marine pollution preparedness and response;*
- ✧ *the establishment of regional activity centers and their networks;*
- ✧ *public awareness raising on the marine, coastal and associated freshwater environment; and*
- ✧ *the assessment and management of land-based activities.*

The RACs play a central role in coordinating regional activities in specific fields of priority through a network of national institutions designated by the NOWPAP members.

The Special Monitoring & Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center (CEARAC) in Toyama, Japan coordinates activities related to monitoring and assessment of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and application of Remote Sensing to marine environment monitoring in the region. National reports on HAB and on applications of Remote Sensing will be published in 2005.

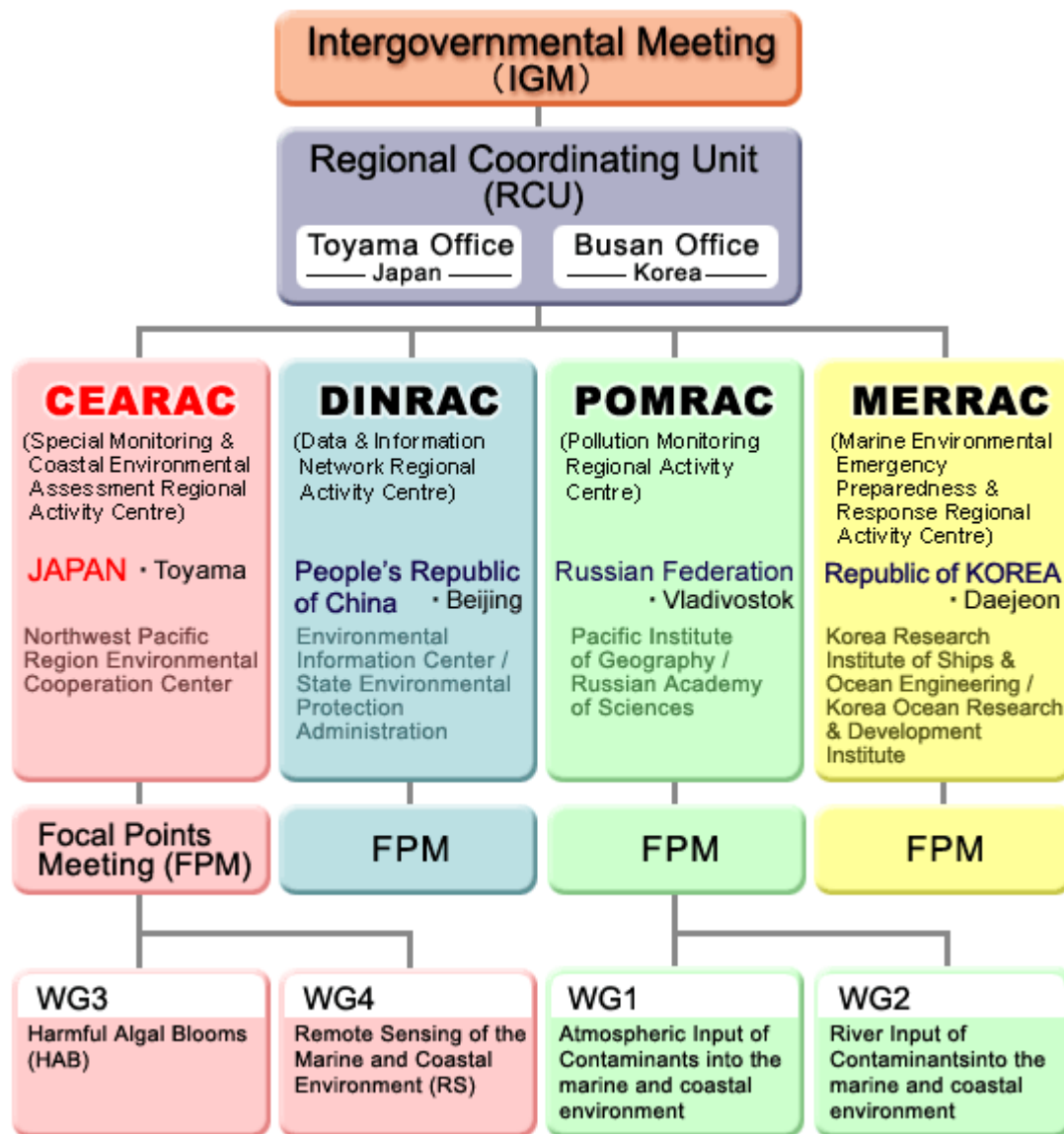
Data & Information Network Regional Activity Center (DINRAC) in Beijing, China is working to develop and create a region-wide data and information

management system. The establishment of comprehensive databases is one of their activities, and regional databases for institutions and experts on coastal and marine environment and national reports on data and information networks were already published in 2004.

Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness & Response Regional Activity Center (MERRAC) in Daejeon, ROK coordinates activities related to effective measures for marine pollution preparedness and response. Regional reports on shoreline clean-up and environmental sensitivity mapping has been completed in 2005.

Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center (POMRAC) in Vladivostok, Russia is responsible for monitoring of contaminants inputs from atmosphere and from rivers. National reports on atmospheric deposition of contaminants and on river and direct inputs of contaminants to the marine and coastal environment were published in 2005.

In addition, four working groups have been set up dealing, respectively, with remote sensing, harmful algal bloom (HAB), atmospheric deposition of contaminants and river and direct input of contaminants. POMRAC and CEARAC are responsible for two Working Groups each. The Working Group panels are composed of two experts from related research institutes or government bodies in the member states (currently four countries) plus one or two special advisor from academia. Under the administration of different RACs (for detailed information see the organizational chart below), the Working Groups convene expert meetings each year and report through their responsible RACs to the Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP.



Organizational Structure of NOWPAP (Figure One)

Financial Matters

In the initial stages, activities agreed upon as part of the implementation of the Action Plan were financially supported by UNEP and in-kind contributions from the United Nations and other bodies. However, participating states acknowledged the need for financial commitments on their part and the ratio of members' financial and in-kind inputs to contributions from the United Nations systems will increase until the financing of the action plan is independent of funding from the United Nations system.

The participating governments agreed to establish a NOWPAP Trust Fund for the implementation of the Action Plan adopted by the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region. At the second Intergovernmental Meeting in 1995, NOWPAP member states agreed on the following scale of annual contributions which was applied ever since: China-US\$40,000; Japan-US\$ 125,000; Korea- Korea – US\$100,000; Russia – US\$50,000. This scale of contribution for each member state, composed of 5 percent of the target sum—US\$500,000 plus extra percentages depending on the economic strength of the nation, is presented as follows:

NOWPAP Member	Basic %	Additional %	Total
People's Republic of China	5	3	40,000
Japan	5	20	125,000
The Republic of Korea	5	15	100,000
Russian Federation	5	5	50,000
Total	20	43	315,000

Despite some unfulfilled pledges at certain years, substantial amount of contributions have been made to the Fund by the member states since its establishment. The NOWPAP balance amounted to US\$1.4 million by the end of 2004.

The administration and management of the NOWPAP Trust Fund is governed by the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. It is understood that these rules provide that, *inter alia*, UNEP shall make a deduction equal to 13 percent of all expenditures financed from the Trust Fund to defray administrative support costs.

The expenditures of the NOWPAP Trust Fund are financed from contributions in accordance with the decisions on financial arrangements adopted by the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region. It is also stipulated that no expenditure from the NOWPAP Trust Fund shall be made before a minimum of US\$ 50,000 has been contributed to the Trust Fund. All contributions shall be paid in fully convertible United States dollars.

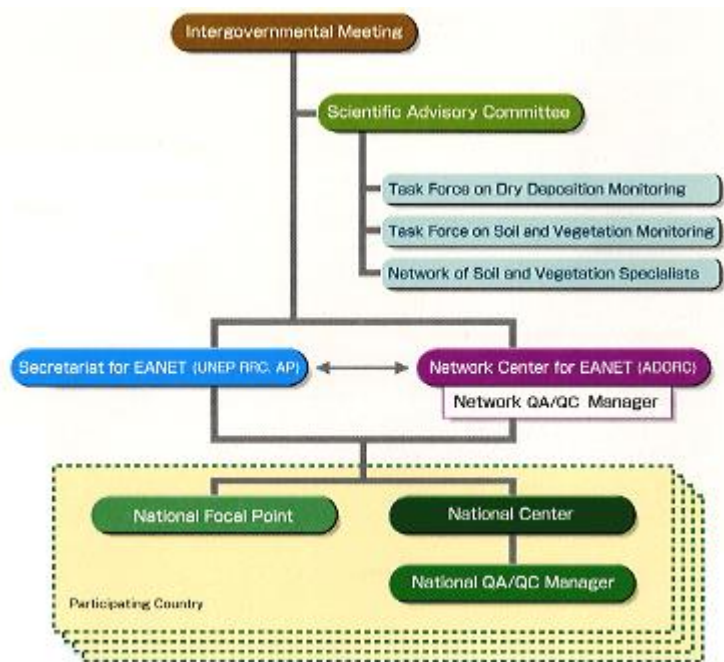
The NOWPAP Trust Fund is subject to audit by the United Nations Internal Audit Service. The Executive Director of UNEP, through his/her reports to the Intergovernmental Meetings, shall report on the status of the Trust Fund.

Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)

Initiated by the Government of Japan, EANET began its preparatory-phase activities in 1998 and its regular activities in 2001. Japan bore all the operating costs and provides financial and technical assistance on monitoring activities to developing member countries through its official development assistance. However, the Inter-governmental Meeting held in 2005 proposed to further consider a mechanism to decide the amount of voluntary financial contributions from participating countries, and consider the establishment of a trust fund for EANET.

The network links ten national governments and their monitoring sites. They are China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, The Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand and Viet Nam. Using common guidelines and technical manuals, the network has been collecting, compiling and evaluating monitoring data on acid deposition. The Japan Ministry of Environment was administering and coordinating activities as interim Secretariat of the Network until UNEP took over in 2002. The Second Session of

Intergovernmental Meeting designated the Acid Deposition and Oxidant Research Center (ADORC) in Japan as the Network Center for EANET. From 2001 on, the Intergovernmental Meeting, the decision-making body of EANET, of was held back to back with the session of Scientific Advisory Committees, which seeks to provide scientific and technical support for the former.



Organizational Chart of EANET (Figure Two)

The Environment Congress for Asia and Pacific (Eco-Asia)

Eco-Asia, an inter-agency environmental initiative, was started by the Environmental Agency (now the Ministry of Environment) of Japan in 1991, with the objective of fostering policy dialogue and cooperation on environmental and developmental issues among environmental ministers of participating countries. While Eco-Asia was originally intended as an informal forum for information exchange and discussion between ministers, it has endorsed the *Eco-Asia Long-term Perspective Project* to identify options for environmental policies that promote long-term sustainable development of

the Asia-Pacific region. This project has identified major environmental issues confronting the region, examined their links with socio-economic issues and forecasted the future social, economic and environmental issues that may result from different regional development scenarios. The 13th Environmental Congress was held in Japan 2005. Two areas covered in the discussion were 'Local Initiatives to Address Global Environmental Issues' and 'Report on the Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED) and its Future Activities.'

Chapter Three Regional Environmental Programmes in Asia and the Pacific

ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASEAN-ASOEN)

Introduction

This section will introduce how the ASEAN-ASOEN developed institutionally into what they are at present; the areas of ASOEN's environmental concern and major activities conducted within the institutional framework of ASEAN-ASOEN; and the financial mechanism that shores up its functions.

Organizational Overview

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was founded in 1967 with an aim to encourage stable relations among five members (now the membership has expanded to ten countries³⁰ in the region) by promoting economic, social, and cultural cooperation in the spirit of equality and partnership.

The **ASEAN Secretariat** was established on 24 February 1976 by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN. *The Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Secretariat*³¹ stated that the basic mandate of the ASEAN Secretariat is "to provide for greater efficiency in the coordination of ASEAN organs and for more effective implementation of ASEAN projects and activities". The more detailed functions of the ASEAN Secretariat were embodied in the functions and powers of the Secretary-General. The ASEAN Secretariat was established with the following composition: Secretary-General, three Bureau Directors, a Foreign Trade and Economic Relations Officer, an Administrative Officer, a Public Information Officer and an Assistant to the Secretary-General.

30 They are Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia.

31 See Annex 16.

The ASEAN Secretariat has now put in place a functional structure. One of the two Deputy Secretaries-General has assumed the role of chief-of-staff who shall be responsible for corporate affairs to ensure efficiency in the internal management of the ASEAN Secretariat. The other Deputy Secretary-General shall serve as chief of operations, who supports the Secretary-General in operations and policy matters.

Corporate affairs shall include the following areas: administration; finance and funding; human resources; public information; information technology; and special projects. The operational bureaus will include the Task Force for Financial Cooperation and Macroeconomic Surveillance; Economic and Functional Cooperation; Trade, Investment and Services; and Programme Coordination and External Relations.

The measures aimed at improving internal management of the ASEAN Secretariat include:

- ❖ *formulate annual operating plans to provide a framework for determining the Secretariat's priorities and resource allocation decisions;*
- ❖ *strengthen corporate services, particularly in financial management, IT services, and human resources development;*
- ❖ *considerable increase in professional Locally-Recruited Staff to free senior officers' time from administrative and secretarial tasks, enabling greater focus on strategic and substantive matters.*

Featuring the 'ASEAN Way'³² of regional cooperation, activities are mainly

32 ASEAN WAY is characterized by non-interference or non-intervention in other member states' domestic affairs, as understood in the UN Charter, Article 2 (7); Consensus building and cooperative programs rather than legally binding treaties; preference over national implementation of programme rather than reliance on a strong region-wide bureaucracy.

undertaken by each ASEAN member state at the national level. Members agree on common measures, decide how to implement them, and contribute according to their capabilities, acknowledging that ASEAN member states have achieved different levels of development, and therefore differ in their capacities for action.

ASEAN started to integrate the environment into its complex system of regional consultations on the aforementioned areas pursuant to the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972.

The concrete collaborative efforts on the environment dated back to 1977, when the ASEAN Sub-regional Environment Programme I (ASEP I) was prepared and implemented by the ASEAN Experts Group on the Environment (AEGE) under the purview of the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology. The status of AEGE was upgraded to the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN) in 1989. Since then, the organizational structure of the ASEAN cooperation in the field of environment consists of ASOEN and its subsidiary bodies, the Meeting of the ASEAN Environment Ministers and the ASEAN Secretariat (through its Environment Unit of the Economic and Functional Cooperation Bureau.)

A Summit of the ASEAN heads of state and government, ASEAN's highest decision-making body, is held every three years. These high-level panels pave the way for intermediate, ministerial-level meetings, and provide proposals for decisions to be adopted by consensus at the ministerial level. Ministerial meetings by sector – including agriculture and forestry, economics, energy, environment, finance, labor, regional haze, rural development and poverty alleviation, science and technology, and social welfare – are convened in tandem with the Summit. Every three years, well before the meeting of the heads of state and government, ASEAN holds a Ministerial Meeting on the

Environment. In each country, National Focal Points are responsible for carrying out ASEAN initiatives. The ASEAN Secretariat administers all those activities. This organizational structure facilitates cooperation among ASEAN member states and enhances the Association's ability to cooperate with other countries. (see the organizational structure below)

As an organ responsible for environmental affairs within the structure of ASEAN, ASOEN carry out a series of activities:

✧ Prepare for ASEAN's regional participation in international environmental governance deliberations;

✧ Establish guidelines pertaining to pollution, biodiversity, climate changes, forests and related environmental matter;

✧ Work towards harmonization of environmental standards for ambient air and river quality

Financial Matters

ASEAN has established several funds for various purposes. Among these are the ASEAN Foundation Fund, the ASEAN Science Fund, and the ASEAN Cultural Fund.

The ASEAN Foundation Fund was established in December 1997 by member countries to support activities in education, health and culture; The ASEAN Foundation Fund comes from voluntary contributions from ASEAN Member States, Dialogue Partners, private corporations and other foundations or individuals. The Fund has three accounts, namely, the Endowment Account, the Operational Account and the Projects Account. All contributions are paid to any of these accounts, as specified by the donors. If unspecified by the donors, the contributions are paid into the Endowment Account. The Endowment Account is invested to realize income for the Foundation. The

Operational Account provides for the day-to-day operational and administrative expenditures of the Secretariat of the Foundation. The Projects Account provides financing for approved projects. The Board of Trustees of the Foundation decides the allocation of the annual income from the Endowment Account to any of the three accounts.

The ASEAN Science Fund was established in 1989 to support projects of the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology. The Fund is open to contributions from Member Countries, Dialogue Partners and other countries, international organizations, and other sources such as the private sector, multilateral development agencies and foundations. The Fund was initiated with a seed contribution of US\$ 50,000 from each Member Country. In 1998, Member Countries agreed to contribute an equal amount of US\$ 1 million each (including the seed contribution), payable over a period of ten years. The amount of contribution to be remitted to the Science Fund annually is set by the member country, with no predetermined minimum amount. The only requirement is that the total contribution of US\$1 million be fully paid at the end of the ten-year period in 2008.

The ASEAN Science Fund is a trust fund that is invested to earn income. Only 80 per cent of the earned income is made available for funding projects and other activities while the remaining 20 per cent of the income is added to the **Capital Fund**. Because the Capital Fund is invested, the ASEAN Science Fund has grown to approximately US\$ 1.25 million, as of March 2001, with 20 per cent of the earnings having being added to the capital fund and 80 per cent having been utilized to fund various activities.

In 1978 the ASEAN Foreign Ministers signed an Agreement on the Establishment of the **ASEAN Cultural Fund** (ACF) to finance regional cooperation projects in culture and information. The ACF is open to voluntary contributions from

Member Countries, other countries, international bodies and other agencies. In the same year, the Government of Japan agreed to contribute five billion yen (about US\$ 25 million), of which two billion yen was remitted in 1978 and three billion yen in 1979.

An Advisory Group composed of officials of ASEAN countries who are involved in the management of foreign currency reserves advises ASEAN on the management of the Cultural Fund. The group's main responsibility is to see to it that the investments made out of the Fund conform to an Investment Policy Schedule drawn up by ASEAN. It meets once a year to consider the reports of the Fund's investments managers and to submit a report to the ASEAN Secretariat. The Fund is invested by two investment managers comprising one bank from Singapore and another bank from Malaysia. The Fund yields an annual income of about US\$ 2.5 to 3 million. Eighty per cent of this income is made available to finance regional cooperation projects on culture and information. The remaining 20 per cent is added into the capital fund. Since its establishment, the Fund has grown from US\$ 25 million to over US\$ 40 million, while providing about US\$ 2 million annually to support various subregional cooperation projects and activities.

Since the establishment of the Fund, it has not become necessary for member countries to contribute to the Fund because the voluntary contribution from Japan has earned enough income to support the activities of the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information, including funding for the meetings of its four Working Groups. At the same time, the Fund has continued to grow, thus providing a reliable source of funding for ASEAN cooperation in culture and information.

Major Activities

At the ASEAN Informal Summit held in 1997, ASEAN Heads of Government

adopted the *ASEAN Vision 2020*, striving to ensure environmental sustainability and high life quality of the people in this sub-region. At the ASEAN Summit in 1998 the ASEAN Leaders adopted the *Hanoi Plan of Action* (HPA) as the first six year plan of action towards the *ASEAN Vision 2020*. Fifteen points of action are related to environment. In this regard the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN) developed an *ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment* (SPAЕ) in support of the objectives stipulated in the HPA. The activities in the SPAЕ are grouped into the following five main areas:

- ❖ *Land Forest Fires and Haze;*
- ❖ *Nature Conservation and Biodiversity;*
- ❖ *Coastal and Marine Environment;*
- ❖ *International Environment Issues;*
- ❖ *Other Environment Activities.*

To carry out its function, ASOEN established three **Working Groups**, namely: Nature Conservation and Biodiversity, Coastal and Marine Environment and Multilateral Environmental Agreement represented by concerned agencies from the member countries. The working groups meet at least annually to discuss and plan collaborative programmes and activities.

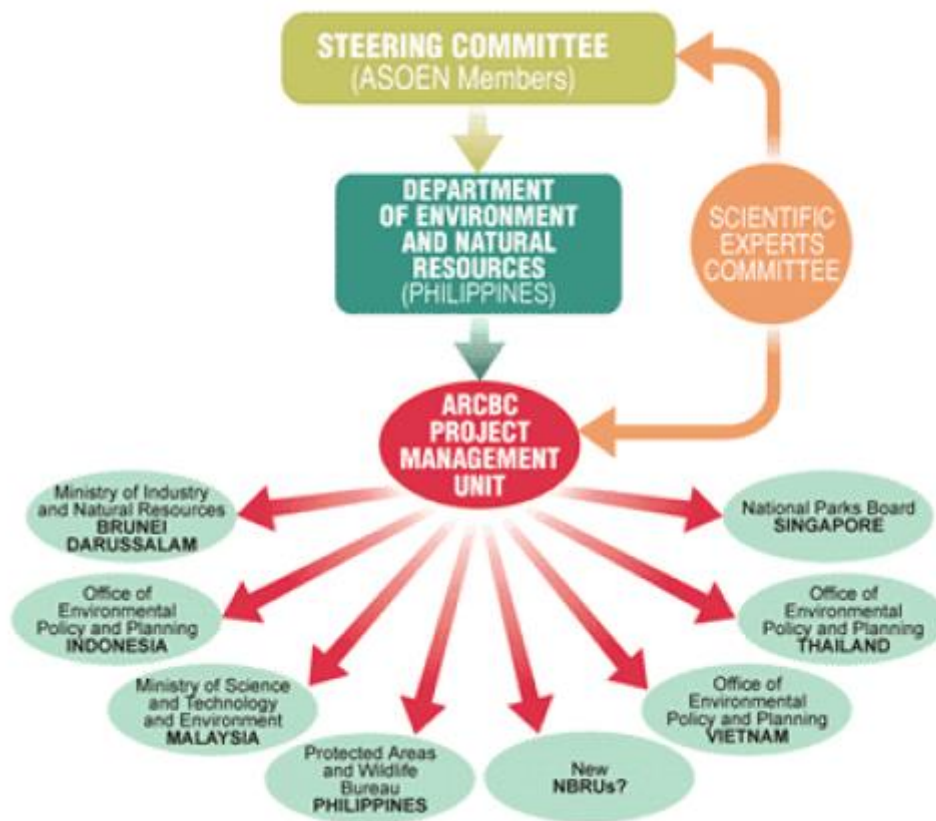
Recognizing the need to share information and to shape a common approach to biodiversity, member states initiated an **ASEAN Regional Center for Biodiversity Conservation (ARCBC)**³³, which serves as the central focus for networking and institutional linkage among ASEAN member countries and between ASEAN and the European Union (EU) partner organizations to enhance the capacity of ASEAN in promoting biodiversity conservation. As spelled out in the *Financing Agreement*, the EU provides the means for networking, applied research, training and technical assistance, while ASEAN provides office space and facilities and support personnel.

³³ Please refer to www.arcbc.org.ph

The four core functions of the ARCBC illustrate the problem solving approach that ASEAN has adopted regarding environmental concerns:

- ✧ *foster cooperation on biodiversity among ASEAN and European universities, research and training institutions;*
- ✧ *establish an ASEAN-EU biodiversity database;*
- ✧ *identify and address information gaps which impede effective management and protection of Southeast Asian biodiversity;*
- ✧ *analyze, document and disseminate information on biodiversity conservation.*

Across the region, in cooperation with the EU, the ARCBC is creating management systems for biological conservation as a foundation for sustaining the region's natural resources. The centre serves as the main focal point for networking and institutional linkage among ASEAN member countries, and with other regional organizations, to enhance the region's capacity to promote biodiversity conservation. The process also prepares the ASEAN members to participate in the Conference of Parties to the *Convention on Biological Diversity*.



Organizational Diagram of ARCBD (Figure Three)

The Steering Committee (SC), composed of members of the ASOEN and chaired by the ASOEN Chairman, is responsible for the overall coordination and guidance of ARCBC. The SC approves the project work plan and reports and the appointment of the ASEAN Coordinator. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is designated as the Executing Agency, acting in behalf of the ASEAN and is responsible to the Committee.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) is headed by the ASEAN Co-Director and the EU Co-Director administers ARCBC.

The Technical Assistance team is composed of long and short term experts.

The Scientific Experts Committee is composed of a panel of members

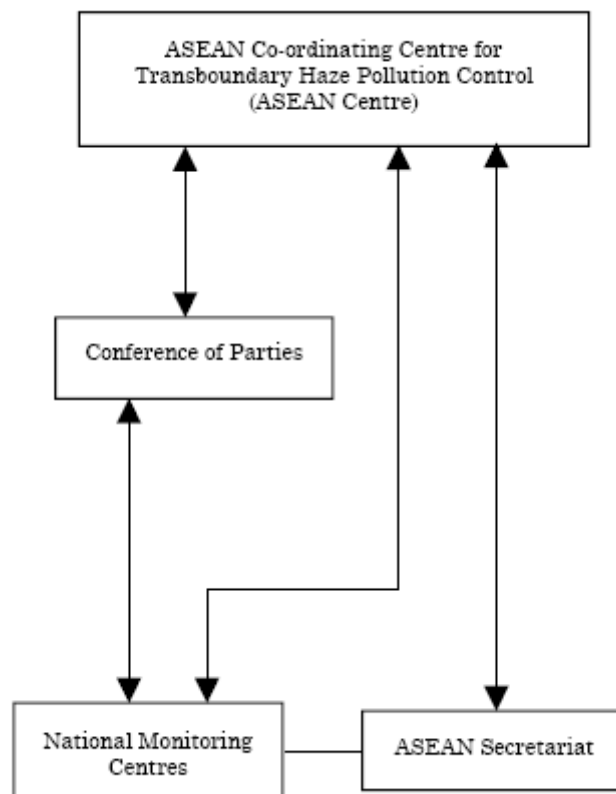
nominated by the ASEAN member countries and appointed by the SC. The body advises the PMU on research proposals to be included in the Research Programme and project work plan. It likewise approves the Research Programme that will be endorsed by the SC and the European Commission; helps prepare the Research Prospectus; and participates in the Research Conference. Serving as an interface of ARCBC with national authorities and biodiversity institutions is a National Biodiversity Reference Unit (NBRU), established and maintained within an existing institution in each ASEAN member country. NBRUs are responsible for providing a local instrument for in-country follow-up of ARCBC activities, constituting a first reference for the screening of research proposals for formal endorsement of ARCBC.

Another collaborative effort that merits special attention under **ASEAN Framework is the Regional Haze Action Plan (RHAP)** adopted by ASOEN Meeting in 1997, in response to the trans-boundary air pollution from burning biomass. To implement the RHAP, environment ministers from each country signed the ASEAN Agreement on Trans-boundary Haze in 2002. The *Agreement* entered into force on November 25, 2003, with ten governments' signatures and six ratifications.

This landmark *Agreement* seeks to prevent land and forest fires through better management policies; to establish operational mechanisms to monitor land and forest fires; and to strengthen regional land and forest fire-fighting capability and other mitigation measures. Under the *Agreement*, parties oblige themselves to develop information systems, including monitoring, assessment, and early warning to prevent and monitor transboundary haze pollution; provide necessary information regarding haze pollution originating within their borders; take legislative, administrative and other relevant measures to implement the *Agreement*. The *Agreement* demonstrates the resolve of ASEAN members to rally together to reach consensus on a hard law

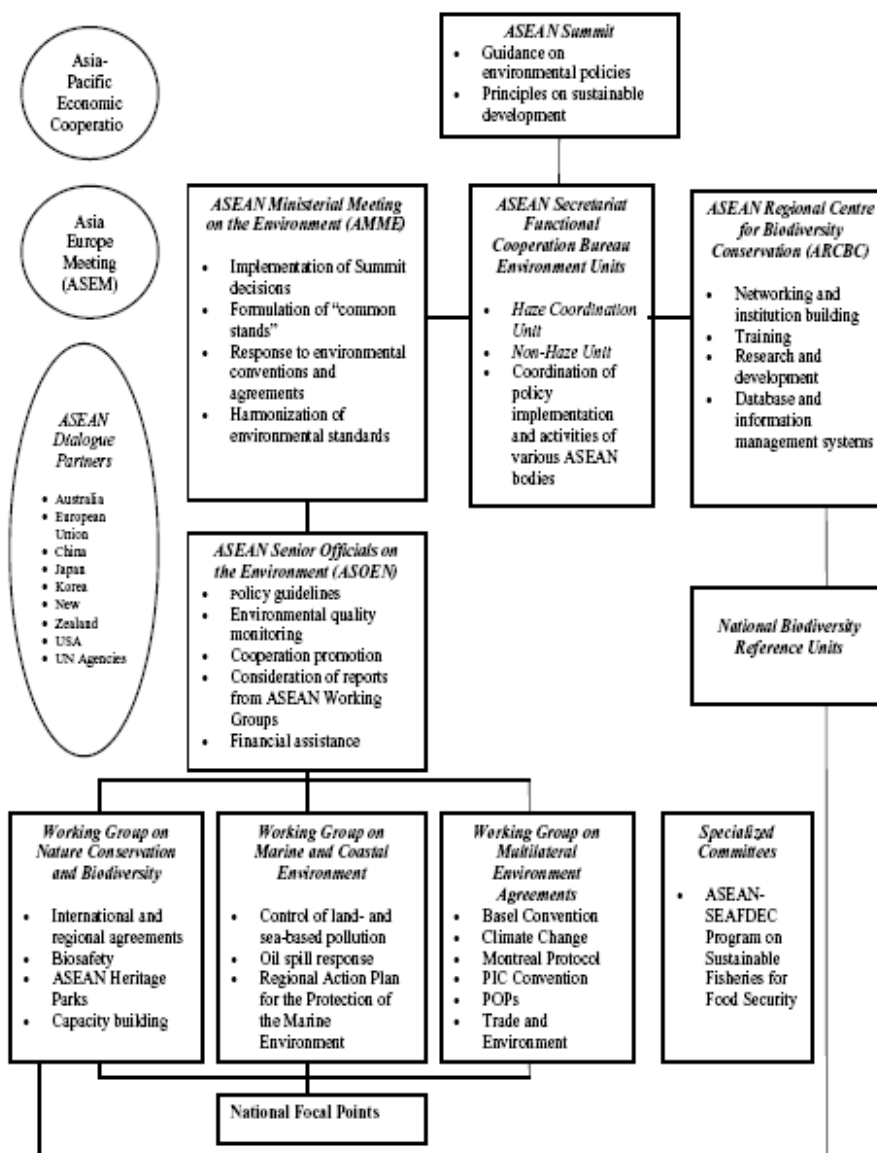
instrument to address the environmental crisis.

An **ASEAN Coordinating Center for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control** was established to facilitate cooperation among the participating countries. Similar to the ASEAN Regional Center for Biodiversity Conservation, its functions comprise data and information collection and analysis, networking, and capacity building. The Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control is mandated as an information clearinghouse functions regarding environmental threats, scientific capacities, technological options, and financing possibilities. It does not possess enforcement power, since it is up to the member nations to implement actions.



Governance Structure

ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution 2002 (Figure Four)



Organizational Structure of ASEAN (Figure Five)

Coastal and Marine Environment

ASEAN has continued to promote collaboration with various organizations involved in national and regional activities on coastal and marine environment in the region. Capacity building activities have been undertaken, with technical assistance from the **AADCP** (ASEAN Australia Development Cooperation Programme)³⁴ to expeditiously implement the ASEAN Marine Water Quality Criteria. This includes a review of national laws, regulations and

³⁴ Please refer to <http://www.aadcp.org/>

standards with a view to harmonization with ASEAN criteria; training on analytical, inter-calibration, and monitoring techniques; and consideration of additional marine water quality parameters.

Global Environmental Issues

ASEAN continues to promote common points of understanding in the negotiations and meetings of the various multilateral environmental agreements. Capacity-building activities in particular relating to the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have been carried out.

Integrated Water Resources Management

The ASEAN Working Group on Water Resources Management with the technical assistance of the AADCP drafted the ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on Water Resources Management for adoption by ASOEN in the latter part of 2005.

Environmentally Sustainable Cities

Following the adoption of the Framework for Environmentally Sustainable Cities in ASEAN in December 2003, ASEAN Member Countries have to-date nominated 23 cities to participate in implementing the Framework. As part of the effort to promote environmentally sustainable cities (ESC), a conference on ESC was held in Singapore to provide participating cities with an in-depth understanding of the Framework and to discuss and compile existing environmental best practices for ESC in the areas of clean air, clean water, and clean land.

South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)

Introduction

The section falls into three sub-sections: organizational overview, financial mechanism and major activities conducted since the foundation of South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP).

Organizational Overview

On the initiative of a number of countries in South Asia and the UNEP Regional office for Asia Pacific, an Inter-Governmental Expert Group Meeting was held in Bangalore, India in March 1980 to discuss the advantages of working cooperatively for the conservation of resources and wise environmental management. In accordance with the recommendations of the Bangalore meeting, a high-level meeting to establish SACEP was held in February 1981 in Colombo Sri Lanka. This Ministerial level meeting approved the *Colombo Declaration* and the *Articles of Association* for the establishment of SACEP. SACEP became a legal entity on the 7th January 1982, when the minimum required number of countries ratified the *Articles of Association of SACEP* and up to date eight countries, namely; Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have obtained membership of the organization. SACEP provided a solid basis and justification for member countries and collaborating international agencies to initiate cooperative projects.

The mission of SACEP is to promote regional cooperation in South Asia in the field of environment, both natural and human in the context of sustainable development and on issues of economic and social development which also impinge on the environment and vice versa; to support conservation and management of natural resources of the region and to work closely with all national, regional, and international institutions, governmental and non

governmental, as well as experts and groups engaged in such co-operation and conservation efforts.

Currently, SACEP operates independently, providing Secretariat and administrative services for implementing its own programmes, together with other environmental initiatives such as the *Malé Declaration* on air pollution endorsed by UNEP Environmental Assessment Programme for Asia and the Pacific. As a sub-regional intergovernmental environmental cooperation programme, SACEP consists of three major organs: the Governing Council, the Consultative Committee, and the Secretariat.

The Governing Council (GC) is the principal deliberative and review body responsible for determining policies, strategies and programmes. It is represented at the ministerial level and periodically meets to take decisions of strategic significance. Since becoming a legal entity in 1982, SACEP held eight regular GC meetings and three special sessions

In times of convening, Preparatory National Focal Points Meeting of both SACEP and South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) are held preceding Governing Council Meeting; while the Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting follows it.

The Consultative Committee (CC) is responsible for facilitating implementation of policies, strategies and programmes determined by the governing council. It consists of representatives of diplomatic missions of member countries residing in Colombo. The CC is also expected to provide guidance to the Secretariat in the planning, implementation and monitoring of programmes and projects. The consultative committee meets regularly to provide guidance to the SACEP Secretariat in its activities.

The Secretariat consists of the Director General, professional and administrative staff and supporting staff. The term of office of the Director General (DG) is a non-renewable period of three years. From SACEP's inception in 1982, the Director General was appointed in rotation from the member states in alphabetical order, until the completion of the first cycle. The method of appointment was amended in 2003 to merit-based recruitment. The DG is supposed to make efforts to mobilize additional resources in close consultation with UNEP and other development partners and provide regular progress reports to Nation Focal Points.

The main function of the Secretariat is to assist the Governing Council, the Consultative Committee, National Focal Points, and Subject Area Focal Points in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities. It is based in Colombo, Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan Government provides financial support for its existence.

Hosting and coordinating regional arms of international programmes and activities have been a major role played by SACEP. For example, SACEP since 1983 has served as the secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme, which comes under the umbrella of UNEP Regional Seas Programme. Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are the participatory countries of this programme and have ratified the Action Plan in 1995 for protecting and managing the coastal and marine resources in the region.

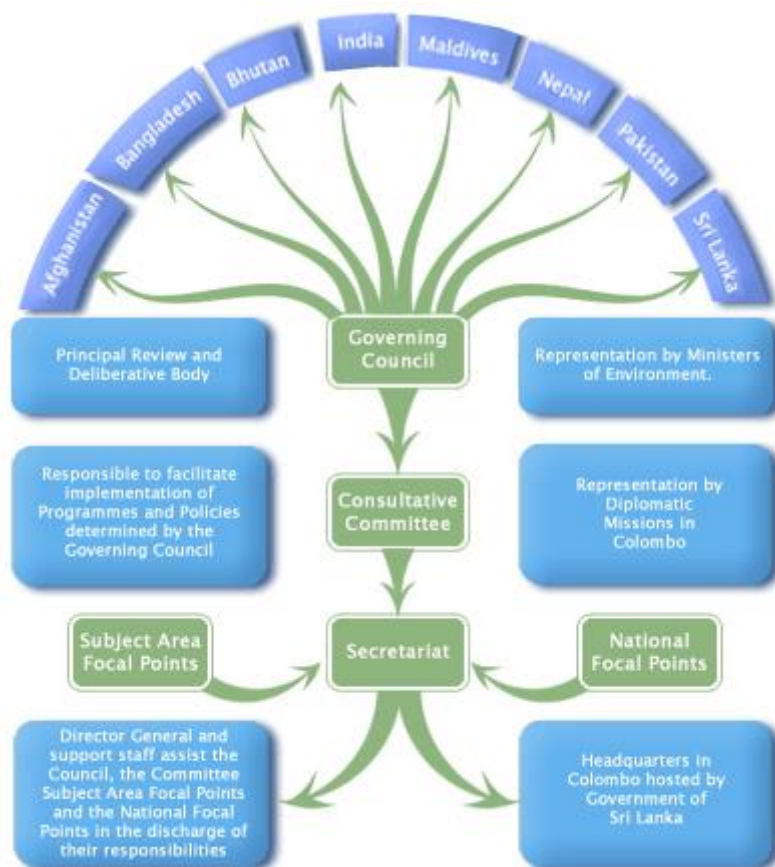
It is the responsibility of each member state to designate a **NFP** to facilitate the work of the Secretariat and to function as the main communication link with the member states and with the Secretariat. NFPs are expected to work towards the implementation of the national programmes and co-operate with the Secretariat in programme planning and implementation. The national

focal points are deemed to be liaison points in their countries for all matters related to SACEP including their own.

At an official level, secretaries of the ministries of environment are the designated national focal points of SACEP in the member countries. For operational needs, an official(s) of appropriate level are designated as the liaison officer to assist the secretaries in the discharge of the work related to SACEP.

SACEP 9th GC Meeting held in 2005 decided that the NFPs should meet twice a year; once, back to back prior to the GC meeting and once half-yearly. The related costs to the delegations attending these meetings would be borne by the respective countries.

The subject area focal points are expected to co-operate with the Secretariat in project identification, formulation, implementation and monitoring. The country, which is responsible for a particular subject area, designates a center of excellence in that subject and appoints a liaison officer.



Organization Chart of SACEP (Figure Six)

Financial Matters

SACEP planned to have four types of financial assistance for its activities and maintenance:

- ✧ Annual country contributions from the member governments on an agreed scale of assessment;
- ✧ The hosting and support facilities provided by the Government of Sri Lanka, as the host country of SACEP Secretariat;
- ✧ Financial assistance from bilateral and multilateral donors to implement specific projects and programme activities. Multi-lateral Funds-UNEP, UNDP, International Maritime Organization (IMO), ADB, ESCAP Bilateral Funds- Norwegian Development Aid (NORAD), SIDA;
- ✧ SACEP Trust Fund³⁵.

³⁵ SACEP has suffered shortfalls and deficits in country contributions. SACEP Trust Fund, established in 1994

At the 4th Governing Council Meeting (GCM) in 1998, SACEP member countries agreed on the scale of contribution based on a combination of elements of the South Asia Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and UN formula. Since the UN has a maximum limit of 25% for contribution by any member country, the weighted capacity SAARC formula adopted at the 4th GCM was taken as the basis of working out the weighted capacity of the seven participating countries of SACEP³⁶.

The minimum budgetary requirement for the **SACEP Secretariat** was USD 185,400³⁷, among which USD 58,000 was provided by the Secretariat host country, Sri Lanka. The sum has been deducted from the total budgetary requirements, which left the funding required from member countries at USD 127,400.

The chart for weighted capacity is given below:

Member State	Population (in millions) in 1983	as % of Total of 2	GDP / 1983 US \$ million	as % of Total of 4	GNP per Capita	as % of Total of 6	Weighted Capacity
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bangladesh	101.5	10.17	10,640	5.02	135	8.00	7.7
Bhutan	1.4	0.14	113	0.05	96	5.69	2.0
India	762.2	76.38	168,170	79.41	193	11.44	55.7

with a target of USD 500,000 to be obtained as voluntary contributions from member countries and other donors, have received no such contribution from the participating countries.

36 Afghanistan and Iran were not considered into such contribution formula because they have either ignored the contribution or have not ratified the articles of Association of SACEP.

37 This was the amount established in 1999.

Maldives	0.15	0.02	22	0.01	418	24.78	8.3
Nepal	17	1.70	2,180	1.03	145	8.60	3.8
Pakistan	99.2	9.94	25,880	12.22	360	21.34	14.5
Sri Lanka	16.4	1.64	4,770	2.25	340	20.15	8.0
	997.85	100	211775	100	1687	100	100

The working of the final level of contribution is attached as a Working Sheet for this Annex.

Total Funding considered was US \$ 127,400, among which member countries have taken the following shares:

DRAFT REVISED COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION CHART

MEMBER STATE	PERCENTAGE	CONTRIBUTION IN US \$	ROUNDED OFF TO IN US \$
BANGLADESH	16.72	21,301	21,300
BHUTAN	2.79	3,554	3,555
INDIA	25.00	31,850	31,850
MALDIVES	11.44	14,575	14,575
NEPAL	6.32	8,052	8,050
PAKISTAN	25.00	31,850	31,850

SRI LANKA	12.73	16,218	16,220
<u>TOTAL</u>	100	127,400	127,400

Weighted Capacity

Member State	Population (in millions) 1983	as % of Total of 2	GDP / 1983 US \$ (Millions)	as % of Total of 4	GNP per Capita	as % of Total of 6	Weighted Capacity
	1	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bangladesh	101.5	10.17	10,640	5.02	135	8.00	7.73
Bhutan	1.4	0.14	113	0.05	96	5.69	1.96
India	762.2	76.38	168,170	79.41	193	11.44	55.74
Maldives	0.15	0.02	22	0.01	418	24.78	8.27
Nepal	17	1.70	2,180	1.03	145	8.60	3.78
Pakistan	99.2	9.94	25,880	12.22	360	21.34	14.50
Sri Lanka	16.4	1.64	4,770	2.25	340	20.15	8.02
TOTAL	997.85	100	211775	100	1687	100	100

Based on the UN Formula, the contribution of India will be 25%. The extra percentage of 30.74 of India to be distributed according to weighted average of the other six countries and added on to their original percentage.

Member State	Population (in millions) 1983	as % of Total of 2	GDP / 1983 US \$ million	as % of Total of 4	GNP per Capita	as % of Total of 6	Weighted Capacity	Distribution of extra % of India	Original Percentage	Revised Total %
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
Bangladesh	101.5	43.07	10,640	24.40	135	9.04	25.5	7.840	7.73	15.570
Bhutan	1.4	0.59	113	0.26	96	6.43	2.4	0.746	1.96	2.706
Maldives	0.15	0.06	22	0.05	418	27.98	9.4	2.879	8.27	11.149
Nepal	17	7.21	2,180	5.00	145	9.71	7.3	2.246	3.78	6.026
Pakistan	99.2	42.10	25,880	59.35	360	24.10	41.8	12.864	14.5	27.364

Sri Lanka	16.4	6.96	4,770	10.94	340	22.76	13.6	4.166	8.02	12.186
TOTAL	235.65	100	43605	100	1494	100	100	30.740	44.26	75.00

In the revision, Pakistan too falls into the category of paying 25% of the Country contribution. The extra 2.35% of Pakistan is now distributed among the other 5 countries.

Member State	Population (in millions) 1983	as % of Total of 2	GDP / 1983 US \$ million	as % of Total of 4	GNP per Capita	as % of Total of 6	Weight-e d Capacity	Distribution of extra % of Pakistan	Original Percentage	Revised Total %
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
Bangladesh	101.5	74.39	10,640	60.03	135	11.90	48.8	1.15	15.570	16.72
Bhutan	1.4	1.03	113	0.64	96	8.47	3.4	0.08	2.706	2.79
Maldives	0.15	0.11	22	0.12	418	36.86	12.4	0.29	11.149	11.44

Nepal	17	12.46	2,180	12.30	145	12.79	12.5	0.30	6.026	6.32
Sri Lanka	16.4	12.02	4,770	26.91	340	29.98	23.0	0.54	12.186	12.73
TOTAL	136.45	100	17725	100	1134	100	100	2.36	47.637	50.00

The SACEP Trust Fund, as a result of the Second Meeting of National Focal Points on the Development of an Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the South Asian Seas Region, recommended that a Fund supporting the Action Plan should be established with SACEP entrusted with its management. The Fund is to receive annual contribution from the Member States to meet the cost of institutional arrangements; contributions from the Member States as well as from the UN, including catalytic funding from the UNEP Regional Seas programme and other organizations, agencies etc., to meet the cost of implementation of projects identified under the action plan; and contributions from any other source agreed to by the Member States.

SACEP has mostly relied on external financial support for developing and implementing its environmental activities. Much funding has come from international organizations as specified above. These funds have been provided mostly to support a single field, according to the donor's preference.

Substantial and more comprehensive project funding started only in 1992 with NORAD assistance for SACEP Strategy and Programme (SSP) I & II. Most of them were co-financed by UNEP, SACEP and UNESCAP. In-kind contributions were also given by the participating countries. NORAD funding however, have not covered all the priority areas identified. As a whole, the external funding is unfortunately insufficient to carry out all the planned activities of SACEP.

Major Activities

SACEP's programme activities are promoted within an agreed framework of regional co-operation for environmental sound sustainable development. It includes the following priority areas:

- ✧ Capacity building
- ✧ Assessment and strategy development

✧ Experience sharing

As an independent intergovernmental environmental cooperation organization, the nature and scope of SACEP is comprehensive. In collaboration with various partners, SACEP has implemented a number of programmes in the **fields** of environmental law, biodiversity, air pollution, education, multi-lateral environmental agreements, coastal and marine environment etc. The **modality** of cooperation for the SACEP varies in practice from policy dialogue, technical cooperation to project-based activities. Regular meetings for policy dialogue involve two channels, one at the environment minister level and one at the senior official level. There have been a number of workshops, symposiums and seminars for exchange of information and data, formulation of specific action plans, training of policy makers, scientists, and biologists on regular basis.

In 1991, SACEP with the assistance of UNEP/ROAP conducted a review of the SACEP, and result was the formulation of SACEP's Strategy and Programme I (SSP I), stretching from 1992 to 1996. Thereafter, SACEP has formulated SACEP Strategy and Programme II (SSP II) covering 1996-2000, and SSP III covering 2001-2006.

So far, SACEP has undertaken the following priority subject matter areas:

- ✧ Conservation of biodiversity
- ✧ Sustainable tourism development
- ✧ Management of coral island ecosystems
- ✧ Management of fresh water resources
- ✧ Desertification
- ✧ Environmental legislation
- ✧ Participatory forest management
- ✧ Sustainable agriculture and land use

- ✧ Sustainable human settlements development
- ✧ Waste management
- ✧ Science and technology for sustainable development
- ✧ Education and environment
- ✧ Air pollution

The following are some Projects undertaken to tackle environmental problems related to the areas above:

SASP

With the formation of SACEP, the interest of South Asian Coastal States in the Regional Seas Programme of UNEP was revived. At the request of these States, the 'South Asian Seas' has been designated by the Governing Council of UNEP as an area in which UNEP, in close collaboration with SACEP and the Governments concerned, assisted in the formulation of a Plan of Action for the environmental protection of the region within the Framework of the Regional Seas Programme, in line with the provisions of Chapter 17 of *Agenda 21*. For the purposes of this *Action Plan*, the South Asian Seas Region covers the marine and related coastal environment, including international waters adjacent to the following states: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

The *Action Plan of South Asia Seas Programme (SASP)*, in addition to specifying the needs under the main components of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Management, Environmental Legislation & Institutional and Financial Arrangements, identified the areas where priority activities need to be developed for implementation under the *Action Plan*. These priority activities are in four specific areas:

- ✧ *Integrated Coastal Zone Management;*
- ✧ *Development and Implementation of National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning;*
- ✧ *Human Resources Development through Strengthening Regional Centers of Excellence;*

- ✧ *Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution.*

Based on the *Action Plan*, the current activities have been expanded to include

- ✧ *integrated coastal area and river basin management;*
- ✧ *turtle conservation;*
- ✧ *coral reef management;*
- ✧ *oil spills;*
- ✧ *global international water assessment;*
- ✧ *global programme of action activities;*
- ✧ *collaborating with UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Center;*
- ✧ *bay of Bengal large marine ecosystem project;*
- ✧ *establishment of regional activity center.*

SENRIC

Since the inception of SACEP, exchange and access to information was seen as a priority for the development of the region. To facilitate this, the Regional Environmental and Natural Resources Information Center (RENRIC) was established in 1990 to: a) be an environmental and natural resources clearing-house within the SACEP Secretariat; b) be an environmental and natural resources information network within the SACEP membership; c) be an information network system including appropriate hardware and software; d) provide advisory support and training for member country representatives. Under the Center, several publications and networking activities were carried out. The partnership forged led to the progression of RENRIC into the establishment of the **South Asia Environment and Natural Resources Information Center** (SENRIC), sponsored by ADB and UNEP Global Information Database (UNEP_GRID).

SENRIC has assisted UNEP Regional Resource Center for Asia and Pacific programme on 'Environment and Natural Resources Information Networking' in Asia and Pacific Region as its early activities. From 1994-1997 SENRIC

pursued Training and Data Management activities. Current activity focus is on assessment and reporting, which ramifies into: **Strengthening Environment Assessment and Monitoring Capabilities in Asia Pacific Region (SEAMCAP)** (1998 - 2002) and **Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia** (Phase 1: 1998 - 2001 & Phase 2: 2001 - 2003).

SEAMCAP (1998-2002): In November 1998, NORAD designated UNEP's Environment Assessment Programme for Asia and Pacific (UNEP EAP.AP - now known as the Regional Resource Centre for the Asia Pacific - RRC.AP) to implement a project on Strengthening National Capabilities on Environment Assessment and Monitoring towards the Preparation of the Global State of the Environment Report 2000, focusing on two Asia-Pacific sub-regions - South Asia and the Greater Mekong sub-region. SENRIC assisted in this initiative in the SACEP member countries.

The SEAMCAP project assisted in strengthening the capacities of the institutions and staff on data management and was also involved in preparing national and regional SoE reports which were a contribution to "2002 Global State of Environment Report (SoE)" and "2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development". Some of the outputs were:

- ✧ *Training programmes that trained the designated officials on the overall principles and conceptual framework of SoE reporting, database development and management, environmental data standards, environmental trend and statistical analysis, and country report preparation.*
- ✧ *A mechanism for completing the SoE Database with indicators/parameters was developed. This database contains environmental data (ie. land, forest, water, atmosphere, biodiversity and coastal and marine resources), socio-economic data and information based on the SoE database framework, as well as a compilation of relevant literature (ie. reports, handbooks, CDs, journals, etc.).*

- ✧ *Provision of Hardware/Software for Capacity building and data management equipment for institutional strengthening of government institutions*
- ✧ *The National and Regional State of the Environment Reports (2001) were prepared using the Pressure-state-impact-responses (PSIR) framework. These reports increase the data available on current and pressing environmental issues and the links between human actions and environmental consequences.*

Malé Declaration: Given the rapid growth and urbanization and the increasing focus on industrial development, air pollution has emerged as a major environmental issue in South Asia. In March 1998, senior government officials, analysts and experts met in Thailand to discuss this issue and the possibility of regional mitigation measures. As a result, this transboundary control mechanism was developed and adopted at the 7th Governing Council of SACEP in April 1998 that took place in the Maldives. This was the first intergovernmental agreement to address regional air pollution and involves Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The implementation is carried out by the governments, coordinated by SACEP and UNEP-RRC.AP, with technical assistance from Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and financial support from Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) (RAPIDC initiative).

Through activities under the *Malé Declaration*, the human and physical capabilities of each country to monitor and address air pollution problems are being strengthened. The countries also share information and data towards better management of transboundary air pollution issues.

This project thus far indicates that successful collaborative projects within countries that are of benefit to the whole region can be achieved.

Phase I: (1998-2000)

Objectives:

- ✧ *establish a network of NFPs, National Implementation Agencies (NIAs) and other experts and organizations;*
- ✧ *collect baseline data to assess the knowledge base and the shortfall, and to assess status of air pollution in each country;*
- ✧ *raise awareness on acidification issues; and*
- ✧ *formulate national and regional Action Plans and policy recommendations.*

More detailed information on some of these objectives and activities in Phase I is provided below.

- ✧ *Network: The network incorporates NFPs, NIAs and collaborating agencies and other experts from each of the member countries to share information and to develop/ review/ adopt implementation and technical documents for the Malé declaration. The network meets annually to discuss and agree on the programme implementation modalities process and schedules.*
- ✧ *Baseline studies: Baseline information was collected in all member countries on: the nature of the problem, status of monitoring, pollutants monitored, number of monitoring stations, capacity of monitoring stations, and Air Quality standards, with assistance from the NIAs. The study has helped identify gaps in existing data and monitoring plans.*
- ✧ *Action plans: Action plans to address identified problems were developed for all countries by 2000 in close consultations with the NFPs, NIAs and experts.*
- ✧ *Monitoring Committee (MoC): The Malé Network approved a three member expert committee to study national needs and recommend plans to address the gaps in the monitoring system. The committee identified equipment needs for South Asia and also assisted in development of the Phase II implementation plan. The Committee also prepared a technical manual titled "Technical Documents for Wet and Dry Deposition Monitoring for Male' Declaration".*

Phase II: (2000-2004)

Objectives:

- ✧ *expand network,*
- ✧ *strengthen monitoring capabilities,*
- ✧ *carry out further studies on the status and effects of air pollution in the region.*

Activities to achieve these objectives are:

- ✧ *Monitoring stations: All countries have identified areas to set up monitoring stations. Capacity building, equipment and station installations have been carried out in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, , Iran and Sri Lanka. Air pollution monitoring stations are active in Rampur, Nepal, Golephu, Bhutan, Hanimaadhu Maldives, Dutuwewa Sri Lanka.*
- ✧ *National Advisory Committee: The NAC is set up in each country and made up of various relevant ministries and other stakeholders to play an advisory role based on national objectives.*

Phase III: (2004 - 2007)

National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) Related inception activities (2004 - 2005)

During the 3rd Collaborative Assessment Network meeting (November, 2002) UNEP-RRC.AP proposed a strategy for Early Warning and Assessment for 2003/4, keeping in mind the outcomes from the WSSD and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The major tasks envisaged will focus on establishing the NCSD and NSDS in all the sub-regions with selected regions/countries.

South Asia Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism: The future project thrusts of SACEP comprise areas as the establishment of South Asia Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism, conservation and integrated management of marine turtles and their habitats, reef-based coral management, renewable energy technologies, establishing a Basel Convention sub-regional center to combat hazardous waste, management of World Heritage areas and wetland conservation.

The ninth meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) was held in Thimphu, Bhutan, from 24 to 26 August 2005. Among the major outcomes of the meeting was agreement that SACEP would prepare and finalize a programme of work for 2006–2007; that

the core programs would focus on areas of waste, adaptation to climate change, and database management and indicators.

South Asian Environmental Education and Training (EE&T) Action Plan³⁸:

Environmental education and training is one of the priority subject areas of the SACEP. SACEP has facilitated the development of education material, and also has worked to develop a plan for co-operation in environmental training with financial and technical assistance from ADB, NORAD and other donors.

The International Union for the Conservation Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), in partnership with the Centre for Environmental Education in India (CEE), has launched the South and South East Asian Network for Environmental Education (SASEANEE) for networking among environmental education experts of the region.

The strategies of implementation under the Action Plan include:

- ❖ *mainstreaming EE&T into formal and non-formal education systems;*
- ❖ *strengthening regional co-operation for capacity building in EE&T in professional and specialized fields and disciplines;*
- ❖ *incorporating EE&T in national planning and decision making processes in order to sensitize political leaders, community leaders, NGOs and private sector on the overarching and lasting benefits that will accrue from the integration of environmental considerations into the development planning process;*
- ❖ *awareness raising and people's participation;*
- ❖ *information sharing, network building, communication and collaboration;*

UNEP's Network for Environmental Training at Tertiary Level in Asia and the

³⁸ *Learning to Live in Harmony with Nature and Development- South Asian Environmental Education and Training Action Plan 2000-2005, 2003-2007 for strengthening South Asian Sustainability SACEP and UNEP*

Pacific (NETTLAP) has made a significant contribution to the enhancement of environmental expertise of decision makers, policy formulators and tertiary level educators and trainers in the region through the establishment of a self-sustaining network of trained educators, trainers and experts at the higher education level.

South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Introduction

South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) was introduced from three perspectives in general: organizational review and structure, financial mechanism and major activities it carried out.

Organizational Overview

The South Pacific region is facing severe environmental challenges due to its varied terrestrial and oceanic features, fragile eco-system, diverse status of polities and degree of economic development and among others, global warming. With large span of shared aquatic areas, most environmental problems are trans-boundary by nature. Moreover, the uneven capabilities of the States render discrete tackling efforts less effective and efficient than cooperative and coordinated endeavors.

Historically, SPREP was conceived out of a workshop in 1969 focusing on nature conservation, which led to the inclusion in 1973 of a programme for the Conservation of Nature within the South Pacific Commission (SPC). That humble beginning engendered the establishment of SPREP in 1982.

The programme used to have a unique Coordinating Group which guided its operations, comprising representatives of the South Pacific Bureau for

Economic Cooperation (now the South Pacific Forum Secretariat based in Suva, Fiji); UNEP; UNESCAP; and South Pacific Commission. In 1991, the governing body of SPREP—the Intergovernmental Meeting—agreed that it should become an autonomous regional organization, and in agreeing to an offer by the Government of Samoa, relocated its headquarters to Apia, Samoa in 1992. In 1995, SPREP officially became autonomous when Niue (the tenth country to do so), ratified the *Agreement Establishing SPREP*.

At present, the organization has twenty-two Pacific island countries and four developed countries with direct interests in the region as its members. The establishment of SPREP sends a clear signal to the global community of the deep commitment of the Pacific island governments and administrations towards sustainable development.

Governing Body

SPREP is governed through the **SPREP Meeting** attended by representatives from all member states and territories. As a plenary body, the meeting seeks to:

- ✧ *provide a forum for members to consult on matters of common concern with regard to the protection and improvement of the environment of the South Pacific region and, in particular, to further the purposes of SPREP;*
- ✧ *approve and review the Action Plan for SPREP and to determine the general policies of SPREP;*
- ✧ *adopt the report of the Director on the operation of SPREP;*
- ✧ *adopt the work programmes and review progress in their implementation;*
- ✧ *adopt the Budget estimates of SPREP;*
- ✧ *make recommendations to Members;*

- ✧ *appoint the Director;*
- ✧ *give directions to the Director concerning the implementation of the Work Programme;*
- ✧ *approve rules and conditions for the appointment of the staff of the Secretariat;*
- ✧ *carry out such other functions as are specified in the Apia Agreement or are necessary for the effective functioning of SPREP.*

The SPREP Meeting elects from among its members a Chairperson and some other officers as it decides, who remains in office until the next SPREP Meeting. In principle, the role of the Chairperson is rotational as decided by the SPREP Meeting. Environment Ministers used to be scheduled to convene every four years³⁹. Currently, however, the Environment Ministers' Forum is held back to back with a plenary officials meeting every two years and a sub-committee of officials meeting to approve the work program and budget in the intervening years.

Since the official debut of SPREP, the Secretariat started to play a pivotal role in awareness raising, agenda setting and cooperation facilitation among its member countries concerning the importance of responsible management of the environment and natural resources to the future livelihood and prosperity of their people. To achieve this end, it has continually expanded its coverage of environment issues to the extent that, institutionally, its staff has grown from less than ten to almost sixty. It has also had to expand its international linkages and partnership.

The Secretariat, managed by a Director, assisted by a Deputy Director, aided by a team of professional staff and supported by administrative staff, has four functional divisions: Conservation of Natural Resources; Environmental

³⁹ The 11th SPREP Environment Ministers' Forum in 2000 has decided to change the frequency of Ministerial Meeting from every four to every two years.

Education, Information and Coordination; Environmental Management and Planning; and Finance and Administrative. The SPREP Secretariat has been based in Apia, Samoa since 1993. Four Division Heads report to the Director for six Program areas or strategies. There has been an executive management group of four, strengthened in late 1999 by the appointment of an Executive Officer. In 2002, this was modified into Key Result Areas (KRAs). These prototypes led into the endorsement of a new strategic approach in the 15th SPREP Meeting in 2005, where two new programmes were established and characterized by a long-term approach within a ten-year framework.

The Secretariat derives its mandate from the *Agreement Establishing SPREP (1993)*, the *Action Plan for Managing the Environment of the Pacific Islands Region* and from the directives of its governing body, the SPREP Meeting. The roles and functions of the Secretariat, its structure and its performance are determined by the mandate, the priority needs and expectations of its members and partners as reflected in the *Action Plan* and by the resources available to implement its work programmes. In turn, the SPREP Secretariat develops its *Corporate Plan* and annual work programmes from the *Action Plan*.

The *1997-2000 Action Plan* directed that the SPREP Secretariat should eventually move away from project implementation 'towards increased facilitation and coordination'. The *Action Plan* envisages, through its strengthened advisory role and technical support, that the Secretariat would further enhance national capacity, both of the government agencies and other NGOs to implement projects. Accordingly, *SPREP's Corporate Plan 2001 to 2005* describes the business functions and vision of the Secretariat, with a focus on further strengthening national capacities to address sustainable development issues. Consequently, the role of the Secretariat is to advise on regional and global issues, to be a regional environmental expert and

watchdog, to help secure funding for new national and regional initiatives, and to build partnership with country organizations, regional organizations, collaborating organizations and donors, to support national and regional environment programmes.

As the Action Plan Secretariat, the SPREP Secretariat is responsible for the early development of measurable outputs for each of the Key Result Areas and Processes against which performance and progress can be measured. Associated baseline data and relevant indicators are developed as part of this process. The SPREP Secretariat then coordinates the provision of annual reporting to SPREP members and other stakeholders on progress toward the achievement of objectives of the Action Plan.

Core Functions of the Secretariat

- ✧ *Strengthening our core advisory, coordinating services and information sharing services. Improving planning, designing and implementation of projects to recognize potential risks (resource constraints, inadequate legal and policy frameworks), the differences in members' situations that may affect project delivery and implementation to strengthen the focus of interventions;*
- ✧ *Strengthening interactions with territories;*
- ✧ *Developing effective consultative mechanisms with members' agencies, other stakeholders and partners in identifying needs and priorities as well as cost-effective solutions, including better use of pilot projects, to address them;*
- ✧ *Strengthening coordination, linkages and collaboration with members' agencies, other stakeholders, regional and international agencies to avoid duplication of efforts and inefficient use of limited resources; and*
- ✧ *Liaising and negotiating with donors to secure funding on more flexible and long-term arrangements and to provide funding for more general rather than project-specific support.*

SPREP CORPORATE PLAN 2001-2005

Box-2

The SPREP Secretariat takes a programme-based approach for its work that incorporates project-based operations into a broad agenda with clear strategic goals. Distinguishing features of its programme are:

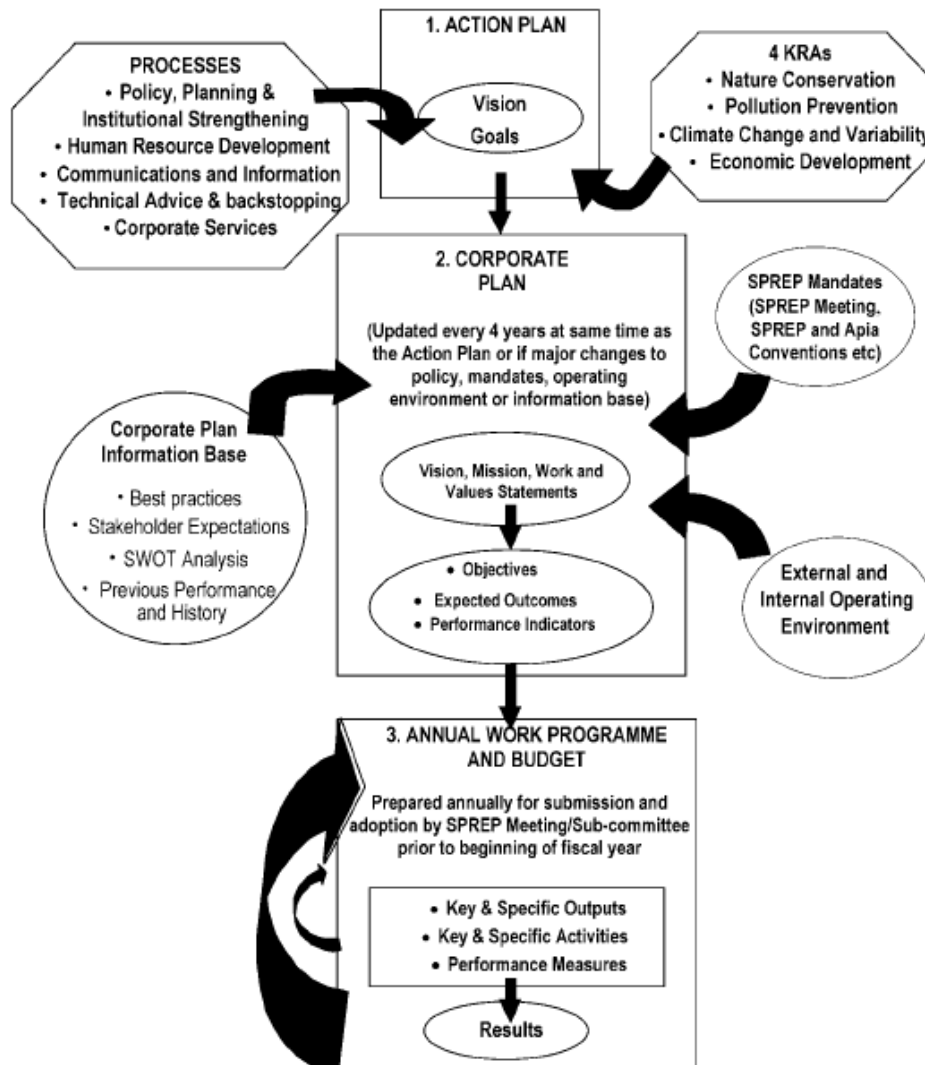
- ✧ ***broadly encompassing;***
- ✧ ***allowing progress towards the mandate to be demonstrated;***
- ✧ ***long time span – up to 10 years;***
- ✧ ***flexible and dynamic;***
- ✧ ***component-based yet can be implemented as a whole; f) allowing linkages and encouraging partnerships.***

A **programmatic approach** enhances flexible decision-making to respond to changing local circumstances, and promotes stronger dialogue and interaction with local partners. Other advantages of this approach are that it improves sustainability, allows greater attention to quality and impact and reduces the Secretariat's role in the project-based approach. Phased implementation of programmatic components is designed to achieve the longer-term objectives and goal of the programmes. Outcomes from shorter-term projects influence and contribute to the development of subsequent projects designed to achieve the longer-term objectives.

Projects have finite time spans. They begin and end, and, if successful, accomplish a set of clearly defined objectives, and contribute to the overall goals of SPREP. The outputs of the projects form the basis of identifiable indicators that verify the progress and impact of the immediate work towards programme outputs. The programmes, however, provide direction for up to 10 years. They are therefore flexible to accommodate changing needs, progress and developments as work proceeds. This approach is not constrained by the shorter time frame or constrained resources of the project approach. It is deliberately designed to recognize and respond to new and emerging

demands from SPREP members in their pursuit of sustainable development of the Pacific environment.

Each programme has an overall goal that addresses one aspect of the mandate. The goals are reached through the delivery of outputs, each with a series of achievements that are clearly measurable. To achieve the outputs, activities or projects are carried out to produce tangible results with demonstrable impact. These day-to-day aspects of SPREP's work are presented in the annually approved Work Programme and Budget, which reflects the incremental efforts of the longer-term programmatic approach. It also provides an easier and clearer way for SPREP stakeholders to measure impact. (See Figure Seven for the corporate planning process)



Corporate Planning Process (Figure-Seven)

The primary role of SPREP, by and large, is to assist countries in implementing the Programme, mainly through technical advice and support. A wide array of mechanisms and tools is employed by SPREP to assist in building capacity and strengthening institutional arrangements in Pacific and island members. (See Box-3) It is expected that the Programme will continue to evolve over time, including a move to a greater focus on national activities carried out under bilateral arrangements, though some elements, such as hazardous waste disposal, require SPREP's direct involvement in implementation, because of the technical and logistical complexities of the work.

- ✧ **Policy Planning and Institutional Strengthening**
- ✧ *Policy and Planning support*
- ✧ *Legislative Framework*
- ✧ *Trust Fund Development*
- ✧ *Project Proposal development*
- ✧ **Human Resource Development**
- ✧ *Training (including vocational and special)*
- ✧ *Formal Education*
- ✧ *Public Awareness and Consciousness Raising*
- ✧ **Communications and Information**
- ✧ *Clearinghouse Mechanism*
- ✧ *Information Technology*
- ✧ *Public Relations and Publications*
- ✧ *Networking*
- ✧ **Technical Advice and Backstopping**
- ✧ *Response to members' requests for scientific and technical advice not covered under other categories*
- ✧ *Technical assistance help desk*
- ✧ *Pilot projects*

SPREP CORPORATE PLAN 2001-2005 **Box-3**

Corporate Services Programme		
Goal		
To ensure that effective policies and services are in place to support delivery of secretariat work programme goals		
Component	Component	Component
Information and Communication	Finance	Administration
To provide secure information and communication systems	To provide transparent, accountable and timely financial information and reporting	To ensure effective human resource management and administration systems
Outputs Corporate and programme databases managed Archive systems developed and maintained Access to library services provided, maintained and facilitated Publications, awareness and education materials produced and distributed ICT services support for the Secretariat provided ICT risk management process developed and maintained	Outputs Accurate and timely financial statement presented to SPREP Meeting Accurate and timely financial reports provided to donors Accurate and timely management financial reports provided to directorate and programmes Integrated financial risk management processes provided	Outputs Recruitment, induction and welfare of staff managed Staff performance management systems in place Secretariat's infrastructure and assets managed SPREP Meeting serviced

Financial Matters

A major proportion of SPREP's funding⁴⁰ is project-based donor contribution, with UNDP being the largest donor. The South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP) co-funded by GEF is SPREP's largest single project. Many other programmes are also being implemented with the cooperation of various governments and organizations, and more than 30 countries and organizations provide financial support to implement and manage these programmes. Other contributors include the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as UN organizations; Australia (Ausaid), New Zealand and France as member governments; and Canada, Japan and Taiwan as non-member governments.

As the short-term projects complicate strategic planning as well as day-to-day planning, the shift of focus from projects to programme structure has catalyzed substantive alterations in funding. The advantages of a programme structure in relation to funding are that it will encourage donors to form partnerships with SPREP in the pursuit of common strategic goals. Thus, both SPREP and its donors will be able to develop funding strategies that will allow long-term commitment of funds and the consequent flexibility and confidence that such financial security will give to SPREP.

The working funds of the Secretariat are held in three principal funds:

- ✧ The **Core Fund** is derived from members' annual subscriptions⁴¹ and any miscellaneous income. Its budget covers executive management and support including executive management's functions in Regional Coordination and International Cooperation, Donor Liaison and Consultation with Members. Core funds pay for staff salaries, coordination

⁴⁰ About 90% according to the estimate for 1997-2000.

⁴¹ For the scale of contribution in 2004, see Annex 17.

activities, servicing of SPREP meetings, general communications, and liaison and information services to members.

- ✧ The **Programme Fund**, covering all work programme funding and expenditure, is used only for the purposes specified by the donors. All costs relating to any programme is charged against the Programme Fund and is included in the Financial Statement of the Secretariat. Any income received from the investment of Programme Funds accrues to Core Fund miscellaneous income (unless otherwise directed by the donor).

- ✧ The **Reserve Fund** is used by the Director in any emergency or unforeseen circumstance. Transfers from Reserve Fund to Programme Fund may occur when there is unforeseen liquidity shortfall and the Reserve Fund shall be replenished when grants to the Programme Fund are received. As Core Fund encounters unforeseen expenditure or shortfalls, Reserve Fund may be transferred to strike a financial balance. Details of such transfers or proposed transfers should be reported to the next SPREP Meeting. It is also stipulated that funds used for purposes outlined in the previous two regulations should be accounted for in the annual accounts of the Secretariat.

Custody of the Funds resides in the hands of the Director, who is authorized to open and close bank accounts and shall inform the SPREP Meeting of details. The Director may also make short-term non-speculative investments in interest-bearing bank deposits of monies not needed for immediate requirements. The Director, among others, is vested with power in establishing detailed financial rules and procedures in order to ensure effective financial administration and the exercise of economy.

Pacific Islands Trust Fund for Nature Conservation: SPREP, for the purpose of conserving endangered islands' biodiversity and habitats for various species, established A Trust Fund for Nature Conservation. This conservation trust fund is

a funding and capacity building tool, designed to provide long term funding support for conservation activities. It is a legal arrangement in which a group of people (called the trustees) legally own and manage money that has been donated (entrusted) to them exclusively for a specified purpose. The trustees must only use the money for that specified purpose.

Conservation of the Pacific islands region's biodiversity requires a long term commitment. There is therefore a need to provide a regular and reliable stream of financial and other support for community-based biodiversity management in the long term.

A regional trust fund will operate as a leverage mechanism to gain the necessary support for conservation priorities. It will add value by enabling Pacific island countries and territories to work together on conservation issues of mutual interest and concern and further enable lessons learnt to be shared. In doing so, it will assist in achieving regional and global conservation benefits.

While most countries and territories in the Pacific region are in the process of developing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), resources are urgently needed for the early implementation of the NBSAPs. The regional trust fund provides a mechanism for addressing the national actions identified in NBSAPs as well as the administrative and procedural efficiency in delivering donor assistance to activities in those countries and territories.

The regional trust fund would co-exist with, and complement, national or sub-national trust funds. One of the possible objectives of the regional fund could be to assist in mobilizing resources for long-term and sustainable funding of conservation across the region, including national and sub-national funds.

The regional trust fund is designed to support effective activities that:

- ✧ Build capacity in adopting and incorporating into ongoing national conservation programmes (mainstreaming), successful community based approaches to biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management.
- ✧ Support and facilitate innovative approaches to biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management.
- ✧ Fostering partnerships, co-operation and co-ordination in addressing transboundary biodiversity conservation issues of mutual concern.
- ✧ Leverage resources to support implementation gaps within the region.
- ✧ Support the development of new financial and institutional mechanisms appropriate in the region, such as national trust funds to implement NBSAPs or their equivalent.
- ✧ Provide long-term support for the conservation of globally significant biodiversity in a regional network of conservation areas.

The procedures of establishing a Trust Fund on Nature Conservation are illustrated in the following chart taken from *Pacific Islands Trust Fund for Nature Conservation 2000*.

WHERE HAS THE REGIONAL TRUST FUND IDEA COME FROM?

Pacific island governments, non-governmental agencies and regional and international agencies active in nature conservation in the Pacific Islands region have called for the establishment of a regional trust fund for nature conservation. At the Sixth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in 1997, formal approval was granted to the SPREP Secretariat by member countries to develop plans in earnest to establish a regional trust fund.

The Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region 1999-2002 identifies the establishment of a regional trust fund as a critical mechanism to secure long term support for conservation priorities in the Pacific Islands region from multilateral and bilateral donors (Objective 6).

Since the 1997 conference, SPREP through the **South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme** (SPBCP) has commissioned a number of reports which consider the need for a regional fund, and which examine a range of legal and design issues that will need to be addressed in establishing such a fund.

In October 1999 a regional trust fund workshop held in Samoa unanimously resolved that a Steering Committee comprising several knowledgeable and experienced stakeholders be established. The Steering Committee was charged with the responsibility of completing a feasibility study on the fund's establishment, to progress further an extensive consultation process about how the fund should be designed and operated, and to approach possible donors. The Steering Committee includes representation from SPREP, four member countries (Samoa, Vanuatu, Palau, Tuvalu), the GEF NGO Focal Point for the Pacific (SANGO), a technical advisor on biodiversity conservation, and an international NGO.

In early May 2000, the Steering Committee submitted a broad outline concept paper on the trust fund to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which is an implementing agency for the Global Environment Facility (GEF). A response from UNDP is expected shortly.

THE PROCESS FROM HERE

Following UNDP endorsement of the concept, an application will be made to GEF for a grant (known as a PDF Block B grant) that will enable the design of the trust fund to be actioned in consultation with all stakeholders.

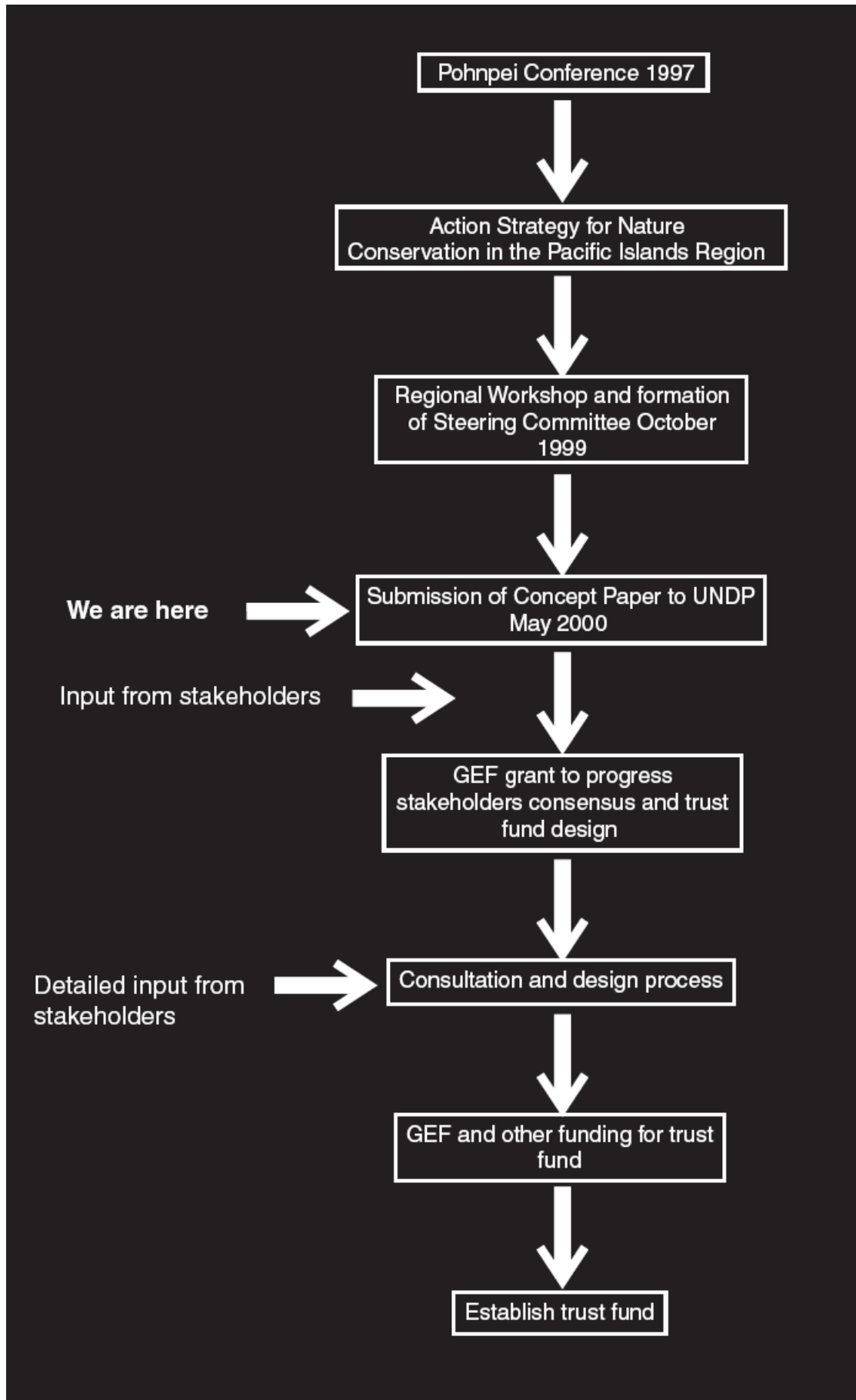
Considerable effort has already been expended in building stakeholder consensus about the rationale and objectives of the regional trust fund. The New Zealand Government has provided some funding for the preliminary stages of the trust fund development. A list of potential donors has been prepared by the steering committee and initial meetings are being planned.

When further financial support for the development phase has been secured, the type of fund, the specific vision and strategy for the fund will be developed and refined in an open process in which all stakeholders can participate.

The detailed design of the trust fund in terms of stakeholder representation and participation, how funds are to be distributed and on what projects, how the trust will be administered and other design issues will depend on outcomes from the consensus building process and discussions with potential donors.

Pacific Islands Trust Fund for Nature Conservation 2000

Box-4



As the establishment of Trust Funds and accounts for special purposes falls under the auspices of the SPREP Meeting, the meeting is in the position to define their limits and purposes, examine, amend as appropriate and adopt its annual budget estimate. The adoption of the annual budget estimate constitutes an authorization to the Director to incur commitments and make payments for the purposes for which the expenditure has been approved and up to the amounts so approved.

Major Activities

SPREP is operating two new programmes between 2005 and 2009, Island Ecosystems and Pacific Futures.

Island Ecosystems Programme (IEP): To manage island resources and ocean ecosystems that support life and livelihoods in a sustainable manner, the IEP focuses on sustainable management and conservation of terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems of Pacific islands. It works on conserving priority threatened species and reducing the impact of alien, invasive species and living modified organisms. Additionally, the Programme aims to build the capacities of the peoples of the islands to meet the challenges of sustaining the ecosystems that support them. IEP is manifested through four projects: a) terrestrial island ecosystems; b) coastal and marine ecosystems; c) species of special interest; and d) people and institutions.

Pacific Futures (PF): PF essentially serves to support member countries and territories with sustainable development policies for improved environmental governance. This paves the way for implementation mechanisms and resources at the national and community level. The programme improves monitoring and reporting on environmental performance and socioeconomic pressures on the environment, as well as improves the understanding and

strengthen the capacity of Pacific island countries and territories to respond to climate change, climate variability and sea level rise. Assisting and enhancing the island members' capabilities to manage and respond to marine pollution, hazardous waste, solid waste, sewerage and other land-based sources of pollution are essential components of the programme. Tools are provided to improve the means to respond to pressures, emerging threats and opportunities through integrated assessment and planning. Priority areas under the programme are:

- ✧ *managing multilateral environmental agreements and regional coordination mechanisms;*
- ✧ *environment monitoring and reporting;*
- ✧ *climate change and atmosphere;*
- ✧ *waste management and pollution control; and e) environmental planning.*

Being largely a project-oriented organization so far, SPREP has provided annually between 120 and 150 acts of assistance or projects to its members in recent years. SPREP achieves its purposes through an *Action Plan* that is adopted every 5 years by the SPREP Meeting. The *Plan* is a framework for managing the environment of the Pacific islands region. It embodies the vision of SPREP members and stakeholders for the long-term management of their environment, identifying the broad priorities and key areas of the regional agenda.

Under the *1997-2000 Action Plan*, areas covered were as follows:

- ✧ *biodiversity and natural resource conservation;*
- ✧ *climate change and integrated coastal management;*
- ✧ *waste management, pollution prevention, and emergence;*

- ✧ *environmental management, planning and institutional strengthening; and environmental education, information and training.*

Projects under each of these areas were divided into 'international/regional activities' and 'in-country activities', with SPREP taking the lead in carrying out the former.

The thematic approach has been maintained in the *2001-2004 Action Plan*, which has regrouped their identified the former areas under four headings of 'key issues':

- ✧ *nature conservation;*
- ✧ *pollution prevention;*
- ✧ *climate change and variability; and*
- ✧ *economic development.*

In addition to the first three key issues identified in the *2001-2004 Action Plan*, the *SPREP Action Plan 2005-2009* identifies the following cross cutting priorities:

- ✧ *integrated policy, planning and partnerships;*
- ✧ *environment monitoring and reporting;*
- ✧ *multilateral environment agreements and processes;*
- ✧ *human resources development and training;*
- ✧ *public awareness and education;*
- ✧ *knowledge management.*

This *Action Plan* also prescribed means of implementing the *Strategic Programme and the Action Plan*.

SPREP's projects, with inputs from the international community include, among others, the following:

- ✧ *SPBCP; a project for the preparation of a regional strategy for international waters;*

- ✧ *The Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP) and Climate Change Training Programme (CC: TRAIN) (assist Pacific island countries meet their obligations under Article 4 and 12 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change). All of these projects are funded by GEF through UNDP;*
- ✧ *Waste Management Education and Awareness by the European Union Climate Change and Environmental Education and Training programmes through Australian Government's Overseas Aid Programme (AusAID);*
- ✧ *Atmospheric and Radiation Measurements in the Tropical Western Pacific with the US Department of Energy Meteorological services in conjunction with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO);*
- ✧ *The Programme of Capacity Building for Sustainable Development in the South Pacific: Building on National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS) (Capacity 21 for short), part of UNDP's focus on capacity building;*
- ✧ *The environmental clearing house functions of SPREP operating with funding from New Zealand.*

According to the Action Plans mentioned above, SPREP also develops and implements a regionally coordinated and comprehensive range of activities under the following programmes:

- ✧ *Biodiversity and Natural Resource Conservation*
- ✧ *Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Management*
- ✧ *Waste Management, Pollution Prevention and Emergencies*
- ✧ *Environmental Management, Planning and Institutional Strengthening*
- ✧ *Environmental Education, Information and Training*

SPREP's Programme structure

Programme 1: Island Ecosystems			
Goal: Pacific island countries and territories able to manage island resources and ocean ecosystems in a sustainable manner and that support life and livelihoods			
Components			
1.1 Terrestrial ecosystems management	1.2 Coastal and marine ecosystem management	1.3 Species of special interest	1.4 People and institutions
Objectives			
Promote and support the sustainable management and conservation of terrestrial ecosystems	Promote and support the sustainable management and conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems	Promote and foster conservation of island biodiversity	Equip people and institutions of Pacific island countries and territories with capacity to manage their own environmental development
Outputs			
1.1.2 Key terrestrial ecosystems conserved 1.1.2 Increased use of sustainable approaches in the management of marine and terrestrial resources	1.2.1 Key coastal and marine ecosystems conserved 1.2.2 Integrated coastal management 1.2.3 Implementation of IWP	1.3.1 Threatened species managed and conserved 1.3.2 Threat posed by invasive species reduced 1.3.3 Cooperative management of migratory populations 1.3.4 Threat posed by Living Modified Organisms reduced	1.4.1 Human resource development (HRD) strategies in environment departments developed and implementation supported 1.4.2 Regional and national environmental education and awareness strategies developed and implementation supported 1.4.3 Regional and national information and communication strategies developed and implementation supported

Programme 2: Pacific Futures				
Goal: Pacific island countries and territories able to plan and respond to threats and pressures on island and ocean systems				
Components				
2.1 Multilateral environmental, international agreements and regional coordination mechanisms	2.2 Environment monitoring and reporting	2.3 Climate change and atmosphere	2.4 Waste management and pollution control	2.5 Environmental planning
Objectives				
Increase PICTs capacity to manage MEAs and other relevant regional mechanisms and international agreements	Improve means to monitor and report on environmental performance and socioeconomic pressures on the environment	Improve PICTs' understanding of and strengthen their capacity to respond to climate change, climate variability and sea level rise	Assist and enhance the PIC capabilities to manage and respond to marine pollution, hazardous waste, solid waste, sewerage and other land-based sources of pollution	Provide tools to improve the means to respond to pressures, emerging threats and opportunities through integrated assessment and planning processes
Outputs				
2.1.1 PICT involvement in MEAs and relevant international agreements/regional coordination forums. 2.1.2 Development of PICT national environmental legislation for MEAs	2.2.1 Enhanced national & regional capacity for State of Environment (SOE) reporting	2.3.1 National meteorological and climatological capacities strengthened 2.3.2 Science of climate change, variability and sea level rise promoted and tools for responding to impacts developed 2.3.3 Adaptation and Mitigation options promoted and response measures strengthened 2.3.4 Ozone Depleting Substances phase out supported	2.4.1 Support to PICTs control of marine pollution 2.4.2 POPs chemicals removed from PICTs and destroyed in Australia 2.4.3 Waigani Treaty ratified by all PICTs plus Waigani/Basel centre established 2.4.4 Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans (NIPs) completed in all PICTs 2.4.5 Management of Waste in PICTs supported management of ports	2.5.1 EIA and strategic environmental planning mechanisms incorporated into development planning 2.5.2 Conservation and sustainable natural resource management principles reflected in national planning and policy across all sectors

Regional Legal Framework

In addition to the *Agreement Establishing SPREP*, the following legal agreements provide the framework for common action to manage the environment of the Pacific islands region.

- **SPREP Convention**

SPREP is the Secretariat for the *Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region*, (the *SPREP* or *Noumea Convention*) which came into force in 1990. Its articles cover

environmental management and development of natural resources, pollution, wastes, mining and coastal erosion, protection of flora and fauna, environmental impact assessment, scientific and technical co-operation, technical and other assistance and transmission of information.

The SPREP Convention carries two Protocols, *the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution Emergencies in the South Pacific Region* and *the Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the South Pacific Region by Dumping*.

- **Apia Convention**

SPREP is also the Secretariat for the *Convention on the Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific, (Apia Convention)* which came into force in 1990. It relates to the creation of protected areas to “safeguard” representative samples of natural ecosystems, geological formations, regions and objects of aesthetic interest or historic cultural or scientific value.

- **Waigani Convention**

SPREP serves as the Secretariat for the *Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Waste and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention)*. The Convention was adopted on 16th September 1995 and as of now, it will need to be ratified by 5 more countries for it to enter into force.

- **Global Conventions and Initiatives**

Some SPREP members are also parties to a range of global conventions and initiatives. The conventions often call for appropriate action to be taken at the regional level. By their nature, these agreements are an integral part of the region's efforts towards sustainable development. They provide further

definition to the regional legal framework particularly in relation to conserving biological resources, climate change, hazardous wastes, marine and land based sources of pollution.

Chapter Four: Conclusion

In retrospect, institutional enhancement has been a recurring theme of SOMs over the past 13 years, which demonstrated the unremitting concern of the member countries over sound institutions to sustain the subregional environmental cooperation. Member countries have also proved their faith and commitment towards the Programme through voluntary contributions to the Core Fund.

Currently, however, the Programme is facing challenges to expand its positive influence in subregional environmental cooperation, due to the want of a long-term strategy, a sound secretariat infrastructure and sustainable financial resources. For the cooperation mechanism to maximize the benefits of synergy, the institutional framework requires considerable reinforcement. It was therefore recommended by SOM-11 that the member countries reconsider scaling up the institutional aspects of the Programme in right proportion to its expanding scope and the call from exacerbating environmental situations of the sub-region, towards developing the current Programme into a regional think-tank and knowledge hub for North-East Asia.

The knowledge of history would offer a better insight into the way ahead. It is hoped the experiences of other regional environmental initiatives can shed light on our way forward, too.

REFERENCES

Agenda 21

ASEAN (2001) *The ASEAN Regional Center for Biodiversity Conservation*

ASEAN (1976) *Agreement on the Establishment of the Asian Secretariat*

ASEAN (2004) *ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community; Newsletter*

ASEAN & AusAid (2005) 'ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on Water Resources Management', ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta

AusAid (2000) *Review of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme Summary Report Quality Assurance Series No. 22 August*

Boyer, Brook et al. (2002) 'Regional & National Approaches in Asia and the Pacific Inter-linkages: Synergies and Coordination among Multilateral Environmental Agreements—SPREP Waigani Convention Handbook' UNU, Tokyo, Japan;

Cotton, James (1999) 'The 'Haze' over Southeast Asia: Challenging the ASEAN Mode of Regional Engagement', *Pacific Affairs*, 72, 3, ProQuest Asian Business and Reference, pp331-51

Herr, Richard (2002), 'Environmental Protection in the South Pacific: The Effectiveness of SPREP and its Conventions', in Olav Schram Stokke and Øystein B. Thommessen (eds.), *Yearbook of International Co-operation on Environment and Development 2002/2003* (London: Earthscan Publications), 41–9.

Koh, Kheng-Lian (2003) 'ASEAN Agreement on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 1985: A Study in Environmental Governance', A Paper for World Parks Congress 2003, Durban

Kazu, Kato 'An Analytical Framework for a Comparative Study of Subregional Environmental Programme in Asia in *Regional /Subregional Environmental Cooperation in Asia*, (February 2001), IGES,

Koh, Kheng-Lian (2003) *ASEAN Agreement on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 1985: A Study in Environmental Governance*, World Parks Congress 2003, Durban.

Koh Kheng Lian & Nicholas A. Robinson (2003) *Regional Environmental Governance: Examining the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Model*

NEASPEC: All SOM Conclusions

NEASPEC, (1997) *Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation*

NEASEPC (1999) *Implementation of the Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation: Institutional and*

Financial Mechanisms

NEASPEC, (2000) *The Vision Statement for Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia*

NEASPEC (2001) *Proposal for the Establishment of the Secretariat and the Financial Mechanism for Its Operation*

NOWPAP: *Financing of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), 1994-2005*

NOWPAP: *NOWPAP – Working to Protect the Marine Environment. A Write-up provided by RCU in Busan Korea*

SACEP (2003) *South Asian Environment Education and Training Action Plan: Learning to Live in Harmony with Nature and Development 2000-2005, 2003-2007*

SACEP (2006) *Write-up Introducing SACEP's Institutional Structure and Financial Strategies, by SACEP Secretariat*

SACEP (1998) *The Malé Declaration, endorsed by 7th Governing Council of SACEP.*

SACEP (2005) *Newsletter of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, No. 3, Issue 3, December 2005*

SACEP/UNEP 'SAS Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region'

SPREP (1993) *Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Apia, 16, June.*

SPREP (1995) *Rules of Procedure of SPREP Meeting, Adopted by the Eighth SPREP Meeting Apia, Western Samoa 11-13 October 1995*

SPREP (1997) *Volume 3, Conference Papers on the Sixth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, October*

SPREP (1997) *Volume 2 'Tools for Conservation 3-Conservation Trust Fund', Conference Toolbox on the Sixth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas,*

SPREP (2000) *Pacific Islands Trust Fund for Nature Conservation 2000*

SPREP (2000) *Action Plan for Managing the Environment of the Pacific Islands Region 2001-04, Apia, Samoa, SPREP Secretariat.*

SPREP (2001) *Report of the Eleventh SPREP Meeting of Officials and report of the Environment Ministers' Forum SPREP Meeting of Officials and Environment Ministers' Forum, Guam and Apia, Samoa, SPREP Secretariat;*

SPREP (2002) *SPREP Meeting of Officials and Environment Ministers' Forum (13th : 2002 : Majuro, Marshall Islands) Report of the Thirteenth SPREP Meeting of Officials and Report of the Environment Ministers' Forum, 22-26 July,*

2002, Majuro, Marshall Islands.

SPREP/SOPAC (2002) A Regional Strategy to Address Marine Pollution from World War II Wrecks, per the request of the 12th SPREP Meeting.

SPREP (2002) *SPREP Corporate Plan for 2001-2005*, SPREP Secretariat,

SPREP (2002) Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region 2003 – 2007, SPREP Secretariat;

SPREP (2002) *2003 Work Programme and Budget Estimates*, approved at the 13th SPREP Meeting, Majuro, Republic of Marshall Islands July

SPREP/ADB (2003) Pacific Region Environmental Strategy (2005-2009) (PRES)—Draft for Discussion, February

SPREP (2004) the 15th SPREP Meeting Report of the Fifteenth SPREP Meeting of Officials 13 - 16 September 2004, Pape'ete, French Polynesia;

SPREP (2005) *Action Plan for Managing the Environment of the Pacific Islands Region: 2005 – 2009*, Apia, Samoa : SPREP Secretariat;

SPREP (2005) *Financial Regulations*, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Adopted at the 5th Intergovernmental Meeting, Apia, Samoa, 14-18 September 1992, amended by the 15th Intergovernmental Meeting in Pape

SPREP (2006) *Approved Work Programme and Budget for 2006 and Indicative Budgets for 2007 and 2008*, SPREP Secretariat;

Sukasam, Kesrat, (2000) 'ASEAN Cooperation on Coastal and Marine Environment', for International Symposium on Protection and Management of Coastal Marine Ecosystem, December 13 Speech for Session 1

Sunchindah, Apichai (1998) 'The ASEAN Approach to Regional Environmental Management', Paper presented at the *Regional Conference on "Environmental Management: Policy Options: Region vs State and Society,"* Kuala Lumpur, 20-21 October

Takahashi, Wakana 'Environmental Cooperation in Southeast Asia (ASEAN)' in *Regional /Subregional Environmental Cooperation in Asia*, (February 2001) IGES,

Takahashi, Wakana 'Environment Cooperation in South Asia' in *Regional /Subregional Environmental Cooperation in Asia*, (February 2001) IGES,

UNEP (2004): *State of Waste Management in South East Asia*.

UNEP: The 19th Session of the Governing Council of UNEP 7 February 1997

UNEP/RRC.AP (2001) 'Current Policy Initiatives' in *Asia Pacific Environment Outlook*; Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand

UNEP/NOWPAP (2005) *Report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the progress in the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan*

UNESCAP, *The ESCAP Resolution 53/3 Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation*

UNESCAP, *The ESCAP Resolution 49/7 adopted on 29 April 1993, entitled Implementation of Decisions of the General Assembly on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including Agenda 21, in Asia and Pacific*

Wijayadasa, K.H.J. (1997) (edited) *SACEP/UNEP/NORAD, Harmonizing Environment and Development in South Asia*

Parreno, Rexie Jane (2001) 'The ASEAN Regional Center for Biodiversity Conservation',

Website resources:

www.asean.org

<http://cearac.nowpap.org/>

<http://dinrac.nowpap.org/>

<http://www.eanet.cc/>

<http://www.ecoasia.org/>

<http://merrac.nowpap.org/html/main.html>

www.neac.org

www.neaspec.org

www.nowpap.org

<http://www.pomrac.dvo.ru/>

www.sprep.org

www.sacep.org

<http://www.temm.org/>

www.arcbc.org.ph

<http://www.aadcp.org/>