

APFED Policy Dialogue  
ESD and 3Rs Towards Establishing A Sound Material Cycle Society  
Key Elements of Outcome

For Presentation at the Asia 3R Conference  
18 March 2008

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honor to be invited to speak at this meeting today to provide you with our inputs arising from our work facilitated under the Asia – Pacific Forum for Environment and Development, called APFED. APFED was established in 2001 as a regional group of eminent experts. As a part of the APFED multi-stakeholder policy dialogue, the International Symposium on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and 3Rs was held at the University of Tokyo with over 20 speakers and 100 participants. At the symposium, we have mainly addressed (1) 3R related policies and measures, (2) industry and business sector, (3) awareness raising, education and research, (4) civil society action plans and (5) regional and international cooperation. I would like to briefly highlight key elements at this occasion while a detailed report will be shared with you at the later stage.

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We have reviewed policy evolution of 3Rs in several countries, for instance the Republic of Korea and the Philippines. In the Republic of Korea, 3R policies have been mainstreamed in national policies over the last decade.

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A series of legislations have been adopted for promoting, for instance, environmentally sound waste management and recycling while enforcing tight control over hazardous wastes and persistent pollutants.

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In the Philippines, a case presented on Los Baños, demonstrated the need and effectiveness of integrated approach to 3Rs in the sustainable development context. A success attributes at multiple factors including, legislative measures, socio-political and technical strategies.

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The participatory and integrated approach to 3Rs have shown the visible outcome that each community member can benefit for reducing air pollution and enhancing agricultural productivity.

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A speaker from NEC, a leading Japanese electronics company share with us a number of initiatives that NEC has been undertaking for promoting 3Rs including computer recycling and refurbishment.

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A number of other speakers from private sector described their undertakings for promoting environmentally sound products. A speaker from Toyota Motor Corp Group highlighted the development of hybrid vehicles. Others also spoke about the technology application for promoting the resource use efficiency in agriculture and food production sectors and the bio-diesel production from used cooking oil.

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At the university level, a speaker from the University of Tokyo highlighted the major trend of integration in university education for addressing sustainability. A change in pedagogy was also underscored. The Integrated Research system for Sustainability Science called IR3S, a Japanese university network on sustainability science has been also inventing unique programmes including the international intensive courses on sustainability involving field work and trying to develop various ability and skills for effectively addressing sustainability.

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The Green Purchasing Network of Japan shared with us their experiences of applying the green purchasing guidelines. The guideline assesses products and services based on various benchmarks and intend to expand the scope of guideline application to new sectors such as clothes and textile and food products. They intend to apply their activities at the international stage in close collaboration with other organizations in foreign countries.

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Professor Chettiyappan Visvanathan of Asian Institute of Technology who is with us at this meeting presented very useful perspectives on

the need for undertaking capacity building, training and education in the context of promoting 3Rs. In our discussions, it was emphasized that the lifecycle assessment approach must be further reinforced in 3R policies in order to intensify our efforts for enhancing the resource use efficiency, and to reverse the trend of increasing resource use in mass production and consumption patterns.

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Based on various presentations and case studies, we have identified many of the key elements for successful ESD and 3R implementation. I would highlight some of those as follows:

Policy, institutional and human resource development must be developed more proactively. At the same time, incentive/disincentives schemes should be developed applied in order to facilitate more effective 3R policy implementation. Financial and market mechanisms are also very important and they need to be transformed in order to enhance their compatibility with 3R objectives.

CSR (Corporate social responsibility) movement must be capitalized as many private business companies have opened up their windows and communication channels.

3R needs to be integrated in ESD more squarely.

Eco-labeling and information measures must be better used for giving information to consumers to make better choice.

3R, climate change and green house gases emission reduction, and ESD need to be addressed in integrity

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Sustainability value must be mainstreamed in University educational programmes. University pedagogy must be further devised to develop various skills and ability to better address sustainability.

Awareness raising, capacity development, training, education and research must be supported at the national, regional and international levels.

The involvement of youth is very important.

Technology cooperation should be facilitated for facilitating 3R actions.

Policy research should be promoted for addressing socio-economic and political factors to facilitate effective implementation of 3R policies and actions

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These are some of the key elements that I would like to highlight as outcome of our APFED Policy Dialogue/International Symposium on ESD and 3Rs toward establishing a sound material cycle society. Our actions are vital for pursuing a sustainable society by low carbon, sound material cycle and ecologically co-existent business models and lifestyle.

I hope that our inputs are regarded as useful, and hope to promote our mutual collaboration in promoting policies and activities aimed at effective implementation of 3Rs.

I wish you a great success at your meeting.

I thank you very much.