

ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (Second Phase)
First NetRes Meeting
16 and 17 November 2006
Hayama, Japan

NetRes Support for Policy Dialogue

I. Background on the APFED Policy Dialogue

The APFED Policy Dialogue was launched in FY2005 in response to one of the APFED recommendations. It aims to promote consensus building and partnership development with a view to developing and implementing sound policies for promoting effective environmental management and achieving sustainable development.

In the APFED II First Plenary Meeting, 21-22 November 2005 at Bogor, Indonesia, it was recommended that, taking synergistic linkages with on-going and planned regional and sub-regional processes on sustainable development in the region, prospective topics be evaluated against certain criteria including:

- political binding,
- relevance to the region,
- success of outcome, and
- efficiency.

Acknowledging these criteria, the Secretariat of APFED organized and conducted two policy dialogues in FY2005, with themes entitled:

- “access to environmental information;” and
- “the 3Rs”.

In the APFED II Second Plenary Meeting, held in Adelaide, Australia, 31 July and 1 August 2006, new themes for APFED Policy Dialogue for FY2006 were discussed and agreed, which are:

- “corporate social responsibility (CSR) in environmental management;” and
- “chemical management.”

II. Recent Development

As for “chemical management,” the 4th Roundtable meeting of Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ASEF) “Combine or Combust! Co-operating on Chemicals and Hazardous Substances Management” scheduled for 30 November and 1 December in Brussels, Belgium is identified as an appropriate opportunity to exchange views among Asian and

European policy makers and experts. Dr. Kim Myung Ja, Former Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea, APFED member, and experts from Japan, Thailand and Vietnam will be joining this roundtable meeting.

As for “corporate social responsibility,” appropriate opportunities to hold policy dialogues, perhaps in parallel with planned major regional conferences, are not yet identified, but one or two policy dialogues on this issue are assumed to be convened within this fiscal year.

III. Proposed Discussion Points

What would be the good modality of NetRes in relevance to effectively supporting the APFED Policy Dialogue?

- Assisting APFED in selecting the themes for Policy Dialogue
 - ✧ Priority themes could be raised and discussed among NetRes members
 - ✧ Discussion results could be submitted to the APFED plenary meeting for its consideration
 - ✧ Steps may include:
 - ✓ call and nomination of themes;
 - ✓ preparation of discussion papers (facts and perspectives);
 - ✓ discussion among NetRes members;
 - ✓ preparation of discussion summary; and etc.

A number of themes were suggested at the 2005 Bogor meeting, and some of them were already taken up for the past or ongoing APFED policy dialogues. The themes suggested in 2005 were:

- (i) Effective use of resources and materials (3Rs that took place in March 2006),
- (ii) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in environment management (in preparation),
- (iii) Community-based multi-purpose ecosystem management,
- (iv) Mitigation of global climate change, and
- (v) Harmonization of national environmental policies in the region in view of regional economic integration (related to RISPOII)

It may be useful to revisit the aforementioned-themes while it doesn't exclude the possible consideration of other new themes.

- Assisting APFED in convening Policy Dialogue
 - ✧ Facilitation of Policy Dialogue may include:
 - ✓ hosting Policy Dialogue itself;
 - ✓ identifying and nominating appropriate opportunities for convening APFED Policy Dialogue in parallel with;
 - ✓ nominating relevant experts to Policy Dialogue;
 - ✓ preparation of discussion papers; and etc.

- Assisting APFED in following-up Policy Dialogue
 - ✓ dissemination of the results of Policy Dialogue through multiple channels;
 - ✓ developing joint research for further understanding/discussions on selected themes;
 - ✓ developing and implementing pilot projects on selected themes (possibly through APFED showcase activities); and etc.