

Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development: Second Phase (APFED II)
Fourth Plenary Meeting
25 – 26 July 2008
Davao, Philippines

Chair Summary

The APFED II Fourth Plenary Meeting was held at Waterfront Insular Hotel, Davao, Philippines from 25 – 26 July 2008. The Meeting was sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment, and co-organised by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippines, Davao City Government and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) in collaboration with Earth Council Asia-Pacific.

About 80 persons attended the meeting including the APFED members, special advisors, NetRes institute representatives, resource persons, observers and the representatives and staff members of sponsoring and co-organizing organisations.

Ms. Yoriko Kawaguchi, APFED II Chair presided the Meeting and the participants had intensive and rich discussions on issues vital to policies and measures for promoting environmental management and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific based upon the meeting documents and introductory presentations made by the Secretariats and resource persons.

This text is intended to reflect the thrust of discussions and to highlight key points of consensus and guidance given at the Meeting for facilitating the future work of APFEDII. The programme of work and the list of participants are herewith annexed along with the brief proceeding of the Meeting.

1. Overall Review of the APFED II Programme

Vision and objectives

APFED members reiterate the need to continuously reinforce the APFED vision and commitments to promote sustainable development. Throughout undertaking APFED programmes and activities, further efforts should be made to promote replication of good practices.

Priority areas

Mainstreaming sustainable development should be an overarching embedded priority consideration in the APFED programmes. It is also suggested that Climate change and the 3Rs that have been promoted as priority areas over the year should remain to be priority areas while due consideration is given to their mutual inter-linkages. In the light of the growing importance attached to biological diversity, it is proposed to include biodiversity as one of the priority areas under the APFEDII. The aforementioned priority consideration should be reflected in the criteria for undertaking the Award and the Showcase Programmes selection processes where contributions to sustainable development will be taken into account.

Other important concerns such as food, energy and social security can be also taken into account as appropriate in the APFED II programme activities.

Continuum of the APFED programmes

In order to enhance the effectiveness of the APFED II programmes, the linkages between Policy Dialogue, Knowledge Initiative and Showcase Programme need to be further explored with the enhanced support of NetRes.

As the usefulness of the aforementioned APFED II programmes and institutional mechanisms has been widely acknowledged, positive consideration should be given to continuing such programmes and components beyond the APFEDII.

Multi-stakeholder involvement

The further involvement of multi-stakeholders in the APFED programmes and activities is deemed as important, particularly the private business sector.

2. Knowledge Initiative

Application and selection processes

With a view to providing opportunities for a wide range of stakeholders to make quality applications to the Award, the application period can be extended while the selection process can be expedited.

A suggestion was made to include the Award winner in the immediately preceding year as a member of the Award selection committee. The Secretariat was suggested to examine such feasibility.

Integrating applicants in the network

Consideration should be given to integrating both the Award winners and non-awarded applicants into the network for sharing information on APFED activities and sustainable development discourses and activities.

Geographical coverage

Reference was made to a merit of including West Asia in the Award Programme while it was noted that primary APFED focus is placed on Northeast, Southeast, South and Central Asia, and the Pacific.

Case studies

The framework presented by the Secretariat for undertaking case studies on the Award projects is deemed as a useful basis. Non-awarded applications and other relevant cases can be also cross-referred, and where appropriate, studied in the context of good practice analysis.

Database

The APFED Database should be further upgraded to facilitate information sharing on APFED II and good practices for promoting sustainable development. It is encouraged to implement the suggested actions to upgrade the Database.

3. Showcase Programme

2008 Showcase Panel decisions

The participants thanked the members of the Showcase Programme Panel that met on 24 July 2008 for their hard work and careful and balanced selection process. They endorsed the membership of the Panel drawn from the APFED Steering Committee and endorsed the decision made by the Showcase Programme Panel on the list of 13 projects for support under the 2008 Programme with guidance for revisions of the proposals and their implementation. A possibility was also indicated in financing up to two more proposals when sufficient funds are secured. Both the APFED Secretariat and the Showcase Facility Secretariat are requested to facilitate communications to the successful applicants.

2009 Programme

Climate change, the 3Rs and biodiversity, all supportive to sustainable development, will be considered as priority areas to achieve sustainable development in the Asia and Pacific region.

The compatibility between the priority of the APFED II and the demand of stakeholders need to be considered, and NetRes institutes must play a proactive role in filling such gaps.

Monitoring and evaluation of Showcase projects

Simplified and categorized indicators would be helpful in measuring the progress. Monitoring and assessment require support, for instance, from NetRes. Reference was made to the difficulty in numerically demonstrating tangible impacts on behavioural changes and influence on the macro-level policy decision-making while their importance was underlined.

Replication of good practice

Replication is one of the priority objectives. Lessons from the Showcase should be expanded to other countries in the region, and NetRes has a role to play in this context. In completing the APFED II Showcase Programme, an emphasis should be given to the replication of good practices through enhanced information dissemination and advocacy on good practices. The Secretariat was also asked to explore possible mechanisms for facilitating replication of the good practices exemplified by the Hashimoto Award winners and Showcase Programmes, including support for lecture tours and staff exchange visits in collaboration with other relevant organisations.

Capacity of implementing organisations

Some implementing organisations also face constraints in the capacity to conduct effective implementation.

NetRes

NetRes is expected to play an important role while it was noted that NetRes institutes face difficulties in following up approved projects and monitoring some cases. Given the fact that some earlier projects are coming to completion, evaluation needs to be intensified so that impacts created and lessons learned by Showcase projects are properly documented and shared with other stakeholders. Organisation of a Showcase workshop, in this respect, may be useful. Development of a region-wide sustainable development strategy should be also considered as a possible joint activity.

Network activities can evolve bilaterally between some of the NetRes institutes. NetRes should also examine emerging policy challenges, for instance, those recently posed by hiking oil and food prices, and collaborate in undertaking research and activities to find solutions to surging problems.

Information dissemination

Information sharing and dissemination on the Showcase projects are important. The websites launched by the Showcase Facility Secretariat and APFED Secretariat are useful frameworks and they should be further strengthened and upgraded.

Networking

Contacts with applicants whose applications were not selected should be maintained and utilised for information sharing and future activities. Consideration should be given to sharing information on non-selected showcase projects for exploring alternative funding opportunities.

Showcase report preparation and its follow-ups

The time-lag between the report preparation and other APFED II programme cycles need to be mitigated. The FY 2009 Showcase Programme will over-wrap the change of the APFED II five-year programme period. In the light of the uniqueness and importance demonstrated by the APFED Showcase Programme, it should be continued beyond 2010. Proper follow-up measures should be further explored and discussed for continuously supporting the endeavours to promote sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

4. NetRes

Expected role of NetRes

NetRes is an important supporting institutional mechanism for APFED II and expected to act as a vehicle and institutional umbrella to promote policy, institutional, social, and technological innovation for sustainable development.

Enhancing effectiveness in NetRes performance

NetRes is expected to catalyze lessons learned from APFED II programmes and synthesize them as a basis for the APFED II Final report. In this respect, organisation of NetRes meetings was very much supported..

In addition to providing inputs for policy processes, NetRes is encouraged to further undertake collaborative and network activities. The suggested activities include the contribution to the next State of the Environment report for Asia and the Pacific, joint research, fund applications or bi/trilateral collaboration among NetRes institutes.

Suggestions were also made to promote collaboration with other research institutes and utilize cyber-based communication.

5. APFED II Final Report

Overall framework and process for the Final Report

The APFED members underlined the importance attached to the APFED II Final Report preparation process, *i.e.* a series of drafting meetings, reviews and modifications. The Final report must utilize lessons learned from the APFED II activities. It must also have comprehensive and long-term views to cover key issues of sustainable development while emphases can be placed on priority issues.

The report should not be just the compilation of APFED II activity information. It should also highlight the lasting impacts of APFED's work. It must be seen as an authoritative document providing long-lasting guidance on sustainable development policies and actions in Asia and the Pacific.

The reports should also reflect the challenges faced by the region, including new emerging global challenges exemplified by the recent surge in energy and food prices, among others. They must demonstrate models and prompt new patterns of sustainable development that is based on Asia's endowed resources and conditions. They should also advocate macro-policies and field level actions conducive to achieving sustainable development, and propagate good practice. Furthermore, they should reflect diverse views, circumstances and interests of the region including the small island developing countries and their particular vulnerabilities.

Thematic areas

While reports must have comprehensive viewpoints and coverage, they can give focus on climate change including energy, 3Rs/circular economy, biodiversity, forests and water that require inter-linking perspectives. In addition to such environmental issues, cross-cutting themes should be embedded in the reports such as poverty eradication, community involvement and participation, partnership, empowerment of the marginalized society, capacity building, finance and technology transfer. With reference to finance, a focus can be given on new dimension of financial issues in the areas of the environment such as payment for environmental services and internalization of environmental cost and benefit.

It is also suggested to take into account emerging policy challenges such as food and oil price increase and their impacts on the environment and sustainable development. In this context, consideration needs to be given to the nexus of food and energy, agricultural ecology, food and environment that have been entailing massive social transformation in the developing world.

Targeted policy processes

The APFED members endorsed the overall plan presented by the Secretariat on the processes for preparing and presenting the APFED II Final Reports. MCED VI is one of the key processes in this context together with the UNFCCC/COPs, CBD/COP10, and other relevant environmental policy processes.

There are other important processes where the APFED II reports can be better utilized. Such processes include those on the 3Rs, the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (2005 – 2014). The reports can be also used for sustainability education in higher education.

Institutional mechanisms

In addition to APFED members, NetRes is called for its support to the report preparation processes. It was also suggested to use other networks of research institutes and universities.

Future of APFED II

In the light of the success and usefulness demonstrated by APFEDII, growing recognition of the merit of its continuation and leadership demonstrated by the Government of Japan, particularly the Ministry of the Environment for supporting regional collaboration on environmental management and sustainable development, it was expressed to convey a wish of the APFED members to seek the continuous support by the Japanese Ministry of the Environment to proceed with either APFED III or another form of regional collaboration for continuing the components of the APFEDII beyond 2010 and its follow-ups. Importance of strengthened collaboration with partner international organisations such as ADB, UNESCAP, UNEP and UNU as well as regional networks such as ASEM and AECEN was pointed out as an essential factor for continuation of APFED II activities.

6. Policy Dialogue

Multi-stakeholder involvement

The usefulness of multi-stakeholder involvement particularly the private business sector and civil society was highlighted.

Themes

Climate change, 3Rs and biodiversity can remain to be priority themes for future plans. More focused sub-themes can be selected under such priority issues. The special topic discussions at this Meeting offered useful information for considering the future plans on policy dialogue.

Cross-cutting issues and new subjects can be also considered as possible topics for future policy dialogue plans such as urban/rural sustainability, coastal resources and trade & environment.

Targeted processes

MCED VI is one of the key processes in this context together with the UNFCCC/COPs, CBD/COP10, and East Asia Environment Ministers' Meeting. It was also suggested to seek a possibility with other processes such as Asia-Europe Environment Forum and Northeast Asia Environment Ministers Meeting/Summit on Climate Change, and 3R related regional forums.

APFED Message on Climate Change

As the APFED message, of which a draft was shared at the APFED Policy Dialogue in December 2007, shall be further refined by taking into account further comments received or to be received from APFED members, NetRes institutes and partners, and the Secretariat will further examine the modality and timing of releasing the final APFED message on climate change.

7. Special topics

Useful discussions were conducted on (1) Tackling Climate Change and Reducing Poverty through

Co-benefit Approaches and (2) Conserving Biodiversity and Enhancing Agro-bio Productivity. Both topics provide useful perspectives to promote policy measures and activities towards pursuing models for integrated environment/ecosystem management and alternative sustainable livelihood development.

Achievements and further potential benefits were acknowledged as co-benefit of climate change actions such as environmentally sound transport, community agroforestry, biogas projects and energy efficient housing. Progress was also noted on the international support programmes such as those by ADB and UN-ESCAP. Rewarding co-benefit effects is a key part and concrete measures and good practices need to be promoted. Revenue conversions from profitable CDM to low-profitable, but community based CDM can help rural community in pursuing the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Biological diversity conservation and bio/agro-productivity improvement must be pursued as a way for promoting integrated ecosystem management and improving the livelihood of the people. In this context, it was underline that it is important to reinforce the recognition of ecosystems as an integral part of development infrastructure by attributing economic valuation of ecosystem functions, with the purpose of incorporating into relevant development policy framework. Payment for ecosystem service and other forms for internalizing environmental cost and benefit into pricing and rewarding mechanisms need further research and policy transformation.

It was suggested to follow up the work on the above-mentioned topics in the future work programme of the APFED II.

8. Others

Appreciation and support was expressed to the offer reiterated by the Government of Kazakhstan to host the 6th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED VI) in 2010.

Appreciation was also expressed to the Government of Japan particularly the Ministry of the Environment for sponsoring the Meeting, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Republic of Philippines, Davao City Government, Earth Council Asia- Pacific, and IGES for co-organizing and supporting the Meeting.

Annex III

Meeting Proceeding

Key points of discussions that are reflected in the main text of the Chair Summary are omitted in this proceeding.

DAY 1: 25 July 2008 (Friday)

The final selection of the 2008 Ryutaro Hashimoto APFED Award was announced to give prizes namely 1 Gold, 2 Silver, and 3 Incentive prizes to the following 6 winners who were selected out of 31 applications from Asia and the Pacific.

Gold Prize

“Mitigation of the Effects of CO₂ and Other Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) by controlling Slash & Burn Farming” by Mr. Khop Narayan Shrestha, Executive Chairman, MDI-Nepal

Silver Prize

“Utilization of Kyoto Protocol’s Clean Development Mechanism to enable investment by the private sector with Public Private Partnership business model to convert open dumps to engineered landfills in Indonesia to improve waste management, improve energy security with renewable energy for community development and mitigate against climate change” by Mr. Joseph Wu Chao Hwang, Director, PT Gikoko Kogyo Indonesia

“Improving Rural Livelihoods: Promoting Sustainable and Safer Vegetable Production” by Dr. Syed Nurul Alam, Entomology Division, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI)

Incentive Prize

“The Ecological Solid Waste Management Program of the Municipality of Sto. Tomas, Davao Del Norte, Philippines by Mr.Hon Maximo M. Estela, Municipality of Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte

“Building Zero Energy Development Communities to Mainstream Sustainability: T-Zed Homes” by Biodiversity Conservation India Limited (BCIL)

“Capacity Building for Sustainable Construction in Rural Northeast China” by Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) China

In the Award giving ceremony, the prizes were presented to the prize winners by Ms. Yoriko Kawaguchi, APFED Chair, Mr. Masayoshi Namiki, Vice Minister of the Environment, Japan, Mr. Demetrio L. Ignacio Jr., Undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Republic of the Philippines, and Mr. Leo Avila, Member of Davao City Council. The winners present at the ceremony were the Gold and Silver prize winners and the one of the Incentive prize winners that is based in the proximity of Davao City.

Presentations on Award Winning projects

Following the Award giving ceremony, the representative of the Award winning project implementing organisations, who were present at the ceremony, presented their project activities. Mr. Khop Narayan Shrestha, Executive Chairman, MDI-Nepal, 2008 Ryutaro Hashimoto APFED Award Gold Prize winner, presented “Mitigation of the Effects of CO₂ and Other Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) by Controlling Slash & Burn Farming” project in sloping area of Nepal. The project introduced the method to stabilize soil at slope fields. The project helped local farmers generate cash income through planting high value plants.

Mr. Joseph Wu Chao Hwang, Director, PT Gikoko Kogyo Indonesia, Silver prize winner, explained the project aimed at generating biogas in landfill sites through improved waste management. The project is qualified as the Kyoto Protocol’s Clean Development Mechanism for mitigating climate change and implemented through a public-private partnership business model.

Dr. Syed Nurul Alam, Entomology Division, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, another Silver prize winner, presented the project that promotes innovative measures for reducing the pesticide and health hazards explaining such alternative pest control measures increased the productivity of high-value agriculture products.

Mr. Hon Maximo M. Estela, Mayor, Municipality of Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte, an incentive prize winner, presented the project on the ecological solid waste management in Davao del Norte, Philippines elaborating upon the role played by the Municipality Government for improving the effectiveness in waste management.

The participants interacted with the Award winners. A question was raised, for instance, on the way to balance the waste reduction and biogas production increase in connection. It was explained that waste reduction is a primary objective of the waste management operation, and biogas is produced based on such a minimized waste. It was also pointed out that private investment needs to be forged to support effective waste management and biogas production. The Secretariat announced its

intention to undertake case studies that will clarify further the innovativeness, success factors, their impacts and relation with macro-policies with a view to disseminating information on such good practices.

Adoption of Agenda for the APFED II 4th Plenary Meeting

The Secretariat introduced and the participants adopted the agenda and the programme of work for the APFEDII Fourth Plenary Meeting (APFEDII-4/08/Doc.1).

Session I: Overview of the APFED II

Mr. Hideyuki Mori, Vice President, IGES presented the overall APFED activities (contained in APFEDII-4/08/Doc.3) undertaken for the past year mainly on 1) Knowledge Initiative, 2) the Showcase Programme, and 3) Policy Dialogue. The overall discussion points were raised, for instance, how to address priority policy issues, as well as how to enhance the dissemination of good practices among major stakeholders in the Asian-Pacific region. Mr. Mori also referred to the institutional mechanism for APFED such as NetRes and highlighted suggestions to strengthen partnership with other networks and relevant partners.

Session II: APFED Knowledge Initiative

In the session, Ms. Kyoko Matsumoto, Researcher of IGES presented the document on Knowledge Initiative contained in (APFEDII-4/08/Doc.4) highlighting the results of the APFED awards for 2008 and overall assessment of APFED awards from 2006-2008. The members reaffirmed that it should be addressed to the region having a good success stories, and that it is important to disseminate good stories, and should not be lost. It was also pointed out that the priority policy areas should include climate change, 3Rs, and biodiversity and sustainable development while looking at the linkage with macro policy, such as MCED and CBD/COP 10. In addition, it was emphasized to advance the work on biodiversity and poverty alleviation. It was also suggested to explore a linkage with the private sector. Other topics were also suggested for future work of APFED such as mega-cities like Manila and Beijing.

Session III: APFED Innovation Showcase Programme

Ms. Aretha Aprilia, Programme Specialist, United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia-Pacific (UNEP/ROAP) presented the Operation of the Showcase Facility. Then, Ms. Ikuyo Kikusawa, Visiting Researcher, PMO, IGES presented the Overview of APFED Showcase Programme based on the document APFEDII-4/08/Doc.5.

Through the presentations and discussions, it was pointed out that there were a large number of proposals for the very limited chance to be funded under the Showcase Programme. Many good proposals were not given the opportunity for implementation. In other words, the relation with the un-selected applicants should be maintained to encourage them to seek for another chance of putting the ideas in practice. One of the options is to put the un-selected applications on the APFED website to seek supporters beyond APFED. A lack of funding should not limit the implementation of appealing proposals.

The importance was highlighted to apply indicators to monitor the project progress and impacts. Consideration needs to be given to how projects match priority objectives and how different they are from other over 300 proposals. To evaluate the impact of implemented project, a limited and focused number of indicators, possibly less than 20 can be effective. At the same time, it was stated that information is limited in developing countries and it is difficult to provide adequate measurement for various categories of indicators. It was also emphasized to examine the interface between macro policy and local actions.

Session IV: NetRes

Mr. Masanori Kobayashi, Coordinator, PMO, IGES and Ms. Tomoko Noguchi, Visiting Researcher, PMO, IGES presented an update on NetRes activities based on the document APFEDII-4/08/Doc.6.

A number of points were raised for further activating NetRes in a long-term perspective.. In designing future work of APFED, institutional mechanisms deserve further attention. In this context, the role to be played by NetRes in promoting knowledge creation and innovation was emphasized. Innovation can include technology as well as policy and institutional development.

NetRes can contribute not only to APFED but also to other organizations or works such as developing the SOE report with UN-ESCAP. It would be a contribution to regional decision making processes. It was proposed to collaborate in knowledge sharing between NetRes members. As an example, India and China bilateral collaboration seem to emerge in concrete terms. It was also suggested to pursue a sustainable development report focusing on climate change to be developed through collaboration among NetRes.

Session V: APFED II Final Report

Mr. Hiroshi Nishimiya, Deputy Programme Managing Director, IGES presented the document that described the APFED II Final Report development processes APFEDII-4/08/Doc.7. In APFED II, activities are geared to promote the replication of good practices and experiences. Many agreed that

APFED activities should continue to take a lead in knowledge creation and network activities that should be continued beyond APFED II period. An option was also raised to transform APFED into a platform for supporting partnerships. It was proposed that the final report should focus on lessons learned.

Session VI: APFED Policy Dialogue

Mr. Masanori Kobayashi, Coordinator, PMO, IGES presented the progress made in promoting APFED policy dialogues based on the document APFEDII-4/08/Doc.8. It was pointed out that the effectiveness of policy dialogue in relation to enhancement of APFED program should be considered. The cooperation between private sectors and government led a big success to solve environmental problem. In terms of the linkage of macro policy, there is an announcement from Mongolia's participants that the high-level summit 2009 on climate change will be held in Mongolia in 2009 June or July. Also, an environment ministers' meeting is planned to take place in Viet Nam in October this year.

DAY 1: 25 July 2008 (Friday)

Session VII: Special Dialogue Session

To address emerging priority environmental policy issues and prepare for possible policy dialogues in the future, two points were selected for the special session at this Meeting. For each of the two topics, two resource persons were invited to make presentations to be followed by discussions.

(i) Tackling Climate Change and Reducing Poverty through Co-benefit Approaches

Ms. Elisea "Bebet" Gillera Gozun, Chairperson, Earth Council Asia and Mr. Masami Tsuji, Senior Environment Specialist, Asian Development Bank made presentations on co-benefit approaches and their perspectives and activities.

In the presentations and discussions, a number of points were raised and discussed.

Although poverty reduction and co-benefit are very important topics, it was pointed out that it would be important to focus on how to develop concrete schemes to revolve problems and challenges. Focuses should not be limited to climate actions only, but need to contextualize in the overall framework of sustainable development. Means to recognise and quantify the co-benefit/climate benefit should also be developed. Mechanisms like CDM provide additional rewards to sustainable development components other than direct carbon benefits. Reduced Emissions from Deforestation

in Developing Countries (REDD) is one of the opportunities.

(ii) Conserving Biodiversity and Enhancing Agro-bio Productivity: Towards pursuing models for integrated ecosystem management and alternative sustainable livelihood development

Dr. Perry S. Ong, Associate Professor, Institute of Biology, College of Science, University of the Philippines Diliman, and Mr. Anshuman Saikia, Deputy Regional Programme Coordinator, IUCN Asia Region made presentations on this topic and participants had discussions.

Through presentations and discussions, key points were raised and suggested for future work. In addressing biodiversity and food/fuel production, holistic thinking was stressed to achieve co-benefit. Holistic approach was also emphasized in connection with the interface between the policy level and project. By making a clear linkage between biodiversity and climate change based on local activities, biodiversity and poverty alleviation can be both addressed. In the light of linking climate change and biodiversity, forest plays a key role in maintaining a carbon system. Co-benefit can be achieved by combining climate change and biodiversity concentrating on forests.

Although lack of expertise in taxonomy system is critical, it has not drawn enough attention. APFED may be able to assist this matter under the APFED Showcase Programme. The Showcase Programme can also address trans-boundary projects.