

**ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT  
EXPERT MEETING  
23 January 2003  
Guilin, People's Republic of China**

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**Draft Introduction to APFED 3 Expert Meeting  
on  
Integrated Approach to Managing Urbanization  
with Particular Emphasis on Sustainable Land Use**

**Introduction**

The Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED) reviewed the environment and development issues facing in the Asia-Pacific Region and identified five major issues that require priority attention, namely, fresh water resources, renewable energy, trade, finance and urbanization. Based on the discussions at two sessions, the APFED sent a message, including its own commitments, to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).

With regard to the issue of urbanization, the APFED recommended to take an integrated approach to manage urbanization (Recommendation E (1)) and strengthen local initiatives in the management of urban environment (Recommendation E (2)). The recommendations are attached as Annex to this document.

The APFED, however, has not discussed the urbanization in a comprehensive and detailed manner. The Expert Meeting in Guilin was designed, as an initial attempt, to address this issue with special emphasis on an integrated approach to manage urbanization through sustainable land use, and to identify next steps for further deliberation under the framework of APFED.

This paper is prepared by the secretariat to provide a point of departure of the deliberations at the meeting, which outlines the programme structure, major objectives and expected outcome of the meeting. Detailed technical background information and possible points for discussions at the meeting are summarized separately in two papers as regional overview papers (APFED3/EM/03/Doc.4 and 5).

## **Programme and Major Objectives**

The meeting programme was designed jointly with the Sino-Japan Friendship Center for Environmental Protection and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies. Considering the APFED recommendations regarding urbanization, the meeting consists of two sessions. The first part of the meeting focuses on urbanization-related issues in rural areas with special attention to land degradation. On the other hand, the second part of the meeting mainly deals with those within urban areas. In both sessions, the regional overview will be presented, which will be followed by presentations on current state in selected countries.

The meeting is organized, as an initial attempt, to overview urbanization issues in the region and their policy responses and to identify the next steps for further deliberations. More specifically, the major objectives of the meeting are as follows:

- To identify major impacts of urbanization pressures on the environment and ecosystem in rural areas with special attention to land degradation, to analyze causes and problems of such impacts, and to identify possible policies and measures toward sustainable and environmentally sound land use; and
- To review current information- and knowledge-base with regard to major impacts relating to urbanization in urban areas, as well as their causes and problems, and to identify available resources and opportunities for strengthening policy responses and other measures to address unfavorable urbanization pressures and mitigate associated environmental problems.

## **Expected Outcomes**

The results of this meeting will be reported as Chairperson's summary at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Substantive Meeting of APFED to be held on 25-26 January. During this Substantive Meeting, APFED members will discuss the outline of APFED final report and implementation plan of APFED commitments. It is expected that the outcome of this Expert Meeting would form a foundation for the APFED deliberations for its future activities.