

**ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
THIRD SUBSTANTIVE MEETING
25-26 January 2003
Guilin, People's Republic of China**

**APFED Events and Outcomes related to the
World Summit on Sustainable Development**

APFED Partnership Initiatives for Knowledge Network and Capacity Building

The three commitments made in the APFED Message to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) were submitted as a Type II Partnership/Initiative document to the Secretariat of the WSSD in September 2002. The initiative, which began in September 2002 and is expected to end in December 2004, will be jointly implemented by APFED and its partners, which include a national government, several intergovernmental organizations, and major groups. The main objective of the partnership/initiative is to keep the momentum of WSSD in Asia and the Pacific region and contribute significantly to the region's sustainable development. The partnership/initiative is in line with Part IX: Means of Implementation of the Plan of Implementation for the WSSD, and is closely related to the objectives of Agenda 21.

New Partnership Initiatives towards Johannesburg and beyond: Creating a New Regional Network for Sustainable Development: Side-event at PrepCom IV on 3 June 2002

IGES, with the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, UNEP, UN ESCAP and UNU/IAS, held a side-event titled "New Partnership Initiatives towards Johannesburg and beyond: Creating a New Regional Network for Sustainable Development" in Bali, Indonesia on 3 June 2002. APFED was introduced to the approximately 150 participants of the meeting as one of the two new initiatives in Asia and the Pacific region. The side-event began with an explanation of the aim of the event by Mr. Hamanaka, Vice Minister of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan. Professor Morishima, APFED member and Chair of Board of Directors, IGES, followed with an introduction of APFED and its recommendations and commitments.

The key speakers were: Dr. Parvez Hassan, APFED member from Pakistan, who emphasized the importance of the Earth Charter as an ethical model of sustainable development in the region; Dr.

Kim Hak-Su, APFED member and Executive Secretary of UN ESCAP, who mentioned urbanization as one of the most crucial issues for the sustainable future of the region; Dr. Habito, APFED member from the Philippines, who underlined the uniqueness of APFED which enables it to play an important role in the region's move towards sustainable development; Mr. Kakakhel, who spoke on behalf of Dr. Töpfer, APFED member and Executive Director of UNEP, and pointed out that synergy amongst activities of international and regional organizations should be promoted to operationalize the APFED recommendations.

The floor was then opened. Participants who made comments included: the Environment Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan, who expressed his appreciation for the initiative of APFED; a participant from the Economic and Social Commission of Latin America, who mentioned that a unique and effective initiative such as APFED should be launched in other regions, such as in South America; and Dr. Ponizova, APFED member from Russia, who emphasized three points as key to achieving sustainable development in the region, namely participation of multi-stakeholders, integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, and operationalizing the integration.

APFED Recommendations and Commitments: New Partnership Initiatives for Knowledge Network and Capacity Building: Parallel-event at the WSSD on 28 August 2002

The event, organized by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, UNEP, UN ESCAP, and IGES, was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 28 August 2002. Approximately 120 persons were present and opinions were exchanged on APFED's recommendations and commitments made to the WSSD. The parallel event began with opening remarks by the then-Minister of the Environment of Japan, Mr. Hiroshi Ohki. The next speaker, Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto, former Prime Minister of Japan and Chairperson of APFED, stressed that APFED's outcomes will not only be meaningful to Asia and the Pacific region but will also be relevant to Africa and the rest of the world in their efforts towards sustainable development. Professor Morishima spoke next and outlined the background the content of APFED's recommendations and commitments to the WSSD.

The first key speaker of the event was Dr. Töpfer, who stressed the importance of creating networks for information dissemination so that countries can learn from each other's lessons. The next speaker was Dr. Kim Hak-Su, who quoted the words of Mr. Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General, to emphasize the importance of good environmental governance, calling for partnerships, devolution of power to local governments, and empowerment of local communities. Dr. Hassan spoke next and stressed that now is the time to implement what is already on the table, and APFED can play an important role in this process. The last key speaker was Mr. Warren Evans, Director of Environment

and Social Safeguard Division of the ADB, who stated the need to generate local finance.

Participants who made comments and questions after the floor was opened include: Dr. Reza Maknoon, APFED member from Iran, who echoed previous speakers on the importance of Asia and the Pacific region; Dr. Corazon Claudio, President, Asian Institute of Journalism and Communications in the Philippines, who commented on the importance of CBP to go beyond identifying and compiling information to enhancing programmes targeting two sectors in particular, namely media and SMEs; Dr. Zakri, Director, UNU/IAS, Japan, who mentioned UNU's willingness to collaborate with APFED; Mr. Prince Lekan Fadinam, Executive Director of the Centre for Investment, Sustainable Development, Management and Environment (CISME) based in Nigeria, who stated the importance of transfer of knowledge to assist Africa; Dr. Effendy Smardja, Special Adviser, State Ministry of Environmental Affairs, Indonesia, who commented that the challenge we face is maintaining our resources, especially in dense areas where poor people live; and Mr. Byron Syler, Assistant Professor of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University College of Asia Pacific Management, Japan, who stressed the need for local networking and exchange of knowledge.