

**ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
FOURTH SUBSTANTIVE MEETING
23-24 August 2003
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

**Expert Group Meeting on Environment and Development in Mongolia
21 August 2003 Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

Draft Summary

1. The “Expert Group Meeting on Environment and Development in Mongolia” was held in the Chinggis Khan Hotel, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 21 August 2003. The objective of the Meeting was to exchange information and views on key environment and sustainable development issues in Mongolia among Mongolia’s eminent experts and stakeholder representatives and experts from the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) as well as to develop fresh insights which could be reflected in the regional actions proposed for inclusion in the APFED final report.
2. The Meeting was attended by 22 participants including Dr. P. Ochirbat, former President of Mongolia; Dr. D. Dagvadorj, National Programme Coordinator and Secretary of National Committee of Sustainable Development; Dr. B. Bayasgalan, Deputy Director, Sustainable Development and Environment Department, Ministry of Nature and Environment; and Prof. A. Morishima, Chairman of the Board of Directors, IGES. Dr. Prof. Ts. Adyasuren, Director of Environmental University Eco-Asia, represented Mongolian NGOs. Representatives of other stakeholders, such as the private sector and academia, were also present at the Meeting. Ms. B. Hardy, APFED Member from Australia, and Dr. S. Zandaryaa, Postdoctorate Research Fellow, United Nations University, attended the Meeting as observers.
3. Through various presentations, it was emphasised that Mongolia was among those countries most severely affected by the negative impacts of climate change, with, for example, Mongolia’s average temperature increasing 1.56 degrees over the past 60 years, almost three times the global average of 0.6 degrees. Also highlighted was that negative impacts of climate change were linked to broader environmental problems, such as desertification, land degradation, deficiency of water resources and increases in the incidence of natural disasters, as well as to social consequences, such as increased migration of the rural population to urban areas, urban unemployment and poverty. It was thus concluded that climate change constituted the primary threat to achieving sustainable development in Mongolia.
4. The Meeting shared the view that most of the urgent environment and sustainable development challenges in Mongolia could be categorised under the areas which APFED had already set forth as areas deserving particular attention, such as freshwater resources, renewable energy and urbanisation. Also it was pointed out that the policy options that

APFED had so far advocated, such as integrated approaches and capacity building, were considered potentially useful for Mongolia in addressing those problems in the future.

5. The Mongolian participants suggested that the current situation in Mongolia could be jointly studied as a model case in which the validity of different policy responses to the negative impacts of climate change could be assessed against the conditions of the developing country. Also, participants expressed their desire that Mongolia play a more active role in the subsequent APFED process as it continues its own efforts to achieve sustainable development.
6. The Mongolian participants expressed their strong desire that the cooperation between Mongolian researchers and the foreign research community, including in particular IGES, should be strengthened. IGES expressed its readiness to take positive steps in that direction, probably in cooperation with the National Institute of Environmental Studies, Japan, which could also contribute supplementary expertise in the field of natural science.