

## **NEASPEC Expert Group Meeting on Subregional Cooperation for Strengthening National Capacity in Green Labeling Programmes**

17 March, 2010

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Tokyo, Japan

### **Background**

The Framework of NEASPEC adopted at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in 1996 defines the principle objective as the promotion of subregional environmental cooperation and sustainable development efforts. The Vision Statement adopted at the 5<sup>th</sup> SOM in 2000 calls upon the member countries to develop the current mechanism as a comprehensive programme. In this regard, member countries have discussed potential activities that directly address decoupling environmental pressures from economic growth.

The 14<sup>th</sup> SOM in 2009 noted the considerable relevance of the proposed Eco-Efficiency Partnership to the ongoing national initiatives for improving energy and resource efficiency, and received activity proposals from member countries for their plan to contribute to each component of the Eco-efficiency Partnership. In this context, the SOM supported a proposal of the Republic of Korea to hold a meeting on subregional cooperation on green labeling. Subsequently, the secretariat facilitated consultations among relevant national institutions and experts to identify the need and area of subregional cooperation on green labeling, reviewed existing policies in selected member countries and developed the plan of the upcoming expert group meeting.

International experiences have shown that regional, multilateral and bilateral cooperation on green labeling programme significantly contribute to the enhancement of technical capacities for developing and improving relevant national programmes, the reduction of economic costs for producers of exporting goods and the improvement of eco-efficiency in consumption and production patterns.

### **Objective**

The key objectives of the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) are to identify challenges and opportunities in connection with energy and carbon footprint labeling programmes and policies in North-East Asia, and to strengthen subregional cooperation on the following areas:

1. Share the best practices on energy and carbon footprint labeling programmes in North-east Asia;

2. Seek cooperation for strengthening national capacities in the improvement of testing procedures, performance standards and labeling programmes;
3. Enhance green labeling programmes to support national initiatives for greening development and addressing climate change.

## Provisional Programme

17 March 2010	
8:00 – 8:30	Registration
8:30 – 8:50	<b>Opening Session of the EGM</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Remark, ESCAP</li> <li>• Welcoming Remark, MOE or relevant agencies (Japan)</li> <li>• Introduction to the goal and plan of the meeting</li> </ul>
8:50 – 10:20	<b>Session 1: National Policies and Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National presentation may address policies and programmes for improving environmental and energy performance of products</li> </ul>
10:20 – 10:40	<b>Tea Break</b>
10:40 – 12:00	<b>Session 2: Energy Standard and Labeling Programmes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National energy standard and labeling programmes and suggestions on subregional cooperation</li> </ul>
12:00 – 13:30	<b>Tea Break</b>
13:30 – 14:30	<b>Session 3: Carbon Footprint Initiative</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recent national initiatives and potential areas of subregional cooperation</li> </ul>
14:30 – 16:00	<b>Session 4 - Group Discussion on Future Subregional Cooperation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Group 1: Energy standard and labeling programmes</li> <li>- Group 2: Carbon footprint initiatives</li> </ul>
16:00 – 16:30	<b>Tea Break</b>
16:30 – 17:00	<b>Session 5: Conclusion and Recommendation</b>