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**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

Fifteenth Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of NEASPEC

17-18, March 2010
Tokyo, Japan

INFORMATION CIRCULAR

**THE 6TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (MCED 6), 2010, ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN**

Note by the secretariat

1. The Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED) in Asia and the Pacific has been organized by ESCAP every five years since 1985. MCED has successfully served as a major regional forum for reviewing the state of environment and development in the Asia and the Pacific region, assessing progress, opportunities and challenges in implementing globally and regionally agreed goals for sustainable development, synergizing regional voices and perspectives and formulating forward-looking agendas such as Regional Implementation Plan or Regional Action Plan.

2. The Conference itself comprises of three major components: the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), Ministerial Segment and Side Events of major stakeholders. The participants of the SOM and Ministerial Segment are expected to be not only senior officials and ministers of environment but also ministers in charge of national development including finance, economic development and/or national planning ministries or commissions in order to address various linkages between the environment and development.

3. At the 63rd Commission Session of ESCAP in 2007, the Government of Kazakhstan had indicated its intension to host the MCED6. The Government at the first Session of ESCAP Committee on Environment and Development (CED- 1) held on 2-4 December 2009 confirmed its plan for holding MCED6 from 27 September to 3 October 2010 in Astana by reporting progress in mobilizing national supports, and presented an initial idea on the scope of the conference. The Government also requested ESCAP to initiate regional preparatory process.

4. Key agendas of MCED6 would include (a) 2010 regional assessment on the state of sustainable development (b) review of implementation of sustainable development plans and programmes in Asia and the Pacific, including the outcomes of MCED5, (c) consideration of emerging challenges and actions and (d) deliberation of outcome documents, e.g. ministerial declaration, and regional implementation plan and/or a set of key initiatives on selected topics.

5. At the CED-1, ESCAP invited the views and comments by member states on directions and priority areas of its future initiatives that could help developing the scope, theme and programmes of MCED6. Proposed directions from early feedbacks include further development and application of various existing initiatives, including green growth

as a strategy of sustainable development, win-win solutions for climate change and development, the Kazakh government's proposal "Zasyly damu" (green development) and new programmes based on achievements of and lessons learned from the Kitakyushu Initiatives for a Cleaner Environment and the Seoul Initiatives Network on Green Growth.

6. In the course of the MCED preparation, ESCAP will conduct a series of consultation with member governments and major stakeholders, as appropriate, through periodic reporting to key millstone events, including, *inter alia*, sessions of Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives, 66th Commission Session in May 2010 and Regional Review Meeting for the preparation of MCED to be held in July 2010.

7. At the Sixth and Tenth Senior Officials Meetings held prior to the MCED4 and MCED5, respectively, NEASPEC member countries were invited to provide guidance for the preparatory process of the MCED as well as political and substantive supports to the MCED organization. In particular, based on the decision of the SOM-10, an informal ministerial gathering of NEASPEC member countries was held during the MCED5.

8. Member countries may wish to provide views and information for the formulation of substantive discussion topics of the MCED6 in any forms of inputs including through the national statement under Agenda Item 4.

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