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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Third Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation
in North-East Asia
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Ulaanbaatar

**IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS:
REDUCTION OF SO₂ IN OLDER COAL FIRED PLANTS;
CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGY;
ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT**

(Item 4(a), (b) and (c) of the provisional agenda)

Note by the secretariat

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I. BACKGROUND

1 Initiatives for regional environmental cooperation among the countries of North-East Asia i.e. China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, have gathered momentum following the historic United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992.

A First Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia attended by China, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation held at Seoul in February 1993 to consider initiatives for such regional cooperation. This Meeting decided to concentrate regional environmental cooperation initially in three priority areas: energy and air pollution; ecosystem management, in particular deforestation and desertification; and capacity-building.

2 A Second Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, with additional participation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was held at Beijing in November 1994. The Meeting recognized the importance of subregional cooperation and reaffirmed its commitment to promote such cooperation on environmental issues of common concern in North-East Asia in line with the global consensus reached at UNCED in June 1992. However, it noted that it would be advisable to have a practical approach towards regional cooperation which should be promoted step-by-step. Since a Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly was scheduled to review the implementation of Agenda 21 comprehensively in 1997, the Meeting felt that it would be most appropriate if the North-East Asian region could show some tangible result of regional cooperation by that time.

3 The Second Meeting of Senior Officials endorsed five project profiles as follows and detailed out activities under the projects.

(1) Operations and maintenance training for reduction of sulphur dioxide in older coal-fired electricity generation; (six phases);

(2) Demonstration of clean coal-fired power plant technology;

(3) North-East Asian biodiversity management programme (Phase I);

(4) North-East Asian seed research and information base for forests and grasslands;

and

(5) Environmental pollution data collection, intercalibration, standardization and analysis (three steps).

The projects under (1), (2) and (5) were fairly detailed while projects under (3) and (4) were to be further elaborated.

II. SCOPE OF THE FUNDED PROJECTS

4 The Meeting of Senior Officials urged Asian Development Bank and the World Bank to provide funding support for the implementation of the projects in collaboration with other agencies. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) have accordingly collaborated with each other with the bulk of the funds to support the implementation following components of the projects (1), (2) and (b) above.

- (i) Project 1: Training for Sulfur Dioxide Reduction in coal-fired plants (Phases 1 and 2 only);
- (ii) Project 2: Demonstration of Low-Air Pollution Coal-fired Power Plant Technology, and
- (iii) Project 3: Environmental Pollution Data Collection, Standardization, and Analysis (steps 1 and 2 only)

5 Detailed descriptions of the above projects are furnished in the Annex 1. The projects are designed to promote regional cooperation for the environment in a step-by-step approach, and implement the activities in such a way that some concrete results can be shown following the recommendations of Second Meeting of Senior Officials as mentioned in paragraph 2. The projects will coordinate with other similar programmes that are under way or proposed, either regionally or in specific countries. In particular, step 2 of project 3 relates to the development of a detailed work programme, which may have linkages to the RAINS ASIA programme supported by ADB and the World Bank, and to other activities. The activities under the projects will include a mid-term review workshop which will, *inter alia*, prepare a report on the implementation of the regional environmental cooperation programme for submission to the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly by the participating countries. On completion of the three projects, the activities will close with a final workshop to review the outcomes and formulate proposals for follow-up work. The proposals will be placed before the Senior Officials Meeting for consideration.

III. COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN OF THE PROJECTS

6 The total cost of three projects is estimated to be US\$ 619,000 equivalent, of which US\$ 495,000 will be provided by ADB and US\$ 40,000 will be provided by ESCAP. The host Governments will provide in kind support US\$ 84,000 equivalent by way of salaries of counterpart staff, office equipment and supplies, etc. The details of cost estimates and financing arrangements are as follows:

COST ESTIMATES (in US\$)

Activity	ADB	ESCAP	Governments	Subtotals
Mid-term Review Workshop	46.2	2.5	0.0	48.7
Final Workshop	46.2	2.5	0.0	48.7
Subproject 1	119.3	5.0	28.0	152.3
Subproject 2	184.1	25.0	28.0	237.1
Subproject 3	99.2	5.0	28.0	132.2
Total	495.0	40.0	84.0	619.0

IV. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

7 ESCAP will execute the projects together with ADB and carry out this task in close consultation with the Governments and other collaborating agencies such as UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank. The activities, outputs, documentation, plans, and programme will be kept under constant review by the ESCAP secretariat and reported as appropriate.

V. PROJECT BRIEFS

Item 4(a): Reduction of SO₂ in coal-fired power plants

8 The activities of the project envisaged in the proposed Regional Technical Assistance for Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia of ADB can be summarized as follows:

- (a) Nomination of sites of power plants;
- (b) Preparation of TOR/outline of national and regional study;
- (c) Preparation of national reports;
- (d) Preparation of regional overview;
- (e) Conference of utilities plants experts;
- (f) Development of new project document for implementing phases III to VI; and
- (g) Report editing/publication.

9 The project is to be implemented within one year. The Senior Officials may wish to finalize a work plan/work schedule for its completion following the project description in attachment I. They may, in particular, wish to consider the following:

- (a) Host facilities; if any, offered by a participating Government and decide upon the venue of the Conference of Electric Utilities Plant Operations Experts;
- (b) Indicate planned activities in their countries, which are relevant to the project, and suggest additional activities by offering co-financing with the project.

Item 4 (b): Clean Coal Technologies

10 The activities of the project envisaged in the proposed Regional Technical Assistance for Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia of ADB can be summarized as follows:

- (a) Nomination of sites of power plants;
- (b) Visit of sites by the international consultants and finalization of TOR/outline of study;
- (c) Preparation of report on application of clean coal technologies;
- (d) Preparation of regional overview report including proposals for technology upgradation;
- (e) Conduct of demonstration/training on clean coal technology;
- (f) Report editing/publication.

11 The project is to be implemented within 15 months from commencement. Since it included one demonstration project in each country, it needed to be planned well to complete the activities within the stipulated time frame.

12 The Meeting of Senior Officials may wish to finalize a work plan/schedule for the implementation of the project. The countries may wish to indicate the sites of the power plants, where they propose to hold the demonstration on clean coal technologies. They may also wish to indicate relevant activities, which are planned in their countries so as to enable the secretariat to coordinate its efforts with those activities and facilitate other countries to participate, or which could supplement the project activities by offering co-financing with the project.

Item 4(c): Environmental pollution data collection and management

13 The activities of the project envisaged in the proposed Regional Technical Assistance for Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia of ADB can be summarized as follows:

- (a) Finalization of TOR/outline;
- (b) Preparation of national report;
- (c) Preparation of regional overview report;
- (d) Meeting of experts; and
- (e) Development of a new project proposal to implement step three of the project; and
- (f) Report editing/publication.

14 The project is scheduled for completion within the next 12 months. The Senior Officials may wish to:

(a) Consider offers, if any, for hosting the Meeting of Experts on Pollution Monitoring and Analysis and decide on the venue of the Meeting;

(b) Provide information on related planned activities in their respective countries, so that other countries may participate and the secretariat may coordinate its effort with the planned activities.

VI. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

15 The Senior Officials are requested to review the proposed activities under each of the projects and provide comments on the suggestions on their implementation. A detailed work plan with indication of the time frame for realization of the studies, organizational aspects of the workshops such as undertaking of preparatory activities, and identification of national institutions/agencies who will participate in various activities should be determined to complete the project in specified durations. The guidance of the Senior Officials will be essential in this regard.

16 The Senior Officials may also like to comment on the phases and steps identified in projects 1 and 3 which are not covered by the support presently provided by ADB suggesting the possibilities of full implementation of the projects.

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