
UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Seventeenth Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of NEASPEC

20-21 December 2012

Chengdu, China

Annotated Provisional Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting

Opening and welcoming remarks will be delivered by the Head of the UNESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia and the Head of delegation of the Host Government, respectively.

2. Election of officers

A chairperson, vice-chairperson and a rapporteur will be elected.

3. Adoption of agenda

The provisional agenda was drawn up by the secretariat in accordance with the established practice of the previous sessions and in consultation with the Host Government. The SOM may wish to adopt the agenda.

4. Statements by delegations of member States, and UN and international organizations on matters related to sustainable development in North-East Asia

The heads of national delegations and representatives of UN and international organizations will be invited to deliver their statements on policies, initiatives and proposals in relation to sustainable development in North-East Asia.

5. Review of programme planning and implementation

Documents for the following agenda items will be submitted to member States for the review of progress in developing and implementing activities of NEASPEC and decision on possible follow-up activities:

- a) Nature Conservation in Transboundary Areas: review the outcome of the current project and decide on follow-up actions including the development of a

cooperation framework for protecting flagship species, including Amur Tiger and Amur Leopard.

- b) Transboundary Air Pollution: review the final outcome of the project on Mitigation of Transboundary Air Pollution from Coal-fired Power Plants and the recommendations emanating from the project on the “Review of Existing and Required Capacities for Addressing Adverse Environmental Impacts of Transboundary Air Pollution in North-East Asia” (adopted at 16th SOM, 1-2 September 2011, Seoul) and consider possible follow-up actions aimed at further strengthening subregional cooperation on addressing air pollution issues.
- c) Mitigation of Dust and Sandstorms: review the outcome and progress of the project on “Implementing the Regional Master Plan for the Prevention and Control of Dust and Sandstorms in North-East Asia” and discuss required actions to enhance the exchange of experience and knowledge among member States to jointly address the issue of controlling dust and sandstorms in their source areas.
- d) Eco-efficiency Partnership: discuss potential activities for addressing the economy-environment linkages through the Partnership, especially in light of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference).
- e) Marine Environment: review the outcomes of the Expert Consultation Meeting on environmental challenges related to transboundary marine pollution (27-28 June 2012, Seoul), organized upon the request of SOM-16, and consider possible follow-up activities in this field.

The SOM may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on efficient and effective implementation of NEASPEC activities related to key issues under this agenda item.

6. Review of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference) and its implications for subregional cooperation on sustainable development in North-East Asia

The outcome document titled “The Future We Want” adopted by the Rio+20 Conference includes a number of provisions for the role of the UN Regional Commissions, their subregional offices and other subregional intergovernmental bodies and programs in implementing the decisions of the Conference. Particularly, their significant role in promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development was recognized and these institutions were encouraged to prioritize sustainable development through more efficient and effective capacity-building and exchange of information and experience. Thus, the SOM will be invited to discuss possible NEASPEC activities in

support of the subregional implementation of the Rio+20 Conference outcomes and how activities in North-East Asia can be effectively linked to efforts in Asia-Pacific and on global scale.

7. Consideration of new NEASPEC project proposals

Member States and the secretariat will be invited to present proposals for new activities. Member States that wish to propose new activities are kindly requested to circulate their proposals to other member States via the secretariat well in advance in order to provide sufficient time for reviews by member Governments.

8. Review of issues concerning the institutional arrangement of NEASPEC

Following SOM-16 decision in this regard, the secretariat will present a proposal on rules of procedure, official titles of NEASPEC secretariat staff and other related matters based on the analytical study of similar subregional programmes and entities conducted in 2012.

The SOM may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on the effective operation of the secretariat and decide on new modalities for further strengthening the role and function of NEASPEC.

9. Review of the Core Fund

The SOM will review the status of the Core Fund and proposed budget plans for new activities and make necessary decisions.

Member States are invited to announce intended cash and in-kind contributions for 2012-2013.

10. Venue, date and provisional agenda of the Eighteenth SOM

The SOM will invite member States to express interest in hosting the next SOM.

11. Other matters

The SOM may raise any other matter not covered under the items mentioned above.

12. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting

The Report of the Meeting consists of two major parts, i.e. (i) the conclusions and recommendations, and (ii) the proceedings of the SOM. The first part of the Report will be adopted by the SOM, and the second part will be prepared by the secretariat after the Meeting and will be circulated to member countries for review and approval.

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