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

The Twelfth Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of NEASPEC

22-23 March 2007

Beijing, China

**REVIEW OF PROGRAMME PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION**  
(Item 5(b) of the provisional agenda)

**REGIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: MITIGATION OF TRANSBOUNDARY AIR  
POLLUTION FROM COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS IN NORTH-EAST ASIA**

*Note by the Secretariat*

## I. PROGRESS OF PROJECT FORMULATION

1. At the 10<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting in 2004, member countries of NEASPEC reviewed the outcomes of three project components of Regional Technical Assistance (RETA) for Transboundary Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), namely (a) Pollution Reduction in Coal-fired Power Plants; (b) Environmental Monitoring, Data Collection, Comparability and Analysis; and (c) Action Plans for Improving the Efficiency of Particulate Abatement Systems in Existing Power Plants.

2. In particular, the Meeting reviewed the terminal report of the RETA project, which proposes the following recommendations formulated by the Subregional Workshop on Action Plan for Improvement of the Particulate Abatement Systems of Coal-fired Power Plants held on 7-8 June 2004 in Beijing.

- Develop investment proposals based on the action plans for selected power plants
- Develop a Decision Support System (DSS)
- Conduct a needs assessment study for the establishment of national data collection centres
- Develop training programs for trainers
- Develop the subregional action plan for improvement of the particulate abatements systems and emissions from the coal-fired power plants
- Undertake public awareness activities

3. Considering the need for follow-up activities, the member countries in consultations with the representative of the ADB discussed the approach of the third phase project, and finally adopted a concept paper on “Mitigation of Transboundary Air Pollution from Coal-Fired Power Plants in North-East Asia”. The project concept was further reviewed at the 11<sup>th</sup> SOM to finalize its approach and to reconfirm the support of the member countries. Having accepted the project concept, the 11<sup>th</sup> SOM requested the Secretariat to prepare the timely implementation of the project and in particular expressed its gratitude to the ADB for the continuing support. Furthermore, the Meeting concluded to find appropriate ways to share the benefit of the project with the non-ADB member countries, *i.e.*, DPRK and the Russian Federation.

4. A team of the Secretariat and the ADB undertook a fact-finding mission to China, Republic of Korea, Mongolia and Japan from 17 to 30 September 2006 to develop a detailed plan of the project through consultations with relevant authorities. The team had meetings with national focal points of NEASPEC, ministries and institutes directly involved in the formulation and implementation of national policies on air pollution from coal-fired power plants. The mission helped identify national views on project components and the roles of

potential partners in the project.

5. Subsequent to the mission, ADB continued consultations with a number of the member governments and prepared the attached project document, "Regional Technical Assistance: Mitigation of Transboundary Air Pollution from Coal-Fired Power Plants in North-East Asia". ADB approved the technical assistance project on 18 December 2007, along with the allocated grant financing budget of \$900,000.

## **II. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

6. The Meeting may wish to express its support for the project, and request the ADB and ESCAP to proceed with their internal procedure for the implementation.

7. The Meeting may receive proposals for hosting the inception meeting from ADB member countries and decide upon the tentative schedule and venue of the meeting.

8. In support of the participation of DPR Korean and Russian experts in the project implementation, the Meeting may wish to endorse the budget allocation of US\$20,000 for assisting the experts in attending project meetings and training workshops.