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**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE
PACIFIC**
UNITED NATIONS PROJECT OFFICE ON GOVERNANCE
in cooperation with

REGIONAL HELPDESK ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

UNESCAP-UNPOG Capacity Development Seminar

GREEN GROWTH: A Path to Good Governance

29 March - 1 April 2010
Seoul, Republic of Korea

MEETING REPORT

The *UNESCAP-UNPOG Capacity Development Seminar* titled *Green Growth: A Path to Good Governance* was held at the Seoul Garden Hotel, Seoul, Republic of Korea from 29 March – 1 April 2010 and was successfully completed by 21 participants from across the Asia –Pacific region. The seminar was organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) and the Regional Help Desk on Sustainable Consumption and Production in Asia and the Pacific, and with funding contribution from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ).

The Seminar provided participants with the tools and knowledge to develop programmes and strategies that would steer their current economic growth patterns towards a more eco-efficient, low-carbon and inclusive development while also promoting good governance of natural and human resources. The Seminar focused on strengthening the capacity of policy makers to develop and apply Green Growth policy tools for good governance of human and natural resources, while underlining the social and economic benefits from such good policies. The dividend of such Green Growth policies with regards to mitigating and adaptation to climate change was also underlined throughout the training sessions.

The training seminar was held over four consecutive days and utilized the ESAP Green Growth Capacity Development Programme methodology and toolkits, including case studies, practical



exercises, video presentations, on-line e-learning training tools, etc. The wide range of training of trainers materials were used to educate participants about the Green Growth policy tools available that can be used to promote green growth for good governance and inclusive development in the region. A field trip to the Green Growth Exhibition Hall in Seoul and to Seoul Grand Park kindly was also organized in collaboration with the Environment Action Association (EAA) of Korea, which strengthened the learning process by illustrating further applicability of the various Green Growth tools.

Day by day overview of the Training of Trainers Seminar is provided below.

Day 1

The first day of the training was an introduction to the Green Growth concepts and why the current development paradigms in the Asia-Pacific region need to become more environmentally sustainable. The morning session was opened with an introductory address by Mr. Jong-moo Choi, the Head of UNPOG, Aneta Nikolova, Environmental Affairs Officer, EDPS, EDD of UNESCAP and Mr. Yeon Chul Yoo Deputy Director-General for Green Growth and Environment, MOFAT of Republic of Korea.

The first presentation titled Green Growth as a Solution to the Development Challenges in Asia and the Pacific outlined how the green growth policy tools can be used to tackle the myriad of challenges created by resource scarcity, population growth, environmental degradation and climate change in the Asia-Pacific region. The speed of economic growth in Asia-Pacific developing countries has been surpassing global growth rate for years. The rapid pace of economic growth has been fuelled by the region's rising status as a global production centre. However, commodities produced for export put increasing environmental pressures in the producing countries, as shown by ESCAP studies. Thus, the Asian and Pacific region's rapid industrialization and urbanization in many of the developing countries leave a mark with unresolved resource-use challenges and unsustainable consumption patterns. In line with this, based on the data on Municipal Solid Waste, there is a significant increase expected in South Asia (200%) and partly in China (50%). Therefore, the Asia and Pacific region, needs more than ever to revive cultural values and traditions fostering efficient, cleaner and more thoughtful use of scarce natural wealth for the well-being of all. In March 2005, at the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED 2005) in Asia and the Pacific held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, some 340 delegates, including representatives from 52 member and associate member



countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) endorsed Green Growth as a policy focus and powerful strategy to promote win-win approaches to reconciling the conflict between the achievement of two important Millennium Development Goals: MDG 1 (poverty reduction) and MDG 7 (environmental sustainability). Green Growth comprises of the following mutually-reinforcing "Paths", or entry points, through which policy makers can focus interventions: Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), Greening Business and the Markets (GBM), Sustainable Infrastructure (SI), Green Tax and Budget Reform (GTBR), Investment in Natural Capital (INC), and Eco-efficiency Indicators (EEI).

The following presentation titled Good Governance and its Role in Sustainable Development provided participants with excellent advice about how governments can improve their transparency and accountability in decision making, while providing some great case studies from Europe and Korea on reinventing how governments operate. This was followed by a video presentation specially prepared for the green growth training about the economics of climate change and how it will impact the countries in the region. The video highlighted the policy options which are available to mitigate and adapt to the coming changes in climate.

The presentations during the afternoon session covered topics related sustainable consumption and production (SCP). The first presentation outlined why the production patterns in Asia-Pacific are unsustainable and why they need to be changed towards a more resource efficient, low carbon pattern. This was followed by presentations regarding the policy options governments can use to support SCP and how improvements in energy efficiency in the context of sustainable urban development can drive developments towards green growth. The final presentation was an overview of Korea's Energy policies and highlighted some of the challenges that can be faced by policy makers when adopting green growth policies on the national level. During the question and answer session, the controversial issues around the actual cost of conventional power generation sources (oil , gas and coal), as well as nuclear power were discussed in length and the hidden potential of renewable energies and a growing market was further underlined. The need of strong economic justification while advocating green growth policies was underlined again during this session.

Day 2

The topics covered during the second day focused on greening businesses (GB) and sustainable infrastructure (SI) and featured a range of informative case studies from both developed and developing countries. The first presentation was an introduction to the current trends across Asia



and Pacific in regards to greening business and why companies need to improve their sustainability through improvements in eco-efficiency and how they can adapt to climate change. The presentation explained to participants some of the development theories behind green growth and illustrated how the current economic system is being driven by the strive for economic efficiency in the use of resources, based on a market price that does not reflect the full costs of the processing of natural resources. This was followed by a presentation of four green business case studies; Samsung on green products, Sharp on cleaner production, Sunlabob on rural electrification and Xac Bank on carbon credits. These illustrated to participants how green businesses can also be used for poverty alleviation while ensuring greater environmental sustainability. The following presentation was an in-depth explanation of some SCP concepts introduced the previous day including product life cycle management and eco-design principles which can help aid both public and private enterprises to become more sustainable. The presentation about ISA Tan Tec was a real life example of a company that had utilized green business and SCP concepts to improve both their efficiency in the use of resources while improving their bottom line. As a result the ISA Tan Tec won the LITE award, has secured a large chunk of market, has accumulated profit in times of crisis for the rest of the leather industry and has opened a second factory in Viet Nam.

The afternoon session began with an introduction to sustainable infrastructure concepts and how sustainable master planning provides a strategic framework towards the planning, construction, operation and maintenance of sustainable infrastructure systems. The presentation on green buildings provided participants with a wide range of case studies and policy options to help reduce green house gas emissions from buildings. During the Q & A session a number of participants requested further information on green urban design, development and green building case studies. The participatory activity utilized ESCAP's unique e-learning training software to guide participants through the master planning process of designing and implementing an efficient sustainable infrastructure system in their home countries. This was followed by case study about introducing a sustainable transport system in Bogotá, Columbia and the challenges faced by mayor. The final presentation was about green IT and how it can be used to improve the governance of government decision making and day-to-day operations. During the Q & A session a participant from India highlighted how useful such an initiative would be in his home country to improve knowledge management and government operations.

Day 3



The final day's morning session covered green tax and budget reform (GTBR). The first presentation was an introduction to GTBR and covered some of the key concepts relating to green taxes as well as some case studies from Europe and Asia where GTBR has been successfully implemented. It aimed to give participants a general overview of the subject while emphasizing that any change in a country's tax system would have to be planned carefully to ensure revenue neutrality and to make sure any increase in taxes did not negatively affect the poor. The first participatory activity utilized ESCAP's e-learning software again to guide participants through the background to GTBR and allowed them to plan and assess the impacts from policy implementation. This was followed up by a video presentation about the introduction of congestion charging in London, U.K. and showcased the varying opinions from stakeholders affected by the new green tax. The second participatory activity was designed to facilitate discussions amongst the participants. They were required to identify any existing policies in their home countries which could be promoting unsustainable development and then to discuss the varying GTBR policy tools which could be used to improve sustainability. Each group was asked to nominate a speaker and to present their conclusions to the other participants.

The afternoon session covered country experiences on green growth policy implementation with a focus on Thailand and China and explored some of the challenges policy makers had faced when trying to introduce such policies.

The seminar was concluded by a group participatory exercise; participants were required to work in country groups to discuss and formulate a green growth strategy for their home countries using the green growth policy tools they had learned during the course and then to present them. During the evaluation and feedback session participants spoke individually about their impressions of the course and what they had found useful in regards to their work.

Day 4

The field trip in the morning was to the EGG (Experience Green Growth) Hall to learn about Korea's recent Green Growth initiatives. During the introduction participants were given an overview of the green growth concepts and were shown an example of an electronic bike pumping station and were given a demonstration of how a piezoelectric element can generate renewable energy. During course 2 participants were shown a verity of new ideas and products for the green home including; a three-layered window, PV solar cells, LED lighting, green furniture and energy efficient home appliances. The next showcase focused on green

transportation (sustainable infrastructure) and featured a working model of a hydrogen fuel cell car. The following course featured concepts from a Green Park which included a model of a vertical farming system, biomass manufacturing, a wind power model and a new waste management system. The final display was of the green office featuring video conferencing, an automatic carbon emissions control system and a carbon calculator.

The field trip in the afternoon was to visit the OLEV (online electric vehicle) pilot project at the Seoul Grand Park. This project demonstrated how an electrified road can be used to power a sustainable transport system, such as a bus, car or train. A power supply line has been installed under 20 per cent of the road and uses non-contact charging technology to power the vehicles around the park. The project is still in the early design phases but is an excellent example of how innovative solutions can be found to reduce GHG emissions while simultaneously solving congestion problems.

Key Recommendations

In the course of the Seminar and during the special sessions, participants identified several key areas where the application of Green Growth policy tools would contribute to national level strategies for good governance and would stimulate environmentally sustainable economic growth:

- Participants strongly recommended furthering regional collaboration efforts for green growth policy development, implementation and exchange of best practices.
- A number of participants identified the need to establish a Green Growth institute and to initiate more inter-ministerial round table discussions on Good Governance and Green Growth in their home countries.
- UNESCAP was requested to provide participants with further information and resources regarding green urban design, development and green building case studies. These will be sent to participants and posted on the Green Growth website (www.greengrowth.org).
- UNPOG was requested to work closely both with UNESCAP and the Regional Helpdesk on SCP to develop an on-line e-learning training module on Green Growth for Good Governance.
- UNPOG and UNESCAP were requested to further explore the opportunities for hosting another training of trainers' capacity development seminar on Green Growth for Good Governance in New Delhi, India.



- UNESCAP was requested to further explore the possibility of hosting a national training on Green Growth in Thailand in collaboration with GTZ.
- The participants from Viet Nam expressed their intention to explore the opportunity of providing funding to UNESCAP to conduct a national capacity development seminar on green growth in Hanoi.
- UNESCAP will further share information with UNPOG regarding any future developments related to Green Growth for Good Governance, including status of the Cambodian Green Growth Roadmap and the workings of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Green Growth.
- The Regional Helpdesk on Sustainable Consumption and Production will further seek opportunities for strengthening collaboration with the Environment Action Association (EAA) of Korea for dissemination of green growth best practices from countries in the region.

Conclusion

As a final conclusion, it was agreed that UNPOG, ESCAP and the Regional Helpdesk on SCP will work on developing a short term and long term collaboration strategy for developing and expanding of a regional capacity development programme on Green Growth for Good Governance and will seek further funding from various sources for implementation of that.