

# **DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS**

## **III. REGIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ORGANIZATIONS (ASIA & THE PACIFIC)**

**July 2004**

<b>ACU Asian Clearing Union</b> (homepage: <a href="http://www.asianclearingunion.org">www.asianclearingunion.org</a> )	
Headquarters:	Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Goals/missions/ functions:	<p>Asian Clearing Union (ACU) is the simplest form of payment arrangements whereby the members settle payments for intra-regional transactions among the participating central banks on a multilateral basis. The main objectives of a clearing union are to facilitate payments among member countries for eligible transactions, thereby economizing on the use of foreign exchange reserves and transfer costs, as well as promoting trade among the participating countries.</p> <p>The Asian Clearing Union was established at the initiative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).</p> <p>The ACU functions - under a Secretary General responsible to the Board of Directors and the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran acts as the Agent Bank - emphasis on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The expansion of intra-ACU trade that would contribute to the growth of the region,</li> <li>b. The use of participants' currencies in the current transactions and thus economies in the use of their foreign exchange reserves,</li> <li>c. Monetary co-operation and closer relations between banking systems.</li> </ol> <p>The ACU objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. To provide a facility to settle on a multilateral basis, payments for current international transactions among the territories of participants;</li> <li>b. To promote the use of participants' currencies in current transactions between their respective territories and thereby effect economies in the use of the participant's exchange reserves;</li> <li>c. To promote monetary co-operation among the participants and closer relations among the banking systems in their territories and thereby contribute to the expansion of trade and economic activity among the countries of the ESCAP region; and</li> <li>d. To provide for currency SWAP arrangement among the participants so as to make Asian Monetary Unit available to them temporarily.</li> </ol> <p>8 participating members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.</p>
Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economizing on the use of foreign exchange reserves by utilization of national currencies</li> <li>• Shifting banking services from non-domestic bank to domestic one</li> <li>• Providing short term credit facilities for two months.</li> </ul> <p>The volume of trade (Exports plus Imports) through the ACU since 1976 to the end of 2001 has been a fast growing trend from US</p>

	Dollars 51.4 million to US Dollars 7,107.3 million in 2001.
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<b>APCAEM Asian and Pacific Center for Agriculture Engineering and Machinery</b> (homepage: <a href="http://www.apcaem.org">www.apcaem.org</a> )	
Headquarters:	Beijing, China
Goals/missions/ functions:	<p>APCAEM is a new technological centre of excellence in agricultural engineering and machinery which was opened on 26 November 2002. The substantive work of the Centre was previously carried out through the Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (RNAEM), a special project established in 1977.</p> <p>Located in Beijing, and hosted by the Chinese Academy of Engineering, APCAEM is under the UNESCAP umbrella, while its institutional and operational costs are being met by the Government of China; the Government of Finland is also providing financial support.</p> <p>As a new subsidiary body of UNESCAP, the Centre's mandate is to contribute to poverty reduction across Asia and Pacific in line with the Millennium Development Goals and the outcome of the recent World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, which call for the reduction of poverty through increased food availability and affordability and by the application of harvest and food technology and management, including agro-based biotechnology.</p> <p>APCAEM member countries are China, Pakistan, Philippine, Korea, Bengal, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, India, Vietnam, Indonesia, Iran.</p>
Activities:	#This site is under construction#

<b>APCTT Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology</b> (homepage: <a href="http://www.apctt.org">www.apctt.org</a> )	
Headquarters:	New Delhi, India
Goals/missions/ functions:	<p>APCTT is a United Nations regional institution under the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). APCTT promotes transfer of technology to and from small- and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) in Asia and the Pacific.</p>

	<p>The objectives of the Centre are to assist the members and associate members of ESCAP through strengthening their capabilities to develop, transfer, adapt and apply technology, improve the terms of transfer of technology; and identify and promote the development and transfer of technologies relevant to the region.</p> <p>The effect of new technology and its rapid growth on industrial competitiveness made the mechanism for technology transfer were becoming increasingly important. Technological partnership and “clustering” of small and medium-sized enterprises are the important parts of this mechanism. The role of APCTT is that of a facilitating agency through which agencies seeking technical expertise could be put in touch with agencies that could provide the expertise.</p>
Activities:	<p><b>Technology Transfer Services</b>  APCTT undertakes consultancy assignments in various technology transfer related areas (institution building, human resources development, studies, business partnership development).</p> <p><i>Technology Transfer Services for SMEs</i>  APCTT provides the following technology transfer services to SMEs and intermediaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on technology/business/investment opportunities</li> <li>• Matching and pre-selection of prospective business partners</li> <li>• Support services (market/feasibility studies, technology evaluation, contract negotiation)</li> <li>• Finance syndication (loan, venture capital, grants, incentives)</li> <li>• Product marketing.</li> </ul> <p><i>Technology Transfer and Marketing Mechanisms</i>  APCTT uses the following technology transfer mechanisms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnerships with intermediaries (consultants, technology brokers, chambers of commerce, industrial associations, business information centres) offering complimentary technology transfer services</li> <li>• International networks of technology brokers</li> <li>• Technology transfer databank which is updated every day</li> <li>• Technology transfer periodicals (Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor; Catalogue of International Technology and Business Opportunities; Value Added Technology Information Service) which are disseminated in more than 70 countries all over the world</li> <li>• Business meets, workshops, training programmes.</li> </ul> <p><i>Search for Technology Buyers/Seller</i>  The Centre searches for matching partners for its clients through various channels such as Business periodicals, Data banks, Networks of technology brokers, and International business meets.</p>

### **Woman in Development activities**

APCTT implements development projects funded by international donors aimed at strengthening the environment for technology transfer among SMEs in Asia and the Pacific; in this respect the Centre designs and implements a variety of programmes which are aimed at encouraging more effective participation of women in the field of technology. This is done through:

- Facilitation of Women Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (WEDPs)
- Mobilization of women entrepreneur's participation at international, technology focused trade fares
- Facilitation of technical training in selected sectors, including non-traditional areas
- Preparation of relevant training materials and publications
- Preparation of relevant training materials and publications
- Networking support and advisory services for women's grass roots groups concerning enterprise development and transfer of technology.

### **Environmental activities**

The emphasis in the activities of the Centre is on promotion of environmentally sound technologies (ESTs). Small and medium scale enterprises are the primary target group of APCTT.

- APCTT is concentrating its activities on environmental issues in the Asia-Pacific Region by *identifying, promoting, and transferring environmentally sound technologies (ESTs)*.
  
- To reach these targets, APCTT has built up an environmental network consisting of:
  - Human resources available for the region,
  - Appropriate technologies (both demonstration and state of the art technologies) for the region and
  - Information transfer strategies
  
- The activities encompass the following areas:
  - Waste management and technologies,
  - Air pollution,
  - Waste water cleaning and purification,
  - Ozone layer conservation and protection,
  - Energy efficiency and
  - Non conventional energy sources,
  - Soil remediation and
  - Bio-technology.

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<b>APDC Asian and Pacific Development Center</b> (homepage: <a href="http://www.apdc.org">www.apdc.org</a> )	
Headquarters:	Denver, Colorado
Goals/missions/ functions:	The Asian Pacific Development Center - a community-based, nonprofit - promotes the well-being and health of the Asian American /Pacific Islander community of Colorado by bridging generations, cultures, and languages through culturally appropriate programs and services.
Activities:	<p>APDC operates a licensed <b>Community Mental Health Clinic</b> designated by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, innovative <b>Health Promotion and Youth Programs</b>, and a multicultural <b>Interpreters Bank</b>. A trained professional staff provides Culturally Competent services that include: assessment and evaluation, individual and group counseling; case management services; victim assistance services; mentorship, after school, and youth leadership programs; health promotion; interpretation/translation services; as well as cultural competency training and consultation.</p> <p>The APDC has served Asian families in the Denver metro area for over 20 years. Its offer family strengthening programs, therapy, translation services, substance abuse counseling, and many programs for Asian youth. Other youth programs sponsored by APDC are the <i>Asian Youth Center</i>. It provides a safe, healthy place to have fun. It is open to all Asian youth. The Asian Youth Center then changed its name became “Youth Strengthening Youth” (YSYProgram). YSYP activities include a large, successful summer retreat, a follow-up winter retreat, bi-monthly training and the youth council.</p>

<b>APEC Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation</b> (homepage: <a href="http://www.apec.org">www.apec.org</a> )	
Headquarters:	Singapore
Goals/missions/ functions:	<p>APEC was established in 1989. It is the premier forum for facilitating economic growth, cooperation, trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region.</p> <p>APEC is the only inter governmental grouping in the world operating on the basis of non-binding commitments, open dialogue and</p>

	<p>equal respect for the views of all participants. Unlike the WTO or other multilateral trade bodies, APEC has no treaty obligations required of its participants. Decisions made within APEC are reached by consensus and commitments are undertaken on a voluntary basis.</p> <p>APEC's 21 member economies are Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Republic of the Philippines; The Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America; Viet Nam. These 21 member countries account for more than half of global trade, representing two-thirds of global GDP.</p> <p>APEC's primary mission is to achieve <i>free and open trade and investment by 2010 for developed nations and 2020 for other member economies</i>.</p> <p>Henceforth, its underlying objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to sustain the economic growth of the region;</li> <li>• to encourage the free flow of goods, services, capital and technology;</li> <li>• to develop and strengthen the open multilateral trading system;</li> <li>• to reduce tariffs and other trade barriers across the Asia-Pacific region; and</li> <li>• to trade goods and services consistent with WTO principles.</li> </ul>
Activities:	<p>To facilitate the realisation of its objectives, APEC created three primary action plans ('Three Pillars' of APEC):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Trade and Investment Liberalisation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- reduces and eventually eliminates tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade and investment.</li> <li>- focuses on opening markets to increase trade and investment among economies, resulting in economic growth for APEC Member Economies and increased standard of living for all.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <i>Trade and Investment Facilitation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- focuses on reducing the costs of business transactions, improving access to trade information and aligning policy and business strategies to facilitate growth, and free and open trade</li> <li>- helps importers and exporters in Asia Pacific meet and conduct business more efficiently</li> <li>- reduces costs of production and leads to increased trade, cheaper goods and services and more employment opportunities due to an expanded economy.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. <i>Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- dedicated to providing training and cooperation to build capacities in all APEC Member Economies to take advantage of global trade and the New Economy. This area builds capacity at the institutional and personal level to assist APEC Member Economies and its people gain the necessary skills to meet their economic potential.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

APEC Economic Leaders outlined the following priorities for 2004 during their meeting in Bangkok, Thailand:

1. Promoting Trade and Investment Liberalisation
2. Enhancing Human Security
3. Using APEC to Help People and Societies Benefit from Globalisation.

The range of topics in which APEC is active reflects the complex factors and issues related to economic development, growth, and the pursuit of open trade and investment for the APEC region.

APEC Topics are the areas of work covered by the APEC groups that support APEC's 'Three Pillars'. These areas are:

Action Plans; **Agriculture**; **Agriculture Biotechnology**; APEC Auto-parts Supplier Portal; APEC Business Advisory Council; APEC Study Centres; Automotive Sector; Chemicals; Collective Action Plans; Competition Policy; Consumer Protection; Counter-Terrorism; Customs; Data Privacy; Deregulation; Dispute Mediation; **Economic and Technical Cooperation**; Education; Electronic Commerce; **Energy**; Finance; **Fisheries**; **Food System**; Free Trade Agreements and Regional Trade Agreements; Gender Issues; Government Procurement; Government Procurement Resources; **Health**; **Human Capacity Building**; **Human Resources Development**; Import Regulation Links; Individual Action Plans; **Infectious Disease**; Intellectual Property; Investment; Investment Related Links; Life Sciences; Market Access; **Marine Conservation**; Mobility of Business People; New Economy; Osaka Action Agenda; Rules of Origin; **Science & Technology**; Services; Small and Medium Enterprises; Social Safety Nets; Standards and Conformance; Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure; **Sustainable Development**; Tariff and Non-Tariff Measures; Telecommunications and Information; Tourism; Trade Facilitation; Trade Promotion; Transportation; WTO Capacity Building.

• **Agriculture**

The Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) works closely with the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), and the Association for International Cooperation of Agriculture and Forestry particularly in the areas of production, marketing, processing, and distribution of agricultural products. The ATCWG is also associated with the Animal Resources Genetic Information Network.

In 2004 the ATCWG priorities are:

- Conducting a seminar on Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training.
- Strengthening Cooperation in Post-Harvest Technology.
- Delivering the APEC Regional Study on Gender and Globalisation in Agriculture.
- Conducting a workshop on Technical Cooperation, Capacity Building, Risk Assessment/Management, and Emerging Issues in Agricultural Biotechnology.

The 8th Meeting of the ATCWG on 2004 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, reviewed the progress achieved and approved work plans for the next year for seven priority areas:

1. *Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology (RDEAB)*

The four RDEAB priority areas cover the science-based assessment of products of biotechnology, technical cooperation, transparency and information exchange, and capacity building. RDEAB works closely with the High-Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB) to help inform discussion on policy and technical matters.

2. *Production, Processing, Marketing, Distribution and Consumption of Agricultural Products*

Initiatives undertaken include a cold chain improvement initiative and the establishment of a website of data sources on the supply and demand of food.

3. *Plant and Animal Quarantine and Pest Management*

The focus of the Plant and Animal Quarantine and Pest Management sub-Group is preparing for a Workshop on International Standards (IPPC, OIE) for Plant and Animal Health to be held at the USDA's Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health's (CEAH) facilities in Colorado in 2005. The workshop will assist member economies to align their plant and animal health quarantine programs with international standards.

4. *Cooperative Development of an Agricultural Finance System*

Conducting training course on Agricultural Finance. The course covered agricultural finance and rural development, financial tools to evaluate investment projects, developing agricultural finance systems and financial and accounting statements.

5. *Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training*

Conducting a training workshop on Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training. This workshop will exchange information on reducing the cost of production by applying fewer agricultural chemicals and less labour, as well as discussing how to strengthen the transfer of agricultural technology.

6. *Sustainable Agriculture and Related Environmental Issues*

7. *Trade Facilitation*

The ATCWG is contributing to APEC's trade facilitation agenda by reducing business transaction costs and enhancing food safety. The Working Group is working closely with the Electronic Commerce Steering Group (ECSG) to implement E-CERT - a web-based system for electronic health certification of agricultural exports. E-CERT relates to the pathfinder initiative on paperless trading endorsed by APEC Economic Leaders in 2002.

• **Agriculture Biotechnology**

1. High Level Policy Dialogues on Agricultural Biotechnology

2. Agricultural Technology Cooperation Work Group's Sub-Group on Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology

The Sub-group on Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology is focusing on developing transparent, science-based approaches for risk assessment and management, fostering technical cooperation, encouraging effective communication, transparency and information exchange and building capacity. Its work includes capacity

building activities on risk assessment, risk management and risk communications; the sharing of regulatory experiences; developing research on the effects of gene flow and the effects of GM crops in centres of origin; and encouraging a dialogue between the private and public sectors to promote research and the development of biotechnology.

- **Economic and Technical Cooperation**

ECOTECH is the pursuit of APEC's common objectives and goals through cooperative activities, aimed at attaining sustainable growth and equitable development, while reducing economic disparities among APEC economies and improving economic and social well-being. Such activities include the sharing of information and experiences, training and research.

APEC agreed to four APEC-wide ECOTECH priorities: integration into the global economy; counter-terrorism capacity building; promoting the development of knowledge-based economies; and addressing the social dimensions of globalisation.

- **Energy**

The Energy Working Group (EWG), launched in 1990, seeks to maximize the energy sector's contribution to the region's economic and social well being, while mitigating the environmental effects of energy supply and use.

Facing the challenges of short-term energy supply disruptions and ever increasing long-term demand for energy, the EWG works to ensure energy security in the region.

Activities conducted by the EWG aimed at diversifying energy mixes, improving energy efficiency, deploying new and renewable energy technologies and promoting clean energy with a focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy and cleaner energy production. Accordingly EWG has implemented a series of projects and activities addressing energy related issues in response to the Ministers concerns.

Latest Developments:

1. *Implementation of APEC Energy Security Initiative*

The Energy Security Initiative provides the EWG members a framework through which all energy security activities are undertaken by the EWG.

2. *Energy Emergency Response Arrangements*

The ESI includes recommendations and actions regarding emergency response arrangements. Specifically, these include sharing knowledge and hosting workshops on emergency response issues.

3. *Progress of the Monthly Oil Data Initiative*

The Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI) website has been in permanent operation since late 2002. The major challenge continues to be the capacity of economies to report monthly. All APEC economies have contributed to the JODI exercise. At the global level, 80 economies have now provided input to JODI, representing 93 percent of world oil production and 95 percent of consumption.

4. *Real-time Emergency Information Sharing*

The Real-time Emergency Information Sharing System has completed its construction phase. Japan as the project executor highlighted at EWG27 the steps needed to commence its operation, which includes each member economy nominating an emergency contact. It is confirmed that the monthly oil data posted on the System is sourced from JODI.

5. *Methane Hydrates - New Source of Abundant Energy*

At EWG27, the United States introduced a new source of abundant energy-methane hydrates. It was introduced under the APEC Action Plan to Enhance Energy Security and forms part of the Energy Security Initiative. The US presentation introduced methane hydrates to the EWG, where they are found, how much may exist, international research that has been undertaken in this area (including in Australia, Canada, China, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and the United States) and possible future research needs. EWG Members agreed that the EWG would be a useful forum through which to communicate research developments to their governments.

6. *Framework for the Discussion of Nuclear Energy within the EWG*

A revised framework prepared by the Republic of Korea and Mexico had been discussed by the EWG since 20 February 2004. EWG Members, with several further amendments, endorsed the framework at EWG27. In identifying next steps, Members agreed to establish, under the leadership of the Republic of Korea and Mexico, an ad hoc group to implement the framework.

- **Food System**

The APEC Food System (AFS) is a joint and cross-cutting action being implemented by all APEC Member Economies and APEC fora to achieve three food related goals: the development of rural infrastructure, the promotion of trade in food products, and the dissemination of technological advances in food production and processing. These goals are all aimed at improving the efficiency of food production and trade for the benefit of APEC Member Economies.

- **Health**

In October 2003 the ad hoc Health Task Force (HTF) was established to address health-related threats to economies, trade and security, focusing mainly on emerging infectious diseases, including naturally occurring and manmade diseases.

Establish a regional public health surveillance network and an early warning system to monitor and respond to critical disease outbreaks in the region, and critical threats such as bio-terrorism.

- **Human Capacity Building**

During the course of discussions at the APEC high level meeting on human capacity building, representatives from the government, business and education and training sectors of APEC economies shared experiences and practices, explored better approaches and came up with series of innovative and interesting ideas on human capacity building within the region. These ideas offered opportunities for further actions by APEC.

1. Bridging the Digital Divide and Expanding Internet Access
2. Setting up a Life-long Education and Building a Learning Society

3. Strengthening the Managerial and Employee Training and Enhancing Enterprises Competence in the Context of Economic Globalisation
4. Integrating the Resources and Promoting the Overall Human Capacity Building.

- **Human Resources Development**

The Human Resources Development working group (HRDWG) was established in 1990 and conducts work programs to develop human resources on issues ranging from education to labour to capacity building. The HRDWG conducts its work program through its three networks:

- Capacity Building Network (CBN)
- Education Network (EDNET)
- Labour and Social Protection Network (LSP)

The HRDWG has and will continue to give priority to youth activities. Various activities have been formulated for youth in HRDWG projects. An e-learning community which developed through the Sister Schools Networking project, in May 2002, has promoted interactive e-communication between students, administrators and teachers.

- **Marine Conservation**

The Marine Resource Conservation Working Group (MRCWG) was established in 1990 to protect the collective marine resource. Its main task is the implementation of the *Action Plan on Sustainability of the Marine Environment*. Dramatic progress is being made in this project, and APEC Member Economies will benefit from the socio-economic and environmental gains which will result from this initiative.

MRCWG focused on following issues :

- Informal Group on Ocean Policy
  - The aim of the informal group was to analyse the MRCWG's traditional and historic roles, the newer policy directions arising from Leaders statements, and to propose a strategic policy direction for the MRCWG that strengthens its policy role on ocean and coastal matters within APEC.
- Implementation of the Action Plan for the Sustainability of the Marine Environment
- MRCWG Strategic Framework and Operational Plan.

- **Science and Technology**

The Industrial Science and Technology Working Group (ISTWG) objective is to fulfill the APEC vision for the 21st century, being *a dynamic and prosperous Asia-Pacific region built on the development and application of industrial science and technology that improves the quality of life while safeguarding the natural environment and achieving sustainable development*. In its first *ISTWG Medium-term Workplan (MTWP)*, the following issues/themes have been identified for future

	<p>work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Connecting Research and Innovation</li> <li>- Human Capacity Building for S&amp;T for the New Economy</li> <li>- Establishing an APEC S&amp;T Policy Forum</li> <li>- Expanding APEC Cooperation in Key Technologies for the 21st century</li> <li>- Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases</li> <li>- Science, Technology, and Innovation to meet the Environmental Challenge</li> </ul> <p>The <i>Establishment of APEC Climate Network</i> project was successfully implemented in 2003. This project focused on the actions that are urgently needed to develop climate early warning systems and climate information networks at the regional level to improve monitoring of climate systems. The purpose of this project was to establish a climate network for the exchange of regional climate information, particularly climate forecast information, among the APEC Member Economies, and to ultimately contribute to the social and economic benefits of member economies as well as the reduction of natural disasters caused by unusual climate and weather events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sustainable Development</b></li> </ul> <p>The mandate for APEC's work on sustainable development is to secure the environment through protect the quality of air, water and green spaces and manage energy resources and renewable resources to ensure sustainable growth and provide a more secure future for the people.</p> <p>In 2003, there were 11 projects that related to the theme of sustainable development. In addition to those projects, several fora have conducted projects that relate to the sustainable development goals, such as the ATCWG (Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group), EWG (Energy Working Group), FWG (Fisheries Working Group), ISTWG (Industrial Science and Technology Working Group), MRCWG (Marine Resource Conservation Working Group), TPTWG (Transportation Working Group), TWG (Tourism Working Group) and some CTI (Committee on Trade and Investment) sub fora.</p>
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<b>APO Asia Productivity Organization</b> (homepage: <a href="http://www.apo-tokyo.org">www.apo-tokyo.org</a> )	
Headquarters:	Tokyo, Japan
Goals/missions/ functions:	The Asian Productivity Organization (APO) is a non-political, non-discriminatory, not-for-profit organization, headquartered in Tokyo with nineteen member economies involved throughout Asia. The APO is an inter-governmental regional organization established by Convention in 1961 to increase productivity in the countries of Asia and the Pacific region through mutual cooperation.

	APO membership is open to all Asian and Pacific Governments that are members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) of the United Nations. Governments outside Asia and the Pacific may become Associate Members.
Activities:	<p>APO's programs cover the industry, service and agriculture sectors, with special focus on socio-economic development, small industry development, human resources management, productivity measurement and analysis, quality management, production and technology management, information technology, development of NPOs (National Productivity Organizations), <b>green productivity</b>, integrated community development, agribusiness, agricultural development and policies, resources and technology, and agricultural marketing and institutions.</p> <p>Its activities include basic research studies, surveys, symposia, study meetings, training courses, seminars, fellowships, technical expert services, study missions, publications, and audio-visual training materials.</p> <p>APO carries out the roles as think tank, catalyst, regional advisor, institution builder and clearinghouse for productivity information to member countries.</p> <p>In 1994, the APO grew to embrace Green Productivity as a means of entering the race for sustainability and meeting its core mandate -- improving productivity.</p> <p>The Green Productivity (GP) is a strategy for enhancing productivity and environmental performance (environmental protection) for overall socio-economic development. It is the application of GP methodology comprising the appropriate techniques, technologies and management system to produce environmentally compatible goods and services.</p> <p>GP can be applied in manufacturing, service, agriculture and community.</p> <p>GP core programmes are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Green Productivity Promotion Mission, which design to assist member countries identifies their main problem areas and opportunities for GP implementation.</li> <li>2. Green Productivity Demonstration Program</li> <li>3. Green Productivity Dissemination Assistance</li> </ol>

<b>ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations</b> (homepage: <a href="http://www.aseansec.org">www.aseansec.org</a> )	
Headquarters:	Jakarta, Indonesia
Goals/missions/ functions:	<p>The aims and purposes of the Association are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through joint endeavours in the spirit</li> </ol>

	<p>of equality and partnership in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian nations,</p> <p>2. to promote regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries in the region and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter.</p> <p>In 1995, the ASEAN Heads of States and Government re-affirmed that “Cooperative peace and shared prosperity shall be the fundamental goals of ASEAN.”</p>
Activities:	<p>ASEAN cooperation activities have become the main vehicle for implementing major ASEAN initiatives and development agenda. There are four major areas of cooperation under ASEAN framework, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Political and Security Cooperation</b></li> <li><b>2. Economic Cooperation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asean Free Trade Area (AFTA)</li> <li>• <i>Agriculture.</i> Area of cooperation: food, crops, livestock, fisheries, agricultural training and extension, agricultural cooperative, forestry, biotechnology, trade and promotion.</li> <li>• <i>Custom.</i> ASEAN promotes trade facilitation through customs cooperation. The specific areas of cooperation include harmonization of tariff nomenclature, customs procedures and formalities to expedite customs clearance; implementation of customs valuation in line with the WTO Customs Valuation Agreement; implementation of post-clearance audit; establishment of customs automation toward e-customs; customs reform and modernization; and provision of technical assistance to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam</li> <li>• Dispute Settlement</li> <li>• IT &amp; E-Commerce</li> <li>• Economic Relations</li> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• <i>Growth Areas.</i> To narrow the gap in the levels of development among Member States and to reduce poverty and socio-economic disparities in the region, ASEAN continued to support the implementation and further development of growth areas - Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), Indonesia-Malaysia-Singapore Growth Triangle (IMS-GT), Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT), and the inter-state areas along the West-East Corridor (WEC) of the Mekong Basin in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and North-eastern Thailand within the ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation scheme.</li> <li>• Industry</li> <li>• IAI (Initiative for Asean Integration)</li> <li>• Intellectual Property</li> <li>• Investment</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

- *Minerals and Energy*. Five-point cooperation framework for “Energy Cooperation among Japan, China, Korea and ASEAN”, comprises the following: (a) creation of emergency network; (b) development of oil stockpiling; (c) joint studies on the ASEAN oil market; (d) improvement of natural gas development; and (e) improvement of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Cooperation with the Japan Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) in the energy sector is now in its third year. Under the SOME (Senior Officials Meeting on Energy) - METI Work Program 2002-2003, the following activities were implemented: (a) Inception Workshop of the Promotion of Energy Efficiency and Conservation (PROMEEC) project; (b) establishment of energy database in ACE (ASEAN Centre for Energy) linked to the internet under the Energy Security and Supply Planning in the ASEAN Region (ESSPA) project; and (c) energy audits for industries in Cambodia (garments) and in the Philippines (steel) and for buildings in Myanmar and Viet Nam.

- Services
- SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises)
- Standard and Conformance
- Tourism
- Transport and Communication

### **3. Functional Cooperation**

- Culture and Information
- *Asean University Network (AUN)*. The general objective of the AUN is to strengthen the existing network of cooperation among universities in ASEAN by promoting collaborative study and research programmes on the priority areas identified by ASEAN.

The specific objectives are to promote cooperation and solidarity among scientists and scholars in the ASEAN Member Countries; to develop academic and professional human resources in the region; and to produce and transmit scientific and scholarly knowledge and information to achieve ASEAN goals.

The AUN continues to implement activities, such as developing ASEAN Studies Programme; Student and Faculty Exchange Programme; Scholarships for Graduate Students at ASEAN Countries; Information Networking Among ASEAN Universities; and Collaborative Research.

- Disaster Management. Cooperation among the Member Countries will cover capacity building, sharing of information and resources, engaging external partnerships, and public education, awareness and advocacy in disaster management.
- Drugs and Narcotics
- Education
- Health and Nutrition
- HIV/AIDS
- Labour

- *Rural Development and Poverty Eradication.* Projects on poverty monitoring (coordinated by Malaysia) and training of community-based facilitators on rural development and poverty eradication (coordinated by Indonesia) have been implemented.
- SARS
- Women
- *Youth and children.* In March 2003, UNICEF provided technical assistance for the ASEAN project on early childcare and development, which extended the project into second phase.
- *Science and technology.* Project areas of this cooperation are: Food Science and Technology, Meteorology and Geophysics, Biotechnology, Materials Science and Technology, Information Technology, Non-Conventional Energy Research, Space Technology and Applications, Marine Science and Technology, Science Policy Development, Human Resource Development in S&T.

#### **4. Development Cooperation**

The development cooperation is typically focused on issues and problems that can best be addressed at the regional level, not to repeat what can be achieved at the national level, but rather to complement and harmonize national efforts. The steps in ASEAN regional development cooperation programme typically include:

1. Harmonization of policies to create a consistent regional legislative framework;
2. Harmonization of institutional mechanism to implement a consistent regional management regime especially in the public sectors; and
3. Capacity building in the relevant key and supporting sectors to initiate the necessary institutional changes toward achieving the above harmonization efforts.

#### **Transnational Issues**

- *Environment.* Considerable progress has been achieved in the specific activities in the following areas: (a) transboundary haze pollution; (b) nature conservation and biodiversity; (c) coastal and marine environment; (d) global environmental issues (e) integrated water resources management; and (f) other environmental issues.
- Transnational Crime and Terrorism
- Legal Cooperation
- Immigration
- Drugs
- Civil Services

<b>CAPSA UNESCAP-Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops' Development in Asia and the Pacific</b> (homepage: <a href="http://www.uncapsa.org">www.uncapsa.org</a> .)	
Headquarters:	Bogor, Indonesia
Goals/missions/functions:	<p>CAPSA is a subsidiary body of UNESCAP. It was established as the Regional Co-ordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (CGPRT Centre) in 1981 and was renamed CAPSA in 2004.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b>            UNESCAP-CAPSA promotes a more supportive policy environment in member countries to enhance the living conditions of rural poor populations in disadvantaged areas, particularly those who rely on secondary crop agriculture for their livelihood, through socio-economic and policy research, training and dissemination of information. In its activities, the Centre aims to serve the needs of its primary target group, high level research managers and policy analyst/planners, concerned with the role of agriculture in poverty alleviation.</p> <p><b>Functions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research and analysis of trends, conditions and opportunities in improving the livelihood of rural poor populations.</li> <li>2. Advisory services.</li> <li>3. Dissemination of information and good practices on poverty reduction measures.</li> <li>4. Networking of key stakeholders.</li> <li>5. Training of national personnel, particularly national scientists and policy analysts.</li> </ol>
Activities:	<p><b>Programmes:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Co-ordination of socio-economic and policy research on secondary crops, networking and partnership with other international organizations and key stakeholders, conduction of research and analysis of trends and opportunities with regard to improving the economic status of rural populations.</li> <li>2. Production, packaging and dissemination of information and successful practices on poverty reduction, and the dissemination of information and good practices on poverty reduction measures.</li> <li>3. Training of national personnel, particularly national scientists and policy analysts and provision of advisory services.</li> </ol> <p><b>Research and Development</b>            The Centre formulates and implements research and development projects in collaboration with the relevant institutes of the member countries. The following are representative projects implemented or on-going under the R&amp;D programme in recent years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects of trade liberalization on agriculture in selected Asian countries with special focus on CGPRT crops (TradeLib).</li> </ul>

- Economic and policy analysis for the ecoregional approach in Southeast Asia (ECOPOL).
- Food security strategies for selected South Pacific island countries (SouthPIC).
- Stabilization of upland agriculture and rural development in El Niño vulnerable countries (EL NINO).
- Prospects of feed crops in South Asia (FEED).
- Management of agricultural policies for sustainable development with a focus towards the supply of food for urban consumers (MAPSuD- Metropol).

### **Human Resources Development**

The Centre organizes and convenes training courses and regional workshops and seminars on agricultural database management, policy analysis and planning. The participants are usually invited from ten to fifteen developing countries in the region. The current activities under the HRD programme are as follows:

- Regional working seminars on agricultural planning in Asia.
- Hands-on in-country training courses on integrated database management.
- Regional training courses on integrated database management.
- Regional training courses on database management and ecoregional analytical techniques for agricultural planning.
- Training Course on "Information and Communication Technologies in Relation to CGPRT Crop Agriculture (AGRI-ICT)".

### **Information Services**

The Centre provides and distributes socio-economic information and data related to CGPRT crops to the member countries and relevant institutes. Major activities under the IS programme are as follows:

#### *1. Library*

The library has a collection of approximately 6,000 titles consisting of textbooks, papers, research reports, statistics, directories, bibliographies and more than 400 journals. It offers a photocopy service, literature search using CDS - ISIS programme and card catalogues - and an inter-library loan and exchange programme.

#### *2. Publications*

The Centre publishes monographs, working papers, project reports and a quarterly newsletter (Palawija News), which are distributed to research institutions, libraries, universities and interested individuals all over the world. A publication catalogue is available upon request.

#### *3. Database*

The Centre has a large database containing specific and wide-ranging agricultural data focusing on major cereals, coarse grains, pulses, roots and tuber crops in the region of Asia and the Pacific.

The latest feature of the statistical database is database on-line. Data for all indicators at the national level is available to interested individuals for downloading at no charge.

<b>CCOP Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programme in East and Southeast Asia</b> (homepage: www.ccop.or.th)									
Headquarters:	Bangkok, Thailand								
Goals/missions/ functions:	<p>The CCOP is an intergovernmental organization whose mission is to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of applied geoscience programmes in East and Southeast Asia in order to contribute to economic development and the improvement of the quality of life in the region.</p> <p>To this end, CCOP promotes capacity building, technology transfer, exchange of information and institutional linkages for sustainable resource development, management of geo-information, geo-hazard mitigation and protection of the environment.</p>								
Activities:	<p>The technical activities of CCOP has been reclassified into three sectors and seven programmes as follows:</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Sector</u></th> <th><u>Programme</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Geo-resources</td> <td>Minerals, Energy, Groundwater</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Geo-environment</td> <td>Coastal Zone, Geohazards, Environmental Geology</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Geo-information</td> <td>Geodata and Information Management</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>For the Geo-resources sector, the overall objective is to strengthen the Member Countries technical capabilities in establishing the developmental potential of their mineral, energy and groundwater resources and promoting their socially responsible and environmentally sustainable exploration, conservation and development. To date, these are the activities on-going under this sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Mineral Resource Assessment (GMRAP)</li> <li>• PETRAD Seminars</li> <li>• Petroleum Policy and Management (PPM)</li> <li>• Pre-Tertiary Geological Studies of Southeast Asia</li> <li>• Working Group on Geological Correlation (WGGC)</li> </ul> <p>For the Geo-environment sector, the overall objective is to strengthen Member Countries' capabilities in implementing geoscience projects that contribute to sustainable land-use development, coastal zone management and the mitigation of hazards caused by natural geological processes and by human activity, thereby contributing to the safety and welfare of civil society. To date, these are the activities on-going under this sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Techniques for Landslide Hazard Analysis</li> </ul> <p>For the Geo-information sector, the overall objective is to strengthen Member Countries' capabilities in developing appropriate</p>	<u>Sector</u>	<u>Programme</u>	Geo-resources	Minerals, Energy, Groundwater	Geo-environment	Coastal Zone, Geohazards, Environmental Geology	Geo-information	Geodata and Information Management
<u>Sector</u>	<u>Programme</u>								
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	<p>methodologies for improved management of geoscience information, its efficient dissemination to users in government, industry and civil society and in further promoting the use of geoscience information in both traditional and new areas of economic and social activity. To date, these are the activities on-going under this sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital Compilation of Geoscientific Maps Phase IV: Groundwater and Geothermal Databases</li> <li>• Geoscience and Reports Information Dissemination Network (GRIDnet)</li> <li>• Texas A&amp;M University Fellowship Program</li> <li>• Southeast Asian Network Geographic Information System (SANGIS)</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Colombo Plan</b> (homepage: <a href="http://www.colombo-plan.org">www.colombo-plan.org</a>)</p>	
Headquarters:	Colombo, Sri Lanka
Goals/missions/functions:	<p>The purposes of the Colombo Plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote interest in and support for the economic and social development of Asia and the Pacific;</li> <li>• To promote technical co-operation and assist in the sharing and transfer of technology among member countries;</li> <li>• To keep under review relevant information on technical co-operation between the member governments, multilateral and other agencies with a view to accelerating development through co-operative effort;</li> <li>• To facilitate transfer and sharing of the developmental experiences among member countries within the region with emphasis on the concept of South-South Co-operation;</li> <li>• To assist the Least Developed Countries (LDC's) of the Colombo Plan region in their effort of economic development through dissemination of technical and industrial know-how by comparatively advanced countries.</li> </ul> <p>The Plan embodies the concept of a collective intergovernmental effort toward the economic and social development of member countries in the Asia-Pacific region. It provides a forum for discussion of development needs of member countries and through consensus implements programs in response to their identified needs. The Plan encourages developing member countries to become donors themselves and participate in economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (ECDC and TCDC). The primary focus of all Colombo Plan activities is human resources development in the Asia-Pacific region.</p>
Activities:	<p>The programme activities encompass the following areas:</p> <p><b>1. Drug Advisory Programme (DAP)</b></p> <p>The programmes are designated to eliminate the causes and to ameliorate the effects of drug abuse. Through the assessment of the needs of member countries and the growing trends in the drug situation in the region, DAP has started to concentrate on</p>

project aimed at introducing drug prevention curriculum in schools, development of media publicity campaigns treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts in prisons, relapse prevention, control of precursors and diversion of essential chemicals, upgrading skills of family counselors, a forming ex-addict support groups, and specially designed programmes to train women counselors to handle female drug abusers and related problems in the family. It also arranges fellowships and advanced trainings for law enforcement officials, treatment and rehabilitation practitioners of member countries.

## **2. Programme for Public Administration (PPA)**

The purpose of PPA is to nurture the human resource base of developing member countries necessary for making their public administration responsive to the requirements of a fast changing world characterized by liberalization, free markets and accelerated technology change.

In this context, PPA has been sensitive to the diversity of needs among the Colombo Plan member countries, their changing or emerging needs and PPA's own programme delivery capacity. With the generous assistance of PPA's programme partners, who have been collaborating with PPA for programme delivery, PPA has been responding well to the varied needs of member countries.

The programme under PPA encompass topic area of:

Economic Management; Environmental Management; Information Technology; Poverty Alleviation; Productivity Improvement; and Rural Development.

## **3. Programme for Private Sector Development, Publications, and Data Bank (PPSD/DB)**

The PPSD focuses on small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurship development.

PPSD programmes are geared for skill development in management and enterprises with special emphasis on financial management, issues relating to marketing and technology transfer. Experience sharing among member countries is given due consideration.

The programme will also provide facilities for training in new and emerging issues of concern to member countries such as in Information Technology and E-Commerce, trade related issues involving WTO mechanisms and water management.

### **Special Project:**

- trade liberalization and its impact on growth
- irrigation and water management, with a view to assist the developing member countries in improving the capacity building in the context of best practices in utilization of water in agriculture towards food and livelihood security.

### **Current Capacity Building Programme:**

- Water Resources Development (in collaboration with International Water Management Institute (IWMI))
- Trade and WTO related issues (funded by Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD) and the OPEC Fund for International Development)

- Small and Medium Enterprises (funded by Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the Republic of Korea).

### **ECO Economic Co-operation Organization**

(homepage: [www.ecosecretariat.org](http://www.ecosecretariat.org))

Headquarters: Tehran, Iran

Goals/missions/functions: Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), is an intergovernmental regional organization established in 1985 by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey for the purpose of promoting economic, technical and cultural cooperation among the Member States. ECO is the successor organization of Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) which remained in existence since 1964 up to 1979. In 1992, the Organization was expanded to include seven new members. Current Membership: Islamic State of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan.

Objective:

- Sustainable economic development of Member States;
- Progressive removal of trade barriers and promotion of intra- regional trade; Greater role of ECO region in the growth of world trade; Gradual integration of the economies of the Member States with the world economy;
- Development of transport & communications infrastructure linking the Member States with each other and with the outside world;
- Economic liberalization and privatization;
- Mobilization and utilization of ECO region's material resources;
- Effective utilization of the agricultural and industrial potentials of ECO region;
- Regional cooperation for drug abuse control, ecological and environmental protection and strengthening of historical and cultural ties among the peoples of the ECO region; and
- Mutually beneficial cooperation with regional and international organizations.

Activities: Activities of ECO are conducted through Directorates under the supervision of Secretary General and his Deputies which considered and evolve projects and programmes of mutual benefit in the fields of:

- **Trade and Investment**

One of the main objectives of ECO as a regional grouping is to promote trade within the region and the rest of the world based

on the principle of free trade, and to meet the challenges of globalization.

In pursuance of this objective, a number of projects and programmes have been embarked upon during the past five years. These ECO projects and programmes can broadly be categorized as under:

- *Trade liberalization activities*, towards the reduction of tariffs and removal of non-tariff barriers (NTBs) in the ECO region.
- *Trade facilitation projects*, covering areas such as transit trade, customs, trade and investment information networking etc. Availability of trade related information is identified as the major problem in promotion of regional trade. ECO is pursuing its objective by establishing an Interactive Web portal ([www.tradeeco.org](http://www.tradeeco.org)) with the financial assistance of UNDP.
- *Cooperation with international agencies*. The ECO Secretariat recently launched a joint project with the International Trade Center (ITC) aimed at expanding intra-regional trade. The Project's primary focus is on identification of trade opportunities in the region and creation of an enabling environment for their ultimate realization into actual transactions by bringing together buyers and sellers of selected product groups.

The idea behind these programmes is to lay down the necessary regulatory framework, in a region-wide context that facilitates and allows the business communities of the region to exploit the emerging opportunities.

• **Transport and Telecommunications**

To achieve the above mentioned objectives, Outline Plan for the Development of Transport Sector in the ECO region has been formulated. Within the framework of this plan, considerable developments have taken place in the transport sector leading to the interconnection of road and railway networks of Central Asian Republics (CARs) with the roads and railways of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey and opening international road transportation among all ECO countries on the basis of bilateral agreements and construction of the missing links among the ECO Member States.

The Programme of Action for ECO Decade of Transport and Communications (1998-2007) consist of the following chapters providing for the full realization of the objectives:

- Elimination of non-physical barriers on main transit-transport routes of the region.
- Development of physical infrastructure of “East-West” (including TRACECA (Europe-Caucasus-Asia)) and “North-South” transport corridors.
- Plan for the development of telecommunications and postal links in the ECO region.

• **Energy, Minerals, environment**

Three of the ECO objectives in the fields of energy, minerals and environment are as follows:

- To intensify mobilization and utilization of ECO region’s natural resources in particular energy resources;
- To facilitate cooperation in the fields of ecology and environmental protection within the region;
- To promote mutually beneficial interaction and cooperation between ECO and other regional and international organizations as well as financial institutions.

To realize the ECO objectives in these fields, several ECO Experts and Working Groups have been established and functioning in this sector with the participation of the concerned authorities of the Member States and support of the Directorate of Energy, Minerals and Environment.

### **Energy**

The ECO region as a whole has a rich resource potential of oil and gas as well as hydroelectric power and is destined to play a prominent role in the energy markets of the world in near future. At the same time, all member states face challenges of ensuring sustainable energy development.

The main tasks in this sector may be summarized as follows:

- establishing interconnection of electric power systems in the ECO region to achieve better patterns of electricity production, exchange and trade,
- facilitating development of oil and gas networks in the region to meet the entire region's requirements as well as provide outlets for access to international markets for the member states,
- promote cooperation for development of new and renewable resources of energy and enhancement of efficiency in energy production and use.

To fulfill the above tasks, the work is carried out in the following directions:

- Interconnection of ECO countries power systems;
  - Development of regional Power Trading;
  - ECO Region's Oil and Gas Pipeline Route(s);
  - Production, refining and consumption of oil and gas in ECO Member States;
  - Development of the New and Renewable Sources of Energy;
  - Energy Efficiency and Conservation;
  - Energy data collection and updating;
  - Exchange of information on technical experts, technology transfer, operational experience, research and technical publications as well as energy strategies, programmes, policy and implementation experience;
  - Energy Training;
  - Energy Resources development and their Environmental Impact Assessments;
  - At present, most of them are covered by the Plan of Action for Energy/Petroleum Cooperation in ECO region (2001-2005).

### **Minerals**

Develop cooperation in the minerals sector with emphasis on facilitation of the intra-region trade and investment in this sector, enhanced exchange of the sector related resource and technological information and experience as well as promotion of creation

of necessary conditions in the mineral sectors in the member states for enhancing inflows of capital and advanced technology from within and outside of the region.

### **Environment**

Emphasized of the need for enhancing the regional environmental cooperation, to jointly address the common concerns and regional problems and take necessary actions in collaboration with relevant international organizations to improve the environment and protect the nature in the region for achieving sustainable development and improving quality of life of its peoples.

The cooperation with UNEP and WMO will enhance the environmental activities in the ECO region, open new opportunities for joint activities in the ECO region and facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action for Cooperation among ECO Member States on Environment (2003-2007).

### **• Agriculture, Industry and Health**

Agriculture is an important sector in all of the ECO Member States. It contributes substantial portion of their GDPs.

The Directorate of Agriculture, Industry and Health of the ECO Secretariat since its establishment in July 1992, is making efforts in the field of agriculture, food security and for introducing new technologies and improved methods for maximizing the use of agricultural resources in the region. The Directorate is working on the following areas in the field of agriculture:

1. Cooperation to combat desertification among Member States.
2. Cooperation in identification and development of dwarf fruit trees.
3. Cooperation in Sugar Beet Seed development.
4. Food security concerns and measures adopted by Member States to handle future food needs of the region.

In order to benefit from the professional/technical/financial resources of other relevant regional/international organizations, the ECO Secretariat has entered into institutionalized cooperative relationship with FAO and ICARDA.

In the field of industry, the Directorate is in process of identifying priorities. Technology transfer, development of small and medium enterprises, and privatization are the main concerns in this sector where ECO is making efforts to strengthen regional cooperation.

Since the ECO Member States are geographically contiguous region, they accord high priority to regional cooperation in the field of health. The Directorate in cooperation with the Member States and regional and international health organizations holds joint activities. So far ECO/UNFPA have jointly held five activities in the Reproductive Health and Family Planning issues in addition to the four joint activities held by ECO/WHO/UNICEF.

### **• Project Research**

Directorate of Project Research (DPR) functions as a focal point for inter-sectoral coordination among various departments of ECO Secretariat to implement ECO decisions, plans, programmes and policies, also responsible for ECO cooperation in the sector of finance and economy.

The ongoing activities/achievements can be summarized under the following topics:

1. ECO's participation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.
2. List of ECO Projects.  
The projects ranged from large regional construction i.e. of highways, railways communication lines, oil and gas pipelines, studies on regional issues and problems, preparation and publication of books, guidebooks, rosters and maps. Special care is taken while approaching donor agencies.
3. UNDP Capacity Building Project.  
DPR was assigned to look after the ECO-UNDP programme which was implemented in two phases. Under this programme, the Secretariat utilized around one million US dollars from UNDP in the form of consultancies in priority areas, training of its staff and providing equipment in information technology and journals, books and periodicals for its Library.
4. Cooperation with ECO-CEC.  
A central resource pool was created in the shape of ECO Consultancy and Engineering Company (Pvt) Ltd., or ECO-CEC, to participate in the development projects to be sponsored by ECO member states and ECO Investment and Development Bank. ECO-CEC is a joint venture between an Iranian company, Turkish companies, Pakistani company.  
The Iranian and Turkish companies specialize mainly in oil and gas pipelines, refineries, petrochemical and industrial engineering, while the Pakistani partner in all other fields of development engineering, including communication, power, urban development, public health, telecommunications, water resources development and agriculture.
5. ECO Feasibility Fund.
6. Publication of the ECO "Directory of Training Institutions Compilation" and "Roster of Leading Experts.
7. Activities in the field of finance and economics.
8. Meetings of ECO decision making organs: CPR (Council of Permanent Representatives), RPC (Regional Planning Council), COM (Council of Ministers) and Summit.
9. Training Activities.
10. Activities for the efficiency and the effectiveness of ECO – EPG (Eminent Persons Group from the member states with specific timeframe and target in collaboration with the ECO Secretary General).

- **Economic Research and Statistics**

There are two major objectives of the Directorate:

1. To establish a cooperative links among the statistical and economic research institutions of the Member States for the obtaining of the country data and also to conduct the joint economic research studies on the priority areas of regional cooperation.
2. To serve as a principal organs of ECO and Member States for reliable data and the outcome of research studies for the proper policy and decision making.

	<p>To achieve these objectives, some activities are carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– designation of National Focal Points for strengthening of joint activities on the improvement of cooperation in the field of economic research and statistics;</li> <li>– conduction meeting;</li> <li>– publication of report, guidebook, yearbook;</li> <li>– conduction of the Joint Economic Research Studies on the topics related to the priority areas of ECO cooperation;</li> <li>– establishment of ECO intra-regional computer network among the Member States and the ECO Secretariat.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>ECOASIA Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific</b> (homepage: <a href="http://www.ecoasia.org">www.ecoasia.org</a>)</p>	
Headquarters:	Tokyo, Japan
Goals/missions/functions:	<p>ECO ASIA, which hosted by the Japanese Ministry of the Environment yearly since 1999, is the congress, which consists of high-level government officials (including ministers), experts from international organizations and private organizations and environment researchers in the region, where they can freely exchange viewpoints in their personal capacities.</p> <p>The purpose of ECO ASIA is to promote long-term activities for environmental protection by governments and relevant organizations in Asia and the Pacific Region toward the realization of sustainable development of the Region.</p> <p><b>ECO ASIA NET</b> (Environmental Information Network for Asia and the Pacific) is a databank of environmental information of 22 countries in the Asia Pacific Region, created with the aim to support sustainable development in the region by information sharing and dissemination.</p>
Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In October 2001, ECO ASIA established Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (<b>APFED</b>). The objective of this forum is to propose a new and long-term development framework for Asia and the Pacific. APFED is an independent body of eminent persons mainly from Asia and the Pacific region. Under the leadership of the Chair of the Forum, APFED concluded and presented its Message to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) to the world. In the drafting process of the Message, multi-stakeholder and expert meetings were held so that the forum could incorporate the perspectives of all stakeholders and scientific knowledge.</li> <li>• ECO ASIA established Asia-Pacific Environmental Innovation Strategy Project (<b>APEIS</b>) as one of the main projects, which</li> </ul>

started in April 2002 as a three year project. The final goal of this project is to contribute to sustainable development in Asia-Pacific region.

This final goal is expected to achieve through *enviromental innovations* by:

- providing scientific tools & policy options
- promoting capacity building of experts
- promoting outreach activities to stakeholders & the public

APEIS is an Asia-Pacific initiative to help realize the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), which urges to:

Assist developing countries, through international cooperation, to enhance their capacity in their efforts to address issues pertaining to environmental protection including in their formulation and implementation of policies for environmental management and protection, including through urgent actions at all levels to:

- improve their use of science and technology for environmental monitoring, assessment models, accurate database and integrated information systems;
- promote and, where appropriate, improve their use of satellite technologies for quality data collection, verification and updating and further improvement of aerial and groundbased observations, in support of their efforts to collect quality, accurate, long-term, consistent and reliable data.

APEIS is composed of three sub-projects:

- Integrated Environmental Monitoring (IEM)
- Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA)
- Research on Innovative and Strategic Policy Options (RISPO)

Each sub-project is designed to provide a scientific basis for decision-making and to establish on-going communication between scientists and policy-makers. The target audience of APEIS is policy-makers in the Asia- Pacific region; however, the project will also convey its products to other stakeholders and the general public.

APEIS will produce two types of products:

1. *Knowledge-based tools*, to assist decision-making process, in particular to assist in analyzing and understanding present conditions and future trends related to the Asia-Pacific economy and environment.
2. *Policy options*. The areas where options will initially be developed are:
  - Eco-Markets and Eco-Industry: specifically, innovative financing for renewable energy, international markets for recyclable materials, and improved environmental performance of small and medium-sized enterprises;
  - Urban Systems: specifically, environmentally sustainable transport systems;
  - Community Resources: specifically, use of local biomass energy, and community-based tourism;
  - Stakeholder Networking: specifically, environmental education by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and

	local/indigenous knowledge-based resource management systems.
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<b>FNCA Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia</b> (homepage: <a href="http://www.fnca.jp">www.fnca.jp</a> and <a href="http://www.ansto.gov.au/fnca">www.ansto.gov.au/fnca</a> )	
Headquarters:	Tokyo, Japan (Asia Co-operation Center/JAIF)
Goals/missions/functions:	The FNCA is a forum for the exchange of ideas, opinions and information with a view to promoting peaceful uses of nuclear technology and nuclear energy in the Asian region. The FNCA brings together the nine countries in the region that are signatories to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), viz, Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, The Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have also participated.
Activities:	<p>The FNCA's projects are:</p> <p><b>1. Utilisation of Research Reactors</b> Cooperation activities including workshops have been promoted in the field of utilization of research reactors.</p> <p><b>2. Application of Radiation and Radioisotopes for Agriculture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mutation Breeding</i> The Mutation Breeding project has been carried out steadily since FY1993. Following Phase I (FY1993-97) on "Major Crops", i.e. Legumes, Cereals, Horticultural (Ornamental) Crops, Oil-Producing and Industrial Crops, and Phase II (FY1998-2001) on "Methodology", i.e. Screening for Mutants with Tolerance/Resistance to Environmental Stress, Screening for High Quality Mutants; Efficient Use of Physical/Chemical Mutagens; and Molecular Biological Techniques for Mutation Breeding, Phase III (FY2002-2004) will deal with "Technique on Reproductive Pattern". During Phase III with basic theme of "Technique on Reproductive Pattern", the annual workshop will discuss the following sub-themes: i. Vegetatively Propagated Crops (FY2002, China) ii. Root Crops (FY2003, Philippine) iii. Clonally Propagated Crops (2004). Besides existing Sub-Projects, i.e. Mutation Breeding Database (MBDB), Mutant Stock Repository (MSR) and Mutation Breeding Laboratory Manual (MBLM), Multilateral Research Program (MRP) on "Drought Tolerance in Sorghum, Sugar Cane, Soy Bean" is to start in 4 participating countries, i.e. China, Indonesia, Philippine and Vietnam from FY2002 onwards</li> <li>• <i>Biofertilizer</i> In order to make farmers, citizens, officials recognize the effects of biofertilizer inoculation on crop growth and yield, the field</li> </ul>

demonstration is planned in 2002-2005. The field experiment is also necessary due to the inconsistency of the effectiveness of inoculants indicating that the environmental factors such as soil and climate conditions, genotype of host crops play an important role in selection of effective microorganisms for biofertilizer. From this point of view, field demonstration and field experiment should be strengthened.

### **3. Applications of Radiation and Radioisotopes for Medical Use**

- *Radiation Oncology*

Based upon the satisfactory results of radiation therapy in registered patients, the following challenges were carried out:

- Effort to bring preciseness of patient treatment data, like the five year survival rate and control rate, by adequate follow-up actions.
- A trial by the accelerated hyperfractionation radiotherapy had been implemented to make the full-scale clinical trial among the FNCA countries since January 2000, in order to further improve the treatment results for uterine cervix cancer, and 103 clinical cases have been registered. This trial is expected to increase treatment effect as well as to decrease damage to the surrounding normal tissues.

- *Nuclear Medicine (New project, will start from FY 2005)*

### **4. Applications of Radiation and Radioisotopes for Industry**

- *Low-Energy Electron Accelerator*

The purpose of this project is to develop an electron accelerator with higher power density and simpler operation than a gamma irradiation facility using Co-60. More specifically, it aims to develop a multi-purpose self-shielded low-energy electron accelerator requiring an initial investment much lower than a Co-60 facility, and to demonstrate applications contributing to industrial promotion and environmental preservation in Asian countries.

The project encompasses liquid, solid, and gas irradiation, and, depending on the needs of each country. They will join in research and development of applications on vulcanization of latex, degradation of natural polymers, waste water, sterilization of spices, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals, granules/powders, films/sheets, production of hydro-gel dressings, and flue gases and dioxin.

### **5. Public Information of Nuclear Energy**

FNCA nuclear public information activities used to be carried out mainly with emphasis on information exchange among the FNCA countries for about ten years since 1991.

The major public Information activities involved:

- Asia Nuclear cooperation Network (AsiaNNet). The network activities can be divided roughly into the following three sub-categories:

	<p>Asia Nuclear Cooperation Network (AsiaNNet)(only in English); FNCA Newsletter; FNCA Web-Sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional Speakers Bureau (RSB) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to support an FNCA country with respect to encouraging public information activities by providing an appropriate person or persons for a symposium, a seminar, or a discussion meeting, upon request by an FNCA country.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- A cross-national joint survey on highschool students.</li> </ul> <p><b>6. Radioactive Waste Management</b></p> <p>Until now, under the framework of FNCA Radioactive Waste Management Project, information was exchanged and shared on RWM in general. Specific topics included "Current State of Radioactive Waste Management in Each Country, and Problems," "General Concepts in Radioactive Waste Management," "Radioactive Waste Management Education/Training" and "How to Carry Out Cooperative Activities in Radioactive Waste Management in Asia".</p> <p>Since 2001, a task group on "spent radiation source management" has been established as part of the RWM Project.</p> <p><b>7. Nuclear Safety Culture</b></p> <p>Cooperation activities including workshops have been promoted in the field of safety culture of nuclear energy under the initiative of Australia.</p> <p><b>8. Human Resources Development</b></p>
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<b>MRC Mekong River Commission</b> (homepage: <a href="http://www.mrcmekong.org">www.mrcmekong.org</a> )	
Headquarters:	Vientiane, Lao PDR
Goals/missions/ functions:	<p>The Mekong River Commission (MRC) was established on 5 April 1995 by the Agreement on The Cooperation for The Sustainable Development of The Mekong River Basin. The MRC member countries are Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam. MRC maintains regular dialogue with the two upper states of the Mekong River Basin, China and Myanmar.</p> <p>The MRC member countries co-operate in all fields of sustainable development, utilisation, management and conservation of the water and related resources of the Mekong River Basin, such as navigation, flood control, fisheries, agriculture, hydropower and environmental protection.</p> <p>The MRC mission is to promote and co-ordinate sustainable management and development of water and related resources for the</p>

	countries' mutual benefit and the people's well-being by implementing strategic programmes and activities and providing scientific information and policy advice.
Activities:	<p>MRC programmes encompass:</p> <p><b>1. Basin Development Plan</b></p> <p>The BDP will serve as a framework for strategy formulation, as well as for identification of projects to support the agreed strategies. It will mainly deal with international, cross-border issues, rather than national planning initiatives which do not affect other riparian countries.</p> <p>The BDP will focus attention on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irrigated agriculture; Watershed management; Fisheries; Hydropower; Navigation, transport, river works; Tourism and recreation, where it is water-related; Water supply for domestic and industrial use; Flood control and flood management.</li> </ul> <p>Cross-cutting themes within the BDP's work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment; Human resource development; Socio-economics, including poverty reduction and gender equity; Public participation.</li> </ul> <p>The BDP will assist in developing the Lower Mekong Basin by accelerating interdependent sub-regional growth, and creating a new environment which is conducive to investments and which can serve as a firm foundation for sustainable development.</p> <p><b>2. Water Utilisation Programme</b></p> <p>The 6-year Water Utilisation Programme (WUP) aims to improve water management and ensure mutual beneficial water utilisation in the Lower Mekong River Basin while maintaining its ecological balance. In order to accomplish these objectives, the WUP will create an integrated knowledge base, providing data and decision support, as well as a comprehensive hydrological modelling package. These will serve as the basis for the creation of a set of rules governing water use. In addition, the implementation of the programme will be enhanced by activities designed to improve the institutional capacity of the MRC, the National Mekong Committees and national line agencies. Ultimately, the WUP will assist the MRC member states by becoming a permanent program to support the sustainable management of water resources in the Lower Mekong River Basin.</p> <p><b>3. Environment Programme</b></p> <p>The MRC's Environment Programme focuses on the people of the Basin. The Environment Programme will generate data, information and knowledge for decision-making to balance economic development and environmental conservation that will benefit the Basin's inhabitants. In addition to establishing systems for monitoring the Basin's environmental health, improving policies and legislation, and encouraging co-operation among the riparian countries, the programme will increase the public's environmental awareness.</p>

**4. Flood Management Programme**

The Flood Management and Mitigation Programme has been recently developed, focusing on three areas: providing technical products and services, addressing differences and facilitating solutions, and capacity building and technology transfer. Detailed implementation plans are being made, which include the establishment of a regional FMM Centre; studies, policy discussions on land use planning and infrastructure development in relation to flood impacts; flood proofing measures; flood forecasting, warning and dissemination services; mediation services; analysis of risk and impacts, and strengthening of capacity to manage flood emergencies.

**5. Capacity-Building Programme**

A Capacity-Building Programme is due to end in 2002. This programme has provided support to the Secretariat and National Mekong Committees in each country for improved systems of administration, management and communications.

**6. Agriculture, Irrigation and Forestry Programme**

The programme focuses on water-use efficiency, catchment management and capacity building. In 2002, watersheds in the Lower Mekong Basin will be inventoried and key areas of transboundary significance will be selected for activities.

**7. Fisheries Programme**

The Fisheries Programme aims to manage the productive Mekong fisheries so as to sustain their high yield and economic output well into the future. The programme does research into capture fisheries, trains fisheries managers, promotes aquaculture of indigenous Mekong fish species and disseminates information to policy makers and planners in the four Lower Mekong countries.

**8. Water Resources and Hydrology**

A network of river monitoring stations along the Mekong transmits real-time information on water levels for flood forecasting and other uses. The MRC runs training of gauge readers and other water resources staff of the four Lower Mekong governments. The MRC is involved in the generation and dissemination of information related to hydropower development: policy advice, investigations up to the pre-investment stage, and monitoring impacts of hydropower-related activities in the Basin.

**9. Navigation Programme**

The Navigation Programme promotes freedom of navigation on the Mekong, and works to increase social development and international trade opportunities using the natural navigation potential of the river system.

<b>PBEC Pacific Basin Economic Council</b> (homepage: <a href="http://www.pbec.org">www.pbec.org</a> )	
Headquarters:	Hong Kong
Goals/missions/ functions:	<p>The PBEC is an association of senior business leaders from throughout the Pacific Basin Region dedicated to expanding trade and investment through fostering open markets. Founded in 1967, PBEC serves as the key organization through which regional executives create business relationships, encourage increased trade and investment, support open markets to lower trade barriers, and address emerging issues likely to shape the Pacific and global economies.</p> <p>PBEC's mission is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to achieve a business environment in the region that ensures open trade and investment and encourages competitiveness based on the capabilities of individual companies;</li> <li>• to provide information, networking fora, and services to members that increase their business opportunities;</li> <li>• to support cooperative business efforts to address the economic well-being of citizens in the Pacific region.</li> </ul> <p>The objective of PBEC is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• advising governments in order to improve their business environment;</li> <li>• generating foreign investment flows to support economic development objectives;</li> <li>• reducing administrative barriers to international trade in the region;</li> <li>• stimulating the development and accelerating the implementation of new technologies;</li> <li>• balancing economic development with the need for a clean environment.</li> </ul>
Activities:	<p>PBEC has working committees in several different areas:</p> <p><b>1. Agri-Business and World Market</b></p> <p>The PBEC Working Committee on Agri-Business &amp; World Markets seeks to take leadership role in promoting the benefits of an open and efficient food trading system in growing wealth for all economies in the Pacific Basin. This working committee will provide business-driven solutions to infrastructure and regulatory impediments to freer trade in the region.</p> <p>Future actions of this working committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate and support APEC Agricultural Technical Committee work through government liaison and participation as appropriate;</li> <li>• Co-partner with the World Agriculture Forum and the National Center for APEC to bring together regional Agriculture Ministers to discuss the APEC Food System and other issues;</li> <li>• Develop future conferences on poultry value chain issues;</li> </ul>

- Participate in Codex Alimentarius meetings as observers and continue to strengthen coordination with PECC on food safety issues;
- Expand work program to include activities that strengthen agricultural trade policy in the region.

## **2. Environment**

The PBEC Working Committee on the Environment aims to promote the realization of a harmonic balance between economic development and environmental protection in the PBEC region through the support of businesses that exhibit a strong concern for environmental demands.

The Working Committee is active in a number of important areas and works closely with PBEC's member economies to promote the adoption of responsible environmental policies and standards throughout the Pacific Basin region.

## **3. Foreign Direct Investment**

The working committee on foreign direct investment has set itself the following goals:

- Represent the business interests of PBEC members in the investment liberalization process;
- Provide business input to the APEC liberalization process by developing PBEC policy positions;
- Conduct a periodical review of impediments to foreign investment in the region and based on the results, formulate practical counter-measures.

The working committee is active in a number of important areas. In May 1998, at the PBEC International General Meeting in Chile, the committee presented the PBEC FDI index, which assessed the investment environment throughout the region from the investor's perspective, and compiled evaluations and comparisons of PBEC foreign investment regimes. This will serve as the basis for ongoing future work.

The working committee is also pressing for a successful conclusion of the multilateral agreement on investment (MAI) by the OECD.

## **4. Services**

The working committee on Services was established to support free trade in services in the Asia Pacific region. To this end the committee has dedicated itself to:

- Build a dedicated network of service providers and consumers from developed and developing economies that reflects the diverse interests and experiences of PBEC membership;
- Develop, refine, and implement PBEC policy positions and work programs that reflect the private-sector consensus on actions to be taken in supporting services liberalization;
- Expand understanding among regional businesses and governments on the positive economic and social effects of increased competition in services;
- Promote cooperative efforts to identify and implement market-driven regulatory reforms in services sectors that will

	<p>enhance the competitiveness of service providers, and improve the quality of services for consumers;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the ongoing service liberalization and reform efforts in regional and global governmental organizations such as APEC and the WTO.</li> </ul> <p>The working committee is active in a number of important areas. In May 1998, the working committee presented its report on Financial Services Liberalization and Regulatory Reform in the Asia-Pacific.</p> <p>The working committee has subcommittees on financial services, professional services, and telecommunications work to support current liberalization measures in the WTO and APEC, as well as developing a long-term work plan for regulatory reform in the region</p> <p><b>5. Transparency</b></p> <p>The Working Committee is active in a number of important areas. In addition to developing PBEC's Transparency Agenda, the committee also works closely with PBEC's member economies to promote transparency and accountability in all business-government transactions, and the enactment and implementation of anti-corruption statutes.</p> <p><b>6. Trade Impediments (Ad Hoc)</b></p> <p>Ad-Hoc Committee on Trade Impediments cover the subversion and misuse of trade remedies such as Anti-Dumping, countervailing duties, and safeguards. The committee will also look at the underlying issues in the grey areas of non-tariff barriers. It would also continue to monitor and report on the progress of negotiations at the WTO as well as other issues as required.</p>
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<b>PIFS Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat</b> (homepage: <a href="http://www.forumsec.org.fj">www.forumsec.org.fj</a> )	
Headquarters:	Suva, Fiji Islands
Goals/missions/functions:	<p>PIFS (previously the South Pacific Forum) is the administrative arm of the Pacific Islands Forum and undertakes programmes and activities that support, or implement, decisions by Forum leaders. PIFS is the chair of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP).</p> <p>PIFS mission is to provide policy options to the Pacific Islands Forum, and to promote Forum decisions, and regional and international cooperation.</p>
Activities:	Current programmes are aimed at promoting regional cooperation among member states through trade, investment, economic development, and political and international trade.

	<p>PIFS implements a work programme in three main areas:</p> <p><b>1. Development and economic policy</b>          Gives policy advice and technical assistance on development and economic issues. It focuses on capacity building in economic management, and policy advice on economic infrastructure, natural resources, and social issues. Cooperation with development partners, including the implementation of EU and Canadian regional programmes, is another important facet of the division's work.</p> <p><b>2. Political, international and legal affairs</b>          Promotes the Forum's position and interests in international fora, and offers policy advice and assistance to members on international relations, law enforcement cooperation, and political, legal, and security issues. It monitors international developments relevant to Forum concerns, and assists and advises Forum countries and CROP organizations on their implications. To those ends, it participates in key international meetings on sustainable development, climate change and nuclear non-proliferation; fosters cooperation between regional customs, police, law, and immigration authorities; and helps members to become more self-sufficient in legal drafting. It monitors issues related to the law of the sea and transnational crime, developments in New Caledonia under Noumea Accord, and security issues affecting the region.</p> <p><b>3. Trade and investment</b>          Assists members in improving their trade and investment performance through policy advice and technical assistance. It assists governments and the private sector in integrating into the global economy; promotes investment and commerce; works to improve import management; and helps members build knowledge and skills in export market development and product identification and development.</p>
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<b>SAARC South Asia Association for Regional Co-operation</b> (homepage: <a href="http://www.saarc-sec.org">www.saarc-sec.org</a> )	
Headquarters:	Kathmandu, Nepal
Goals/missions/functions:	The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), comprising the seven South Asian countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, with a view to holding periodic, regional-level consultations among countries in South Asia on matters of mutual interest and possible cooperation in economic, social, cultural and other fields. The rationale was primarily predicated on the premise that regional experiences elsewhere in the globe had been highly successful and that the countries in the South Asian region would benefit enormously from such cooperation as it would strengthen their competitive

	<p>position, both individually and as a group.</p> <p>SAARC provides a platform for the peoples of South Asia to work together in a spirit of friendship, trust and understanding.</p> <p>The objectives of the Association as defined in the Charter are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life;</li> <li>• to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realize their full potential;</li> <li>• to promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia;</li> <li>• to contribute to mutual trust, understand and appreciation of one another's problem;</li> <li>• to promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields;</li> <li>• to strengthen cooperation with other developing countries;</li> <li>• to strengthen cooperation among themselves in international forums on matters of common interest; and</li> <li>• to cooperate with international and regional organisations with similar aims and purposes.</li> </ul>
Activities:	<p>The core of SAARC work programme was the Integrated Programme of Action (IPA) consisting of seven Technical Committees on agreed areas of cooperation, i.e.:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Agriculture and rural development</b></li> <li><b>2. Communications and transport</b></li> <li><b>3. Social development</b></li> <li><b>4. Environment, meteorology and forestry</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several initiatives have been taken to strengthen cooperation among Member Countries in the protection of environment, i.e.:</li> <li>• Regional Study on Environment</li> <li>• Regional Study on the Greenhouse Effect and its Impact on the Region. The study suggested measures in sharing experiences, scientific capabilities and information on climate change, and forging global collaboration in monitoring climatology, sea level rise, natural disaster, technology transfer and finance.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>5. Science and technology</b></li> <li><b>6. Human resources development</b></li> <li><b>7. Energy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The First Meeting of the Technical Committee on Energy which was held in Dhaka, 17-18 November 2002, recommended several items:</li> <li>• Emphasized on the important of use of environment-friendly energy sources, i.e. natural gas, hydro-electricity and other renewable energy</li> <li>• Recommended to establish an institutional framework for sharing information and experiences on energy,</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommended to sharing experiences in the field of rural electrification and participation of private sector in supporting initiatives in energy.</li> </ul>
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<b>SACEP South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme</b> (homepage: <a href="http://www.sacep.org">www.sacep.org</a> )	
Headquarters:	Colombo, Sri Lanka
Goals/missions/functions:	<p>The mission of SACEP is to promote and support the conservation and management of the environment, both natural and human, in the member states of the South Asian Region in a co-operative manner, to achieve sustainable development.</p> <p>The aims and objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote and support the protection, management and enhancement of the environment, of South Asia, individually, collectively and co-operatively.</li> <li>To encourage the judicious use of the resources of the environment with a view to alleviating poverty, reducing socio-economic disparities and improving the quality of life of the people</li> </ul> <p>The functions of SACEP are to promote co-operative activities which would be beneficial to member countries in priority areas of mutual interest, facilitate exchange of knowledge and expertise and provide local resources for implementation of priority activities while mobilizing maximum constructive and complementary support from donor countries and agencies.</p>
Activities:	<p>SACEP's programme activities are promoted within an overall framework of the Regional Strategy on Environmentally sound Sustainable Development, developed by the Economic and Social Commission for the Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) and includes the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building;</li> <li>Conservation and Sustainable Management of Ecosystems;</li> <li>Pollution Assessment and Control;</li> <li>Environmental Information, Reporting and Networks;</li> <li>Environmental Education and Awareness.</li> </ul> <p>The project and programme activities implemented by SACEP, since its inception can be broadly grouped in to time frames; 1983-1991, 1992-1996 (SPP 1) and 1996-2000 (SPP 2).</p> <p>The project and programme activities implemented during the period of 2000-2002 are in the following subject areas:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental law</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Coastal and marine ecosystem management</li> <li>• Sustainable development</li> <li>• Land management</li> <li>• Capacity building – Education training</li> <li>• Policy legislation and monitoring</li> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Environmental management – disaster management</li> </ul>
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<b>SIAP United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific</b> (homepage: <a href="http://www.unsiap.or.jp">www.unsiap.or.jp</a> )	
Headquarters:	Chiba, Japan
Goals/missions/functions:	<p>The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (then the Asian Statistical Institute) become operational in 3 June 1970 as a centre for statistical training for the developing countries in Asia and the Pacific region.</p> <p>In 1995, the Institute was given the status of a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).</p> <p><b>Mission:</b>          "to strengthen the capability of national statistical systems in the region and to enhance statistical training capabilities and related activities at the country level through practically oriented training of official statisticians in order to produce timely and high-quality statistics that can be utilized for economic and social development planning."</p> <p>The Institute aims to strengthen the capability of the developing countries of the region to collect, analyze and disseminate statistics as well as to produce timely and high-quality statistics that can be utilized for economic and social development planning, and to assist those developing countries in establishing or strengthening their statistical training capability and other related activities.</p> <p>As the host, the Government of Japan, in addition to its cash contributions, provides in-kind contributions including administrative and infrastructural support to the Institute from the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications and fellowships for Tokyo Metropolitan Area based courses through the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA).</p>

<p>Activities:</p>	<p>The programmes of the Institute are carried out through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• offer of fellowships for general courses, advanced courses and training workshops;</li> <li>• conduct of country courses and the preparation of training course design and materials.</li> </ul> <p>The training programme consist of two dimensions: (1) those conducted at SIAP premises in Tokyo Metropolitan Area and (2) those undertaken in the outreach programme.</p> <p><b>1. Tokyo-Metropolitan-Area Based Courses / Programmes</b></p> <p>The participants attending courses conducted under this programme are normally funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The courses are regular in nature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group Training Course in Modules on Core Official Statistics (Module I: Statistical and survey methods; Module II: Demography and social statistics; Module III: National Accounts)</li> <li>• Group Training Course in Application of Information and Communications Technology to Statistical Processes</li> <li>• Group Training Course in Analysis and Interpretation of Official Statistics</li> <li>• Research-based Training Programme.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Outreach Programmes</b></p> <p>This programme complements the courses conducted in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area and is carried out in collaboration with national statistical offices, related training institutes and donor agencies. The courses are normally of short-term duration and cover a wide range of topics. The courses are conducted at country, sub-regional and regional levels.</p> <p>The outreach programme has expanded considerably in recent years, thereby enriching the content and scope of training of SIAP. The outreach programme of training is organized depending on the availability of funds to the Institute. The current programmes are mainly funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and from the SIAP institutional budget. In the latter, there are instances of collaboration with international organizations and government agencies and consist of country courses, on the job training and missions to assist national statistical offices, and regional/ sub-regional courses/ workshops and seminars.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institute-Funded Courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Course/Workshop on Sample Design for Household and Establishment Surveys</li> <li>– Research-based Training Programmes (Beginning in 2004)</li> <li>– Country, Sub regional and Regional Courses/Workshops</li> <li>– Seminars</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>With assistance from UNDP, the Institute plans to develop a range of new partnerships with countries aimed at strengthening their statistical systems to generate the various demands for statistics and indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals</p>
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	(MDG) and assisting in the annual production of MDG reports.
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<b>SPREP South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme</b> (homepage: <a href="http://www.sprep.org.ws">www.sprep.org.ws</a> )	
Headquarters:	Apia, Samoa
Goals/missions/functions:	<p>SPREP is a regional organisation established by the governments and administrations of the Pacific region to look after its environment. It has grown from a small programme attached to the South Pacific Commission (SPC) in the 1980s into the Pacific region's major intergovernmental organisation charged with protecting and managing the environment and natural resources.</p> <p>SPREP's <b>mandate</b> is to promote cooperation in the Pacific islands region and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve the environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations.</p> <p>SPREP's unique <b>focus</b> is to sustain the integrity of the ecosystems of the Pacific islands region to support life and livelihoods today and tomorrow.</p> <p>SPREP has 21 Pacific island member countries and four countries with direct interests in the region.</p>
Activities:	<p>SPREP operates two programmes:</p> <p><b>1. Island Ecosystems</b></p> <p>The goal of this programme is Pacific islands countries and territories (PICTs) able to manage island resources and ocean ecosystems in a sustainable manner and that support life and livelihoods.</p> <p><i>b. Terrestrial island ecosystems</i></p> <p>Particularly among the high islands, important terrestrial ecosystems require on-going support to secure representative areas under robust conservation arrangements, and to promote sustainable resources use by local communities.</p> <p><i>c. Coastal and marine ecosystems</i></p> <p>As a principal support for life and livelihoods throughout the region, community-based initiatives will continue to be the basis for much of SPREP's Programme in coastal and marine ecosystems. Understanding social and economic driving factors in community decision making in relation to resource use and conservation, and empowering local communities through co-management of projects will be critical elements of the Programme.</p> <p><i>d. Species of special interest</i></p> <p>The Pacific islands have a high proportion of species that are threatened with extinction, including 14% of the region's bird species – representing 24% of the world's globally threatened species. The major threats to Pacific native species are</p>

invasive species, habitat loss or modification and over-harvesting. This focus area aims to protect the region's biodiversity against the threat of invasive species and living modified organisms. It also aims to ensure the maintenance of viable wild populations of species of special significance by identifying and addressing their key threatening processes.

*e. People and institutions*

Through mutually beneficial partnerships, with other multinational organisations, national institutions and government agencies, non-government organisations, community groups and the private sector, the potential to achieve all programme goals will be enhanced.

SPREP provides assistance to PICTs through a number of general environmental management support mechanisms that cut across all technical areas. However, there are a number of very specific issues that stand alone and require focused action leading to the development of essential capacities for PICTs. These include the ability to PICTs to deal with national environmental legal frameworks, developing knowledge and information capacity, environmental education and awareness, and building capacity within countries/for developing human resources and training.

**2. Pacific Futures**

The goal of this programme is Pacific island countries and territories able to plan and respond to threats and pressures on island and ocean systems.

*a. Managing multilateral environmental agreements and regional coordination mechanisms*

Since many Pacific islands are parties to a range of international environment-related agreements and processes, Pacific island countries (PICs) are required to maintain an active role in the development and subsequent implementation of these agreements and negotiation outcomes. To support SPREP members, the Secretariat will promote coordination at the national level, provide technical and legal advice to countries, assist in preparing conference briefing papers, identify synergies between agreements and related international processes.

*b. Environment monitoring and reporting*

SPREP has a contribution to make in the best knowledge management practices across the region in supporting for data acquisition, application and management on sustainable development.

*c. Climate change and atmosphere*

SPREP's members have identified four main areas of work:

- meteorological and climatological capacities of PICTs need to be strengthened to plan and respond to climate variability and extreme weather events.
- more research needs to be undertaken to understand climate variability, climate change and sea level rise through information, modeling and clearinghouse mechanisms. Such research needs to identify and assess vulnerabilities as well as impacts.
- Pacific Islands urgently need to adapt to climate change and adopt mitigation options and coordination, and assistance is needed to assess and implement feasible options and access funds for implementation of activities.
- technical/legal advisory services need to be provided to assist Pacific Island Parties implement the UNFCCC and to ensure

	<p>consistency with other international processes.</p> <p>At the regional level, SPREP coordinates the regional framework for climate change, assists with mainstreaming of climate change into developmental processes and capacity building activities, and eliminating ozone-depleting substances by the year 2005.</p> <p><i>d. Waste management and pollution control</i></p> <p>Increasing quantities of solid waste, the lack of controls on chemicals imported into the region, and the lack of capacity to manage the range of pollutants are of immediate concern for Pacific island members. In addition to land-based activities, the region's coastal and marine resources are threatened by introduced marine species, shipwrecks, marine accidents and spills, ships' waste and antifouling paints on vessels.</p> <p>The primary role of SPREP is to assist countries in implementing the Programme, mainly through technical advice and support. There are some elements, such as hazardous waste disposal, where SPREP is directly involved in implementation, because of the technical and logistical complexities of the work.</p> <p><i>e. Environmental planning</i></p> <p>The intent of environmental planning is to address the causes of environmental degradation and over-exploitation through integrated government and community decision-making mechanisms.</p> <p>Below are several of many projects that SPREP currently executing:  Birds; Clean Development Mechanism; Climate Change; Coastal Management Programme; Coral Reef Initiative; Environmental Education; Global Climate Observing System; Hazardous Waste; Implementation Multilateral Environment; Information Resources Centre; International Coral Reef Action Network Management; International Maritime Organization; International Water Programme; Invasive Species; Marine Pollution; Ozone-depleting Substances - Montreal Protocol; Pacific Environmental Information Network (PEIN); Pollution Prevention; Solid Waste.</p>
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<b>UNEP/ROAP UNEP Regional Office for Asia and Pacific</b>	
(homepage: <a href="http://www.roap.unep.org">www.roap.unep.org</a> )	
Headquarters:	Bangkok, Thailand
Goals/missions/functions:	<p>In 1998, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) put in place a new organizational structure to strengthen the role of regional offices.</p> <p>Working closely with the Division of Regional Cooperation and Representation in UNEP's Nairobi-based Headquarters, the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) looks to adapt global environmental policy to regional priorities and needs.</p> <p>It acts as a catalyst, coordinator, facilitator and mobilizer of resources.</p>

	<p>It puts particular emphasis on building partnerships with regional and sub-regional intergovernmental fora, other United Nations agencies, national governments, NGOs, the private sector, academic and research institutions and civil society and the media.</p> <p>UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and Pacific is well positioned to assist in the process of identifying and implementing solutions to global and regional environmental problems.</p>
Activities:	<p>The activities of ROAP aim at underlining the catalytic and coordinating role of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in promoting international cooperation in the field of the environment.</p> <p>UNEP's ROAP programmes composed of the following theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Early Warning and Assessment</b> In Asia and the Pacific Region, DEWA (UNEP's Division of Early Warning and Assessment) is implemented through the UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and Pacific (RRC.AP) situated within the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), near Bangkok, Thailand.</li> <li>• <b>Law and Conventions</b></li> <li>• <b>Education, Training and Capacity Building</b> The ROAP works closely with UNEP's Division of Environmental Policy Implementation on activities such as advisory services, pilot projects, education and other capacity building support, and coordination of response to environmental emergencies. <i>Regional Programmes</i> The Network for Environmental Training at Tertiary Level in Asia and the Pacific (NETTLAP) consists of institutions and individuals active in environmental education and training at tertiary (e.g. university, technical institute, teacher training college) level in the region. NETTLAP develops and applies innovative methods in environmental training; identifies regional training needs and shares knowledge through ongoing interaction amongst network partners. Focus thus far has been human resources development in the areas of toxic chemicals and hazardous waste management, coastal zone management, and environmental economics. <i>Resources</i> - Fellowship support In response to requests from the region, UNEP/ROAP occasionally provides financial support to assist participants in relevant environmental meetings, training programmes and seminars.</li> <li>• <b>Technology, Industry and Economics</b> <b>Focus Areas</b> <i>1. Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies (EST)</i></li> </ul>

	<p>Provide access to quality information on ESTs, especially for urban environmental management and management of freshwater basins, with support from UNEP maESTro web- and CD-ROM based EST database platform.</p> <p>2. <i>Cleaner and Safer Production</i>  Promotion and adoption of the Cleaner Production (CP) approach to environmental management in all kinds of businesses, including the International Declaration on Cleaner Production, the joint UNEP/UNIDO National Cleaner Production Centres network, Regional and global CP roundtables, the ICPIC CP information database, the project on CP financing mechanisms. Prevention of industrial accidents and accidents in transportation of dangerous materials, through the UNEP APELL Programme.</p> <p>3. <i>Sustainable Consumption</i>  Awareness raising about sustainable consumption, with a focus on youth and the advertising industry as major stakeholders.</p> <p>4. <i>Tourism</i>  Provide tools and incentives to the tourism industry to adopt more sustainable and environmentally friendly practices, especially in tour operations, accommodations and coastal zones.</p> <p>5. <i>Industrial Pollution Management</i>  Support improved environmental management practices in industry through information exchange (the two web based Mineral Resources Forum and the Offshore Oil &amp; Gas Sector Forum), promotion of Environmental Technology Assessments (EnTA) and project based work with industrial estates and a wide range of sectors, including mining, fertilizers production and the agri-food sector.</p> <p>6. <i>Chemicals</i>  Build national, regional and global capacities for safe production, handling and disposal of chemicals and pesticides; advance the work with Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure for international trade of certain hazardous chemicals through the Rotterdam Convention.</p> <p>7. <i>Ozonaction</i>  Enabling programme that strengthens the capacity of governments and industry in developing countries to take informed decisions, and to build up local expertise required for the responsible management of the phase out of ozone depleting substances.</p> <p>8. <i>Energy</i>  Support improved energy efficiency both at the production and consumption ends, related both to sustainable use of natural resources and to limitation of greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>9. <i>Economics and Trade</i>  Encourage public and private sector decision-makers to integrate environmental considerations into their development planning, macroeconomic policies, trade and financial services; provide assessments tools and fora to address related issues (including the Financial Institutions Initiative and the Insurance Industry Initiative) and support research initiatives; explore the relationship between trade liberalization and environment through the joint UNEP/UNCTAD taskforce.</p>
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#### 10. Outreach

Improve stakeholder involvement access to public information and on the environmental impact from industrial operations through the Global Reporting Initiative, publications on corporate environmental reporting and the Global Compact effort.

#### **Regional Programmes**

##### 1. *Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction from Industry in Asia and the Pacific project (GERIAP)*

The "Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction from Industry in Asia and the Pacific" (GERIAP) project encourages industry to take action and reduce GHG emissions as well as costs by improving its energy efficiency. This UNEP project applies a Cleaner Production (CP) methodology, focusing on energy efficiency measures within four energy intensive industry sectors (Iron/steel, lime/cement, pulp & paper and chemicals) within 9 Asian countries (Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam).

##### 2. *Network for Ozone Officers*

UNEP manages 8 regional networks of Ozone Officers, two of which are in Asia. The general, longer-term objective of networking is to build the capacity of national ozone officers (and through them national ozone units) in order to enable them to implement their country obligations under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. ).

These two networks are:

- The Ozone Depleting Substances Officers Network for South- East Asia and the Pacific (ODSONET/SEAP) which was established in 1992 and funded by Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (Sida).
- The South Asia Network (ODSONET/SA).

##### 3. *Capacity Building for Implementation of UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection (sustainable consumption) in Asia*

The objective of the project is to transfer knowledge and experience from European countries to Asian countries about what measures (policies, campaigns, instruments and other tools) that may be applied to successfully implement the section on sustainable consumption in the UN Guidelines on consumer protection.

##### 4. *Network for Industrial Environmental Management (NIEM)*

NIEM was established in 1987 to support environmental management in the pulp and paper industry in the Asia-Pacific region. The network continues to function with a number of activities in 2000, including information dissemination, support to regional and national fora and development of joint activities aiming at an expansion of the network to other sectors and countries. NIEM has successfully carried out more than 50 CP assessments in pulp and paper mills in the Asia-Pacific and has an extensive database and has developed training material in more than seven languages pertaining to CP in the pulp and paper industry.

- **Marine Conservation**

- The East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit (EAS/RCU) is the Secretariat for the Coordinating Body on the Seas of

	<p>East Asia (COBSEA). It acts as the lead agency of the United Nations for marine environmental matters in East Asia, coordinating the activities of governments, UN and donor agencies, and communities in caring for the marine environment. This includes assessment of the effects of human activities on the marine environment, control of coastal pollution, protection of mangroves, seagrasses and coral reefs, and waste management.</p> <p>The unit works closely with the UNEP/GPA (Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities), and the International Coral Reef Action Network.</p> <p>- UNEP GEF Project on Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Communications and Public Information</b> Regional Programmes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Media Relations</li> <li>2. Information Provision</li> <li>3. Youth Programme</li> </ol> </li> <li>• <b>Civil Society Engagement in the Asia-Pacific Region</b> Activities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sub-regional Environmental Policy Dialogue</li> <li>2. Sub-regional Civil Society Forums</li> <li>3. Targeted Sectoral Support (Youths people; NGOs; Media; Parliamentarians; Private Sector)</li> <li>4. Knowledge management</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
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<b>UNEP RRC.AP UNEP Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific</b> (homepage: <a href="http://www.rrcap.unep.org">www.rrcap.unep.org</a> )	
Headquarters:	KlongLuang, Thailand
Goals/missions/functions:	<p>UNEP RRC.AP was initially established in 1989 as a GRID (Global Resource Information Database) facility, which was later expanded, to encompass DEWA (UNEP's Division of Early Warning and Assessment) activities.</p> <p>UNEP RRC.AP is situated within the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand.</p> <p>RRC.AP goal is: envisions being the key agency to service the needs on environment data and information in the region. Towards this goal, RRC.AP's three necessary elements for implementation include:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of a Collaborative Assessment Network;</li> <li>• Technical backstopping on Information Technology for the network and data archiving dissemination; and</li> <li>• Assistance with SoE's at national, sub-regional, regional and global levels, and establishment of knowledge base as emerging issues of concern.</li> </ul>
Activities:	<p>Activities have been carried out under the direct supervision of the DEWA, in close coordination with UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP).</p> <p>There are three components in the programme:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Capacity Building and Servicing</li> <li>2. Data Management</li> <li>3. Assessment and Reporting.</li> </ol> <p>Assessment reports and Early Warning Systems are being developed through these three components.</p> <p>At present, RRC.AP is focusing on four early warning issues based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. GLOF (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood) Monitoring and Early Warning System</b>        GLOF causes disasters to life and property along the downstream, results serious death tolls and destruction of valuable forests, farms and costly mountain infrastructure.        UNEP through its facilities at Environment Assessment Program for Asia-Pacific (EAP.AP), Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, is trying to establish an operational early warning system to monitor GLOF hazards in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. EAP.AP will implement the project in collaboration with the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal.</li> <li><b>2. Water</b>        Development of Knowledge Base for Assessment and Sustainable Management of Freshwater Resources in Asia and the Pacific.        Currently, UNEP EAP-AP has developed the database framework on freshwater demand and supply. The framework is being reviewed and data collection process has been initiated to some countries in the region through the existing project activity and to assess the availability of freshwater resources (surface and ground water resources), water demand by various sectors (domestic, industrial, agricultural sector and non-consumptive use) and assessment of future water availability. The detail study will be conducted in future.</li> <li><b>3. Land Cover</b>        Land use/land cover change can have significant impact on the biogeochemical cycles, which in turn changes the dynamics of</li> </ol>

greenhouse gas emissions. Land use/land cover change can also have an important impact on the water and energy balance, directly affecting climatic conditions. It also affects the floral and faunal biodiversity of the region and can have important consequences for food security. Thus, it is very timely and relevant to assess and monitor the land use/land cover status of the Asian countries. A better understanding of the driving forces responsible for the change can help better understand the trends in land use/land cover changes. Such information is essential for land use planning and sustainable management of resources.

#### **4. Air**

The program includes:

- raise awareness amongst the policymakers and scientific community;
- build regional capacity for a network monitoring mechanism to collect and analyze data;
- take measures to reduce emissions through strongly improved energy use efficiency, economic and/or legal instruments.

Sub-programme under this programme consist of:

1. *ALGAS* (the Asia Least Cost Greenhouse Gas Abatement Strategy), is a technical assistance project with participation by 12 Asian countries that is being executed by the Asian Development Bank to reduce atmospheric accumulation of GHG's.
2. *Acid Rain and Emission Reduction in Asia*.
3. *Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia*  
The implementation had three phases. With the completions of the baseline studies and national action plans the first phase is completed. Phase II to put in place expertise and monitoring equipment has already been initiated. The third phase would provide meaning full information for the policymaking and strengthening the Malé Declaration.
4. *Atmospheric Brown Cloud: Climate and other Environmental Impacts*.

#### **5. Forest Fires**

UNEP through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding is implementing a project on "*Emergency Response to Combat Forest Fires in Indonesia to Prevent Regional Haze in South East Asia*". The main objective of the project is to help combat forest fires in Indonesia and to prevent regional haze in South East Asia. The main activities of the project include, coordination of the international and regional efforts on preventing and combating forest fires, establishment of an effective early warning system, raising national, regional and global public awareness on the profound impacts of forest fires, and dissemination of lessons learned to other countries facing similar environmental disasters.

Management office:	Bangkok, Thailand
Goals/missions/functions:	<p>Formed in 1992, US-AEP is a public-private initiative implemented by several U.S. government agencies under the leadership of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). US-AEP works with a wide array of partners - governments, non-governmental organizations, academia, and the private sector - to provide Asia with the tools it needs for cleaner and more efficient cities and industries.</p> <p>US-AEP's goal is to promote improved quality of life and sustainable growth in Asia. By focusing on the urban and industrial environmental issues resulting from rapid economic growth, US-AEP help Asia reduce negative environmental impacts, improve governance and transparency, increase resource efficiency and productivity, and develop sustainable partnerships between U.S. and Asian institutions and within Asia.</p>
Activities:	<p>US-AEP achieve its goal by helping Asian countries improve air and water quality; find ways to make energy use cleaner and more efficient; and improve solid and toxic waste management.</p> <p><b>US-AEP Programs</b>  US-AEP promotes cleaner and more efficient cities and industries by focusing on <b>urban management</b> and <b>industrial efficiencies</b>. It provide Asia with the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and maintain environmentally sustainable <b>policies</b></li> <li>• Access U.S. <b>technology</b> and best practices.</li> </ul> <p><b>1. US-AEP Urban Activities</b>  US-AEP works with Asian leaders in local government, business, community organizations, and the media to reduce the environmental damage caused by cities and to improve the health of their citizens by:</p> <p><i>a. Improving Municipal Environmental Management</i>  The effort consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improving air quality by promoting unleaded gasoline, helping cities develop air quality management plans, improving vehicular inspection and maintenance programs, and providing technology solutions;</li> <li>- Improving water quality and service provision by upgrading the accountability and efficiency of local government institutions providing services to consumers and by undertaking watershed planned activities with local communities;</li> <li>- Improving solid waste management by helping local governments develop plans, package solid waste projects, and promote composting and recycling technologies;</li> <li>- Improving energy efficiency through the creation of public/private partnerships focused on best practices, energy audit demonstrations, training, and workshops.</li> </ul>

*b. Improving Municipal Infrastructure and Services*

US-AEP helps local governments provide costly environmental infrastructure by:

- Helping local governments identify, design and develop commercially viable projects through partnerships with the private sector;
- Promoting transparent financial management systems which ensure proper debt repayment;
- Helping local governments access local finance and domestic capital markets.

*c. Strengthening Institutions and Networks*

US-AEP strengthens Asian networks, associations, and NGOs that provide information to decision-makers about policies, management practices, and technology options. This includes:

- Providing assistance to local government associations in Asia to promote sustainable environmental management;
- Developing national environmental associations that help local governments manage solid waste, air quality, and water resources;
- Developing diploma programs with academic institutions to build knowledge, skills, and techniques in local administration management;
- Supporting regional networking events, such as the Mayors' Asia-Pacific Environmental Summit (MAPES), for local leaders to improve their cities, exchange lessons, and build relationships, and create positive change.

**2. US-AEP Industry Program**

US-AEP's Industry Program works with public and private sector partners to help businesses of all sizes alter their environmental and energy practices to improve environmental management, enhance performance, and enrich social responsibility by:

- Promoting eco-industrial development to improve the environmental management and industrial performance of industrial estates;
- Greening the supply chain by promoting sound environmental practices and "green" procurement guidelines for suppliers;
- Promoting corporate social responsibility, such as the Global Reporting Initiative, by encouraging open dialogue between companies, communities and government and by supporting programs that assist companies' development of sustainable practices;
- Promoting the adoption of corporate environmental management systems (EMS) by companies throughout Asia;
- Facilitating the exchange and adoption of environmental management best practices through the development and support of industry associations;
- Working with banks, investment companies, and insurance organizations to foster environmental due diligence (the use of environmental criteria in lending practices);
- Supporting corporate energy efficiency through the creation of public/private partnerships focused on best practices, energy audit demonstrations, training, and workshops.

### **3. US-AEP Policy Activities**

US-AEP works with a range of government, citizen, and industrial partners in six Asian countries (India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam) to share expertise as they shape their environmental and social public policies. To develop and implement effective government regulatory and public participation programs, US-AEP's Regulatory Dialogue Program shares expertise and assists Asian lawmakers and citizens in dialogues to strengthen their regulatory programs.

### **4. US-AEP Technology Transfer Activities**

US-AEP has facilitated the transfer of over \$1.4 billion in environmental technologies and services. This translates into 28,000 American jobs, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration's guidelines.

US-AEP's Technology Transfer Program matches Asia's environmental needs with U.S. products and services through:

*b. Country Program Managers in Asia*

Located in India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. These managers help local businesses and governments identify their environmental technology needs and match them with appropriate U.S. technology providers.

*c. Technology Expositions and Conferences*

US-AEP's Technology Transfer Program partners with organizations like the Air & Waste Management Association and the Water Environment Federation to provide opportunities for Asian decision makers to meet with U.S. environmental technology companies. By arranging for Asian participation in these organizations' annual events and facilitating one-on-one meetings between Asian participants and U.S. companies, US-AEP assists the transfer of U.S. technical solutions to Asia.

*d. Environmental Technology Network for Asia*

ETNA supplies key technical information to the US-AEP field staff. ETNA also works with staff to develop environmental technology opportunities and disseminate them to U.S. environmental technology and services firms. In addition, ETNA provides advice to U.S. environmental companies interested in expanding into Asia.

*e. Expanded Technology Opportunities Program (ETOP)*

ETOP was created to help U.S. companies maximize their professional or commercial opportunities in the Asian market, especially in the following areas:

- safe drinking water;
- wastewater management;
- waste remediation, including hazardous medical waste;
- urban air pollution remediation; and
- energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy recovery in the industrial and urban context.

### **US-AEP Services**

#### **1. Grants**

- a. State Environmental Initiative.* US-AEP awards matching grants of up to \$150,000 to U.S. state agencies to link American

	<p>expertise with Asian demand for environmental improvements</p> <p>b. <i>Environment and Civil Society Partnership</i>. US-AEP's awards grants of up to \$25,000 to Asian non-governmental organizations to encourage collaborative environmental improvement efforts with industry</p> <p><b>2. Exchange</b> <i>Exchange Programme for Sustainable Growth</i>. US-AEP arranges fellowships, business exchanges, and technical exchanges for U.S. companies and Asian professionals</p> <p><b>3. Technical Assistance</b> <i>Government-to-Government</i>. US-AEP provides technical assistance and training at the request of Asian governments. These services are provided through an interagency agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).</p>
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<b>USAPC United States Asia Pacific Council</b> (homepage: <a href="http://www.usapc.org">www.usapc.org</a> )	
Headquarters:	Washington, DC, USA
Goals/missions/ functions:	<p>Formed with the support of the US Department of State, the USAPC comprises American corporations and citizens who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the US relationship with Asian and Pacific nations. The Council is a vehicle through which the knowledge and experience of its members inform and enhance US engagement with the region.</p> <p>The Council is hosted by and administered through the East-West Center, a U.S. and internationally funded non-profit research and educational institution dedicated to the further development of a Pacific community. Based in East-West Center Washington, the Council draws upon the Center's extensive in-house expertise at its Honolulu headquarters as well as that of other US institutions devoted to the promotion of US relations with the Asia-Pacific region.</p>
Activities:	Individual Council members are active in many areas of public and private service including businesses, government, education, research and journalism. They participate in the Council as private citizens who advise, promote, and facilitate the work of official and private international institutions in the Asia-Pacific. Among these institutions are the regional organizations of the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) whose US representation has been consolidated under the auspices of the Council. Additionally, the Council members advise and participate in the activities of official regional organizations such as the intergovernmental forum on Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Council members are invited from time to time to personally advise and support US interests in the Asia-Pacific region

	through special initiatives as well as participation in delegations and advisory groups.
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