

CONNECTIONS

Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia
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Director's Message

Dr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna



Onward from Rio+20, SRO-ENEА continues to support member States in integrating the three pillars of sustainable development. Among a number of new developments, the following deserve special mention.

In October, ESCAP and Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute (KEITI) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to increase collaboration and joint activities in support of the promotion of sustainable development strategies including low

carbon green growth. One of the first areas of collaboration being the launch of Asia Carbon Footprint Network (ACFN) during a meeting co-organized by SRO-ENEА and KEITI, which took place on 1 November 2012. With initial membership (national institutions) from 11 countries in East Asia, ACFN aims to exchange information and assist countries in developing methodologies for carbon footprint labels. Of the four countries in Asia and the Pacific that made significant progress in carbon labeling programme, three- China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, are from our subregion. ACFN is expected to act as a key platform for NEA countries to share policy outcomes and lessons beyond the subregion. SRO-ENEА will serve as the secretariat of ACFN.

During the same month, ESCAP also entered into another MoU, this time with Green Technology Center Korea, a Center that promotes green technology cooperation and diffusion. We expect to strengthen regional cooperation and promote the implementation of regional initiatives in these areas.

In the context of persistent threats to development and emerging transboundary challenges, Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP, addresses the need for greater South-South cooperation, the power of regional solutions, and a selection of ESCAP's initiatives to drive the post-Rio+20 agenda for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific during the recent Dialogue of Executive Secretaries with the Second Committee on Follow-up to Rio+20: Actions and consideration at the Regional Level on 6 November 2012. One of her statements "To successfully harness the power and dynamism of "New Regionalism", sustainable development has to be championed by our Member States. Part of our efforts to strengthen the role of ESCAP, as the most inclusive intergovernmental platform for Asia and the Pacific, is a series of subregional consultations with Member States on issues of the big final push to 2015 on achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and the shape of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda in our region."

In the future, we hope SRO-ENEА can increasingly serve member States as a multilateral hub for subregional cooperation in information sharing, capacity building and collaborative research. As tasked in our mandate, we will continue to deliver through partnership with national institutions, civil society organizations and other non-governmental organizations as well as our member States.

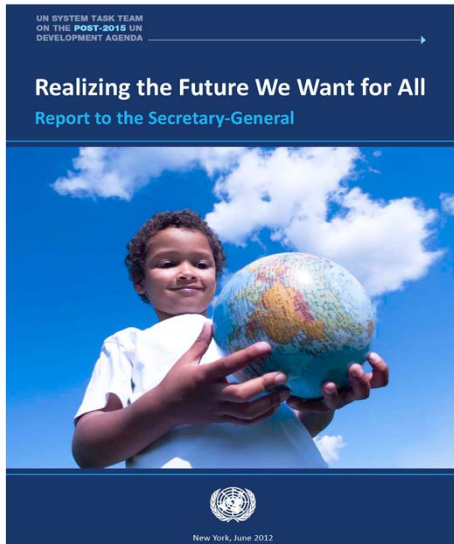
K. Ramakrishna



Highlights

Post 2015 UN Development Agenda

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development



As the target date 2015 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is getting closer, the global development agenda beyond 2015 is gaining increased attention. The UN Secretary-General established the UN System Task Team for the post-2015 UN development agenda, in consultation with all stakeholders, including Member States, civil society, academia and the private sector.

The report to the Secretary-General called "Realizing the Future We Want for All" from the UN System Task Team can serve as a reference for further broader and inclusive consultations on the post-2015 development agenda.

On our website, we have posted a selection of the UN System Task Team's reports related to the areas of SRO-ENEA's activities. These include Governance and development; Addressing inequalities; Macroeconomic stability, inclusive growth and employment; Social Protection; and Building on the MDGs to bring sustainable development to the post-2015 development agenda among others.

For the complete list of the UN System Task Team Thematic Think Pieces, please visit http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/them_tp.shtml. Further information on the preparations for a post-2015 development agenda can be found on the United Nations website devoted to "Beyond 2015".

On 31 July 2012, the Secretary-General announced the members of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, a panel to advise on the global development

agenda beyond 2015. The 26-member panel is composed of civil society, private sector, and government leaders, and is jointly chaired by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, and Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom. The Secretary-General said "I have asked my High-level Panel to prepare a bold yet practical development vision to present to Member States next year... I look forward to the Panel's recommendations on a global post-2015 agenda with shared responsibilities for all countries and with the fight against poverty and sustainable development at its core."

The Panel held its first meeting at the end of September in the margins of the annual high level debate of the UN General Assembly. The second meeting - which took place in London from 31 October to 2 November and was, in effect, the Panel's first substantive gathering - was held under the overarching theme of 'Household Poverty.' During the talks, the Panel confirmed its dedication to creating a framework to further combat poverty and include environmental sustainability as they addressed issues of human development, jobs, and marginalised populations. The next two meetings are planned for the first quarter of 2013 in Monrovia and Bali, and will focus, respectively, on the themes of National Development and Global Partnerships. It is expected to submit a report to the Secretary-General in the first half of 2013.

UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

**Follow-up to Rio+20:
Actions & considerations at the Regional
Level**

Dialogue of Executive Secretaries with the Second Committee

Dr. Noleen Heyzer
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations
and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

UNITED NATIONS
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Activities

Combating dust and sandstorms in North-East Asia

4 September, Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia



The Review Meeting on the Implementation of the NEASPEC Project on the Regional Master Plan for the Prevention and Control of Dust and Sandstorms in North-East Asia was organized by ESCAP SRO-ENEA in cooperation with the Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism of Mongolia in order to review the implementation of the NEASPEC project on prevention and control of dust and sandstorms in North-East Asia and facilitate in-depth exchange of ideas on future potential activities of NEASPEC in this field. The meeting reflected on the implementation of project activities, including the review papers, GIS database, the pilot field project and the training program.

Helping to Conserve and Restore Endangered Species' Habitats in North East Asia

10 September, Jeju, Republic of Korea

During the World Conservation Congress, NEASPEC and Korean Society for Environment and Ecology jointly organized the International Workshop on the conservation and restoration of the habitats of endangered species in Northeast Asia. At the workshop, participants reviewed the status of black-faced spoonbill and cranes which are the flagship species of NEASPEC and discussed the establishment of Northeast Asia Ecological Network for the Conservation of Endangered Birds and Their Habitats. The network is expected to be a NEASPEC-supported programme that implements the NEASPEC Nature Conservation Strategy.

East Asia by Numbers

20-21 September, Beijing, China

SRO-ENEA and National Bureau of Statistics of China organized a workshop on Inclusive and Sustainable Development in East and North-East Asia: Strengthening National Capacity to Produce and Use Statistical Information. With the participation of experts from China, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and Russia, as well as Italy, the United States and various international organizations, the Workshop furthered the discussion on the different aspects that make for a good life today and in the future in East and North-East Asia. Experts exchanged views on ways to measure well-being, quality of life and happiness and their adequate inclusion in the Sustainable Development Goals to be formulated as a result of decisions taken at Rio+20. They agreed on the need for strengthening mutual knowledge on well-being-related issues in the region and globally; and promoting cooperation in this area. The NBS expressed the wish to build on the workshop's



outcome and strengthen the collaboration with UNESCAP to mutual benefit (http://northeast-sro.unescap.org/meeting/2012/stat_china.html).



Activities

Promoting subregional dialogue and public private collaboration to facilitate trade and transport in North-East Asia

23-24 October, Seoul, Republic of Korea

SRO-ENEA and the Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI) jointly organized the first North-East Asia Forum on Trade and Transport Facilitation. The Forum brought together more than 60 policy-makers, practitioners and other stakeholders of trade and transport from the subregion to openly discuss the current status of trade and transport facilitation in North-East Asia and identify potential areas where trade and transport could be enhanced through greater partnership and cooperation. As a way forward, participants agreed that the Forum should be held annually as a platform for subregional stakeholders to build and strengthen networks and share innovative practices (http://northeast-sro.unescap.org/meeting/2012/nea_ttf.html).



Reducing Carbon Footprint in Asia

31 October – 1 November 2012, Seoul, Republic of Korea

SRO-ENEA and Korea Environmental Industry & Technology Institute (KEITI) jointly organized the Meeting of the Asia Carbon Footprint Partnership. The meeting was held to exchange information on national progress in developing carbon-labeling schemes as well as to discuss areas and modalities of multilateral cooperation to be undertaken by the Asia Carbon Footprint Network (ACFN) in support of low-carbon development in Asian countries. The major functions of ACFN will include fostering co-operation, encouraging information exchange, providing guidance to practitioners, and providing basis for procedures for credible and meaningful information to the potential users of carbon footprint labeling.



North-East Asia prepares for Asia-Pacific Energy Forum (APEF) 2013

12-13 November 2012, Incheon, Republic of Korea

ESCAP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea organized a subregional consultation meeting as part of the preparatory process for the Asia-Pacific Energy Forum (APEF) to be held on 27-30 May 2013 in Vladivostok, Russian Federation. Meeting collected subregional perspectives from North-East Asia, the world's largest energy consumer, by exchanging information and views among government officials and experts from member States. Representatives of each Subregional Consultation Meeting presented the respective outcomes at the "Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Energy Development in Asia and the Pacific" held in Bangkok from 21 to 23 November 2012.

For more information, please visit http://northeast-sro.unescap.org/meeting/2012/nea_energy.html.





Upcoming Events

17th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of NEASPEC

20-21 December 2012, Chengdu, China

The Meeting is organized by SRO-ENEA as the NEAPEC Secretariat and hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China. The Meeting will review and discuss implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes and the potential role of NEASPEC in facilitating sub-regional activities as well as implementation of the ongoing and new programmes of NEASPEC including projects on transboundary air pollution, nature conservation, mitigation of dust and sandstorms and eco-efficiency partnership.

North-East Asian Youth: The World We Want Post-2015

7-9 January 2013, Seoul, Republic of Korea

UNDP Seoul Policy Center and SRO-ENEA, together with the Korea Network of the UN Global Compact, Korea University Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS) will host a three day series of debates and consultations on North-East Asian Youth perspectives on the post-2015 Global Development Agenda. Participants will be graduate students as well as from marginalized groups such as youths with disabilities, indigenous youth, youths with migrant or refugee backgrounds, rural youths, sexual minority youths, youths from single parent households and so on from the Republic of Korea, China, Japan and Mongolia.



Other News



[Mr. Zhang Yue (left) with Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna]

Experts Share Knowledge with SRO-ENEA Staff on Green Technology Transfer

Dr. Sung Chang-mo, head of the Korea Green Technology Center visited SRO ENEA with two of his staff members on 12th September. He talked about the transformation of brown technology industries towards Green Economy, and the need for greater international cooperation. Dr. Sung explained that Korea's economic success owes a lot to constant investment in science and technology, and that now the new engine for growth lies in green technology development.

Permanent Representatives to ESCAP from China and Japan visit SRO ENEA

While participating in ESCAP High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012 in Incheon, Mr. Zhang Yue, Minister Counsellor and Deputy Chief of Mission and Permanent Representative of China to ESCAP and Mr. Masatoshi Sato, Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to ESCAP visited SRO-ENEA. These visits are good opportunity for us to dialogue face-to-face with PRs of member countries and to discuss preparation of upcoming activities.



Other News

New Website Launched for United Nations Offices in the Republic of Korea

As agreed in the former meeting of the heads of seven United Nations offices in the Republic of Korea, an integrated homepage (<http://www.un-rok.org/>) has been launched in order to reinforce outreach and communication with the public. This website contains links to each organization's web page; also updates recent news of each entity. The website is currently maintained by SRO-ENEA.



UN Community in Korea welcomed SG Ban Ki-Moon



The entire UN community in the Republic of Korea gathered in Songdo, Incheon on October 30th, 2012 to meet with the UN Secretary-General and Madame Ban on the occasion of his visit to Korea. Over 110 staff and interns from more than 14 UN offices in Korea participated in the hour-long meeting.

The Secretary-General thanked staff members for their hard work and effort towards achieving the MDGs and shared his vision for developing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that could be supported by all UN member countries. He also talked about the significance of the newly created Green Climate Fund (GCF) which will be located in Songdo, and the challenges as well as the potential that GCF holds as a champion for realizing a sustainable future for all.

The inscription on the gift from staff to the Secretary-General reads:

If the world were a village with 100 people...

- 24 villagers would be living in extreme poverty
- 16 villagers would be in constant hunger
- 11 villagers would not have potable water
- 4 children would die before their 5th birthdays
- 7 children would not be getting primary education
- 3 villagers able and ready to work would be looking for jobs
- 20 villagers would not have access to modern energy services

With your vision and guidance, we shall work hard and contribute to making all 100 villagers happy.

The Secretary-General was accompanied by Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Won-soo Kim, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Change Implementation, Yeocheol Yoon, Chief of Protocol & Martin Nesirky, Spokesperson for the Secretary-General.





Other News

Enquiring young minds eager to know more about our work

Dr. Sangmin Nam gave a Keynote Speech at the 6th Korean High School Model UN held at COEX on 3 August. Also, to introduce UN and ESCAP to young students who visited SRO-ENEA office and who were eager to know what we do, our staff Dr. Sangmin Nam, Ms. Nipha Preedanond, and Ms. Carrie Hong gave them presentations on 7 August, 14, and 17 September. Ms. Hong also visited Bakmun Girls High

School to share her experience in the UN and received warm welcome from more than 50 students on 12 September. Mr. Andrea Goldstein also had a chance to deliver a lecture titled "Rich, happy, or both? From counting greenbacks to counting smiles" to the Friends of the UN (FOU) members (50 high school students) at ICICE.



Running together for the rights of disabled persons: Songdo Marathon!

On 7 Oct, 2012, a perfectly sunny and cool day for running, staff from UNESCAP SRO-ENEA and 7 other UN offices in Korea participated in the Songdo Marathon. Miraculously all of us finished our distance (5 km, 10 km) without falling down. SRO ENEA used this opportunity to promote Incheon International Conferences on Disability which was held Oct. 24 ~ Nov. 2, 2012. After running, our staff enjoyed distributing pop-corn to the public who were also having fun day out.



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