

CONNECTIONS

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

Dr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna

Spring has arrived in North-East Asia, bringing with it many new developments and activities. SRO-ENEA devoted a whole day to look at the work programme for 2013 as a group. The goal was to translate ESCAP's Organizational Effectiveness Initiative (OEI) – an initiative launched by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to improve the synergy and complementarity among ESCAP programmes and adapt internal governance and organizational mechanisms for achieving its objectives more efficiently and effectively- into a tool for effective implementation. The theme that ran through our day-long discussions was transforming the OEI into Organizational Excellence Initiative, and we are very pleased to share with you that the team is genuinely excited in working toward it. Reflecting on the programme planning retreat we had in the beginning of 2012 and building on the achievements last year, our goal is to increase efficiencies across the board and to make a bigger impact this year.

We have come to the realization that this will be a very demanding year. However, as we increase collaboration with relevant partners we would be able to meet all of our goals. We are, of course, already working with various line ministries in the member countries, ranging from foreign ministries to economy, trade, customs, welfare, environment and forestry ministries. We aim to include more national institutes and other multilateral organizations, as well as NGOs. So far, we have joint activities with Greater Tumen Initiative, Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute, and Northwest Pacific Action Plan. In addition, we plan to partner this year with Korea



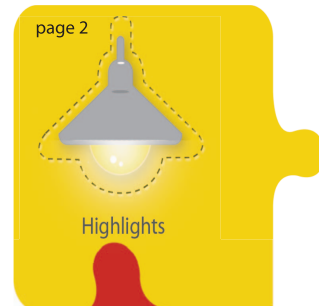
[Dr. Ramakrishna with Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson at the meeting for UN offices in ROK in February 2013]

International Cooperation Agency, Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat, Green Technology Center Korea among others.

Reaching out to these development actors has always been a pre-requisite for effective collaboration. We have already established strong networks in the Republic of Korea, China and Mongolia, and will further reach out to Russia, Japan and Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We are using all the tools at our disposal, including social media to be more "visible" to our member countries. In this regard, we are pleased to say that we have started a Chinese version of Facebook (Weibo) and Twitter (Renren). We are also updating our contact database to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are regularly informed of the SRO-ENEA programmes, key developments from ESCAP and information about our flagship publications. We will of course continue to make adjustments to our work activities to support the evolving common goals of our member countries.

It is noteworthy that the new governments in all of our member countries have renewed their commitment to promote sustainable development. Recently, the Government of China announced its plans to achieve the "China Dream" of national prosperity, revitalization and happiness. The "China Dream" emphasizes the importance of ecological progress and calls for green civilization as an important pillar of its development plan together with economic, political, cultural and social progress.

With single minded determination and the vision aligned with ESCAP's, our office is ready to work toward the goals we have identified. We invite you to join our efforts in making long-lasting impact in the region and reach out to those who are in need of our support and assistance.



K. Ramakrishna



Asia-Pacific Countries Address Climate Security

21-22 March 2013, Seoul, Republic of Korea

SRO-ENEA joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Diplomatic Academy of the Republic of Korea, and the Asan Institute for Policy Studies to organize the International Conference on Climate Security in the Asia-Pacific Region that addressed issues on climate security threats at national, regional and global levels.

In recent years, the Asia Pacific region experienced disasters which have led to unprecedented economic loss and damages, as well as loss of human life. Millions of people in the region are affected every year by the growing frequency and intensity of climate related disasters.

Nearly 150 participants and speakers from Asia-Pacific countries, international organizations, NGOs, academic community and the business sector attended the conference to tackle the issues of coastal stability, water security, climate-related migration, security implications of climate change and policy responses.

Through her video message, Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Secretary of ESCAP, highlighted that the Asia Pacific region accounted for more than 80% of human casualties of natural disasters and in 2011 alone, 70% of disaster losses worldwide were in Asia and the Pacific. Dr. Heyzer emphasized the need to build resilience against climate impacts through enhanced regional cooperation.

Mr. Ramakrishna joined the Roundtable Discussion on the challenges of climate (and resource) security impacts. Mr. Ramakrishna stressed that connections between climate challenges and national security are increasingly receiving attention at the global level, sharing information that the United Nations Security Council took up the agenda of climate change and national security in 2007 and again in 2011 at the initiatives of UK and Germany respectively. He urged Asia Pacific countries to pay particular attention to matters of climate security.

(click here to read his op-ed article on climate change impacts on national security featured



in the Korea JoongAng Daily)

Additionally ESCAP's participation included Mr. Rae Kwon Chung from Bangkok, Mr. David Smith from EPO and Mr. Sangmin Nam from SRO-ENEA. Considering the significant risks and threats arising from climate change in Asia and the Pacific, the Conference recommended the establishment of a regional mechanism or partnership in the Asia-Pacific region consisting of various stakeholders including policymakers, international and regional organizations, NGOs, and experts. The Conference also recognized the important role that regional and multi-lateral institutions can play in addressing the challenges of climate change. In this regard, it encouraged regional institutions to consider all the opportunities collaboratively to address these issues, in the broader context of sustainable development. The Conference encouraged all governments, regional and sub-regional institutions to improve the availability of shared or common resources data, particularly considering the possibility of building a regional information platform.

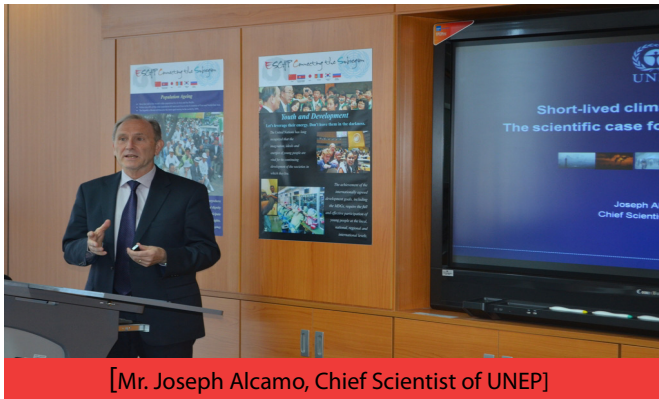
The Conference shared the view that it could make a positive contribution to the "2014 World Leaders Summit on Climate Change" announced by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the Doha Conference (COP-18).



Activities

Consultation Meeting on Short-Lived Climate Pollutants in North-East Asia

7 February 2013, Incheon, Republic of Korea



[Mr. Joseph Alcamo, Chief Scientist of UNEP]

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and SRO-ENEA organized a consultation meeting to discuss Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP)- a group of particles which contribute to global warming but are in the atmosphere for a short period of time (black carbon, methane, tropospheric ozone, and HFCs). The meeting was attended by Joseph Alcamo, Chief Scientist of UNEP, and key experts from China, Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea. The Meeting participants agreed that there is an urgent need to expand regional-level studies, bring science and policy together for tackling SLCP, and build a strategic link between national actions on air pollution and climate change for cost-effective responses.

Visit from UN Deputy Secretary-General

23-26 February 2013, Seoul, Republic of Korea

SRO-ENEA organized a meeting between the heads of UN offices in the Republic of Korea and the Deputy Secretary General Mr. Jan Eliasson, who visited the country to represent the Secretary General at the inauguration ceremony of President Park Geun-hye. During the meeting, Mr. Eliasson gave a briefing on the process of developing the post-2015 development agenda and highlighted the importance of keeping poverty reduction, sustainable development and



[Deputy Secretary General Mr. Jan Eliasson at DMZ]

rule of law as key priorities. Mr. Eliasson also stressed that the UN should do more to engage private sector stakeholders in

accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The UN offices shared their programme of work and main challenges and sought advice from the Deputy Secretary General on how some of these challenges could be addressed. On the occasion of his visit, Mr. Eliasson took the opportunity to meet with senior secretaries to the President and the new Minister for Foreign Affairs. Mr. Eliasson also visited the Demilitarized Zone which divides the two Koreas.

Final Regional Review of the Almaty Programme of Action

5-7 March 2013, Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic

Hosted by the Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic in cooperation with ESCAP, representatives from landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) in Asia and Europe, and transit countries including China, India, and the Russian Federation, the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), as well as other UN offices and international and regional development banks were assembled in the capital city of Lao PDR to conduct the final regional review of the Almaty Programme of Action (APoA) for LLDCs. The meeting was held under the theme of addressing the special needs of LLDCs within a new global framework for transit transport cooperation for landlocked and transit developing countries. Heads



of ESCAP's subregional offices, Mr. Nagesh Kumar, Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov and Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna joined a panel to discuss the special circumstance of LLDCs in their subregions. Mr. Ramakrishna's presentation covered international support measures for Mongolia and Lao PDR, future challenges, and SRO-ENEA's efforts in supporting Mongolia as the only land-locked country in the subregion of East and North-East Asia. Much progress has been made, but lack of territorial access to the sea, remoteness and isolation from world markets and high transit costs continue to hamper socioeconomic development of Euro-Asian LLDCs.



Activities

Director's visit to China 12-15 March 2013, Beijing, China

Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna was invited to the National Coordinator's Meeting of the Greater Tumen Initiative on 14 March 2013. During his visit to Beijing, Mr. Ramakrishna held meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Energy Research Institute of National Development and Reform Commission, National Center for Climate Change Strategy, with the Health and Family Planning Commission, and China Agriculture University. In addition, Mr. Ramakrishna visited several UN agencies in Beijing, including UNESCAP's Center for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, UNDP China and UNEP International Ecosystem Management Partnership. He briefed key counterparts and UN agencies of SRO-ENEA priorities in China and the upcoming launch of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013 on 18 April 2013 and sought support from them for this event. In addition, he had discussions about possible joint activities and identified priority areas for future collaboration.



[Mr. Ramakrishna with Mr. Zhou Dadi, Director General (emeritus) of the Energy Research Institute (ERI) of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC)]

Workshop on Marine Biodiversity Conservation and Marine Protected Areas in the Northwest Pacific

13-14 March 2013, Toyama, Japan

SRO-ENEA, in the capacity of the Secretariat of North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC), and the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) of UNEP jointly organized the workshop. The Workshop brought together national focal points for the proposed North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Network and experts from China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation and international marine environmental programmes including the Helsinki Commission, the North Pacific Marine Science Organization and the Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. The Workshop reviewed the state of MPAs in North-East Asia and potential areas of subregional cooperation, and agreed on the overall goals, programme areas and operational modality of the Network.



Regional Workshop on Climate Change and Urban Flood Management

19-20 March 2013, Daegu, Republic of Korea

The Workshop was co-organized by ESCAP Environment and Development Division along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea, Korea Water, Wastewater Work Association and Asia Green Resource Institute, as part of the International Water Expo in Daegu. Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna attended the workshop and gave welcoming remarks. The workshop identified key challenges in urban flood management faced by local governments; shared knowledge, experience and good practices on urban flooding related policies that address the challenges; and formulated appropriate policy recommendations and necessary actions for dissemination and replication in the ASEAN region. Some of the policy recommendations from the workshop include integrating urban flood schemes into urban planning and land use planning; promoting multi-stakeholder engagement for urban planning and urban flood management schemes; and securing efficient financing for urban flood-related infrastructure.





Activities

Seminar on the Development of a Comprehensive Transport and Logistics Network in North-East Asia

21-22 March 2013, Seoul, Republic of Korea

The seminar was organized by ESCAP Transport Division in cooperation with the Korea Maritime Institute. Around 30 policymakers from the trade and transport ministries of Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation, as well as research institutes, private sector companies and regional organizations working in the subregion of North-East Asia participated in the seminar. Ms. Yejin Ha from SRO-ENEA made a presentation on some of the projects and activities that the office has been carrying out in support of transport facilitation in the subregion such as the study on Mongolian trade and transit corridors, organization of North-East Asia Forum on Trade and Transport Facilitation, and the ongoing study on examining subregional integration and connectivity. Some of the key issues that were raised during the seminar included the need to enhance predictability and visibility of cargo shipments that travel through the subregion's major corridors to increase usage; improving transport infrastructure in the subregion; and developing better mechanisms for information sharing and integrated planning. Also, as a way to reduce cost and time, of transport, the operationalization of the Convention on International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) in the Republic of Korea and Japan was discussed.



Upcoming Events

Consultation Meeting on Green Development Roadmap of Mongolia

15-16 April 2013, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

The Mongolian Ministry of Environment and Green Development sought UNESCAP's help in developing a green development roadmap of Mongolia. SRO-ENEA and the Environment and Development Division of ESCAP will hold a consultation meeting with government officials and stakeholders in Mongolia to identify challenges of green development and to formulate overall approaches and actions for the roadmap. ESCAP plans to closely involve national stakeholders throughout the process, drawing from ESCAP's low carbon and green growth roadmap, and similar work that has been done for Cambodia and Kazakhstan.

Launch of the Economic and Social Survey for Asia and the Pacific 2013

18 April 2013, Seoul, Republic of Korea

This year, the main launch of ESCAP's flagship publication, the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013 will be held in Beijing, China, one of subregional member countries of SRO-ENEA. Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Secretary of ESCAP will launch the report and discuss key policy recommendations. She will be supported by Mr. Anis Chowdhury and Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna. As part of the global launch of the report, SRO-ENEA and Kyung Hee University will hold a panel discussion on the report in Seoul. SRO-ENEA and experts from national research institutes and Kyung Hee University will provide analysis on emerging socio-economic challenges facing the region and discuss the implications for Korea's macroeconomic and development cooperation policies. Also, in the subregion, Japan, Mongolia and the Russian Federation will have launch events on the same day.

The 69th Commission Session

25 April - 1 May 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

The 69th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific will be held in Bangkok from 25 April to 1 May 2013. The Commission Session will be comprised of two parts: the senior officials segment and the ministerial roundtables. Highlights of the ministerial segments include the high-level panel on the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013 and the Executive Secretaries' Roundtable on post-2015 development agenda, building resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises.

 **ESCAP 69th
Commission Session**

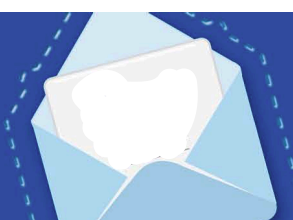


Upcoming Events

Asian and Pacific Energy Forum

27-30 May 2013, Vladivostok, Russian Federation

Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (APEF), the first ministerial meeting in the region, will be organized by ESCAP and the Russian Government in Vladivostok to discuss enhancing energy security and working towards sustainable development. The forum will discuss on regional challenges and cooperation in energy access, renewable energy, energy trade and connectivity among others. It will bring together representatives from ESCAP member States, experts from energy networks, research institutes and regional organizations, as well as members of civil society and the private sectors. During the forum, SRO-ENEA will hold a side event to provide an opportunity for subregional stakeholders to exchange views on the relevant issues. In preparation for the forum, ESCAP has held a series of subregional consultations, including one for North-East Asia on 12-13 November 2012 in Incheon, the Republic of Korea.



Other News

Lecture at the Global Youth for the Environment Forum at Seoul Nat'l University

14 February 2013

The Forum took place at Seoul National University (SNU) with nearly 400 participants from elementary and middle schools in the Republic of Korea and abroad. The director of SRO-ENEA shared his expertise in the field of climate change and international cooperation. On 27 March, he also gave a lecture at SNU on UN in Asia and the Pacific: Reflections on the implementation of Rio+20 outcome document and on the development of Post-2015 development agenda.

Visit to Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat

20 February 2013

SRO-ENEA visited the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) to share information on upcoming activities and projects and discuss possible collaboration on common priority areas such as economic research, disaster risk reduction and trade and transport facilitation. As a result of the meeting, SRO-ENEA and TCS will work together to develop a joint study on regional integration.

Young Professional Women's Internship Training Program

25 February 2013

On 25 February, Mr. Ka-fa Wong, Programme Officer, gave a talk to over 50 participants of the Young Professional Women's Internship Training Program, a project of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family at Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA). The 90-minute session focused on the work of UN and ESCAP, as well as introducing the Young Professional Programme an entry level programme to join the UN.



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