



Compilation of Progress Reports
on ACD Cooperation Projects

5th ACD Ministerial Meeting

Doha, Qatar

23-24 May 2006

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Executive Summary of Progress Report in Energy

Background

Energy sector is one among important areas of cooperation in the forum of Asia Cooperation Dialogue/ACD. Two working group meetings on energy were held respectively in Manama, Bahrain and in Manila, the Philippines in 2004, while the 1st Energy Forum was held in Bali, Indonesia, 26-28 September 2005 in the framework of ACD.

Progress Report

The plan of action in energy, as stipulated in the Joint Declaration of the 1st ACD Energy Forum, includes among others: increase energy exploration activities, facilitate energy-related innovations, and develop energy-efficient technologies; advance development of energy alternative resources and technologies including geothermal, bio-fuel, solar, hydro-power and wind; conduct joint research and studies toward the development of renewable energy resources; share information, best practices, and experience in energy exploration, development, and conservation of fossil energy and renewable energy; encourage closer economic ties among ACD member countries by promoting foreign direct investment and project financing in the energy sector.

Recommendation

Indonesia proposes four tangible areas for ACD energy cooperation and projects, namely research and assessment on energy, investment for energy infrastructure development, contingency plans for security of energy supply, and reinvestment of profits gained from oil trade.

Cooperation in the research and assessment on energy, among others, include the area of renewable energy; energy alternatives to oil, namely biofuels and compressed natural gas; and energy management and conservation. In this regard, the Philippines proposes to host a seminar workshop on renewable energy resources and alternative fuels in mid-2007.

Doha, 22 May 2006

Prepared by Indonesia as the ACD Prime Mover of Energy Sector

CONCEPT PAPER ON RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES AND
ALTERNATIVE FUELS SEMINAR-WORKSHOP

--PHILIPPINES--

INTRODUCTION

In pursuit of provisions cited in the Joint Declaration of the 1st ACD Energy Forum held in Bali Indonesia on 26 to 28 September 2005, i.e. *to advance the sustainable development of energy resources and technologies including geothermal, bio-fuel, solar, hydro power, wind; and, enhance the knowledge on energy through sharing of information on renewable energy*, the Philippines is pleased to host a seminar-workshop on renewable energy resources and alternative fuels in mid-2007.

As the world has fully acknowledged the role of energy in economic development, the possibility of any supply disruption in the near future particularly that of oil is triggering various levels of pressure among nations. Among the ACD constituents, while strategically composed of both energy exporting and energy importing countries, the approach is still to explore and harness other energy sources to ensure security supply and sustainability. A greater challenge is to promote energy production with minimal effects to climate change and environmental degradation.

Along this context, there are renewed efforts at the global and regional levels to develop renewable and new alternative energy sources. In Asia, countries are exerting efforts to look for a common and comprehensive energy security strategy that includes the use of alternative energy forms, specifically renewable sources and the formulation of policies to increase self-sufficiency. On the part of the Philippines, the intensive development of renewable energy resources and the increased use of alternative fuels are two of the major policy thrusts of the Arroyo administration to realize the goal of attaining energy independence. Significant strides have already been achieved on these endeavors, to wit: the Philippines is the second largest geothermal energy producer in the world with current installed capacity of 1,931 megawatts (MW) and an equivalent generation of 9,978 gigawatt-hours (GWh) in 2004, the country's bid to become a solar technology manufacturing export hub in Southeast Asia was given a boost with the opening of a solar wafer fabrication plant supplying at least 6.0 percent of the world's total market for the photo-voltaic industry; and, in 2005, the first on-grid 25-MW wind power plant was commissioned bolstering our efforts to become the largest producer of wind energy in Southeast Asia. Likewise, Chemrez' new bio-diesel plant which was inaugurated early this month is being considered the biggest and most modern coco-biodiesel facility in Asia.

In the light of the recent volatility and upward movement in oil prices, the relevance of ACD comes to the fore. As there is a growing recognition on the benefits of a regional approach, the ACD with all its geographic complementarities and diversities, is seen as an appropriate fora to address the increasing energy demand in Asia which is expected to

account for 35 percent of the world energy demand by 2020. Asia's premium is its being a primary source of energy which is a critical lifeline for the global economy.

OBJECTIVES:

The proposed activity aims to take stock of the ACD member countries' respective national policies, plans and programs on renewable energy resources and alternative fuels, identify possible areas and modalities of cooperation amongst ACD member countries, academe, research institutions and the private sector and determine concrete courses of future action.

SEMINAR METHODOLOGY:

The three-day event will feature various presentations, open forum, workshops and plenary discussions to be capped by a site visit to a wind power plant or a bio-diesel plant. Apart from the relevant national agencies of the ACD member countries, representatives from the academe, research institutions, industry stakeholders and private sector will be invited as participants or present assigned topics.

Topical Content	Responsible Presenters	Expected Output
Policies on Renewable Energy/Alternative Fuels (to also include the demand and supply outlook)	Individual member countries	Inventory of RE Policies in Asia
Success stories in RE Development and Utilization /Alternative Fuels	Individual member countries	Compendium of success stories in RE/Alternative Fuels Development and Utilization
Business Opportunities in RE Development and Utilization	Perspectives from the private sector	Mutual agreements and other possible areas of cooperation
Research and development Initiatives on RE and Alternative Fuels	Perspectives from the academe and research institutions	Inventory of studies, innovations and researches on RE and Alternative Fuels

Progress Report on Poverty Alleviation

1. For ACD cooperation in poverty reduction, in June 2004 Vietnam hosted an international seminar on "Poverty reduction: experience of Vietnam and other countries" in Hanoi. On behalf of countries attending the seminar, Vietnam reported the seminar's outcomes to the third ACD Meeting. The seminar was aimed to share experience including policies and measures of countries in poverty reduction.
2. A number of proposals and recommendations were made to scale up efforts for poverty reduction and foster cooperation among ACD countries, especially for developing genuine partnership between developed and developing countries such as (i) comprehensive approach in addressing poverty issues and other socio-economic issues; (ii) partnership between all stakeholders and close consultation between donors and recipient countries both in poverty alleviation; (iii) efforts to settle trade disputes and opening market access for developing countries.
3. The Seminar proposed a number of measures to further strengthen ACD cooperation activities in the future as follows:
 - Cooperation on development of sub regions, corridors, economic triangles, etc among countries in the region.
 - Application and replication of tripartite cooperation model among ACD member countries in agriculture development, provision of basic social services such as education, health-care, etc.
 - Continue dialogues among member countries to exchange views and to share best practices in poverty reduction.
 - Promotion of active participation of all stakeholders in ACD member countries in the fight against poverty.
6. On the basis of the seminar's outcomes, we can promote cooperation among member countries to reduce poverty and narrow down the development gap in the region. Specifically, *Vietnam would like to make following proposals for further cooperation among ACD in poverty alleviation:*
 - Establish a tripartite cooperation model in which two parties are ACD developing countries and the third one is an international organization or an ACD developed country. This model can be applied in different areas of cooperation such as agriculture and rural development, provision of basic social services like health, education and clean water.
 - Further step up cooperation aimed at promoting development of underdeveloped sub-regions like corridors, triangles and quadrangles in our region to make full use of natural resources and complementarities of different areas and create a vast and open economic space. Vietnam proposes that ACD member countries join hands in mobilizing donors' and international organizations' assistance for multinational and sub-regional projects aimed at reducing the development gap in our region.

A Review and Future Proposals On Agricultural Cooperation under ACD Framework

China, the head-mover of agricultural cooperation, is fully aware of the role and influence of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD). China is always ready to share its experience in agricultural development with ACD members, and make positive contributions to cooperation expansion and thus to agricultural growth and rural economic prosperity in their countries. To this end, Ministry of Agriculture of China (MOA) conducted following activities in past two years:

1. The Workshop for ACD Agricultural Ministers was held in Beijing in May 2004. At the meeting, it was reaffirmed that agricultural growth is of vital importance in all member countries, and the needs for collaborations among members were also underlined.
2. In January 2005, ACD Agricultural Policies Forum was convened successfully in Beijing, the first of its kind since the birth of ACD mechanism. Representatives from 18 member countries were present, including delegations at vice ministerial level from Bahrain and Pakistan. They explored possibilities for cooperation, filed proposals for future technical and economic cooperation projects, and released the *Minutes of ACD Forum on Agricultural Policies*.
3. Following up to the *Joint Initiative of Workshop for ACD Agricultural Ministers*, MOA organized ACD Training Course on Agricultural Biotechnologies in August 2005, with 23 participants from 20 countries. The workshop provided a platform for ACD members to share knowledge and information. It enhanced their understanding and friendship, and played a positive role in upgrading farm technologies and managerial skills in member countries.

Proposals for future cooperation among ACD members:

1. To Establish a Committee for ACD Agricultural Cooperation

It is necessary to reinforce and improve the mechanism on agricultural cooperation in order to sustain the collaborative effort among ACD countries. So it is proposed to establish a Committee on Agricultural Cooperation. MOA may act as the general coordinator, while other members can be the head-movers in agricultural sectors where they are of comparative advantages. It will be conducive to build on the participatory approach of ACD members.

- 2. To strengthen communication and promote project implementation**
It is proposed to set up an information-sharing platform so as to enhance mutual understanding and keep regular contact among member countries. Each country designates one coordinator who needs to communicate with his counterparts in other member countries at regular intervals and give feedback on project activities, such as annual work plans.
- 3. To diverse channels for financial resources and set cooperation priorities**
Sound financial support is the guarantee of long-term cooperation in agriculture among ACD members. Specific projects proposed by each member country may be financed by their own government or through technical assistance sponsored by international organizations, such as Asian Development Bank.
- 4. To promote agriculture trade in the region via ACD agricultural cooperation**
ACD members need to look for ways to carry out business cooperation, and facilitate agriculture trade with their domestic agricultural policies.
- 5. MOA to invite agricultural officials from ACD member countries to China in the latter half of 2006 to attend technical training courses and to get to know agricultural development in China.**

Progress Report by Malaysia

Summary Report on Malaysia's progress as Prime Mover in the ACD Cooperation in the area of e-Education

As the prime mover for e-Education or e-Learning, Malaysia had hosted the ACD Roundtable on the Concept and Establishment of Asia e-University (AeU) in Kuala Lumpur on 28 and 29 November 2005. This Roundtable was a follow-up to the first e-Education Workshop in Kuala Lumpur in April 2004. It was also a follow-up to the Islamabad Ministerial Meeting in Pakistan in April 2005, in which the formation of AeU was endorsed by ACD member countries through the Islamabad's Declaration no.6. The paragraph read as follows:

Declaration No. 6:

Resolve to ensure the provision of easily accessible and expanded educational opportunities for the peoples of Asia with the proposal for the establishment of an Asia e-University (AeU) which will be an instrument for greater Asia-wide cooperation in closing the digital divide and spearheading e-Education efforts to meet future challenges, for the benefit of the region.

2. The Roundtable had deliberated several fundamental practical and policy issues related to the establishment of AeU, i.e the Academic Model, e-Learning initiatives/collaboration projects, programmes and quality issues of AeU. The Roundtable was a success and had produced several recommendations for the establishment and implementation phase of AeU. It also reaffirmed that AeU will be an instrument for greater Asia-wide cooperation and will be a catalyst in bridging the digital divide and spearheading e-education efforts to meet challenges for the benefit of the region.

3. The Ministry of Higher Education of Malaysia and Open University Malaysia (OUM), the lead agencies that have been given the mammoth task to drive forward the e-education initiative, have followed up on the suggestions and recommendations of the Roundtable with consultations with various parties. Currently, Malaysia is putting in place the necessary facilities to establish and implement the AeU. OUM is also continuing the effort to provide the installation of virtual e-learning platform for AeU as well as identifying strategic academic projects and new collaborating partners for AeU with other institutes of higher learning in ACD member countries.

4. To date, the proposal of establishing AeU has reached the implementation phase of the university. OUM has prepared a paper on the Establishment and Implementation of AeU. The paper includes the report on the outcome of the ACD Roundtable on the Concept and Establishment of AeU. Malaysia will circulate the paper at the Fifth ACD Ministerial Meeting in Doha on 23-24 May 2006. Malaysia proposes ACD member countries reaffirm their support for AeU and participate actively in the establishment and implementation of the university.

Prepared by Malaysia

May 2006

A Proposal to enhance SME cooperation among the ACD members

Background

Small and medium sector (SMEs) has been identified as an important strategic sector for promoting growth and social development of Sri Lanka. Over the years, SMEs have gained wide recognition as a major source of employment, income generation, poverty alleviation and regional development.

SMEs encompass a vast range of industries and enterprises with various capabilities. Because of their diverse needs, SMEs faced different challenges and there is no "one size fits all" strategy for all SMEs. However, while these challenges vary within each ACD countries, there are extensive similarities across ACD countries. For example, SMEs in many ACD countries face challenges in terms of lack of access to information, technological disadvantages, financing difficulties, backdated marketing and lack of managerial skills so on.

Hence, there is an opportunity for ACD countries to work together to cooperate and do more in assisting their SMEs to enhance their effectiveness and growth. As the prime mover on ACD cooperation on SMEs, Singapore plans to initiate closer cooperation between ACD countries in this area by providing forums for SME promotion agencies and subsequently, SMEs themselves to come together to discuss current challenges, access future opportunities and share insights and strategies.

Progress of SME sector

[Ministry of Enterprise Development and Investment Promotion is responsible for SME development in Sri Lanka. This Ministry was able to establish SME Bank for providing financial facilities for SMEs in the country. So far SME Bank was able to establish six regional branches. And also developed number of criteria's on credit schemes for different sector such as lapidary, paddy mills etc.

Apart from that the National Enterprise Development Authority will establish very soon for facilitation on other areas such as technology development, advisory services so on in the SME sector. Objectives of the National Enterprise Development Authority are stimulated the growth, expansion and development of Sri Lanka's economy by encouraging, promoting and facilitating small and medium enterprise development within Sri Lanka.

Proposals to enhance SME cooperation among ACD members:

- Sharing experience among ACD countries for upgrading capabilities of SMEs.
- Capacity building programs for relevant offices who are engaged in SME policy planning and other activities among ACD countries.
- Development of programs on information Sharing and Information exchange among ACD countries.
- Continue dialogue among member countries to exchange views and to share best practices in SME development.

Progress Report

- IT Cooperation -

2006.4

Presented by the Republic of Korea

Progress in the Field of IT Cooperation

After being designated as the prime mover for IT cooperation at the 2nd Ministerial Meeting in Chiang Mai, 2002, the Republic of Korea has developed and carried out diverse IT cooperative projects designed to bridge the digital divide among the ACD members. These projects were pursued with the following two institutions as their proponents: the Ministry of Information and Communication(MIC) and the Korean International Cooperation Agency(KOICA)

1. MIC's IT Cooperation Projects

The MIC has been conducting Special Cooperation projects, IT Training Courses and Internet Youth Volunteer Corps.

(Projects in 2005)

The MIC hosted the "2nd National Informatization Policy Course with ACD" in Seoul, Korea between Oct. 12 and 18, 2005, which was attended by 21 IT officials and specialists from 14 ACD member countries.

The MIC also successfully implemented training involving 17 IT-related personnel from government through mid to long term IT Training Program, as well as the dispatch of IT Policy Advisory Groups to Cambodia and Laos in November, 2005.

In addition, the MIC established an Information Access Center in Laos, and dispatched 164 Internet Youth Volunteers to some of the ACD member countries.

(Projects in 2006)

For 2006, the MIC plans to host the "3rd National Information Policy Course with ACD" in Seoul, Korea between Sep. 19-28, 2006 to be participated by 15 IT representatives from some ACD member countries.

The MIC will, again, offer mid to long term IT Training Courses on advanced information and mobile program, dispatch IT Technology/Policy Advisory Groups, and establish Information Access Center in Indonesia, while dispatching 204 Internet Youth Volunteers to promote informatization throughout ACD countries.

2. KOICA's IT Cooperation Projects

The KOICA has performed a variety of IT cooperative projects, including the provision of IT equipment and supplies as well as IT training, while target almost all ACD members.

(Projects in 2005)

The KOICA dispatched a total of 235 volunteers and specialists, while inviting 187 trainees from 17 ACD member countries to the IT program.

KOICA also carried out IT-related activities and programs including the establishment of e-Government and IT Training Center(worth USD 6,183,000) to some of the ACD member countries.

(Projects in 2006)

For 2006, the KOICA will dispatche 223 Volunteers and specialists, Invite 54 trainees from 12 ACD member countries to the IT program and carried out IT-related activities and programs including the establishment of e-Government and IT Training Center(worth USD 6,454,000) to some of the ACD member countries.

Progress Report On Tourism
(Co-Prime Movers: Cambodia, Myanmar, Pakistan and Thailand)

The ACD Tourism Business Forum has met three times, i.e., in Phuket, Thailand between 22-24 May 2003; in Chiang Mai, Thailand between 18-20 July 2004; and, most recently, in Siem Reap, Cambodia between 24-25 April 2006.

Twenty-one ACD member country governments and private sectors were represented at the recently concluded 3rd ACD Tourism Business Forum in Siem Reap, Cambodia between 24-25 April 2006 in Siem Reap.

In Siem Reap, member countries agreed to step up cooperation in the area of tourism. They considered the **Road Map for ACD Tourism Cooperation**, which was drafted by Thailand and covers such areas as tourism for poverty alleviation, human resource development and sustainable tourism. Member countries agreed to focus on priority areas where integrated or joint efforts would not only be desirable, but also possible and can produce concrete results within the agreed timeframes.

The Meeting in Siem Reap also reviewed and held follow-up discussions on issues that were discussed at the 2nd ACD Tourism Business Forum in Chiang Mai, i.e., 1) tourism investment cooperation; 2) intra-regional promotion initiatives; 3) safety and security; 4) the development of tourism SMEs; 4) human resource development; and 5) sustainable tourism.

India reaffirmed its offer to host the 4th ACD Tourism Business Forum in 2007 while Brunei Darussalam offered to host the 5th ACD Tourism Business Forum in 2008.

*** The Road Map for ACD Tourism Cooperation, which will form the basis for member countries to further advance cooperation in this area, is submitted to the 5th ACD Ministerial Meeting for its kind consideration and endorsement. ***

(Compiled by Thailand)
May 2006

Progress Report
By Cambodia on the ACD Tourism Business Forum

Twenty-one ACD member States and private sectors were represented at the 3rd ACD Tourism Business Forum in Siem Reap, Cambodia between 24-25 April 2006.

The meeting was of the view that there would be six issues and possible areas of Cooperation, namely:

-Investment Opportunity: While there is now a decrease of foreign direct investment in the tourism sector in our region, instead there is now an increase of intra-regional investment in tourism. The meeting has proposed to set up ACD Tourism Investment Task Force in order to further enhance tourism investment cooperation among the ACD Member Countries.

-Intra Regional Promotion Initiatives: The meeting considered Cambodia's proposal on "ACD-X" formula, particularly with regard to Asia Regional Travel Fair. At the moment, we have 28 ACD Member Countries. The "ACD-X" formula provides flexibility for any countries to participate in the Asia Regional Travel Air immediately. For those countries that are not ready, they can join later. Also, this formula allows the different sub-regions in the ACD framework to advance tourism cooperation, and thus building momentum for ACD-wide tourism cooperation as a whole.

-Tourism for Poverty Alleviation: Cambodia believes that tourism development can contribute concretely to poverty reduction which is one of the main objectives of ACD. In this regard, the Royal Government of Cambodia had officially set up the "**Tourism Task Force for Poverty Reduction**".

-Safety/Secured Destination: The meeting has called for a setup of a system or a mechanism of some kind to provide travel advisory for the tourists to receive accurate, up-to-date information so that they have the confidence in visiting an ACD Country. In this regard, it is necessary for us to establish focal points in the ACD Member Countries in order to communicate effectively, exchange information, and provide travel advisory to the tourists.

-Human Resource Development: Certainly, there are ACD Member Countries like Thailand, Malaysia, India and so forth, which have more experience in tourism sector, while other countries need capacity building and know-how to develop their tourism industry. We recommend for more study tours between ACD member countries.

-Sustainability: The government's sufficient attention, long term political support and sufficient allocation of resources is needed to manage dynamic growth, support for conservation, safety & security and for poverty alleviation to promote awareness, cooperation and dialogue.

In Siem Reap, member countries agreed to step up cooperation in the area of tourism. They considered the **Road Map for ACD Tourism Cooperation**, which was drafted by Thailand and covers such areas as tourism for poverty alleviation, human resource development and sustainable tourism. Member countries agreed to focus on priority areas where integrated or joint efforts would not only be desirable, but also possible and can produce concrete results within the agreed timeframes.

India reaffirmed its offer to host the 4th ACD Tourism Business Forum in 2007 while Brunei Darussalam offered to host the 5th ACD Tourism Business in 2008.

To strengthen ACD tourism cooperation, member countries should consider convening an ACD Tourism Ministerial Meeting.

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Progress Report in the Area of Financial Cooperation

Thailand as the prime mover in the area of financial cooperation has set up a Working Group on Financial Cooperation to serve as a primary channel for experts from ACD member countries in this field to interact, discuss and exchange views particularly on the issue of Asian bond market development. Cooperation on the Asian bond market development in the ACD serves three important purposes which are (1) to render political support for the initiatives (2) to expand geographical coverage of those initiatives to all of Asia, and (3) to provide (additional) technical work that can build upon the work of other fora.

Thailand has organized 3 meetings related to the Asian bond market development during the past four years. The First Working Group Meeting on 12 May 2003 in Bangkok had led to the Chiang Mai Declaration on Asian Bond Market Development which was subsequently adopted at the 2nd ACD Ministerial Meeting held in June 2003 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. In 2004, Thailand hosted 2 high-level meetings: 1) The ACD Special Experts' Group Meeting on 27 March 2004; and 2) The ACD Informal Meeting on Promoting the Supply of Asian Bonds on 1 May 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Recent Development in 2006

Thailand and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) co-hosted the ACD high-level seminar on "Enhancing Financial Cooperation Through Asian Bond Market Development" between 24-25 March 2006 in Bangkok. The seminar brought together more than 150 participants comprising of high-level officials of ACD member countries, as well as representatives from key market institutions, private practitioners and academics. The participants actively engaged in policy-related and technical dialogue on key issues related to Asian bond markets development including ways to promote demand, supply and infrastructure for Asian bond markets. The outcomes from the Seminar will serve as key substantive groundwork for the First ACD Finance Ministers' Meeting to be later hosted by Thailand.

Proposal to enhance greater cooperation

Thailand believes that the ACD can add value to current efforts being made in the region to develop Asian bond markets and this is an area which has much potential to yield concrete results. Thailand therefore proposes that the ACD member countries reaffirm their support in helping Asian bond market mature. An alternative is to recommend the government agencies to prioritize their portfolio investments on Asian bonds, including the local-currency denominated bonds. In addition, the ACD member countries should consider liberalizing the capital outflows, if applicable, which are

earmarked toward investment in Asian Bonds. Lastly, the member countries should support the development of the cross-border local-currency denominated bond issuance, i.e. Thai - Lao Baht Bonds, in order to expand the supply for investment and assist lesser developing countries in financing their infrastructure development.

Progress Report on Environmental Education

As the prime mover in the field of environmental education, Japan has so far hosted two series of dialogue on environmental education in an effort to promote regional understanding and initiatives on the subject.

Recent developments in 2005

Japan hosted the Second Dialogue on Environmental Education in September 20th and 21st, 2005, with a participation of government officials, NGOs, researchers, private business of ACD member states, along with the representatives of relevant international organizations. The main theme of the dialogue is "Towards Green Production and Green Life", bearing in mind the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development started January 1st 2005. The dialogue's programmes consisted of keynote presentation: reports on good practices from participating countries and institutions, environmental education at private enterprises, and environmental education at local communities, as well as site visits such as "Hokubu II Water Treatment Center", "Hokubu Sludge Recycle Center", "Tsurumi Incineration Plant", "Tsurumi Resource Management Center" of Yokohama City government, and the Environment & Energy Centre (Wonder ship) of Tokyo Gas Co. Ltd.

Following are specific contents of the discussion of the dialogue.

- (1) Reports on good practices were made from participating countries and institutions. After sharing good practices, participants discussed what kind of educational measures should be taken for sustainable production and consumption in two dimensions. First, measures of private companies which are main actor of production, and, secondly, measures taken in local communities and households which are the principal players in consumption.
- (2) Environment-related measures of private companies, participants discussed how to give incentives to companies and to raise awareness of consumers. Also, the need for networking, raising awareness of managing member of companies, and involvement of the private companies as well as such stakeholders as media and NGOs, was discussed.
- (3) Relating to measures of local communities, participants raised four points: effective communication, experiential learning, necessity of capacity building, and importance of green practice. Participants expressed that education for sustainable development encompassed such issues as poverty reduction. Also, it was pointed out

that participation of local communities was critical and that efforts toward sustainability needed to be sustainable.

Follow-up proposal in 2006

As a follow-up, Japan will host the 3rd dialogue on environmental education under the theme of “Decade of Education for Sustainable Development” in Sendai, Japan on 14th and 15th of June 2006. This dialogue is particularly expected to contribute domestic implementation of DESD in each ACD member country.

**Concept Paper:
The Third Asia Cooperation Dialogue
on Environmental Education**

March 2006

Introduction

- Following the First Dialogue held in Tokyo in June 2004, the Second meeting was convened in Tokyo in September 20th-21st 2005 within the framework of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue with about 60 participants from 21 Asian countries, including government officials, experts, educators, members of NGOs and representatives of international organizations. It provided an opportunity to contribute to the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) through an intensive discussion on the theme "Green Production and Green Life," an approach to environmental education from two aspects; practices of private enterprises as the major actors in the production sector and of households and local communities as the core of human livelihood.

Significance

- Many Asian countries are facing various environmental problems such as deforestation and the loss of biodiversity and natural resources during periods of rapid industrialization and urbanisation. Under these circumstances, government actions are not enough. Individuals should be more mindful of the environment and take the initiative to change society. Local communities should facilitate and enhance such activities.

- The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD), adopted at the UN General Assembly based on a Japanese proposal, began in January of last year. In Japan, a National Implementation Scheme for the UNDESD was adopted this March.

- The Japanese Implementation Scheme consists of three basic concepts;

(1) By 2014, national and local governments, enterprises, NGO and individuals in

cooperation with each other will actively take part in creating a society where sustainable development is achieved.

(2) Work towards comprehensive environmental, economic, and social development centered on environmental preservation. .

(3) Understand and strengthen cooperation with developing countries facing related problems.

- Since many Asian countries are in the process of formulating implementation schemes, the Dialogue will offer a venue to exchange information and views on the implementation of the UNDES in Asia, with a focus on:

- (a) National implementation-examples of Japan and other countries; and
- (b) the practices of local communities-including the example of the Sendai RCE area;

This Dialogue will enhance implementation of the DESD and mutual cooperation among the participating countries.

(Reference)

(1) The First Dialogue

The significance of environmental education for sustainable development was acknowledged, and the importance of roles of each social sector, information sharing and cooperation were discussed.

(2) The Second Dialogue

Based on the theme "Green Production and Green life," recognized that to achieve a sustainable society it is vital to ensure that production and consumption develop in ways compatible with environmental preservation. Participants discussed what type of environmental education is necessary taking into account the perspectives and relevant experiences of the community and private sectors of each country.

CONCEPT PAPER ON ACD COOPERATION IN EARLY WARNING AND EMERGENCY RELIEF

1. Introduction

The large-scale natural disaster in the Indian Ocean basin in December 2004 that resulted in heavy losses of life and significant economic damage in a number of Asian countries stressed the urgent necessity to intensify interstate cooperation in early warning and emergency relief to counter natural and other disasters. The experience accumulated through joint actions of the world community, including a significant aid to the tsunami victims from the ACD member countries serves as a convincing example of that.

The issues of post-disaster relief operations have already been put on the agenda of various high-profile international organizations and fora at both global and regional levels, including the UN, G8, APEC, ARF and ASEAN. Several countries of Asia take initiative in establishing national systems of forecasting and monitoring disasters, including early warning and emergency response.

Nonetheless, Asia still lacks an efficient advanced system to counter disasters and crises situations which, as it was stated in the Islamabad Declaration adopted at the 4th ACD Ministerial Meeting in April 2005, pose major threat to economic development and prosperity of the region.

Given the combined potential of the ACD member countries, their clear interest in promoting cooperation in establishing efficient regional mechanisms of early warning and disaster relief, the ACD might provide efficient backing of such international efforts by fostering wide and practical interaction in this sphere.

Russia is widely engaged in international disaster response and early warning and relief efforts and possesses the required human resources and technical expertise. Furthermore, it is ready to make its contribution to the establishment and promotion of such interaction within the ACD.

Relevant Russian agencies, primarily the Ministry of Civil Defense, Emergencies and Disaster Relief of the Russian Federation, have a significant experience of interaction with the respective bodies in other countries and with international organizations and fora. Russia has recently initiated the revival of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ARF ISM on DR). The decision on that was taken during the 12th ARF Ministerial session in Vientiane in July 2005. In 1999-2000, Russia and Vietnam co-chaired the 3rd and 4th ARF ISMs on DR.

Taking into account growing number of natural disasters and technical calamities together with the need to take additional steps aimed at strengthening interaction in this field Russia proposes to make early warning and emergency response one of the areas of cooperation within the ACD and perform the functions of its Prime Mover. We call upon any other interested countries to become Co-Prime Movers of this area of cooperation.

2. The potential aims of early warning and emergency relief cooperation

The early warning and emergency relief cooperation in the ACD should be aimed at:

1. Strengthening coordination and interaction between ACD member states in order to improve awareness for joint disaster and emergency response;
2. Sharing advanced technologies and best practices of disaster management, including higher public awareness of disasters;
3. Facilitating establishment, operation and practical activities of national and regional emergency relief centers on the basis of the most efficient modern national means and technologies;
4. Improving the capabilities of national and regional emergency response services, enhancing their technical and professional capacity, including personnel training;
5. Fostering and enhancing cooperation in early warning and emergency relief between the ACD and other multilateral organizations and fora of Asian countries, such as APEC, ASEAN, SCO, ARF, as well as other international structures, including the UN and EU;
6. Engaging academic and business communities, as well as related non-governmental organizations in emergency response.

3. Possible forms of interaction

The early warning and emergency relief cooperation in the ACD shall have the forms and manifestations as follows:

1. Establishment of contacts and promotion of interaction between related services of the ACD member countries. Development of a register of contact points – representatives of relevant services and agencies.
2. Sharing experience and data in the field of early warning and emergency response.
3. Holding workshops, seminars, conferences and other relevant events, *inter alia*, with the participation of representatives of emergency services and agencies.
4. Developing advanced information and communication technologies (ICT) to enhance the efficiency of disaster early warning systems.
5. Sharing experience in establishing emergency forecast and response systems.
6. Sharing experience in personnel training; running short- and long-term training courses for specialists in the field of disaster early warning and emergency relief.

4. Regularity of events

The events in disaster early warning and emergency relief cooperation are to take place annually. The first of such meetings could be held in 2007.

CONCEPT PAPER

Community Vocational Training Centers for Human Resource Development and Poverty reduction: Vietnam's experience

(Vietnam's contribution to Human Resource Development Cooperation in ACD)

1. Background

In Islamabad Initiative on Economic Co-operation in Asia, adopted at the fourth ACD Meeting in Islamabad Pakistan in April 2005, 28 ministers of ACD member countries agreed to intensify cooperation to:

“Work towards developing a center for human resource development to equip Asian workers and professionals with necessary technical and language skills and improve their efficiency, making them more attractive in the global labor market”.

Experience from East Asian economies have shown that human capital plays a crucial role in economic development and international economic integration. A World Bank study of 192 countries concluded that only 16% of economic growth is explained by physical capital while no less than 64% can be attributed to human and social capital. In the time of globalization and knowledge-based society, with swift changes in technological changes, there is an urgent need to provide proper technical skills, knowledge and professions for workers to be competitive at the labor market. This requires a joint efforts of all quarter in the society, in particularly the collaboration among Government, enterprises and community.

For Asian countries, the network of community vocational training centers play an active role in strengthening human resource development and developing necessary skills and professions for local laborers. There are several advantages of these community vocational training centers in human resource development. These centers ensure a wide participation of population to education and training opportunities, especially for disadvantages groups, school drop-out, rural women. As the result, these centers also contribute to poverty alleviation, particularly in rural areas.

In Viet Nam, every year, one and half million new laborers join the workforce. Every year, the system of regular education and training (universities, colleges and vocational schools) can provide only 300 thousands high skill and trained workers. Of 1.1 million laborers, 800 thousands are being trained by the network of community vocational training centers (CVTC). The network of CVTCs

provide flexible curriculums, focusing on essential skills and knowledge that requires by small-medium enterprises and labor markets.

More importantly, the network of CVTCs in Vietnam also contributes to poverty reduction, particularly in rural areas. With the national-wide network of more than 300 CVTCs, many of which in rural, minority-ethnic and mountainous regions, those center provides education, knowledge and living skills to the poor who are minority ethnic, disadvantages of the society.

2. Objectives:

- First, to foster cooperation among ACD countries in human resource development.

- Second, to share experience and lessons among ACD countries with regard to human resource development, in particular the role of community vocational training center in providing necessary skills and knowledge for workers to be competitive at the labor market.

- Third, to put special emphasis on the linkage between human resource development and poverty alleviation.

- Fourth, to draw further attention of the international community in general and donor countries and international organizations in particular to the need for regional and international cooperation in the field of human resource development as well as to the substantial resources needed for these endeavor by ACD developing countries.

3. First steps:

ACD countries' cooperation on human resource development is a long-term process involving various fora, with the participation of both recipients and donors, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

- In the first place, Viet Nam will conduct a case study of Vietnam's the role of Community Vocational Training Center in human resource development and poverty alleviation. This study will comprise guidelines, policies, programmes and organizational mechanism taken in the network of CVTC. The study will also highlight the strong linkage between human resource development and poverty alleviation and how to achieve both.

- The study will be sent to all ACD countries and presented at an international seminar or conference on human resource development held in the near future in one of ACD countries.

- Viet Nam will work closely with Thailand, a co-prime mover and the center for human resource development of ACD on the possibility to organize ACD workshop in this issue.

Ha Noi, April, 2006