

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
in collaboration with
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Centre for Regional Development
Asian Development Bank

Regional Implementation Meeting for Asia and the Pacific ahead of
the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

30 November-1 December 2009
Bangkok

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting

The programme for the opening of the meeting will be announced in due course.

2. Election of officers

A chairperson, vice-chairperson(s) and a rapporteur will be elected.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda (EDD/2009/RIM.18/1) will be considered and adopted, subject to such changes as are deemed necessary.

4. Review of progress, constraints and policy challenges with regard to the implementation of international, regional and national commitments

The meeting will review key findings regarding the progress achieved in the Asia-Pacific region in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

(a) Transport

EDD/2009/RIM.18/3

Transport plays a key role in sustainable development. Adequate, affordable and efficient transport is essential for access to markets, employment and essential services, such as education and health. At the same time, the negative externalities associated with transport, in particular its impact on the global and local environment and on health and safety, are sources of growing concern. Moreover, transport is the fastest-growing end-user of energy in developing countries, and it has important implications for energy security. Discussions under this theme will focus on how to harness the benefits that the transport sector can provide for socio-economic development in an environmentally sustainable manner.

(b) Waste management (hazardous and solid wastes)

EDD/2009/RIM.18/4

The Asia-Pacific region has seen very rapid growth in the generation of all types of waste during the last decade due to rapid economic development and population growth, particularly rapid urbanization. Countries in the region, particularly developing countries, have been unable to address the rapid growth of waste generation sustainably, which has resulted in an increase in environmental pollution and risks, including the emission of greenhouse gases. The focus under this theme will be on improving solid waste and wastewater management, with an emphasis on strategies that turn challenges into opportunities, among other things. The meeting will also discuss ways to improve the governance of waste management systems and the need to introduce the reduce, reuse and recycle (3R) approach and life cycle approaches to waste management.

(c) Chemicals

EDD/2009/RIM.18/5

The meeting will assess the current state of the use of chemicals, the impact of chemicals on sustainable development and management practices relating to chemicals in the Asian and Pacific region. It will also evaluate trends and challenges for different subregions. It will analyse commitments and challenges in chemicals management and discuss policy options for the environmentally sound management of chemicals in the Asian and Pacific region in the future.

(d) Mining

EDD/2009/RIM.18/6

Regional economic growth has resulted in increased demand for mineral and energy resources. At the same time, several factors require the mining industry to become more environmentally and socially responsible: public awareness has grown; campaigns against unsustainable mining have become quite powerful; investors are increasingly aware of the links between economic performance, risk and environmental responsibility; and climate action is being promoted by many stakeholders. While new trends are emerging, persistent challenges related to mining in the Asia-Pacific region remain.

(e) 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production

EDD/2009/RIM.18/7

The Asian and Pacific region has seen a concurrence of rapidly expanding economies, persistent poverty and unhealthy consumption pressures, as well as a shrinking natural resource base per capita. Thus, meeting human needs and improving well-being with the lowest possible ecological cost is especially relevant in Asia and the Pacific. The current pattern of energy-intensive economic growth—coupled with continuous population growth, widening income gaps, urban migration and natural resource depletion—has placed Asia on an unsustainable path. Under this theme, discussions will address concerted action in the region for improving the sustainability of consumption and production, which opens up options for environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive economic growth.

5. Cross-cutting issues, interlinkages and synergies

EDD/2009/RIM.18/8

Discussion under this agenda item will begin with an introductory presentation of the integrated analysis for action presented in document EDD/2009/RIM.18/8, which has been prepared as a synthesis of the five thematic background papers. The discussion will focus on the cross-cutting aspects and interlinkages among the five thematic areas. Particular emphasis may be placed on identifying challenges and opportunities for promoting the decoupling of economic growth from environmental degradation, encouraging resource efficiency and consolidating the foundations of green growth and a green economy. Additional emphasis will be placed on good practices and priorities for regional or subregional programmes in shifting unsustainable patterns of consumption and production into sustainable ones as a synergetic policy approach that can yield win-win benefits for socio-economic development, environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation/adaptation.

6. Adoption of the report

The meeting will adopt the report on its deliberations.

7. Closing of the meeting

The chairperson will close the meeting.

.