

Side Events at the RIM for CSD-18

30 November -1 December 2009

(Bangkok, Thailand)

30 November 2009 (12:30 – 14:00) - Public Foyer

Workshops on strengthening capacity for participation of regionally based major groups in the CSD-18/19¹ implementation cycle

1. Background

Broad public participation in implementation is a fundamental prerequisite of sustainable development. While the participation of major groups in the CSD decision making process is a highly regarded example of inclusive democracy within the UN system, continued efforts are required to ensure better representation of major groups from all regions, particularly developing countries ones and to build capacity to interface constructively with the Commission's work.

The DESA/Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), in cooperation with the UN Regional Commissions and partner major group organisations selected from a roster of so called Organising Partners on the basis of their presence in each respective region, plans to organise five workshops aimed at promoting the engagement of regionally based major group sectors in the Commission's work.

2. Objectives

The workshops aim at strengthening capacity for participation and developing a regional strategy for greater engagement of major groups sectors.

3. Proposed themes

In particular the workshop will focus on:

- Building advocacy skills to enable major group representatives to work collaboratively with national governments;
- Familiarising with the international intergovernmental processes and increasing the understanding of major groups' role in the CSD;
- Increasing negotiating and lobbying skills of participants;
- Advancing understanding of sustainable development in general and of CSD-18/19 thematic cluster in particular, from a regional to an international perspective;
- Discussing strategic approaches between major groups sectors and exploring common solutions in dealing with the CSD-18/19 thematic cluster;
- Increasing visibility and effectiveness of major groups sectors from each respective regions in the sustainable development international policy making arena;

4. Participants

Representatives from the nine major groups' sectors.

¹ The regions correspond to the five UN regions

5. Expected Outcome

At the conclusion of this Workshop, it is anticipated that the participants will have:

- Improved understanding of the CSD working modalities,
- Improved their skills in relating to governments' officials and ability to lobby and advocate both at national and international levels,
- Increased their understanding of how to link their ground work with regional and international processes;
- Promoted cooperation and information exchanges among major groups' sectors in how to collaborate in preparation to CSD-18 Review session and beyond.

1 December 2009 (13:00 – 14:00) - Conference Room 3

Multiple MEA approach to combating illegal trade in ODS and hazardous waste

1. Background

Illegal trade in Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) and hazardous waste is an environmental crime that is defined as offences under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as the Montreal Protocol and the Basel Convention. Southeast Asia is one of the most densely populated regions in the world. Studies reveal that Asia is a major hub for illegal trade of ODS and waste dumping, which is globally significant and rising. Porous borders facilitate much of this illicit activity. Environmental crime laws are usually weakly enforced, have low penalties and are not well known among enforcement officers. Fighting environmental crimes is an important component of national governments' and international organizations' pursuit towards human security.

Having built the capacity of the customs/ enforcement officers and refrigeration technicians at the national level in 27 countries in Asia and the Pacific, UNEP, through its Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) of the Montreal Protocol has established a regional cooperation mechanism among 24 countries in South Asia and South East Asia/Pacific that promotes better control over their import and export of ODSs as well as other substances covered by three other multilateral environmental agreements, i.e. the Basel, the Stockholm, and the Rotterdam Conventions. Through the network, some best practices and innovative technologies, such as inter-agency collaboration to tackle Transfrontier Shipments of Waste and Japanese technology of mobile ODS destruction facility, are promoted.

2. Objectives

To promote awareness concerning environmental crimes, illegal trade of chemical and waste in particular, and to disseminate information on regional initiatives to tackle the issue through trans-national cooperation.

3. Main programme

- Introduction, Kakuko Nagatani, UNEP CAP, 5min.

- Presentation, “Update on Monitoring of illegal trade in ODS and E-Waste”, Fionnuala Walravens, Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA),15min
- Awareness Video, 15min: “A joint Enforcement Approach in Waste Shipments”
- Presentation, “Regional cooperation against illegal trade of chemical and waste”, Kakuko Nagatani and Liu Ning, UNEP CAP, 10min.
- Q & A

4. Other materials on display

- Videos on CCTV system, Common area, outside of the conference rooms
- UNEP DTIE Ozon Action’s “My Ozone Wish” Public Service Announcements
- Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)’s video: Environmental Crime: Our Planet-Our Problem
- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN)’s videos and public service announcement
- Six posters on environmental crime, outside of Conference Room 3
- Publications on display, outside of Conference Room 3

1 December 2009 (14:00 – 15:00) - Conference Room 3

Waste Management Status in Republic of Korea: shifting to resource circulation society & Best practices from India

1. Background

Municipal solid waste management is an essential public service which benefits all urban residents. It is not feasible to exclude from service of those who do not pay, because public cleanliness and the safe disposal of wastes are essential to public health and environmental protection. However, waste generation in urban cities is in excess. We must approach better solution than incineration and landfill. In order to do it, it is necessary to shift the concept of waste, and find a way to utilize waste as resource. Also the role of NGOs to assist and observe government's policies and to bring public awareness has to be developed.

2. Objective

To find ultimate way of waste management by sharing policies, views and methods of each country and to diffuse the idea that waste is no longer waste we only discharge, but also can be reusable resource.

3. Programme

- “Waste management statues in Korea and paradigm shift of resource recycling society”
Environment Action Association
- “Community participation in solid waste management – example from Gujarat, India
Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management
- “E-waste Management in India”
Global Youth Action