

CONNECTIONS

East and North-East Asia Office
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Director's Message

Dr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna

The 69th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific was held in Bangkok from 25 April to 1 May 2013. My colleagues and I attended the annual week-long meetings of ESCAP that covered and tackled the most pressing issues and challenges of the subregion and the region of Asia-Pacific. During her opening remarks, Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Secretary of ESCAP noted the 17 resolutions proposed by the member States, which indicate the significance and high relevance of the Commission as the common platform to discuss regional issues.



During the reporting of subregional activities for development, the delegates from China, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation made statements with regard to ENEA Office. The Russian Federation delegation called for close and regular communication, while the Republic of Korea's delegation highly valued the contribution of the subregional office in helping to engage member States to deepen regional cooperation and support capacity building of neighboring countries. The countries confirmed their support for future activities.

One of the noteworthy aspects of the Session was the first ever dialogue among the chiefs of the UN regional commissions from around the world to review and explore the role they can play in harnessing cooperation among the world's developing countries in support of inclusive and sustainable development. They joined the Executive Secretary in discussing the potential for South-South cooperation at a time when developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region are anchoring global economy recovery.

There were also the high-level panel on the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013, the flagship publication of ESCAP and the Executive Secretaries' Roundtable on post-2015 development agenda. The panel reviewed the key findings of the theme topic and discussed the issue of building resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises.

Mr. Jan Eliasson, the UN Deputy Secretary-General, initiated a series of ministerial discussions by moderating a panel on sustainable development and the development agenda beyond 2015. Panelists explored the region's critical and emerging development challenges and shared some of their own experiences in formulating and implementing development strategies based on investing in human and natural capital.

Selected meetings during the Ministerial Segment were broadcast live over the Internet for the first time and received follow-up questions around the world through Twitter. Additionally, in recognizing the global 'Zero Hunger Challenge', proposed by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012, the Asia-Pacific Zero Hunger Challenge was launched during the session chaired by the UN Deputy Secretary-General.

After a whirl of meetings and discussions, the message I would like to share with all of you is what Dr. Heyzer conveyed in her closing remarks. As we live in times of uncertainties and rapidly changing society, better preparedness and disaster risk management are key development imperatives. We must become empowered partners in change at every level. Moving forward to achieve and ensure the inclusive and sustainable future we want, it is vital that we seek out for the "the opportunity to grow better, to close development gaps, to build resilience and to end hunger."

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Highlights

Opening of the New UN Premises

31 May 2013, Incheon, Republic of Korea



Ribbon-cutting at the opening ceremony of the new UN premises

After three years of careful planning and development, the I-Tower is now ready to welcome its residents and guests. On 31 May 2013, the UNESCAP-ENEA inaugurated the new premises with other UN offices, namely the ESCAP Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT), the UNISDR Office for Northeast Asia together with the Global Education and Training Institute for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as the Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific of UNCTRAL in Incheon City, Republic of Korea.

Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Secretary of UNESCAP, H.E. Dr. Han, Seung-soo, Former Prime Minister of ROK, Mr. Shin Dong-ik, Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Song Young-Gil, Mayor of Incheon Metropolitan City were among the distinguished guests to attend the ceremony. Heads of other UN offices in ROK and ambassadors of the member States of the Asia-Pacific region, as well as the US Embassy to ROK joined the opening to celebrate the milestone for the UN offices in I-Tower. The building is located in Songdo, the newly developed city on the outskirts of Seoul with well-developed green infrastructure.

The ceremony started with the seminar on the UN and ROK by Dr. Heyzer and Dr. Han. By recalling the history of the UN and ROK, Dr. Heyzer addressed that this continued to be a vital and dynamic partnership between the two, and the ROK has been a key partner ever since joining ESCAP in 1954 as a member State.

In supporting and continuing its efforts towards addressing transboundary challenges and creating an enabling environment toward sustainable development in the region, she said, "It is expected that this newly consolidated UN building will play a catalytic role, acting as a development gateway for both state and non-state partners."

Other highlights of the programme included the UN exhibition at lobby, prepared by the four UN offices, offering introduction to each office and sharing their signature publications. The Korean dance performance by the Incheon Metropolitan City Dance Theater certainly added to the festive celebration of the occasion. The ceremony concluded with the reception at the atrium that offers open space to network for dignitaries, UN officials and staff and other guests.



Dr. Han, Seung-soo (L) and Dr. Noeleen Heyzer during the seminar on the UN and ROK



Activities

Launch of Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013 18 April 2013, Seoul, Republic of Korea



Global launch of the Survey 2013 in Beijing, China



Panel during the country launch of ESCAP's flagship publication at Kyung Hee University in Seoul, ROK

The ROK launch of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013 was held in Seoul, co-organized by ESCAP-ENEA and the Kyung Hee Institute for Human Society at Kyung Hee University. Simultaneous launch events of the Survey took place in 37 cities around the world, including Russia, Japan and Mongolia. The main launch was held in Beijing, China, attended by Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director of ESCAP and Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna, director of ENEA among others.

The flagship publication of ESCAP this year argued to reorient macroeconomic policies towards inclusive and sustainable development in the region, as well as investing in human capital for resilient growth. Professor Hyungsang Sohn and Dr. Hiroki Miura from Kyung Hee University, Dr. Sanghoon Ahn from the Korea Development Institute, Dr. Sojin Lim of Korea International Coop-

eration Agency and Dr. Sang Hyup Shin of Korea Association of International Development and Cooperation participated in the panel discussion and offered in-depth analysis on the findings and updates of the publication.

The discussion focused on emerging challenges for the economy of ROK and the Government's response to these challenges. The panel members said that governments in the subregion including ROK are increasingly recognizing the importance of investing in human, physical and social infrastructure. In particular, the newly elected ROK Government has taken a number of steps to enhance social protection systems and is looking to achieve "economic democratization", in order to reduce growing income and wealth inequality.

<http://www.unescap.org/pdd/publications/survey2013/download/index.asp>

Regional Implementation Meeting on Rio+20 Outcome

22-24 April 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

The Asian and Pacific RIM on Rio+20 Outcome, organized by ESCAP, convened approximately 180 representatives of governments, civil society, business and international organizations to follow up on Rio+20 and to share views on post-2015 development agenda. As the ENEA Office is in charge of ESCAP publication (forthcoming September 2013) on Asia-Pacific Perspectives on Sustainable Development, the RIM meeting provided valuable inputs on member States' perspectives for global institutional framework, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 development agenda, and finally means of implementation.

Key points from national statements of ENEA member States include (a) maintaining an efficient arrangement of one universal political forum [Russian Federation], (b) ensuring inclusive intergovernmental process in establishing post-2015 development [China, DPRK], (c) utilizing regional mechanisms for stimulating ideas to contribute

to global conversation [China], (d) promoting inclusive and shared growth [Japan], (e) adhering to Rio principle 7 [China, DPRK], (f) ensuring the values of SDG to meet the conditions of individual countries [Russian Federation, DPRK], (g) strengthening South-South Cooperation to supplement, not replace, North-South Cooperation [China], and (h) promoting clear goals and institution for three pillars of sustainable development [DPRK, China]. Finally, the desired roles for ESCAP included building platform for conversation, vertical coordination, capacity building, full assessment, and coordination with other UN systems. As the development arm of ESCAP, subregional offices have direct role in carrying forward in contributing to shaping post-2015 development agenda. The collective regional voice from RIM will contribute to the SDG process and other relevant global processes.

<http://www.unescap.org/sustainable-development/forums/RIM2013/>

Activities

Trilateral Arrangements for Cross-border Transport

23-24 April 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

ESCAP Transport Division organized a Seminar on Cross-border Transport among China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation in Bangkok. The seminar was attended by the delegations from the three countries and representatives from the Asian Development Bank and ENEA Office. The participants recognized that the opening of road transportation along the route with overall direction of Asian Highway 4 (AH 4) could contribute to economic and social development in the three countries and agreed to discuss the possibility of formulating a trilateral legal instrument on transit transport by road with a focus on this particular route. The Office will provide support in facilitating further discussions.

Asia and Pacific Energy Forum

27-30 May 2013, Vladivostok, Russian Federation

The first Asia-Pacific Energy Forum was held by ESCAP and hosted by the Russian Government in Vladivostok. Thirty four countries attending the first United Nations intergovernmental meeting on energy in Asia and the Pacific, adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific: Shaping the Future of Sustainable Energy in Asia and the Pacific, together with its Action Plan.

With regard to East and North-East Asia, the Action Plan recommended (a) strengthening networking for exchange of information and views on energy security, (b) cooperating for intra-subregional energy trade, (c) establishing continuous dialogue on developing relevant bilateral and multilateral mechanisms, and (d) promoting subregional energy connectivity, including cross-border infrastructure development and intra-subregional power network. ENEA Office had been involved in the Forum by holding a subregional consultation meeting in November 2012 and supporting subsequent subregional processes before and during the Forum. In order to strengthen subregional networking, the Office plans holding a subregional workshop in October 2013.



<http://www.unescap.org/apef/official-documents.asp>

Supporting Mongolia's Green Civilization Strategy

3 June 2013, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia



Director of ENEA Office gives a presentation during the National Forum on Green Development in Mongolia

The Government of Mongolia in 2012 initiated restructuring and upgrading its Ministry of Environment, Nature and Tourism into the Ministry of Environment and Green Development. Since then, the ministry has worked on the formulation of Green Civilization Strategy and requested ESCAP to provide technical support. As such, ENEA Office and Environment and Development Division (EDD) together with the ministry held two events: an On-site e-Learning Training of Trainers Seminar on green growth approaches and policy tools on 10-12 April, and the Consultation

Meeting on Green Development Roadmap on 15-16 April, in Ulaanbaatar, respectively. Based on the consultation, ENEA and EDD have worked on a policy paper to provide technical inputs for the strategy development. The draft paper was presented by Mr. Ramakrishna to the Minister of Green Development during the National Forum on Green Development held on 3 June in Ulaanbaatar. In this paper, ESCAP suggests the Mongolian Government to formulate the strategy as the comprehensive national development strategy and create a virtuous cycle for economic competitiveness, social inclusion and ecological sustainability by investing in natural and human capital.



Upcoming Events

Subregional Cooperation in Support of Post-2015 Development Agenda

20 June 2013, Beijing, China

ESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia (SRO-ENEA) is organizing a seminar on East and North-East Asia Development Cooperation in Post 2015 in cooperation with the China Agricultural University and China International Development Network. The Seminar aims to bring together around 40 stakeholders and experts on development cooperation to discuss the challenges and opportunities for cooperation among development partners and recommendations on measures that will encourage ENEA stakeholders to work together towards contributing to the post 2015 development agenda.

Measuring Regional Integration in East and North-East Asia

18-19 July 2013, Incheon, Republic of Korea

With the slowdown of economic growth in major trading partners, the six subregional economies (China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, and Russian Federation) are facing an increasingly challenging external environment. Regional integration can be part of the solution in many ways.

The main objective of this meeting is to examine multi-sector indicators and discuss methodologies for measuring the magnitude and intensity of regional integration in East and North-East Asia. In addition to what are considered mainsprings of regionalism: intraregional trade, foreign direct investment, and migration, the study will also try to capture interactions and integration in other areas including energy, maritime resources, air pollution, cultural exchanges and institutional setups.

Promoting Cross-border Paperless Trade

22-23 July 2013, Incheon, Republic of Korea

In cooperation with ENEA Office and the Ministry of Strategy and Finance, Republic of Korea, ESCAP Trade and Investment Division is organizing a Subregional Capacity Building Workshop on Facilitating Cross-border Paperless Trade. At the 68th Session of the Commission held in May 2012, member countries adopted Resolution 68/3 Enabling paperless trade and the cross-border recognition of electronic data and documents for inclusive and sustainable intraregional trade facilitation, recognizing that electronic commerce enhances the expansion of trade opportunities and paperless trade has the potential to make international trade transactions more efficient and transparent.

The Workshop is organized to accelerate the implementation of national paperless trade systems and address emerging challenges by sharing national experiences and subregional approaches to paperless trade.



Other News

Visits of ENEA Office: Japanese and Mongolian Ambassador

9 April & 31 May 2013



Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna offers an office tour to the Japanese Ambassador (L) and the Mongolian Ambassador (C)

The director of ENEA paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Koro Bessho, Japanese Ambassador to ROK in April 2013. During the meeting, they exchanged views on economic, social and sustainable development, and reaffirmed the importance of the Office's role in promoting intergovernmental cooperation in North-East Asia. The Japanese and Mongolian Ambassador also visited our new office during the opening of the new premises in I-Tower for a brief tour.

Director of ENEA to Appear on Arirang TV

7 May 2013

Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna had a studio shooting for Heart to Heart, the main talk show of Arirang TV, an English-language broadcasting network in ROK. He talked about UNESCAP, the area of work carried out by the subregional office he is heading and the recent launch on the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013, among others. The show will be aired on 1 July 2013. Stay tuned!



Ms. Seung-yun Rah, host of Heart to Heart (R) and Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna during the studio shooting at Arirang TV

Seminar by Ambassador of Water Resources at MOFA, ROK

8 May 2013

Dr. Eun-Kyung Park, Ambassador for Water Resources at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of ROK offered us a passionate talk on the global discussion on water resources and preparation of World Water Forum 2015 in Daegu, ROK. She touched upon the new initiatives that will be undertaken during the upcoming Forum in her home country. Dr. Park also emphasized to research on mapping safe water access and shared the use of traditional knowledge in water resources.



Dr. Eun-Kyung Park, Ambassador for Water Resources gives a seminar at ENEA Office





Other News

Workshop on UN Organizations at Inha University

16 May 2013

Mr. Ka-Fa Wong, Programme Officer gave a presentation on the UN career and opportunities at UNESCAP to a group of students at the Inha University in Incheon. This annual workshop was organized by the UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Office in ROK. Other officers from the UN Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) and UN Office on Sustainable Development (UNOSD) joined the workshop to offer an informative talk to the students.

Benefits of Multicultural Society for Youth

27 May 2013

UNESCAP-ENEAs Associate Social Affairs Officer, Ms. Yuko Kitada, gave a presentation on "Benefits of Multicultural Society for Youth" at the "Paving the Future of Multicultural Asia" conference in Seoul. The Opening Ceremony was held at the National Assembly building where Congresswoman Ms. Jasmin Lee, the first naturalized citizen to become a member of the parliament in ROK, gave a keynote speech. Ms. Kitada's presentation discussed the benefits as well as challenges of building a multicultural society, emphasizing that all - including immigrants and receiving population - have roles to play in this common endeavour.

GGGS 2013 & A Visit by Foreign Minister of ROK

10 - 11 June 2013



Mr. Yun Byung-se (L), Foreign Affairs Minister of ROK

During the 3rd Global Green Growth Summit under the theme of "The Future of Green Growth: Finance, Innovation and Policy", the director of ENEA moderated one of the sessions on agriculture and food security. The Office also had an exhibition to promote the green growth programmes in the Asia-Pacific region by ESCAP and displayed a banner and key publications. Also, Mr. Yun Byung-se, the Foreign Affairs Minister of ROK paid a visit to our office and received a tour by the director.

A Seminar by Mongolian Minister

11 June 2013

We had a great privilege of having H.E. Ms. Sanjaasuren Oyun, Minister of Nature Environment and Green Development in Mongolia, in our office during her attendance to the Global Green Growth Summit 2013. She offered us a talk on the green civilization project that has been undertaken by her government in hopes to boost the sustainable development of environment. She also covered a wide range of work the Mongolian government has achieved to make a remarkable economic and social transition as a landlocked country in the region.



Ms. Sanjaasuren Oyun, the Mongolian Minister of Nature Environment and Green Development



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