

# CONNECTIONS

East and North-East Asia Office  
July - August 2013, Issue 8

## Director's Message

*Dr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna*

It has been a busy summer so far. During these two months we had visits by the Executive Secretary of UNESCAP, Dr. Noleen Heyzer and UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon to Korea. We were also able to support the very important meeting of the GCF Board in Songdo that selected the Executive Director of Green Climate Fund. During this period, our collaboration with the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat also bore fruit. In addition to these and many other activities, we managed to complete our long-in-gestation Second Consultative Meeting on Subregional Cooperation in North-East Asia and the Youth Forum on the beautiful Russky Island in Vladivostok, Russia. I want to highlight the key outcomes of our meetings in Vladivostok here.



Both the Consultative Meeting and the Youth Forum are special also for another reason. These showcased our emphasis on partnerships both within ESCAP and outside. We partnered with the Northeast Asia Economic Forum (NEAEF) which is held its 22nd meeting also in Vladivostok. NEAEF is attended by a group of very distinguished individuals who regularly keep under review issues of concern to North East Asia and generally have a long-term view.

By working with NEAEF we created a fine symbiotic relationship between our need to implement our programme of work, meet the concerns of our member countries and engage scholars interested in contributing to emerging policy framework with the vision and long term perspective of NEAEF membership. Having two of our colleagues from Bangkok, Mr. Dong-woo Ha, director of Transportation Division and Mr. Donald Clarke, director of Programme Planning and Partnership Division made the event that much more special.

Likewise the Youth Forum is a joint undertaking not only with another of ESCAP's subregional offices, the North and Central Asia Office, but also the Far Eastern Federal University, the Model United Nations of the Russian Federation (MUNRFE) and the Russian government. The enthusiasm and the can-do attitude of the younger generation, their realistic view of the world with the vision of the future they want kept us and them engaged in a most constructive dialogue over three days.

All the effort that goes into arranging these meetings is more than adequately recognized when our member States appreciate our efforts and say that the meetings helped them gain a better understanding of the common challenges of the subregion, as well as our Office's programmatic work. In addition, the Russian Federation, through Mr. Alexander Alimov, expressed his government's support for holding such consultations on a regular basis. Mr. Zhang Yue, Permanent Representative of China to ESCAP, made a special point of saying that having the directors from two substantive divisions of ESCAP enabled member States to clarify the roles and working relationships between Bangkok headquarters and the subregional office.

More detail on all these meetings is in the following pages as well as on our website. Our FB pages contain a lot more information and I encourage you to take a look at them as well.

I cannot close my message without mentioning how pleased we all are in the selection of Mr. Sangmin Nam, a Korean national, as Deputy Director. I am also pleased to mention that we have Ms. Ka Seen Chan, a national of UK, join us as Associate Environmental Affairs Officer beginning this month.

As always I hope you enjoy reading this edition of "Connections" and please don't hesitate to come back to us with any comments or questions.



*K. Ramakrishna*

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# Highlights

## Consultation Meeting on Subregional Cooperation in East and North-East Asia

16 -17 August 2013, Vladivostok, Russian Federation

The second Consultation Meeting on Subregional Cooperation in East and North-East Asia, held by ESCAP ENEA Office, took place on 16-17 August 2013 in Vladivostok, Russian Federation to seek opportunities for collaborating and developing programmes in support of the identified subregional priorities.

Stressing the important role of partnership and cooperation in the Northeast Asia subregion, representatives from the member countries of ENEA, substantive divisions from ESCAP headquarters, distinguished scholars and experts from the subregion underscored the progress and success of the programmes and activities carried out by the Office since its inauguration in 2010 and encouraged the prioritization of key development areas of member States.

The first day of the meeting was combined with the 22nd Northeast Asia Economic Forum with sessions on Regional Economic Cooperation, Energy and Environment, and Transportation and Logistics: Cross-border Infrastructure Development. The second day focused on the work programmes of the Office, an ESCAP theme study on regional connectivity and partnership for inclusive and sustainable development.

Our member countries in the subregion, as well as multilateral organizations such as the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) and the Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI) together with resource persons came together to discuss potential initiatives that we can take in implementing the 2014-2015 Programme of Work.



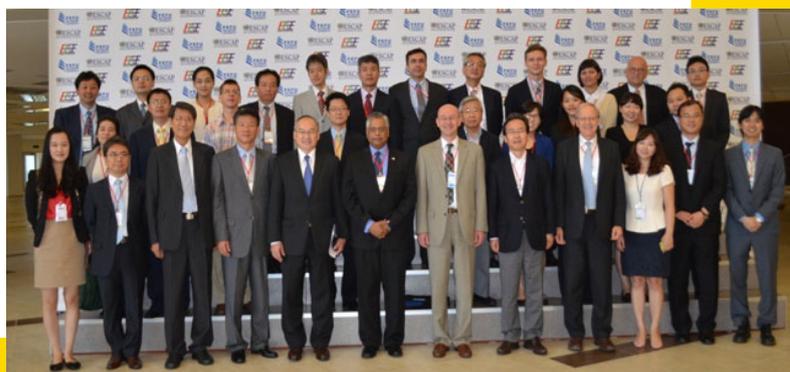
The 22nd Northeast Asia Economic Forum in partnership with ESCAP ENEA Office

Ambassador Bong-kil Shin, Secretary-General of TCS, reiterated in his remarks the ongoing collaboration with ENEA Office. Mr. Dong-Woo Ha, director of Transport Division of ESCAP gave a presentation on the theme study on Regional Connectivity. The experts at the meeting offered their views on this topic. Mr. Donald Clarke, director of Programme Planning and Partnership Division touched on ESCAP's strategy on partnership, and many indicated their continuous interest to work with us.

The delegates also noted the importance of coordinating with substantive divisions and regional institutions of ESCAP and taking account of different national priorities for activities, acknowledging the value of the consultation meeting that brought together member Governments and other stakeholders in pursuing ESCAP agenda.

During the meeting, various ideas were suggested for further strengthening subregional cooperation. Throughout thematic topics, participants made suggestions on capacity building and improving multi-sectoral connectivity, including people-to-people exchange and collaboration with private enterprises; subregional partnership on low carbon city; platform for inclusive and green growth and cross-border economic cooperation; trade network through supporting economic, trade corridors between country and supply chain cooperation; and subregional collaboration on disaster statistics.

Our member States also touched on the recently adopted resolution of the Commission and said that this meeting goes some ways in attracting higher and wider representation from member States and other stakeholders. In sum, the meeting generated very positive comments and feedback from member countries and other partners present.



A group photo of participants including government officials, experts and academia during the Consultation Meeting in Vladivostok, Russia



# Activities

## North-East Asian Development Cooperation in Post-2015

20 June 2013, Beijing, China

The Seminar on North-East Asian Development Cooperation in Post-2015 was organized by ENEA Office with China Agricultural University and China International Development Network. It focused on the challenges and opportunities for cooperation among development partners in North-East Asia region.

After the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4), Rio+20 and the establishment of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation



Experts and academia at the Seminar on North-East Asian Development Cooperation in Post-2015

(GPEDC), experts, academics and relevant policy-makers gathered to review lessons learned about development cooperation in ENEA, discussed their role in the broader development cooperation landscape and shared analytical policy inputs to further strengthen their contribution to achieving sustainable development results.

Given the growing importance of the countries in ENEA as a source of development funding, there is an opportunity to create a new building block for promoting shared principles and common goals. Furthermore, strengthening development cooperation at the subregional level is a critical part of the wider global drive for inclusive and sustainable development.

The meeting also took an in-depth look at recent trends in development resources in the subregion and the tools used for effective development cooperation, and teased out opportunities for stronger partnerships.

## Regional Integration Meeting in East and North-East Asia

18 – 19 July 2013, Incheon, Republic of Korea

ENEA Office had its first meeting in their new office space, the aptly named G-Tower. Academia, inter-governmental and international organizations gathered in Incheon, Republic of Korea for an expert group meeting on monitoring regional cooperation and integration in East and North-East Asia. The two-day meeting aimed to achieve three goals: defining integration, examining the system of regional integration indicators and building an index based on these indicators for measuring and monitoring regional integration.

The meeting was significant in that for the first time participants looked at regional integration at a subregional level from the angle of social, economic and environmental pillars. Issues and challenges of intraregional trade, energy, foreign direct investment, marine and air transportation networks, nature conservation in transboundary areas, cultural exchanges and social protection policies were amongst topics discussed.

Although traditionally economic integration was seen as the driving force for wider regional integration, environment and social interactions are increasingly being recognized as key drivers of integration. It is also noted that regional governance has been a “crucial



Participants and staff of ENEA Office of ESCAP at the Expert Group Meeting on Regional Indicators for Monitoring Regional Cooperation and Integration in ENEA

weakness” in promoting integration in Northeast Asia. The trilateral cooperation among China, Japan and the Republic of Korea has the potential to play a vital role in enlarging the cooperation to cover East Asia over time.

The meeting concluded that in order to accomplish holistic integration in North-East Asia developing clear goals, indicators and evaluation mechanisms are as important as creating a sense of community in the region and bringing in diverse stakeholders, not only governments, but also civil society and private sectors.



# Activities

## KHU Summer Programme & Sustainable Development Course by UNESCAP-ENEA

1 - 25 July 2013, Seoul, Republic of Korea



ENEA Office offered an academic course on sustainable development as part of the 2013 Global Collaborative Summer Programme organized by Kyung Hee University in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

With nearly 400 participants, including 250 international students representing 29 countries, this annual programme aims to pursue the ideals of tolerance and peace, cultural diversity and sustainability in harmony among all responsible stakeholders in a global community.

The course, titled Sustainable Development and the United Nations, included classes on: 1) UN in Asia-Pacific: Organizations and approaches, 2) Monitoring and mobilizing regional action for sustainable development, 3) Eradicating poverty and supporting economic development and 4) Formulating SDGs and planning their implementation.

Students had the chance to listen to first-hand experience and insights on the challenges and pressing issues of the SDGs from Dr. Ramakrishna, director of ENEA Office and other Officers.

## Promoting Cross-border Paperless Trade

22 - 24 July 2013, Incheon, Republic of Korea

In cooperation with the Ministry of Strategy and Finance, Republic of Korea, ESCAP Trade and Investment Division and ENEA Office held two consecutive meetings: Subregional Capacity Building Workshop on Facilitating Cross-border Paperless Trade and Subregional Meeting on Development of Regional Arrangements for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade.

At the 68th Session of the Commission in May 2012, member countries adopted Resolution 68/3: Enabling paperless trade and the cross-border recogni-

tion 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 aimed to accelerate the implementation of national paperless trade systems and addressed emerging challenges by sharing national experiences and subregional approaches to paperless trade.

## North-East Asia Forum on Trade and Transport Facilitation

6 August 2013, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia



The second North-East Asia Forum on Trade and Transport Facilitation, co-organized by ESCAP ENEA Office and the GTI

Participants in a one-day North-East Asia Forum on Trade and Transport Facilitation, co-organized by ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office and the Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI) reviewed the issues of trade financing and facilitation for closer cooperation in the region.

Following the first North-East Asia Forum on Trade Facilitation held last year in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, this year's forum brought together public and private sector stakeholders from North-East Asia, including China, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.

The Forum provided a better understanding of trade infrastructure gaps in the subregion and identified ways to finance these development projects. The North-East Asia EXIM Banks Association, created among GTI member States, has the potential to provide a platform for financing the infrastructure needs in the subregion. However, participants recognized that the Association members need to take greater ownership to keep the momentum going.



# Activities

## Youth Forum on the Implementation of Rio+20

19 – 21 August 2013, Vladivostok, Russia

The Youth Forum on the Implementation of Rio+20, co-organized by the two subregional offices of ESCAP - East and North-East Asia (ENEA) Office and the North and Central Asia (NCA) Office - held for three days at Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) in Vladivostok, brought together 29 youth representatives from 11 countries in the subregion.

The three thematic discussion topics, selected by the participants were 1) Water and sanitation, 2) Sustainable cities and human settlement, and 3) Education for sustainable development. After having a series of discussions, participants shared a final document that outlines the plan of future actions.



Youth Forum participants during the discussion session at Far Eastern Federal University in Russia

The Forum kicked off with a field trip to the Vladivostok city centre and the campus tour of the University organized by the Model United Nations of the Russian Federation (MUNRFE). The opening ceremony was attended by distinguished guests and scholars, including Dr. Sergey Ivanets, Rector of FEFU and Mr. Yuriy Saprykin, Deputy Head of Federal Agency on Youth Affairs, Ministry of Education and Science of Russia. A congratulatory video message from Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi, the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth was also delivered during the ceremony.

Among the proposals outlined in the three resolutions, the Water and Sanitation group called for establishing an International Water Council with youth participation. A group of participants from China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation expressed their deep concerns about the lack of effective assessment of fresh water quality in the subregions, highlighting the role of youth and children in taking part in such assessments.

The Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements group reaffirmed the significance of making our cities sustainable, given the rapid urbanization in the two subregions and beyond. The group emphasized the necessity of engaging youth groups in raising awareness about urban issues, including the need for expanding bicycle paths and addressing the widening gap between the rich and the poor, through the media and social networks.

Youth participants in the Education for Sustainable Development group proposed creating an information sharing network among youth organizations in the subregions, as well as involving youth and civil society towards promoting the principles of sustainable development in formal and informal education.



Youth Forum on the Implementation of Rio+20, co-organized by ESCAP's two subregional offices – East and North-East Asia Office and North and Central Asia Office

After extensive discussions, participants were asked to define what sustainable development meant to them. Mr. Wei Jiang, a participant from China Youth Climate Action Network said, "To me, it means every individual on earth will wake up without the fear that there is no tomorrow."

The youth resolutions will be available on the website of the two Offices. Further actions and projects implemented by the participating youth organizations will be also featured on the website.



# Upcoming Events

## **Training Workshop on Combating Desertification in North-East Asia**

22 - 28 September 2013, Beijing and Inner Mongolia, China



Subsequent to the completion of the NEASPEC project on "Implementing the Regional Master Plan for the Prevention and Control of Dust and Sandstorms (DSS) in North-East Asia," NEASPEC continues its efforts for building national capacity in Mongolia and to promote effective cross-border environmental cooperation throughout the subregion. In this regard, NEASPEC Secretariat and the Institute of Desertification Studies (IDS), Chinese Academy of Forestry, will jointly hold the second training workshop consisting of (i) lectures on policies and technical measures for combating desertification and (ii) field visits to various sites of successful projects on agriculture in dry land, aerial seeding afforestation, comprehensive sand control and ecological station in Inner Mongolia.

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## **Expert Group Meeting on Improving Disaster Data in Asia and the Pacific**

30 September – 1 October 2013, Sendai, Japan

ENEAS Office, in partnership with - Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD) and Statistics Division (SD) as well as Tohoku University in Sendai, Japan, will organize an expert group meeting on improving disaster data to enhance resilience in the Asia Pacific region. The meeting aims to address the information gap on disaster statistics by bringing together national experts to identify the current status of disaster data collection/dissemination in the region, to share practices and lessons learnt in other regions/countries in order to work towards establishment of a minimum core set of disaster data. At the same time, the EGM is expected to provide recommendations to the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction on improving disaster data.

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## **Expert Group Meeting on Conservation and Rehabilitation of Habitats for Key Migratory Birds in North-East Asia**

10 – 11 October 2013, Incheon, Republic of Korea

NEASPEC will organize an inception meeting for a new project "Conservation and Rehabilitation of Habitats for Key Migratory Birds in North-East Asia," which directly supports the Nature Conservation Strategy, adopted by the 12th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in 2007. The Strategy identified the flagship species of North-East Asia, including three species of feline animals (Snow Leopard, Amur Leopard and Amur Tiger) and three species of migratory birds, namely, the White-naped Crane, the Hooded Crane and the Black-faced Spoonbill.

After several years of developing and highlighting the importance of follow-up activities on the migratory birds species, this meeting will bring together national experts and other stakeholders to review subregional and national challenges related to the conservation of the migratory bird species and their habitats, as well as to develop an implementation plan for the project components including joint survey and study, capacity building on habitat management, strategy for habitat conservation and rehabilitation, and awareness raising on habitat conservation.

## 60th Anniversary of Korea War Armistice



Dr. Heyzer, Executive Secretary of ESCAP at the 60th Anniversary with President Park on her right side

Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Secretary of ESCAP visited Seoul to deliver a message during the 60th Anniversary of Korea War Armistice on behalf of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The message highlighted that restarting credible dialogue and meaningful engagement is the first step towards permanent resolution of the Korean conflict.

Her schedule included joining the Peace Concert with 400 delegates, war veterans and public at the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), attending the ceremony and special exhibition at UN Memorial Ceremony in Busan and a luncheon hosted by President Park Geun-hye.

## ENEA Office & Youth Engagement Activity

ENEA Office has continually engaged and interacted with young people by offering talks on the UN, ESCAP and the Office to the following groups during July and August 2013:

Date	Organizations
Wednesday, 3 July	Kyung Hee University
Friday, 12 July	Yonsei University
Monday, 15 July	Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat(TCS) Young Leaders Programme
Thursday, 25 July	Monthly Lecture for Friends of UN
Friday, 26 July	Incheon University
Friday, 26 July	- Brighter Future Education - Model UN of Seoul by Chosun Education
Wednesday, 7 August	Incheon International Relations Foundation



A student group from Yonsei University visiting ESCAP ENEA Office

## UNSG Ban's Visit to Republic of Korea



SG Ban speaking at the Post-2015 Korea Forum in Seoul

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited his home country from 22 to 27 August 2013. During his six-day visit in the Republic of Korea, he attended the launch of the Post-2015 Korea Forum, a consultative body of major stakeholders on the UN's post-2015 development agenda, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Ban also gave a press briefing on Syria and other global issues, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and spoke at a UN Academic Impact event, stressing the power of education. In addition, he addressed a breakfast roundtable with business leaders involved in the UN Global Compact Network in ROK.

## GCF Board Meeting in Songdo

ENEA Office was pleased to be of some assistance to the GCF Board meetings held in Songdo, Incheon. At its first meeting (2nd of the Board) in Songdo (October 2012) GCF Board decided on Songdo (Republic of Korea) as the place for its global headquarters. At its second meeting (4th of the Board) held also in Songdo (July 2013), the



GCF Executive Director, Ms. Hela Cheikhrouhou

GCF Board named Ms. Hela Cheikhrouhou, a Tunisian national, as the first Executive Director of the GCF Secretariat. Ms. Hela Cheikhrouhou paid a visit to our Office earlier in the month. We are looking forward to GCF co-locating its secretariat with us and other UN Offices in G-Tower. We look forward to collaborating closely with GCF secretariat as they start their operations in their (and our) new home from October onwards.



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