MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AND
THE INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) affirm their desire to work together in areas of mutual interest of promoting sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific through the present Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

II. PURPOSE OF ESCAP-IGES COOPERATION

2. As both ESCAP and IGES have been established with mandates to address environmental and sustainable development challenges in Asia and the Pacific through promotion of regional cooperation, rigorous analysis, knowledge sharing, and policy dialogues and provision of policy recommendations, ESCAP and IGES plan to work together:

   (a) to synergize their work on environment and sustainable development to increase the effectiveness and impact of their respective work; and

   (b) to enhance science-policy interface in Asia and the Pacific in the areas of environment and sustainable development through joint analytical works that promote informed policy dialogues.

III. GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR ESCAP-IGES COOPERATION

3. ESCAP and IGES will be guided by the following general principles:

   (a) the two Organizations will focus on shared strategic and operational priorities;

   (b) the two Organizations use the comparative strengths and advantages of each Organization in the delivery of results; and

   (c) this MOU imposes no legal obligations upon any party hereto.

IV. FOCUS OF ESCAP-IGES JOINT ACTIVITIES

4. The priority area for joint activities would be sustainable development, which may be amended from time to time with the mutual written consent of the Parties. Collaborative activities may include production and dissemination of analytical works and policy tools, promotion of knowledge sharing and regional cooperation, and organization of policy dialogues with appropriate audience and quality policy recommendations to assist ESCAP member States in working toward sustainable development, in particular, implementation and follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Specific activities include development of publications, the Asia-Pacific regional roadmap to sustainable development and regional assessment on environment and development policy integration. ESCAP
and IGES may cooperate in the area of climate change, in particular climate finance, building on the existing research collaboration. The Parties may discuss collaboration on regional forums on sustainable development (such as the International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific hosted by IGES and the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development organized by ESCAP) to find complementarity.

V. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

5. ESCAP and IGES recognize that effective cooperation depends on open, comprehensive and regular exchange of information at the institutional level. They agree to make appropriate arrangements to give notice when considered of mutual interest, through information posted on the websites of each organization, of:

- conferences, seminars and workshops being organized or sponsored;
- regional, country, sector and thematic policy/strategy documents;
- programme and project approval documents; and
- regional programme, country programme, sectoral, project and other evaluations.

VI. RECIPROCAL INVITATIONS

6. ESCAP and IGES recognize that appropriate representation is important for the purpose of joint positioning and advocacy. They agree that:

(a) reciprocal invitations will be extended to the other organization to attend the International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific, the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the ESCAP annual sessions; and

(b) invitations to other meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops relevant to cooperation in the priority areas will be sent, where appropriate.

VII. PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS

7. ESCAP and IGES recognize that it is important to convene periodic consultations to review what is being planned, what is being implemented, and what is being achieved in terms of results as well as to discuss new challenges, opportunities and problems. They agree to hold such consultations periodically as required and not less than once every two years.

VIII. FOCAL POINTS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE MOU

8. ESCAP and IGES agree to designate as focal points for the activities under this MoU:

(a) for ESCAP: Director, Environment and Development Division

(b) for IGES: Head, General Affairs Division
IX. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE MOU AND JOINT ACTIVITIES

9. ESCAP and IGES will prepare annually a list of existing and planned operational cooperation activities that are considered of mutual interest.

10. ESCAP and IGES agree that:

(a) the Parties will conduct a joint review or evaluation of the ESCAP-IGES cooperation two years after signature of this MoU, in consultation with the evaluation offices of the respective organizations; and

(b) these assessments will be reviewed by ESCAP and IGES in considering further cooperation activities, including any necessary amendments to this MoU.

X. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND USE OF INSTITUTIONAL EMBLEMS

11. ESCAP and IGES recognize that the involvement of both organizations in joint cooperation activities needs to be publicized. They agree that:

(a) there will be public acknowledgment of the role and contribution of each organization to cooperation projects in all public information documentation related to such cooperation; and

(b) the use of emblems of each organization in documentation related to cooperation will be in accord with the current policies of each organization concerning such usage.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS

12. The term of this MoU will be from the date of signature by both Parties until 31 December 2020.

13. Any specific activities under this MoU shall be covered by a project document or written agreement.

14. This MoU may be amended by mutual written consent of the Parties.

15. This MoU may be terminated by either Party on six months notice in writing.

For the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Shamshad Akhtar
Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

3 April, 2016
Bangkok, Thailand

For Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

Hironori Hamanaka
Chair of the Board of Directors IGES

3 April, 2016
Bangkok, Thailand