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English Only

**Sixth High Level Officials' Meeting
of the Regional Forum on Environment
and Health in Southeast and East
Asian Countries, 23-24 October 2012
Bandung, Republic of Indonesia**

MEETING REPORT

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Sixth High-Level Officials' Meeting on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian countries was jointly organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Offices for the Western Pacific and South-East Asia, and hosted by the Government of the Indonesia on 23-24 October 2012 in Bandung, Indonesia. The meeting was attended by high-level officials of health and environment agencies from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam as well as representatives from a number of international and regional partners. The meeting was chaired by Ms Kyunghhee Choi of Republic of Korea and co-chaired by Dr Lokman Hakim Sulaiman, Deputy Director General (Public Health), Ministry of Health, Malaysia. The list of participants is attached in Annex A while the programme is in Annex B.

2. The objectives of the meeting are as follows: (1) to provide updates by the countries on the progress in national actions since the Fifth High-Level Meeting, particularly in the development and implementation of their National Environmental Health Action Plans (NEHAP) or equivalent plans; (2) to discuss the findings and recommendations of the Task Force on governance, partnerships, impacts and sustainable financial mechanism of the Regional Forum; and (3) to discuss the preparation for the Third Ministerial Regional Forum on Environment and Health, to be held in 2013 in Malaysia.

II. OPENING SESSION

2. The opening session was addressed Dr Hussein Zakir, Regional Advisor on Environmental Health and Climate Change, WHO-SEARO; Dr Han Tieru, Director, Programme Management, WHO-WPRO; Mr. Jonathan Gilman, Regional Coordinator of Inter-Agency and Country Level Coordination, United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific; and Ms Hermien Roosita, Executive Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Indonesia.

3. Dr. Zakir highlighted that environmental protection, social inclusion and economic development have been identified very strongly as the pillars of Sustainable Development since 2002 United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. This has since been strengthened further in the

Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development. He further emphasized that meaningful development cannot be achieved in the absence of health. His speech is attached in Annex C.

4. Mr Gilman shared the relevance and niche of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in recent international activities. The 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development recognized the seven environmental health priorities of the Regional Forum which are reflected in the Rio outcome document. He cited some potentials of the Regional Forum, such as: (a) it can feed into the current debate on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-2015 development agenda (Rio +20 agenda) and in promoting science-based policy; (b) its institutional mechanism jibes with the Rio+20 statements on the role of inter-governmental arrangements for sustainable development to face future issues and achieve the SDGs; (c) regional frameworks are regarded as critical for sustainable development as they are a means to complement and facilitate the translation of policies into concrete actions at the national level; and (d) it can act as a platform to support knowledge exchange and share the lessons learnt in the development and implementation of the NEHAPs. His speech is attached in Annex C.

5. Dr Tieru stressed that environment and demographic changes are causing impact on the epidemiology of diseases as manifested by a two-fold or more increase in the burden of disease due to these changes. Some facts he mentioned are as follows: (a) non-communicable diseases and diseases caused by pollution and environmental hazards are increasing; (b) environmental health hazards cause approximately 2.9 million deaths—or 24% of the total annual deaths in the Western Pacific Region—resulting in 58.8 million disability-adjusted life years lost; (c) more than 90% of these disease burdens and associated deaths occur in developing countries in the Region; and (d) these diseases are caused by unsafe water, poor sanitation and hygiene, indoor and outdoor air pollution, toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes, noise, radiation, housing and community risks, traffic, unsafe occupational and recreational environments, inadequate water resource management and land use, man-made environmental emergencies, climate and ecosystem changes. He recognized the inter-sectoral collaboration between WHO and UNEP and the health and environment ministries of member countries. He suggested the Forum to: (a) focus on key activities to be sustained, evaluate the outcomes with core indicators and demonstrate that it pays to invest in environmental health; (b) honour the country commitments to the thematic working groups and the national environmental health action plans; (c) strengthen and sustain administrative and technical support to the thematic working groups; and (d) advocate more, through effective media coverage, showing that environmental health is an essential preventive measure for better health. His speech is attached in Annex C.

6. Ms Roosita appreciated the importance of the Regional Forum in integrating resources to address environment and health problems at regional and national level. She cited a number of problems related to health and environment in Indonesia, such as freshwater scarcity and sanitation, increase of domestic and industrial wastes, low air quality, and increase of hazardous materials and wastes. She mentioned the passage of Act Number 32 and 36 in 2009 which cover environment quality to obtain betterment in health. The development of NEHAP was also reported. She further said that the 6th High Level Officials' Meeting is very timely in asking member countries on the commitment to move forward considering the bigger challenges due to economic crises in many countries and regions,

resulting in the increased burden on the environment and human health. She emphasized the importance of keeping the commitment to the existence of this Forum. She believed that collaboration among member countries could result in synergy and increased capacity in coping with the issue of environment and health in the region. She then declared that the 6th High-level Officials' Meeting as officially opened. Her speech is attached in Annex C.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The Chair invited the participants to review the proposed agenda. Since there were no comments from the floor, the proposed agenda was adopted.

IV. SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATION

8. Dr Budi Haryanto of the Department of Environmental Health, Research Center for Climate Change, University of Indonesia presented a topic on air pollution entitled: **Air Pollution Health Impacts: The Biggest Environmental Health Challenges**. He discussed the health impact of air pollution, status and sources of air pollution in Indonesia, and the economic costs of health impact in Jakarta through estimation of cost of illness due to air pollution.

IV. REVIEW OF REGIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES

9. The Secretariat (WHO/UNEP) presented the updates of regional activities. Considering the significant environmental burden of diseases in the Asian region, the Health and Environment Linkage initiative was formed and was launched in the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. This initiative led to the establishment of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian region. Key features of the Forum are the activities of High Level Officials, Thematic Working Groups, Advisory Board, and the conduct of Scientific Conference and Ministerial Meeting.

10. Five high-level officials' meetings were conducted on the following dates and venues: Manila (November 2004); Bangkok (December 2005); Bangkok (August 2007); Beijing (March 2009); and Jeju (July 2010). Key outputs of these meetings are recommendation to convene ministerial meeting, draft Charter of the Regional Forum, reviews and agreements on regional priorities and work plans as well as development of NEHAPs and its equivalent plans.

11. Two Ministerial Meetings were held in: Bangkok (August 2007), and Jeju (July 2010). Major outputs of these meetings are the approval of Charter of Regional Forum, work plans of the respective thematic working groups, as well as the Bangkok and Jeju Declarations.

12. Five Advisory Board Meetings were conducted in: Bangkok (August 2007); Jeju (April 2008); Beijing (March 2009); Jeju (July 2010); and Bangkok (October 2012). Major outputs of these meetings are agreements on: TWG plans, website of the Forum; templates and schedule of progress reporting; communication guidelines; inclusion of HIA as a new TWG; role, structure and composition of the

Task Force; methodology for rotating chairs; renewal of TWG membership; and progress report of the Task Force.

13. Four Scientific Conferences were held in: Bangkok (December 2005); Seoul (April 2007); Jeju (April 2008); and Seoul (September 2010). Key topics discussed were emerging and priority environmental health issues in the region; environmental effects on human health with focus on vulnerable groups (pregnant women, infants, children, and elderly); and adaptation and mitigation policies in response to the risk of climate change.

14. Three Task Force meetings were conducted which were held in: Manila (June 2011), Bangkok (October 2011), and Bangkok (August 2012). The Task Force discussed the progress of their report on reviewing the relevance and effectiveness of the Regional Forum.

15. There are eight member countries whose NEHAP or equivalent plans can be accessed at the Forum's website, such as China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Mongolia, Singapore, and Thailand. Other member countries are still in the process of finalization and approval of their NEHAPs.

16. Last part of the presentation tackled the Rio+ 20 highlights (i.e. cross-sectoral priorities on water, sanitation and climate change; sustainable development goals, and inter-governmental arrangements for SDGs); initiatives of European Region in health and environment process; and the next upcoming activities (i.e. 3rd Ministerial Meeting in 2013; Task Force recommendations; and Rio+20 outcomes).

V. REVIEW OF NATIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES

17. About ten member countries presented their NEHAPs or its equivalent plans (i.e. Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam). They reported on the progress made by their countries since the Second Ministerial Meeting and the Fifth High-Level Officials' Meeting.

18. Generally, all countries have made progress in policy environment to support inter-ministerial or inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation on environment and health. Overall there was significant progress made after the Jeju meeting, although there are varying degrees and nature of progress made on strategies, plans, programmes, projects and activities.

19. Favourable policies for cooperation between the health and the environment sectors were observed in Cambodia (the MOU signed between the Ministries of Health and Environment; and the Prime Minister's Decree for the National Committee on Environment and Health); China (12th 5-year Plan for Environmental Health Work of the National Environmental Protection); Indonesia (Law No. 32 and 36); Republic of Korea (Master Plan on Environmental Health and the Environmental Health Act); Japan (Basic Environmental Law and Basic Environmental Plan); Laos (National Policy on Environmental Health Linkage); Philippines (Executive Order for Inter Agency Committee on

Environment and Health); Thailand (2nd National Environmental Health Strategic Plan); and Vietnam (Several laws and policies supporting environment and health concerns).

20. Strong institutional mechanism for cooperation between various relevant government agencies exists in Cambodia (comprising of 27 members); Indonesia (11 members); Republic of Korea (3 lead agencies), Philippines (11 members); Laos and Malaysia (multi-agency committees).

21. Some countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Philippines, and Thailand) presented cross-cutting strategies, such as: collaboration, coordination, information system, risk management, capacity building, research and development, and monitoring.

22. Most countries have Thematic Working Groups at the National Levels i.e. Cambodia (7 TWGs); China (2 TWGs); Indonesia (8 TWGs); Japan (3 TWGs); Laos (5 TWGs); Malaysia (11 TWGs); Philippines (10 TWGs); and Thailand (7 TWGs). There are some countries that have specialized areas of works such as Biodiversity and Nuclear Safety in Japan; Systems for Health Damages and Environmental Media Management in Korea; Food safety and Health Care Setting for Lao PDR.

23. As a whole, countries have made significant progress in strengthening coordination between the health and environment sectors through interagency/inter-ministerial committees. Since its inception, the Regional Forum has had impacts on strengthening national environmental health programmes and health systems such as the National Environmental Health Action Plans (NEHAPs) or equivalent plans.

VI. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE

24. Dr. Daud bin Abdul Rahim, from the Ministry of Health of Malaysia, Chair of the Task Force presented the Report (Annex E for the details of Task Force Report). Major findings and recommendations are as follows:

24.1 Governance: The Task Force recommends to (a) rephrase the goals and objectives of the Charter for clarity; (b) TWGs to meet annually; (c) review and improve the terms of reference and membership of the TWGs; (d) enhance the roles of the TWGs; (e) clarify the responsibilities of the Regional Forum Chair and Vice Chair and establish a rotation procedure; (f) confer some decision-making authority to High Level Meetings to avoid waiting for decision at the Ministerial Meetings in three years; and (g) strengthen the joint WHO-UNEP Secretariat.

24.2 Partnerships: The Task Force recommends the improvement and strengthening of internal and external partnerships in the Regional Forum by applying synergy especially with the participation of more international development agencies and other national agencies such as energy, agriculture, transportation, etc.

24.3 Impacts of the Regional Forum: The Regional Forum showed positive impacts at the country level. Member countries viewed the Forum as an effective mechanism for sharing knowledge and experiences, has improved the policy and regulatory frameworks, and has promoted the implementation of integrated environmental health strategies and regulations. The Task Force recommends the continuity of the Forum because it has been an important platform of cooperation between the health and environment sectors.

24.4 Financial Mechanism to Sustain the Regional Forum: Sustaining the Forum activities requires financial resources estimated at a minimum of USD 1 million for three years. Currently, the Forum activities are partly supported by member countries and partly by the Secretariat. Two options are proposed for sources of funds to support the Forum: (a) contribution from all member countries; and (b) contribution from international partners and organizations. The most favoured mechanism is option A in the form of voluntary contributions based on the UN assessment scale. Three alternatives have been proposed for option A as shown in the Task Force Report (Annex E). In addition, Regional Forum Trust Fund was proposed to be established.

25. Comments of the countries on the Task Force Report

23.1 China questioned the legality of the Regional Forum as an entity for China to contribute. China felt that the Regional Forum is only a framework of cooperation and is not legally binding. Notwithstanding its stand on the financial contribution, China acknowledged the positive impacts of the Regional Forum.

23.2 Japan expressed serious concern and disagreed with the financial mechanism proposed. Japan questioned if the financial analysis was thoroughly carried out. He also questioned the process of soliciting the feedback on the Task Force financial proposal. He further highlighted that there are many existing regional meetings or forums related to environment and health and duplication of these meetings with the TWG meetings.

23.3 Cambodia and Laos expressed the positive contribution of the Regional Forum to their countries. Laos requested to show the basis of computation of the financial proposal.

23.4 Indonesia recommended that the contributions to the Regional Forum could be made in kind by the host countries and delegates could support their own travel expenses.

24.5 Malaysia, Thailand and Republic of Korea expressed their support to the Regional Forum and the recommendations on the financial mechanisms of the forum. However, they will also bring back the Task Force Report for consultation at the country level.

24.6 The Philippines expressed the positive impact of the Forum in terms of improving coordination at the national level, exposure to regional activities and sharing of technical information. With regards to financial commitment, this concern has to be discussed with higher officials of the country. In some cases, financial commitment may need legislation.

25. Recommendations and Agreements on the Task Force Report

25.1 The Task Force ceased its tasks at the 6th High Level Official Meeting in Bandung and the Report was turned over to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Forum. This Report then will be called Chair and Vice-Chair Report, instead of Task Force Report.

25.2 The Regional Directors of WHO-WPRO, WHO-SEARO and UNEP-ROAP will send a joint memo to member countries to re-circulate the Report and obtain official feedbacks, including comments to the Forum's Charter.

25.3 The Secretariat, under the supervision of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Forum, will collate feedbacks from member countries as basis for preparing the Revised Report and the Revised Charter.

25.4 The Revised Report and the Revised Charter will then be circulated again to member countries for review and comments. After getting the feedbacks for both documents, the final version of the Report and the revised Charter will be prepared for final consultation at the 7th High-Level Official Meeting and Ministerial Meeting in September 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

26. Discussion on Thematic Working Groups. The discussion on TWGs was moderated by Indonesia. TWG Chairs on HIA (Korea), Climate Change (Indonesia), Air Quality (Korea) and Contingency Planning (Philippines) presented the updates of the TWG they are responsible with and discussed the issues and concerns they encountered. The following are the highlights of issues and concerns:

26.1 TWG chair on contingency planning mentioned that she has no personality in inviting other member countries in regional activities considering that her formal functions is limited to her country coordination.

26.2 The role of TWGs for the development and review of NEHAPs should be explored. It was suggested that all TWGs should review all the NEHAPs to determine gaps, possible areas of collaboration, and technical assistance needed.

26.3 Other comments discussed were: (a) rotation mechanisms of TWG chairs should be clear and institutionalized; (b) TWG chairs as members of the Advisory Board is not effective; (c) seven TWG chairs should meet altogether to discuss common and cross-cutting issues and appraise each other on the progress of each activities; (e) duplication of TWG activities with other regional bodies should be translated into synergy; (f) mechanisms for reviewing NEHAP must be in place soon.

26.4 All the above TWG issues should be considered in the review and revision of the Forum's Charter.

27. Discussion on the Third Ministerial Regional Forum

27.1 The mechanism and time frame for submission of Task Force Report to countries, review of the Regional Forum's Charter, and official feedback on Task Force Report and Charter were discussed and agreed. Annex D shows the work plan and details of the follow-up activities prior to the 3rd Ministerial Meeting.

27.2 Conduct of the preparatory works for the 3rd Ministerial Meeting was also discussed (venue, date, programme, invitation, and support of the host country to other country delegates).

28. Technical presentations and updates from regional and international partners

28.1 Dr. Jesada Luangjame presented the “**The concrete future development of the EANET on human health impact of air pollution**”. She described the health impact of particulate matter and ozone on health. She showed increasing trend in the concentrations of particulate matter and a declining trend in the concentration of ozone from 2001-2011 in selected countries in Asia. The Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) with 13 member countries was established as a regional cooperative initiative to promote efforts for environmental sustainability and protection of human health in the East Asian region.

28.2 Ms May Ajero, Air Quality Program Manager, Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia) presented “**The State of Air Quality and its Management in Asia**”. She reported that most Asian countries have ambient Air Quality standards except for Afghanistan and Myanmar (as of August 2012). In addition, she said that several countries still do not have standards for PM_{2.5}. CAI-Asia was established as the premier air quality network for Asia in 2001 with about 8 member countries in Asia. It has air quality and climate change program. CAI-Asia supports and collaborates with the Regional Forum as an International/NGO member and acts as the knowledge hub of the Air Quality TWG.

IX. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

29. Dr Choi, Chair of the High-Level Officials Meeting, expressed her appreciation to the host country Indonesia for its hospitality; all members of the TWGs, and Secretariat (UNEP and WHO) for their support during the meeting.

30. Dr Tieru of WHO acknowledged the strong leadership of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Forum for successfully conducting the Meeting. He also thanked the hospitality of Indonesia for hosting the meeting.

31. Dr Rachmat Sentika, Senior Advisor on MDGs Achievement Office of Coordinating Minister for People Welfare, Republic of Indonesia appreciated the efforts of all delegates in making concrete action and significant progress to increase environmental health quality in Asia communities with special thanks to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment of Indonesia for hosting the event in collaboration with UNEP and WHO. He cited that health and environment have become global concerns as population grows rapidly, natural resources being depleted, and the quality of the

environment deteriorated wherein this concerns had been reflected in UNCSD (WEHAB) 2002 and UNCSD (Rio+20) 2012. He mentioned that more than three million children worldwide under the age of five died each year from environment-related causes such as pollution, water resources, and lack of sanitation where many of them lived in Asia countries. He aspired that the progressive economic growth in Asia should not give negative impact on children as these are the people of the next generation. Thus, there should be a balance between economic interest, environment, and health which should be considered as part of the challenges toward post MDGs 2015. He also appreciated Malaysia's initiative to host the 2013 Ministerial Meeting. He then declared the Meeting as officially closed.

32. Dr. Choi seconded the official closing of the meeting and hoped that the 6th High-level Official Meeting has contributed to the progress of activities towards achieving sustainable environment and health. She looked forward for the next High-level Officials meeting in Malaysia in 2013 and wished everyone to have a safe travel back home.

Annex A

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Annex B Programme

DAY 1: 23 October 2012, Tuesday		
08:00 – 09:00	Registration	
09:00 – 09:30	Opening Remarks by the Host Secretariat Master of Ceremony (MC) and the National Anthem of the Republic of Indonesia Opening Remarks by Dr Athula Kahandaliyanage, Director Sustainable Development and Healthy Environment, WHO-SEARO Opening Remarks by Mr. Jonathan Gilman, Regional Coordinator of Inter-Agency and Country Level Coordination, United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Opening Remarks by Dr Han Tieru, Director of Programme Management, WHO-WPRO	Indonesia WHO-SEARO UNEP-ROAP WHO-WPRO
09:30 – 09:45	Welcome and Opening of the 6th High-Level Official Meeting by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia: • Executive Secretary, Ministry of Environment • Senior Official from Ministry of Health	Indonesia
09:45 – 10:15	Scientific Presentation on Environmental Health by the host country	Indonesia
10:15 – 10:30	<i>Coffee break and Group Photo</i>	
10:30 – 10:35	Adoption of the agenda of the High Level meeting	Chair: Republic of Korea Vice-Chair: Malaysia
10:35 – 11:00	Update on the regional level activities since the Second Ministerial Meeting and the Fifth High Level Meeting	UNEP, WHO
11:00 – 12:00	Review of the progress on national actions (NEHAP) since the Second Ministerial Meeting and Fifth High	By country Facilitated by

	Level Meeting Brunei Darussalam Cambodia China Indonesia Country Summary by Secretariat	Chair/Vice-Chair
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch break</i>	
13:30 – 15:30	(continuation) Review of the progress on national actions (NEHAP) since the Second Ministerial Meeting and Fifth High Level Meeting Japan Republic of Korea Lao People's Democratic Republic Malaysia Mongolia Myanmar Country Summary by Secretariat	By country Facilitated by Chair/Vice-Chair
15:30 – 15:45	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:45 – 17:00	(continuation) Review of the progress on national actions (NEHAP) since the Second Ministerial Meeting and Fifth High Level Meeting Philippines Singapore Thailand Viet Nam Country Summary by Secretariat	By country Facilitated by Chair/Vice-Chair
18:30 – 20:00	Reception dinner (hosted by the Government of Republic of Indonesia)	
DAY 2: 24 October 2012, Wednesday		
08:30 – 09:00	Review of Day 1 discussions	Chair
09:00 – 10:30	Presentation and discussion on the findings and recommendations of the Task Force (governance, impacts)	Advisory Board, Facilitated by

		Vice-Chair
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:45 – 12:00	Presentation and discussion on the findings and recommendations of the Task Force (partnerships, sustainable financial mechanisms)	Advisory Board, Facilitated by Vice-Chair
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch break</i>	
13:30 – 14:00	Plenary discussion/comments on the findings and recommendations of the Task Force	Moderated by Chair
14:00 – 15:00	Panel discussion on Thematic Working Groups, opportunities and challenges	TWG Chairs
15:00 – 15:30	Plenary discussion on the process for the reviewing of the Charter of the Regional Forum	Moderated by Chair
15:30 – 15:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
15:45 – 16:30	Technical presentations and updates from regional and international partners <i>"The concrete future development of the EANET on human health impact of air pollution"</i> <i>"Updates of Clean Air Initiatives of Asia"</i>	Moderated by Chair ACAP/EANET CAI-Asia
16:30 – 17:00	Discussion on the Third Ministerial Regional Forum	Vice-Chair,
17:00 – 17:30	Closing of the meeting Closing remarks by host government	Chair WHO, UNEP

Annex C

Key Messages

1. Opening Messages

1.1 Dr Hussain, A.M. Zakir, Regional Advisor, Environmental Health & Climate Change, WHO Regional Office for South East Asia

Greetings from the South East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) of the World Health Organization. SEARO is happy to be a part of the Secretariat of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health for South East and East Asia, which has been formed with a noble venture of bringing in the Ministries of Health and Environment of the Member Countries of the Forum to a common platform.

Environmental protection, social inclusion and economic development have been identified very strongly as the pillars of Sustainable Development since 2002 United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, which has since been strengthened further in the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development. It has also been recognised that sustainable development will not be achieved without the absence of disease and infirmity.

Health, as you can surmise, on the other hand, depends on all the pillars of sustainable development. Meaningful development cannot be achieved in absence of health. Development needs the strength of merit and labour, both of which need perfectly working body and minds.

Drawing the kind attention of the select high level officials of the member countries of the Forum to the fact, as spelled out, I thank the people and the Government of Indonesia for so very kindly hosting the event so efficiently and cordially.

On behalf of the Secretariat I also thank the esteemed high level officials, the member and chair of the Advisory Board, the member and chair of the task Force and my colleagues in the Secretariat for their untiring work and past and anticipated contributions.

Please have a pleasant and memorable stay in this beautiful city of Bandung and wish you a safe and comfortable journey back.

1.2 Mr. Jonathan Gilman, Regional Coordinator of Inter-Agency and Country Level Coordination, UNEP ROAP, (on behalf of the Regional Director)

- Ms. Hermien Roosita, Executive Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Indonesia
- Honourable Mr. Ryutaro Yatsu, Vice Minister for Global Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Japan
- Dr. Han Tieru, Director, Programme Management WHO WPRO
- Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen. Good Morning.

Let me begin by passing on the sincere apologies of the UNEP Regional Director For Asia and the Pacific, Dr. Young Woo Park, who unfortunately could not make it to this meeting. He has asked me to read a statement on his behalf and to extend his wishes to us all for a fruitful discussion and collaboration.

UNEP would like to use this opportunity to acknowledge and convey sincere thanks to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, and the local host, City of Bandung for convening this meeting.

The fourteen member countries of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health have achieved considerable success in the area of environmental health since the first High Level meeting in Manila 2004. At this week's meeting, we will review this progress and the clear commitment in targeting the most pressing issues of environmental health in the region, and in collaborating in addressing them through the platform of the Regional Forum and its Thematic Working Groups. The significance and relevance of the Regional Forum's programme and the seven Thematic Working Group is demonstrated in the work of member states including and notably through the National Environmental Health Action Plans or equivalent policies that have been adopted, and the strengthened coordination between the health and environment sectors at the institutional level.

UNEP believes that the work of this Forum has become increasingly important in the context of the recent United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio in June. All seven environmental health priorities of the Regional Forum have been recognized and are reflected in the Rio outcome document. Reiterating Principle 1 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (which states that "human beings are at the centre of concern for sustainable development and they are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature"), the Rio+20 consensus indicated human health as a precondition for, an outcome of, and an indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development, including the environmental dimension.

The way forward described in the outcomes of Rio+20 calls for the development of a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to support the pursuit of coherent action on sustainable development. There is a clear case for the SDGs to include issues of environmental health and their implementation. The progress towards the achievement of the goals will have to be assessed and accompanied by targets and indicators taking into account the different national and regional circumstances. We should remember here the long experience of the Regional Forum in the development of common environmental health indicators; which has been one of the tasks of the thematic working groups. In this regard we see the potential for the work of the Forum to feed into the current debate on SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda.

The Rio+20 outcome document also stresses the role of intergovernmental arrangements for sustainable development in order to face future issues and achieve the SDGs. Regional frameworks are regarded as critical for sustainable development as they are a means to complement and facilitate the translation of policies into concrete actions at the national level. More

specifically, we believe this Regional Forum on Environment and Health also has great potential for promoting science based policy, another important issue raised in the Rio outcome document.

The Second Ministerial Meeting in Jeju on July 2010 seems to have foreseen this emerging potential of the Regional Forum, when Ministers established a Task Force to review and revise operating mechanisms, tasks, priorities and future strategic partnerships to make them more responsive to the member countries' needs. Tomorrow we will in fact discuss the findings and recommendations of the Task Force, and we will also define the process for the revision of the governing Charter. These discussions will define a crucial moment for the future of the Regional Forum and also potentially articulate how the Forum can play a role in implementing the Rio +20 agenda through the collaboration of the fourteen member states, and with the support of WHO and UNEP.

More specifically there is clear niche for the Regional Forum to act as a platform to support knowledge exchange and share the lessons learnt in the development and implementation of the NEHAPs and science based policymaking and for this information to be used to strengthen collaboration and communication between national environment and health authorities.

I would also like to thank colleagues from the World Health Organization for their efforts in facilitating this meeting and the entire regional initiative on Environment and Health. In the past, WHO and UNEP have shown their pledge to work together on crucial issues, as in the Children's Environmental Health Indicators Initiative (CEHI), and the Health and Environment Linkages Initiative (HELI); and UNEP is very pleased that through this Regional Forum on Environment and Health the joint WHO/UNEP secretariat demonstrates how significant our collaboration can be in serving national governments and institutions. This type of collaboration is also in line with member states demands for UN agencies to Deliver as One UN within the context of the UN reform agenda.

I would like to end by reiterating that UNEP is ready to keep serving the member states through the secretariat of the Regional Forum, and we look forward to an open and useful discussion in the coming two days.

1.3 Dr. Han Tieru, Director, Program Management, WHO in the Western pacific Region

Honourable Ms Hermien Roosita, Executive Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Indonesia,

Forum Chair, Ms. Kyunghee Choi, Director General, National Institute of Environmental Research, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea

Honourable Mr Ryutaro Yatsu, Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Japan

Mr Jonathan Gilman, Regional Coordinator of Inter-Agency and Country Level Coordination, United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Senior Government Officials, Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen, Good Morning.

I am pleased to address the opening session of this High-Level Meeting of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in South-East and East Asian Countries. Dr Shin Young-soo, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific, regrets being unable to join us due to a previous commitment. He has asked me to welcome you and deliver these remarks on his behalf. I would like to extend a warm welcome to you and our thanks to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for hosting this meeting.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The environment and demographic changes are increasingly exerting an impact on the epidemiology of diseases. These changes, especially in many low-and middle-income countries have increased the burden of disease two-fold or more. In addition to the burden of communicable diseases, most of these countries are increasingly facing non-communicable diseases and diseases caused by pollution and environmental hazards. In fact, the epidemiology of non-communicable diseases points to a particularly wide and multilayered range of interrelated determinants including exposure to environmental toxins.

Environmental health hazards cause approximately 2.9 million deaths—or 24% of the total annual deaths in the Western Pacific Region—resulting in 58.8 million disability-adjusted life years lost. More than 90% of these disease burdens and associated deaths occur in developing countries in the Region. These are caused by unsafe water, poor sanitation and hygiene, indoor and outdoor air pollution, toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes, noise, radiation, housing and community risks, traffic, unsafe occupational and recreational environments, inadequate water resource management and land use, man-made environmental emergencies, climate and ecosystem changes.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

WHO believes that health is a fundamental human right. However, many of the factors affecting health are beyond the health sector's responsibility. Orchestrating a coherent response across societies and across the relevant agencies to bring about better health outcomes remains one of the most prominent challenges in the global health arena. The Regional Forum on Environment and Health tries to address this by cutting across various sectors and countries. It includes health and environment ministries, development sectors, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations working together at the regional and country levels.

Intersectoral collaboration could be challenging, even within the United Nations system. Nevertheless, I am pleased to say that the United Nations Environment Programme and WHO have been able to work together as joint secretariat for this forum. Meanwhile at the country level, ministries of environment and ministries of health, which are represented here, are working as partners in developing and implementing national environmental health action plans.

In the next two days, you will review the progress made since the Jeju Meeting in 2010, and most importantly the Task Force Report to the Advisory Board on findings and recommendations about the governance, institutional and partnership issues affecting the regional forum and the impact at the country level. In addition, you will discuss the preparation for the Third Ministerial Regional Forum on Environment and Health to be held next year in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

While I know that great strides have been made despite significant barriers, we must work harder together to realize the objectives of the forum. We should focus on key activities to be sustained, evaluate the outcomes with core indicators and demonstrate that it pays to invest in environmental health. We need to advocate more, through effective media coverage, that what we do in environmental health is an essential preventive measure for better health. The impact will not be immediate as it will take time—many years, even decades—to see visible results. However, delay is not an option, and we have to act swiftly to prevent further deterioration, suffering and loss of life. Country commitments to the thematic working groups and the national environmental health action plans should be honoured, while administrative and technical support to the thematic working groups should be strengthened and sustained.

Your presence here at this meeting demonstrates your commitment, and I hope you will have productive discussions during this meeting that lead to fruitful outcomes. Enjoy your time in Bandung.

Thank you very much.

1.4 Ms. Hermien Roosita, Secretary of The Ministry of Environment, Republic Of Indonesia

Your Excellency Mr. Ryutaro Yatsu, Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs, Global Environment Bureau, Ministry of Environment, Japan

Honorable Ms. Kyunghee CHOI, Chair of the Regional Forum

Honorable Dr. Lokman Hakim Sulaiman, Vice Chair of the Regional Forum

Dr. Han Tieru, Director, Division of Health Communities and Populations, WHO-WPRO

Mr. Jonathan Gilman, Regional Coordinator of Inter-Agency and Country Level Coordination, United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my gratitude and highest appreciation for your attendance in this important meeting. I would also like to extend our warmest welcome to all of you today in the Sixth High Level Officials' Meeting of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries in Bandung, West Java. My appreciation also goes to UNEP and WHO for their continuous support to this Regional Forum.

Excellency,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We may recall that the Bangkok Charter encouraged cooperation among Southeast and East Asian countries in strengthening and increasing capacity on environment and health. The impact of development to the environment in which we live affects our health and we recognize that our ultimate goals are the assurance of healthy environment that will ensure the quality of life. We are of the view that this Regional Forum is very important in the integration of our resources in the attempt at both regional and national levels to cope with the environmental and health problems that are interrelated.

Since the adoption of the Bangkok Charter, the spirit of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health with its National Environment and Health Action Plan (NEHAP) and relevant activities has inspired further actions at national and regional levels. In Indonesia, for instance, cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Health has been improved since 2007 and further strengthened by the signing of a joint agreement between the two Ministries in June 2010, in which the two ministries decided to increase their commitments to coordinate the issue of environmental and health.

For the last decade, Indonesia has experienced relatively high economic growth while environment and health has rather been developed in a slower pace. This indicates an unbalanced development as both environment and health are somewhat left behind. Consequently, Indonesia is now facing a number of problems related to health and environment such as freshwater scarcity and sanitation, increase of domestic and industrial wastes, low air quality, and increase of hazardous materials and wastes, despite the efforts in environment management and improvement of human health. The Indonesian State of the Environment Report 2010 indicated that water pollution was still a main issue, while transport sector was one of the major polluters besides the industrial sector. A study from the Ministry of Public Works in 2009 indicated that only 47.63% of the population had access to safe and sustainable drinking water.

It was just timely that Indonesia passed the Act Number 32 Year 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management with the objectives of ensuring safety, human health and human being and sustainability of life and ecosystem preservation. In addition, the Act Number 36 Year 2009 on Health has the goals to achieve environmental quality including in physical, chemical, biological, and social aspects to enable everyone to obtain betterment in health.

Learning from other countries' experiences, the Government of Indonesia is developing its National Environment and Health Action Plan (NEHAP). Through the involvement of stakeholders participation, this document serves as a good basis for further development of actions.

Excellency,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The Sixth High Level Officials' Meeting is very important in reviewing the effectiveness of the Regional Forum to be reported to the Third Ministerial Meeting in 2013 in Kuala Lumpur. This Meeting will evaluate the achievement of the Forum against the objectives and the targets under the Bangkok Charter as well as the Jeju Declaration. It is very timely to ask ourselves on our commitment to move forward as we all face bigger challenges due to economic crises in many countries and regions, resulting in the increased burden on the environment and human health.

It is very important to keep our commitment to the existence of this Forum. We believe collaboration among us could result in the synergy of coping with the issue of environment and health in our region, which eventually will lead to increase capacity of the region in coping with the problem of environmental and health.

Excellency,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

In closing, I hereby declare that The Sixth High-Level Officials' Meeting of The Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries is officially opened.

I do hope you will enjoy your stay here in Bandung. I do believe that the warm weather of Bandung will also be conducive for a fruitful deliberation of the meeting.

Thank You

2. Closing Messages

2.1 DR. Tb. Rachmat Sentika, Minister Senior Advisor on MDGs Achievement Office of Coordinating Minister for People Welfare, Republic of Indonesia

*Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen, Good evening,*

In this auspicious occasion, on behalf of the Government of Indonesia, I would like to appreciate all delegates for making concrete action and significant progress to increase environmental health quality in Asia communities.

I would also wish to extend my special thanks to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment of Indonesia for hosting this event in collaboration with UNEP and WHO for making stronger action today for promoting better environmental health in East and South East Asia.

The health and environment have become global concerns as population grows rapidly, natural resources being depleted, and the quality of the environment deteriorated. Many countries, especially in developing world, are still poor. These conditions have made the environment and health problems occurred particularly in those countries. For that reason, UNCSD 2002 has addressed health and environment, especially in issues like water, energy, health, Agriculture, and Biodiversity (WEHAB). The outcome of UNCSD (Rio+20) meeting in June 2012 has also specific paragraphs on environment and health.

This meeting has laid a solid foundation for the progress we need in our quest to achieve MDGs. Through your participation, this event has galvanized international and regional attention. This meeting outcome documents send a clear sign that you remain committed to the development goals especially on health and environment quality related targets. Between now and 2015 we must make sure that promises made become promises kept.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The MDGs remain our target ahead to be achieved by 2015, but even then, quality of life still becomes a global issue. It is important to strengthen coordination between the health and environment sectors. More than three millions children worldwide under the age of five died each year from environment-related causes such as pollutions, water resources, and lack of sanitations and many of them lived in Asia countries. My concern is because those issues are major hazard for our children in next generation. Don't let Asia progressive economic growth made negative impact on our children. We should make more balance Asia, especially between economic interest, environment, and health. Development must go hand in hand with health and environment quality of developments. For those reasons, we should have to recognize our challenges toward post MDGs 2015. And here in this meeting, we have succeeded to recognize many challenges especially on health and environment issues.

The next meeting, the Third Ministerial Regional Forum on Environment and Health will be scheduled on 2013 in Malaysia. We appreciate very much Malaysia's initiative. It is our desire that the next Forum will become more significant by active participation of Southeast and East Asian countries and related institutions.

I am grateful that the meeting is now coming to closing. I understand that there are number of issues that are still needed to be further discussed in the upcoming meetings. The findings and recommendations of the Task Force covered in its report can serve as a good basis for further discussions. I fully understand that some member states, including Indonesia, still need to

discuss this issue at home. However, to my observation, this meeting has come up with a fruitful deliberation and satisfactory outcome from the discussions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Now we've come to the end of this conference, I have a wish to you all, after this meeting, you have to take progressive and comprehensive actions to implement the recommendation of this meeting. By your country progressive action, what we are concerned about sustainable development and millennium development goals achievement especially on environmental quality will be able to achieve in significant way.

In closing, I would like to conclude by thanking again all of the related entities and participants for their efforts in ensuring that this forum should prove to be such a success. And before you leave back to your countries, please enjoy our beautiful West Java Province, especially our magnificent city of Bandung.

Finally, with Alhamdulillah, praise to God, I now declare the Sixth High Level Officials Meeting of Regional Forum on Environment and Health officially closed.

Thank you very much.

Annex D

Work Plan for the Review of the Charter of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health

Task	Resp.	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Nomination of National Focal Points for the revision of the Charter and of the Chairs' Report on Findings and Recommendations.	6 th High Level Meeting Delegates												
Call for inputs and comments by the Chair and Vice Chair.	Chair and Vice Chair												
Official comments from member countries (MOH, MOE, or joint) are sent to Secretariat.	National Focal Points												
Integration of all comments and inputs into a new draft of the Charter (version 1.0). (sections II - goals and objectives; III - priorities; IV - structure)	Secretariat												
Circulation of the above draft (v1.0) among member countries (MOH and MOE) and TWG members to gather inputs.	Secretariat, National Focal Points												
Integration of inputs from countries and TWGs into version 2.0 of the new draft of the Charter.	Secretariat												
Revision of the new draft of the Charter	Secretariat, Chair and												

(formulation of version 3.0).	Vice Chair												
Circulation of the version 3.0 among member countries (MOH and MOE).	Secretariat, National Focal Points												
7 th HL meeting and finalization of the draft of the new Charter (formulation of version 4.0).	High Level delegations												
Submission of version 4.0 to Ministries for final discussion at the Ministerial Meeting in Kuala Lumpur.	Chair and Vice Chair												

ANNEX E
Task Force Report

***Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast
and East Asian Countries***

**Findings and Recommendations
of the Task Force**

***This report is submitted to the Sixth High Level Officials’
Meeting on Environment and Health, Bandung, Indonesia
23 October 2012***

1.0) Background

1.1 Rationale for the establishment of the Task Force

The Regional Forum on Environment and Health comprises of fourteen countries of the South-east (10 ASEAN countries) and East Asian Countries (China, Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea). The Regional Forum has four levels of working and decision-making bodies:

(i) Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Health, held every three years: 1st Meeting in 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand; 2nd Meeting in 2010 in Jeju, Republic of Korea; and 3rd Meeting to be held in Malaysia. This is the highest level that decides the policy aspects of the Regional Forum.

(ii) High-level Meeting: this is a high-level official decision-making body comprises of high-level officials of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment. This High-Level Meeting meets every eighteen months to decide policy matters at a shorter period than the Ministerial Meeting. However, some policy matters may still need to be brought for approval at the Ministerial level.

(iii) Advisory-Board Meeting: the Board constitutes the Chair of the Thematic Working Group to discuss all technical matters and management issue related to the Regional Forum and will make the necessary recommendations to the High-Level Meeting or the Ministerial Meeting.

(iv) Thematic Working Groups (TWG): the function of the Regional Forum and hence the backbone of the cooperation between the environment and health sectors, both at the regional and country levels are defined by the priority areas of works, grouped together for a specific theme. Hence each is called Thematic Working Group (TWG). This Regional Forum has seven TWGs as follows: (1) Air quality; (2) Water supply, hygiene and sanitation; (3) Solid and hazardous waste; (4) Toxic chemicals and hazardous substances; (5) Climate change, ozone layer depletion and ecosystem changes; (6) Contingency planning, preparedness and response in environmental health emergencies; and (7) Health Impact Assessment.

Since its inception in the First Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok in 2007, followed by its Second Ministerial Meeting in Jeju and hence the Bangkok and Jeju Declarations, there was no review been carried out to evaluate the effectiveness of the Regional Forum and its operation.

1.2 Recommendation of the Second Ministerial Meeting in Jeju, Republic of Korea

The Second Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Health in South-East and East Asian countries (*refer to Ministerial Meeting report in Annex 1*) in Jeju, Republic of Korea on 15 July 2010 made the following recommendations (*refer to Annex 2 Jeju Declaration*):

- Approve the establishment of a Task Force reporting to the Regional Forum's Advisory Board, to review governance, institutional and partnership issues affecting the Regional Forum and the impact of the Regional Forum at country level, and to complete its work by making recommendations through the Advisory Board to the Forum's sixth meeting of High Level Officials;

- Urge the members of the Regional Forum to consider establishing sustainable and effective mechanisms to finance the operations of the Forum and direct the aforementioned Task Force and the Secretariat to study options for establishing such mechanisms;
- Call upon international and regional development partners anew to support the implementation of the Charter of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health and specifically to support research and training centres on environment and health and the activities of the Forum's Secretariat, Thematic Working Groups, Advisory Board and Scientific Conferences, and the Task Force on governance and institutional issues and partnerships; and
- Agree to meet again in three years to review our progress in building capacity for environmental health management, the work plans of the Thematic Working Groups, recommendations of the Task Force on governance and institutional issues and partnerships as may be approved or amended by the sixth Meeting of High Level Officials, and to discuss and agree on new directions and priorities for our collaboration.

1.3 Terms of References of the Task Force

In line with the decision made during the Second Ministerial Regional Forum, a Task Force was formed composed of volunteers from the member countries/ministries of the Environment and Health (*See Annex 3 for the Task Force Members*)

The Terms of Reference of the Task Force are as follows:

- (1) Review the Regional Charter and other relevant documents and recommend revisions to make it more responsive to the emerging issues and present needs of the Regional Forum;
- (2) Study the issues which have emerged and the recommendations made by various meetings and conferences of the Regional Forum including the opening of the membership of the Regional Forum to other countries as well as expanding same by involving other stakeholders from the private sector; and, suggest ways to address the said issues and/or implement the appropriate recommendations;
- (3) Assess the impact of the Regional Forum at the country level to see if it has provided an effective mechanism for sharing knowledge and experiences, has improved the policy and regulatory frameworks, has promoted the implementation of an integrated environmental health strategies and regulations. Based on this assessment, make recommendations to increase the value-added of the Regional Forum to its members;

- (4) Study the feasibility of setting up a Trust Fund or some other financial mechanism to provide a sustainable source of funding for the operations of the Forum and its Secretariat;
- (5) Clarify some aspects of the modus operandi of the Advisory Board, the Thematic Working Groups (TWG) and the Secretariat;
- (6) Suggest ways to involve the members more in preparing the Scientific Conferences and to strengthen the linkage between these Conferences and the workings of the TWGs, the High Level Meetings (HLM) and the Ministerial Forum; and,
- (7) Identify opportunities for networking with other groups and other regional and international initiatives that deal with environmental health issues.

1.4 Submission of the Task Force Report

The findings and recommendations of the Task Force are to be submitted to the Advisory Board (composed of the Chairs of the 7 TWGs, the present chair of the Forum (Republic of Korea) and the incoming chair (the host the next Regional Forum: Malaysia).

The Advisory Board is expected to then submit same to the Sixth (6th) Meeting of the High Level Officials to be held before the next Regional Forum in 2013.

2.0) Achievements of the Regional Forum

Since its inception, there are a number of achievements made by the Regional Forum:

2.1 The progress made at the national level by the countries in strengthening their national environmental health programmes and health systems such as the National Environmental Health Action Plans (NEHAPs) or equivalent plans are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Overview of Member Countries' NEHAP Status available in the Regional Forum web site and presented at the 5th HL meeting in Jeju (14 July 2010)

Country	Title of the Relevant Documents	Year published	Website Access
Brunei	-	-	Not Available Not presented
Cambodia	Environmental Health Package: -Environmental Health Policy and Strategy -National Environmental Health Action Plan of Cambodia -Health Impact Assessment Policy	2009 - 2015	Not Available
China	China National Environmental Health Action Plan	2007 - 2015	Available

Japan	Third Basic Environment Plan	2007 - 2012	Available
Korea	Korea National Environmental Health Action Plan Toward 10 Years	2006 - 2015	Available
Lao PDR	A National Policy on Environmental Health Linkage National Environmental Health Strategic Plan for Laos National Environmental Health Action Plan for Laos	2008 - 2012	Not Available
Malaysia	National Environmental Health Framework/Policy for Malaysia National Environmental Health Strategic Plan for Malaysia National Environmental Health Action Plan for Malaysia	2009	Available
Mongolia	Environmental Health National Programme	2006 - 2015	Available
Philippines	Philippine National Environmental Health Action Plan	2010 – 2013	Available
Singapore	The Singapore Green Plan 2012 Sustainable Development Blueprint	2006 – 2012 2009 – 2030	Available presented
Thailand	Thailand's First National Environmental Health Strategic Plan	2009 - 2011	Available
Indonesia	- National Environment and Health Action Plan	- 2010-2015	Not Available presented
Myanmar	- Myanmar National Environment and Health Action Plan	- 2009	Not Available presented
Viet Nam	The National Program on Environmental Health	2010-2020	Not Available

2.2 Countries have made significant progress in strengthening coordination between the health and environment sectors through interagency/inter-ministerial committees.

2.3 Thematic Working Groups progressed in the implementation of their activities through their respective policy briefs for the first three year phase. Several of the Regional Forum's TWGs established linkages for the implementation of policies, as in the cooperation of the TWG on Air Quality with the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution Forum, the cooperation of the TWG on Toxic Chemicals and Hazardous Substances with regional initiatives of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), the Tokyo 3R Statement's call for the TWG on Solid and Hazardous Waste to serve as a regional platform for sharing information on reducing reusing and recycling waste, and the call of the Manila Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene in East Asia requesting the TWG on Water Supply, Hygiene and Sanitation to act as the regional platform for facilitating cooperation towards the improvement of sanitation and hygiene

(Annex 4: Progress Report of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health and Annex 5: Policy Briefs).

2.4 Some TWGs have shared good practices on their respective thematic areas among the member countries *(Annex 6: Progress Report; and Regional Forum website).*

2.5 Communication guidelines were developed by the secretariat for use between the national communication focal points, TWG members, TWG Chairs and the secretariat *(Annex 7: Communication guidelines).*

2.6 The Regional Forum's dedicated website was developed by the secretariat and is enhanced through knowledge sharing and information dissemination for the implementation of the Charter.

2.7 Four Scientific Conferences have been convened from 2005 to 2010:

- First Scientific Conference, December 2005 in Bangkok: Identified and discussed significant environmental health issues that were emerging, to provide an early alert.
- Second Scientific Conference, April 2007 in Seoul: Discussed the priority environment health issues for the region with scientific perspectives.
- Third Scientific Conference, April 2008 in Jeju: Discussed the effects of environmental issues on human health with a focus on vulnerable groups: pregnancy and birth; children and elder.
- Fourth Scientific Conference, September 2010 in Seoul: in conjunction with ISEE/ISES conference, discussed on the adaptation and mitigation policies to respond to climate change-related risks.

3.0) Outcomes of the Three Task Force meetings

3.1 Since its establishment, the Task Force held three meetings, summarized below:

3.2 The first meeting of the Task Force was held on June 8-9, 2011, and hosted by the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WHO WPRO) in Manila, Philippines. Three member countries were represented by Ministries of Environment and Health, Republic of Korea, Ministry of Health, Mongolia, and Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Thailand. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Woon-Suk Baek, Director, Environment Health Policy, Division Office of Environmental Health, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea.

The discussion during the first meeting focused on the assignments deriving from the scope of work of the Task Force, producing the following outcomes *(refer to Annex 9)*:

- common and clear understanding of the Task Force Terms of Reference;

- timetable/work plan of the Task Force;
- identification of a list of development organizations and other institutions of possible partners of the Regional Forum;
- revision and approval of the survey questionnaires on governance, partnerships and impact of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health; and
- discussion on the financial sustainability of the Regional Forum.

3.3 The Second Meeting of the Task Force was held in Bangkok on 18-19 October 2011, hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP ROAP). Participating Task Force members were the representatives of Ministry of Environment - Republic of Korea, Ministry of Health - Malaysia, Ministry of Health - Mongolia, and Ministries of Health and of Environment and Natural Resources - Thailand. Dr. Daud bin Abdul Rahim, from the Ministry of Health of Malaysia, was elected to be Chair of the Task Force and of the Meeting (*Meeting report in Annex 10*). The Task Force discussion led to the following outcomes which include:

- reviewed and updated the timetable/work plan of the Task Force and its milestones as agreed during the previous meeting of the Task Force;
- reviewed and approved the interim report: “findings of the survey on governance, partnerships and impact of the Regional Forum from member countries”, which included the results of the survey questionnaires submitted by the member ministries and TWG members;
- noted the draft sustainable financing mechanism for the Regional Forum on Environment and Health; and
- reviewed the identified development organizations and other institutions listed as potential partners of the Regional Forum.

3.4 Following the Second Task Force meeting, the Fifth Advisory Board meeting was convened on October 2011. The Advisory Board noted and gave recommendations on the outcomes of the 2nd Task Force meeting (*refer to Annex 11: 5th Advisory Board meeting report*). The Advisory Board also expressed some concerns on issues that need to be addressed urgently:

- Roles of the Regional Forum: Some of the member countries are still uncertain about the role of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health. Also, the TWG members were uncertain about the roles and meaning of the Forum.
- Different Levels of Works of TWGs: Some TWGs are progressing and active while others need to be strengthened.

- Challenges of TWGs: work plans were developed but lack of financial and human resources are an obstacle for their implementation.

3.5 The Third Task Force meeting was held in Bangkok on 28-29 August 2012, hosted by the World Health Organization Regional Office for South East Asia (WHO SEARO). Participating Task Force members were the representatives of Ministry of Environment - Republic of Korea, Ministry of Health - Malaysia, Ministry of Environment - Indonesia, Ministry of Health - Mongolia, and Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources – Thailand

Dr. Daud bin Abdul Rahim, from the Ministry of Health of Malaysia, Chaired the Task Force Meeting (*Meeting report in Annex 12*). The Task Force discussion led to the following outcomes which include:

- compiled and approved report on the findings and recommendations of the Task Force;
- developed new options of sustainable financial models for the Regional Forum activities.

4.0) Findings and Recommendations

All the findings and recommendations deriving from the work of the Task Force, including Task Force meetings, survey questionnaires, and recommendations from the Advisory Board, are summarized below (*refer to the Task Force meeting reports, Report on the survey and Charter of the Regional Forum attached as annexes*):

4.1 Governance

- G1. Rephrasing of the goals, strategies and objectives of the Regional Forum for better clarity and update.
- G2. Institutionalizing annual TWG meetings.
- G3. Reviewing the terms of reference of the TWGs giving emphasis on the task of preparing policy briefs for the ministerial meetings. The TORs of the TWG should be clear and not leave space to interpretation.
- G4. Establish standard operating and reporting procedures for TWGs, as well as Chair rotation procedures.
- G5. Promoting an online knowledge hub for each TWG with the purpose of strengthening transboundary information exchange, research, dissemination of scientific conference results, partnerships, collaboration with other sectors and agencies and communication, debate and discussion among different TWGs on cross-cutting issues.
- G6. Clarifying the responsibilities of the Regional Forum Chair and Vice Chair and establishing a rotation procedure, leaving to countries the right to decline.

- G7. Conferring some decision-making authority to High Level Meetings to avoid inaction during the intervals between Ministerial Meetings (such as acceptance of new members, modification of TWG work plans, revision of Regional Forum budget).
- G8. Establishing a procedure for the consideration of unsolicited requests for membership.
- G9. Maintaining the role of the Secretariat to collect and disseminate among the members any information related to environmental health management, monitor the implementation and facilitate the development of NEHAPs, provide technical and administrative support in organizing events, and assist the Regional Forum in resource mobilization.
- G10. Maintaining the role of the Advisory Board to review and collect scientific information, ensure coordination among the TWGs in addressing the priorities identified by the Forum, and cooperate with the Secretariat in fulfilling its responsibilities.
- G11. Sharing Advisory Board meetings minutes among the member countries.
- G12. Enhancing the cooperation of the Regional Forum with other international fora's activities and with existing government policies, looking into opportunities involving other sectors.
- G13. Strengthening the joint secretariat with full time staff dedicated to support the Regional Forum operations. Staff could be either recruited for this purpose or seconded by ministries of member countries.

4.2 Partnerships

- P1. Existing partnerships are of three kinds: partnerships established independently by single countries or agencies; TWG collaborations; and partnerships of the whole Forum. All three kinds of partnership are necessary, but the TWG collaborations are crucial for the functioning of the TWG activities.
- P2. Partnerships with international development agencies and other national agencies need to be improved. Established collaborations are limited to the involvement of partners in specific TWGs, and in the formulation of NEHAPS or their implementation, although in such cases the nature of the collaboration is vague.
- P3. Collaboration with other sectors and agencies (such as energy, agriculture, transportation, etc.) seems to be limited to consultations on environmental health issues. However, there is consensus on the importance of developing such collaboration.

- P4. Partnerships are necessary to strengthen the Regional Forum both financially and in terms of image. The Forum has a high networking and technical potential, but it has to project an impression of unity and strength through the commitment of its member countries, especially when seeking high level partnerships.
- P5. The contribution of UNEP and WHO is highly appreciated.

4.3 Impacts

- I1. Capacity of member countries to address environmental health has been institutionalized with an increase in terms of awareness raising on the thematic issues and NEHAPs.
- I2. Regional Forum has been providing the governments and stakeholders with a framework for cooperation at the regional and national level.
- I3. Need for the Regional Forum has been proven and recognized by all the stakeholders in Southeast and East Asia.
- I4. There seems to be consensus and satisfaction about the fact that the Regional Forum has been able to achieve most of the agreements expressed in the Jeju Declaration, and that the Ministerial Forum has also been able to achieve all of the agreements in the Bangkok Declaration.
- I5. There is widespread appreciation of the Regional and Ministerial Fora and of their achievements.
- I6. It is suggested to establish mechanisms to strengthen transboundary information exchange.
- I7. Redundancy occurs with existing national policies and regulations, which overlap some of the Regional Forum policy briefs and initiatives. There are also issues regarding the existence of a number of international, regional, and super-regional fora addressing environmental quality and climate change and their impact on populations. The Regional Forum should question itself on how to contribute significantly to these initiatives.
- I8. It is suggested that the results deriving from the scientific conferences be more effectively spread among environmental experts, government officials, etc.

4.4 Sustainable Financial Mechanism

- F1. Through survey results from Member Countries and TWG members, and the discussion held in three Task Force Meetings and finally the Fifth Advisory Board Meeting, it was agreed that it is crucial to devise a financial mechanism for the Regional Forum which otherwise would be at critical risk of sustaining the operations of the Forum and its secretariat.
- F2. There is need to establish a sustainable financing mechanism to continue the Forum initiatives and also to strengthen the ownership of the member countries. Activities of the Regional Forum that requires sustainable financial support are classified into three groups:
- National programmes activities such as implementation of NEHAPs activities at the national level,
 - Regional TWGs activities such as TWG meetings and high level officials intergovernmental meetings and Ministerial Meetings,
 - Additional activities such as capacity building through workshops and trainings, knowledge management and technical support, coordination and advocacy.
- F3. Currently, the Regional Forum activities are partly supported by member countries and partly by the secretariat, i.e. WHO and UNEP, who are already facing acute financial constraints. The lack of funds is affecting mostly the operation and implementation of activities of the TWGs.
- F4. It was agreed that a trust fund for the Regional Forum should be established and the source of funds would come from: 1) contribution from all Members States of the Regional Forum; 2) contribution from international partners and organizations.
- F5. Three options of financial mechanism were proposed in the survey amongst Members States and TWGs Members:
- Contribution by Member States according to the UN Assessment Scale;
 - Equal amount of contribution for the Secretariat expenses and amount of the contribution based UN assessment scale for other expenses;
 - Voluntary contribution.

A majority favoured adoption of the UN assessment scale for the sharing of expenses. Financial mechanisms that do not take into consideration the different financial status of each country are unanimously rejected. A fair share of the Forum's economic burden, including the Secretariat expenses, is recommended in order to avoid fund raising difficulties. The UN assessment scale is appreciated as a way to quantify each member's contribution.

- F6. Principles of the sustainable financial mechanism should include that:

- Financial contribution of member countries will be on a voluntary basis.
 - A stepwise approach will be adopted for the contributions from the member countries. This principle will be used in the implementation of the activities mentioned in the Regional Charter.
 - Financial resources for additional activities will be mobilised from external sources
- F7. Different proposals for sustainable financial mechanisms are proposed below, together with their budget rationale.

F7.1 Triennial Budget Estimate

The Triennial budget estimate should be divided as follows:

- National Level Programmes Activities

The budget for the national level programmes activities in each of the participating countries of the Regional Forum depends on their respective work plans. The countries are expected to provide their own funds to support their national activities. The common activities being done in most of the participating countries are a) NEHAPs Interagency Committee Meetings, b) Reporting, c) National Stakeholders Meetings, and d) National awareness programmes through demonstration projects.

- Regional Level Activities

The table 1 below presents the triennial budget of each of the regional TWGs and High Level meetings activities under the regional level.

- Additional Activities

The budget for other activities varies according to the projects to be implemented in each of the participating countries. These activities should be financed through ad hoc sources of funding.

Table 2: Estimated Budget for Regional Activities

Items	Estimated Budget (USD)	Remarks
1. Personnel Costs (include Salary, Social Security [Funds, Tax, etc.])	200,000	including the host country staff to prepare for the next Ministerial Regional Forum for 3 years
2. Operating Costs		
2.1 Reporting Costs (i.e., printing of Summary and Proceedings, Newsletter, etc.)	19,986	
2.2 Office Supplies	19,970	
2.3 Communication	15,000	
2.4 Travel of Staff meetings (expenses include airfare and DSA)	30,000	
2.5 Meetings (including PTA tickets and		

DSA, venue, food, accommodation, logistics, etc.)		
- Ministerial Regional Forum [High Level Officials' Meeting and Ministerial Meeting]	90,000	High Level meeting will convene every 18 months, while Ministerial Meeting will convene every 3 years
- 7 TWGs meeting	350,000	
➤ Air Quality TWG	50,000	
➤ Water and Sanitation TWG	50,000	
➤ Waste TWG	50,000	
➤ Climate Change TWG	50,000	
➤ Toxic Chemicals TWG	50,000	
➤ EH Emergencies TWG	50,000	
➤ Health Impact Assessment TWG	50,000	
- Regional Scientific Conference and Workshop	75,000	Conference/workshop will convene once every one and half year
- Advisory Board meeting	25,000	
Development of Report on Regional Environment and Health core indicators for Decision Makers	60,000	
Sub-total	884,956	
Miscellaneous (13% of Sub-total)	115,044	
TOTAL BUDGET	1,000,000	

Note: To support NEHAP or equivalent plans for member countries in the amount of US\$ 50,000.

F7.2 Stepwise Approach

The recommended stepwise approach in the country's contributions should follow the following indications:

- The countries shall make voluntary contributions based on the UN assessment scale. The present UN scale percentages and the percentages derived approximately for voluntary contributions are shown in Table 3 below.

- For these activities, the countries shall make contributions once every 3 years, after the governments agree to contribute. Contributions in kind by the country concerned could be considered instead of the financial outlay which may otherwise be incurred. This will be for the transition period before fully contributing the corresponding amount indicated in Table 3.

- Transitional measures can also be applied to some if not all countries to reduce immediate burden on making the contributions, such as 1) bearing their own traveling

expenses to participate to Regional Forum meetings/workshops; and 2) bearing all logistics expenses while hosting/organising event in their country.

- The countries shall agree on procedures and guidelines for voluntary financial contributions to the Regional Forum on Environment and Health.

Table 3. Approximate Country Contributions for Regional Level Activities

No.	Country	% in UN Assessment Scale	% in Regional Forum on Environment and Health (approximate)	Contribution (USD)
1	Brunei Darussalam	0.028	0.15	1,460.1
2	Cambodia	0.003	0.02	160.00
3	China	3.189	16.63	166,291.66
4	Indonesia	0.238	1.24	12,410.12
5	Japan	12.53	65.34	653,396.53
6	Republic of Korea	2.26	11.79	117,851.18
7	Lao PDR	0.001	0.01	50.00
8	Malaysia	0.253	1.32	13,190.13
9	Mongolia	0.002	0.01	100.00
10	Myanmar	0.006	0.03	310.00
11	Philippines	0.09	0.47	4,690.05
12	Singapore	0.335	1.75	17,470.17
13	Thailand	0.209	1.09	10,900.11
14	Viet Nam	0.033	0.17	1,720.02
TOTAL		19.177	100.00	1,000,000.00

Note: The introduction of a minimum contribution could be considered (1,000 USD).

F7.3 Modified UN-Scale Contribution System

A modified UN-scale contribution system could be also considered in order to have larger share of contribution from all Member States. The modified UN-Scale system is proposed with the following principles and illustrated below in Table 4:

-A multiplication by five times of the above UN-scale systems for the contribution of all countries except, Republic of Korea, China and Japan.

-The minimum contribution for the Regional forum shall be 1,000 USD.

**Table 4: Approximate Country Contributions for Regional Level Activities
(Modified UN-Scale System and rounded figures)**

No.	Country	% in UN Assessment	Multiplication Factor	Contribution over three
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		Scale		years (USD)
1	Brunei Darussalam	0.028	5	7,300
2	Cambodia	0.003	Minimal 1,000	1,000
3	China	3.189	Unchanged	167,000
4	Indonesia	0.238	5	62,050
5	Japan	12.53	Reduced	401,250
6	Republic of Korea	2.26	Unchanged	118,000
7	Lao PDR	0.001	Minimal 1,000	1,000
8	Malaysia	0.253	5	65,950
9	Mongolia	0.002	Minimal 1,000	1,000
10	Myanmar	0.006	5	1,550
11	Philippines	0.09	5	23,450
12	Singapore	0.335	5	87,350
13	Thailand	0.209	5	54,500
14	Viet Nam	0.033	5	8,600
TOTAL		19.177		1,000,000.00

F7.4 Modified Five Step Contribution System

Following the same principles of common sharing expressed in F7.3, a redistribution of the overall budget according to five steps is given below in Table 5. Its principles are:

- Five contribution steps will be established, corresponding to a different share of the total budget of the Regional Forum, expressed in percentage (40%, 18%, 5%, 1%, minimum fee).
- The UN assessment scale will determine the position of each country within the five contribution steps.

Table 5: Approximate Country Contributions for Regional Level Activities (5 Steps based on UN-Scale System)

No.	Contribution Step	% of total budget for three years (USD)	Country	% in UN Assessment Scale	Contribution over three years (USD)
1	% in UN Assessment Scale x > 10	40%	Japan	12.53	400,000

2	% in UN Assessment Scale 10 > x > 1	18%	China	3.189	180,000
3			Republic of Korea	2.26	180,000
4	% in UN Assessment Scale 1 > x > 0.1	5%	Indonesia	0.238	50,000
5			Malaysia	0.253	50,000
6			Singapore	0.335	50,000
7			Thailand	0.209	50,000
8	% in UN Assessment Scale 0.1 > x > 0.01	1%	Brunei Darussalam	0.028	10,000
9			Philippines	0.09	10,000
10			Viet Nam	0.033	10,000
11	% in UN Assessment Scale 0.01 > x	Minimum fee (2,500 USD)	Cambodia	0.003	2,500
12			Lao PDR	0.001	2,500
13			Mongolia	0.002	2,500
14			Myanmar	0.006	2,500
TOTAL					1,000,000.00

F7.5 Other External Sources

Since TWGs are the technical backbone of the Regional Forum, options for funding their activities may include approaching donors and/or apply to financial institutions for support. In order to fully accomplish the work plans of the TWGs, an annual estimated budget of US\$ 300,000 should be sought from potential donors. These may include the following:

- Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), KOICA and European funding agencies for Air TWG.
- USAID, Global Environment Fund (GEF), Order of Malta for Water and Sanitation TWG.
- Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), APN, Order of Malta, JICA for Waste TWG.
- SAICM, Order of Malta for Toxic Chemicals TWG.
- USAID, KOICA, JICA and GEF for Climate Change TWG.
- KOICA, JICA, Order of Malta and APN for Environmental Health Emergencies.
- GEF and KOICA for HIA TWG.

The joint secretariat should work closely with the Advisory Board in approaching potential donors to support the Regional Forum. The TWG Chairs should be active in the seeking and opening of new partnerships. Member countries and their ministries should also grasp the opportunity to link environment and health whenever they are approached for collaboration on either field.

5.0) Way Forward

5.1 The Regional Forum was established following the decision of its fourteen member states. The countries identified the issues of environmental health that needed to be addressed at the time and cooperated in addressing them through the establishment of the Thematic Working Groups. Therefore, the endurance of the Regional Forum depends on the member states' recognition of the significance of the Forum's programme and in their belief in the work of the TWGs. The Task Force has looked at the reports on the impacts of the Forum, the relevance of its programme and of the TWGs; the message deriving from it is that the Forum is still necessary and useful for the member countries. If the member countries will be able to see the value of their participation in the Forum, the financial constraints will not appear so critical.

5.2 It is crucial to sustain the Regional Forum's major activities that could be categorized into three groups:

- National programmes activities such as implementation of NEHAPs activities at the national level,
- Regional TWGs activities such as TWG meetings and high level officials intergovernmental meetings and Ministerial Meetings,
- Capacity building through workshops and trainings, knowledge management and technical support, coordination and advocacy.

5.3 The Charter of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health for South East and East Asian Countries provides the vision, goals and objectives, priority settings and the guiding principles for the operation of the Regional Forum. The Charter needs to be revised to reflect the current challenges and update the situation.

5.4 Partnership will be sought for funding, regional exchange of expertise and support in other areas.

5.5 The relationship and channel of communication between the different tiers and bodies of the Regional Forum needs to be clearly defined and well understood. More work is needed to improve towards this purpose.

5.6 The Regional Forum needs to consider devising a financial mechanism to sustain the Forum.

5.7 Strengthening the joint secretariat with full time staff dedicated to support the Regional Forum operations. Staff could be either recruited for this purpose or seconded by ministries of member countries.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: http://www.environment-health.asia/userfiles/file/2nd%20Ministerial%20Meeting%20Report_Final%281%29.pdf

Annex 2:

http://www.environment-health.asia/userfiles/file/JEJU%20DECLARATION%20ON%20ENVIRONMENT%20AND%20HEALTH_final%20unedited.pdf

Annex 4: http://www.environment-health.asia/fileupload/HL4_2_1%20Progress%20Report.pdf

Annex 5: <http://www.environment-health.asia/mf2.cfm>

Annex 6: same as above

Annex 7: same as above

Annex 8: <http://www.environment-health.asia/userfiles/file/communication%20guidelines.pdf>