



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Ad hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on the new ESCAP subregional offices  
for East and North-East Asia, North and Central Asia,  
and South and South-West Asia

2-4 March 2010  
Bangkok

**REPORT OF THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING TO IDENTIFY WORK  
PRIORITIES OF THE NEW ESCAP SUBREGIONAL OFFICE  
FOR EAST AND NORTH-EAST ASIA**

(Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda)

*Note by the secretariat*

**I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING**

1. The Expert Group Meeting was organized to identify priority areas, in the context of the programme of work of ESCAP for 2010-2011 and proposals for the strategic framework for 2012-2013, that could form the focus of the work of the new ESCAP subregional office for East and North-East Asia, which will be located in Incheon, Republic of Korea. The Meeting was held in Bangkok on 19 and 20 October 2009.
2. The main objectives of the Expert Group Meeting were the following:
  - (a) To identify the priority needs of the East and North-East Asian subregion and the role that ESCAP could play through its subregional office in meeting those needs;
  - (b) To discuss mechanisms/modalities for national/subregional/regional cooperation;
  - (c) To identify possible challenges that could affect the operations of the new subregional office and to recommend measures to ensure proper implementation of the programme of work.
3. The meeting was attended by experts nominated by the Governments of countries located within the East and North-East Asian subregion, including, China, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.
4. The meeting was opened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP. In her opening remarks, the Executive Secretary emphasized the importance of interaction between policymakers from the subregion and ESCAP. She stated that the East and

North-East Asian subregion was a microcosm of the great diversity that characterized the Asia-Pacific region as a whole in terms of culture and social progress. She mentioned that energy, environment, subregional cooperation and facilitation of efforts of the United Nations to “deliver as one” were important issues to consider in view of the high demand for energy by the rapidly growing economies in the subregion and the growing pressure on the environment. Finally, she asked the experts to devise a concrete set of recommendations on strategic areas of work that could be addressed by the new subregional office.

5. Following the opening remarks of the Executive Secretary, the Principal Officer (Office of the Executive Secretary, ESCAP) in charge of the substantive side of setting up the subregional office, made his opening remarks on the objectives, format and expected outcome of the Expert Group Meeting, and briefly introduced the ESCAP programme areas. He stated that, by tapping into their collective experience and expertise, examining macroeconomic factors, social issues, energy demand and environmental sustainability issues, the participants should be able to develop a list of strategic work priorities for the new ESCAP subregional office. He mentioned the importance of looking at partner organizations for possibilities for cooperation and synergies.

6. The following reflects the agenda adopted by the meeting:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Introduction: objectives, format and expected outcome of the Expert Group Meeting, and introduction to the ESCAP programme of work.
3. Priority needs in the East and North-East Asian subregion.
4. Modalities for national, subregional and regional cooperation.
5. Challenges for the ESCAP subregional office in East and North-East Asia.
6. Conclusions and recommendations.
7. Closing remarks.

7. As background for the above-mentioned agenda items, presentations were made on the strategic framework for 2010-2011 in respect of subprogramme 8, Subregional activities for development, and on lessons learned from the work of the existing subregional office for the Pacific.

8. The experts presented in-depth and relevant views and opinions on the priority needs of their respective countries. That was followed by rich discussions on priority work areas for the new subregional office. The meeting concluded with a discussion on recommendations on possible work areas that could be considered for inclusion in the programme of work of the subregional office.

9. The Principal Officer delivered closing remarks. He emphasized that the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting would feed into an intergovernmental meeting planned for early 2010.

## II. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

10. Speaking in their own capacities, the experts expressed their respective views on the priority areas of work for the subregional office, bearing in mind the ESCAP strategic framework and mandates and taking into account the needs of the subregion and the comparative advantage and available resources of ESCAP. They noted that the Millennium Development Goals and stakeholder participation were cross-cutting issues of relevance to the work of the subregional office. Several experts emphasized gender equality as being highly relevant. Several experts also highlighted the importance of environmental protection and sustainability (green growth) as a priority area of work for the subregional office. Most experts viewed energy and transport as priority areas for subregional cooperation. One expert stressed the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation as well as capacity development as modalities for carrying out the work of the subregional office. Another expert pointed out that the work priorities of the subregional office would need to be reviewed in accordance with changing socio-economic developments. The table reflects the views of the experts.

11. Some experts noted that it was important for the relationship between ESCAP headquarters and the subregional office to include a relationship with other regional institutions.

**Table**  
**Priority work areas identified by individual experts**

<b>Expert</b>	<b>Priority area 1</b>	<b>Priority area 2</b>	<b>Other areas (optional)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Mr. Suh-Yong Chung</b>	Green Growth (environment, climate change and energy)	NEASPEC (environment, energy, climate change, others)	(a) Water (b) Deepening partnerships with other subregional mechanisms, such as NOWPAP and UNDP/GEF YSLME Project	The subregional office should be the permanent secretariat for NEASPEC.
<b>Mr. Tongbing Ding</b>	Economic recovery and food security	Transport	(a) Disaster Risk Reduction (b) Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals	<p>The subregional office should promote economic recovery at the subregional level through the provision of assistance for trade facilitation among others.</p> <p>Precautions should be taken to prevent possible future food crises in collaboration with UNAPCAEM, considering shrinking investments in times of economic crisis and rising demand in times of economic recovery.</p> <p>The subregional office should follow up on the progress made by individual countries in the subregion in relation to the Asian Highway Network and the Trans-Asian Railway and assist the member States in terms of capacity- building to speed up the interconnection process.</p>

<b>Expert</b>	<b>Priority area 1</b>	<b>Priority area 2</b>	<b>Other areas (optional)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Mr. Namjildorj Enkhbayar</b>	Infrastructure development (transport and energy)	Environmental issues (air pollution and yellow sand)		Capacity, financial resources, regional areas of convergence need to be addressed.
<b>Ms. Jaiok Kim</b>	Energy (developing green standards)	Environment (expand environmental activities through NEASPEC)	(a) Gender equality (b) Green growth through green trade and green technology investment	The subregional office should serve as the permanent secretariat for NEASPEC.  Stakeholder participation must be ensured.
<b>Mr. Denis Nkala</b>	Energy and environment (low carbon development, renewable energy and climate change, clean development mechanism)	Monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals	(a) Disaster Risk Reduction (b) Green growth	
<b>Mr. Nikolay N. Pomoshchnikov</b>	Sustainable development (ensure sustainable development by promoting best environmental friendly models of economic development)	(a) Energy cooperation (the subregional office should provide technical support to the North-East Asia energy collaboration framework) (b) NEASPEC		Decision on whether the subregional office should serve as the NEASPEC secretariat should be taken by member States of NEASPEC.  Modus operandi between ESCAP headquarters and subregional office should be defined.
<b>Mr. Masatoshi Sato</b>	Greening of economic growth (strengthen partnerships and knowledge sharing among member States, civil society and other relevant development partners to promote the greening of economic growth including embracing the idea of <i>mottanai</i> or, “reduce, reuse, recycle” approach).	Disaster risk reduction (improve the capabilities of member States to assess, prepare for and respond to disaster risks in a collective manner)		

Expert	Priority area 1	Priority area 2	Other areas (optional)	Comments
<b>Ms. Oyu Vasha</b>	Infrastructure development (energy and Transport)	Environment (NEASPEC)	(a) Trade facilitation (b) Disaster prevention	<p>The subregional office should continue to support what ESCAP is already providing to the energy collaboration framework.</p> <p>The subregional office should support ESCAP headquarters in its analytical work and research, adding more depth and subregional focus in all areas of ESCAP work, including assuring accuracy of data.</p>

*Note:*

GEF	Global Environment Facility
NEASPEC	North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation
NOWPAP	Northwest Pacific Action Plan
UNAPCAEM	United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
YSLME	Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem

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