



World Health Organization

## Regional Initiative on Environment and Health



UNEP

United Nations Environment Programme

AB 1/1

English Only

**First Advisory Board Meeting  
on Environment and Health  
in Southeast and East Asian Countries  
10 August 2007, Bangkok, Thailand**

### DISCUSSION RECORD

#### Background

1. The first Advisory Board Meeting for the Regional Initiative on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian countries was held on 10 August 2007. The Chairs of the Thematic Working Groups (TWGs), Chair of the Ministerial Regional Forum (Thailand), Vice-Chair of the Ministerial Regional Forum (Republic of Korea), Secretariat (UNEP and WHO), and observers from international organizations attended the Advisory Board Meeting. The objectives of the first Advisory Board Meeting were to 1) review critically the organization and implementation of the First Ministerial Forum (MF1) and the Third High-Level Meeting (HL3); 2) discuss future plan and activities of TWGs; 3) discuss a website for the Regional Forum on Environment and Health; and 4) agree on the schedule of future meetings.

#### Review of the MF1 and HL3

2. Different countries are in different stages of development of national actions on environment and health. Thus the presentations made by the country delegations at the high level meeting need to be distributed to the participants to learn from the process different countries applied in getting to the level they were in the National Environment and Health Action Plan (NEHAP) process.
3. The progress reports submitted or presented by the countries at the mid term review meetings need to be in a consistent format. The meeting agreed that a template should be given for the national level progress reporting during the High-Level Meetings.
4. The meeting agreed that meetings for the TWG members could be organized back-to-back with the scientific conferences or other relevant events, where both TWG Chairs and members will be invited.

#### Future Activities and Plans for TWGs

5. The meeting discussed the need for specifying the role of TWG Chairs. The Secretariat will develop Terms of Reference (ToR) for the TWG Chairs. The ToR, along with a letter informing the discussion of the Ministerial Regional Forum on the selection of the TWG Chair institutions, will be sent to the governments of the Chair institutions.
6. The meeting discussed the resource mobilization for implementing the TWG work plans. It was agreed that ongoing activities should be utilized to support the TWG work plans as much as possible. There is a need to identify, through the TWG work plans, the gap between resources available and resource required for the TWG activities. Secretariat will work with individual Chairs to develop a strategy for resource mobilization.

7. The Ministerial Regional Forum decided that the TWG membership should be opened to accommodate more expertise. The meeting agreed that the decision to admit new members should be taken in consultation and agreement with the respective TWG Chairs.
8. The need to update the contact details of TWG members and to improve the communication among the TWG members was discussed. The meeting agreed that the list of TWG members need to be updated.

### **Website of Regional Forum on Environment and Health**

9. It is agreed that country presentations in the first Ministerial Regional Forum will be uploaded to the current websites for circulation. Environmental Health Country Profiles and Data Sheets prepared in conjunction with the first High-Level Meeting will also be uploaded.
10. The meeting discussed the establishment of a website for the Regional Forum. The Secretariat will circulate a skeleton of the website for comments and suggestions from the advisory board.
11. The meeting also discussed the establishment of dedicated websites for each of the TWGs. It was agreed that TWGs may wish to establish TWG specific websites following a common template at the higher level.
12. In order to disseminate the activities of the Regional Forum, the website could be linked to the relevant websites such as the one UN communication bureau.

### **Scheduling of meetings**

13. The Ministerial Forum agreed to meet again in 2010 in the Republic of Korea. It was agreed that the High-Level Meeting will be held once every eighteen months to review mid-term progress in the national and regional level actions agreed at the First Ministerial Regional Forum.
14. Advisory Board Meeting will be held annually on the average. The next advisory board meetings will allocate specific session for improving synergy among the TWGs. During this session, TWG chairs will present their respective work plans for detailed discussions.
15. Scientific conferences can be organized by any country in collaboration with the Regional Forum on Environment and Health. The Korean Environment and Health Foundation informed the meeting that a scientific conference will be organized in Korea during the first half of 2008.
16. The meeting agreed whenever there is a meeting for an individual TWG group, a summary of the meeting should be prepared and circulated to other TWG groups.

### **Next meeting of the advisory board**

17. It is agreed that a coordination meeting among the Advisory Board members within six months could be considered. The possibility of a back to back meeting with the proposed scientific conference in April 2008 will be explored.

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

10 August 2007, Bangkok, Thailand

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