



World Health Organization

Regional Forum on Environment and Health



UNEP

United Nations Environment Programme

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English Only

**Third Advisory Board Meeting
on Environment and Health
in Southeast and East Asian Countries
25 March 2009, Beijing China**

DISCUSSION RECORD

I. Background

1. The Third Meeting of the Advisory Board of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries was held on 25 March 2009. The Chairs and Co-Chair of the Thematic Working Groups (TWGs), Chair and Vice-Chair of the Regional Forum (Thailand and Republic of Korea, respectively), Secretariat (UNEP and WHO) attended the meeting. The objectives of the meeting were to 1) review the outcome of the Fourth High Level Officials' Meeting; 2) discuss future activities and plans for TWGs, and 3) discuss the preparatory arrangements for the Second Ministerial Regional Forum.

II. Review of the outcome of the Fourth High-Level Officials' Meeting

2. The Advisory Board expressed general satisfaction with the arrangements made for convening the Fourth High-Level Officials' Meeting.
3. It was suggested that a presentation on the outcomes of Scientific Conferences could be included in the High-Level Officials Meetings.

III. Future activities and Plans for TWGs

4. A question was raised as to why there was a Co-Chair for some TWG. Secretariat explained that more than one member of the TWG wished to be the Chair and other members accepted. If any TWG Chair wishes to have another member as Co-Chair, or another member wishes to become a Co-Chair with a consent of the Chair Co-Chairs could be appointed, provided that other members of the TWG agree to it.
5. The meeting discussed the priorities for the 2010-2013 period and after some discussions made a recommendation as the Advisory Board to continue with the current priorities and Thematic Working Groups for the next 3 years. However, the meeting agreed to promote joint activities among the TWGs and include new emerging issues in the TWG workplans. Health impact assessment (HIA) and development of core environment and health indicators were identified as some of the new areas, involving more than one TWG, for the activities during 2010 – 2013. HIA was noted by some member countries as priority during the High-Level Officials' Meeting. For the development of core environmental health indicators, the meeting suggested that the Environmental Health Country Profiles (EHCPs) and Data Sheets (EHDSs) prepared in 2004 be reviewed. Possibility of establishing TWGs or other forms of grouping on these subjects was

discussed. Secretariat will consult further with the member countries on the priorities for 2010 – 2013.

6. To revitalize the member lists of TWGs, it was suggested for the Chairs of the TWGs to send a list of members who could not be contacted or were not responding to Secretariat and then Secretariat would consult with the national communication focal points for updating the TWG members.

IV. Schedule of the Second Ministerial Regional Forum

7. The Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea presented a tentative plan for hosting the Second Ministerial Regional Forum. The Fifth High-Level Officials' Meeting would be held on 25 August, and the Second Ministerial Meeting on 26 August 2010. The Advisory Board Meeting will be held in the morning of 27 August 2010.
8. The local host will decide on the venue and inform Secretariat in May 2009.
9. It was recommended that TWGs initiate the development of their respective workplans for the 2010 – 2013 period, taking into account the discussion on priorities. It was agreed that i) a full report on the implementation of the workplan during 2007-2010, ii) a policy brief, and iii) a future workplan for 2010-2013 be submitted to Secretariat in April 2010.
10. The meeting discussed the possibility of organizing a joint meeting of TWGs in conjunction with the Ministerial Regional Forum to increase the cooperation and/or interaction among the TWGs.
11. TWG Chairs were requested to inform the local host and Secretariat in advance, if they wish to organize their TWG meetings in conjunction with the Ministerial Regional Forum.

V. Other issues

12. The meeting agreed that the next Advisory Board Meeting will be convened in February - March 2010. The venue will be decided later, considering relevant meetings during that period.