



World Health Organization

Regional Forum on Environment and Health



United Nations Environment Programme

TWG

**Joint Meeting of Thematic Working Groups
of the Regional Forum on Environment and
Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries
10 June 2009, Busan, Republic of Korea**

English Only

Discussion Record

I. Introduction to the meeting

1. The participants introduced themselves in the meeting. TWG Chairs and members from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam participated in the meeting. A list of participants is given in Annex 1.
2. The Secretariat outlined the provisional agenda items of the meeting, and the agenda was adopted. The agenda of the meeting is attached in Annex 2.

II. Implication of the 3rd International Conference on Children's Health and the Environment and "Busan Commitment" on TWG activities for 2010-2013

3. The meeting discussed and concluded that children's environmental health (CEH) issues could be addressed in any of the 6 TWG work plans. It was addressed implicitly in the 2007-2010 work plans, but could be made more explicit.
4. The Secretariat informed the meeting that the letters to Ministers of both Health and Environment were being sent with the report of the Fourth High-Level Meeting on Environment and Health in South-East and East Asian Countries. The letter indicated a suggestion of the Advisory Board that the current priorities and TWGs be continued for the next three years, but joint activities among TWGs be promoted and new emerging issues be included in the workplans. The High-Level Meeting suggested adding health impact assessment (HIA) as a priority that cuts across different TWGs, and possibly establishing a TWG or other form of group for HIA. The letter then requested the member countries to suggest priorities for 2010-2013.
5. After some debates, the meeting agreed that CEH would be another cross-cutting area and could be suggested as a priority for the next 3 years (2010-2013).
6. The meeting further discussed how such a cross-cutting priority issue could be operationalized in the current TWG system. A proposal was to have a subgroup within each TWG to address a cross-cutting issue, such as HIA and CEH. But, a TWG Chair mentioned that it would be difficult to do that in a present TWG set-up. Alternatively, there was a suggestion to create a separate TWG or coordination group which links to each of the TWGs. It was decided that the Secretariat would consider and propose a mechanism.
7. The meeting agreed that the Secretariat would provide the participants with the information on the national communication focal points, who were copied the letters to the Ministers, and the participants would liaise with the national communication focal points about the response to the Secretariat letter regarding proposal for priority areas for 2010-2013.

III. Development of TWG workplans for 2010-2013

8. Given the most likely scenario to keep the current TWGs, each current TWG should prepare a work plan for 2010-2013, giving consideration to address the cross-cutting issues like HIA and CEH in the work plan.
9. It was suggested to target a few important and emerging areas in the respective TWGs and develop work plans. The deadline of submission of the new work plans is the end of April 2010.
10. The Chairs were requested to communicate to their respective TWG members through either face-to-face meeting or virtual communication for the development of their respective work plans for 2010-2013.

IV. Draft Policy Brief template for TWG workplans for 2007-2010

11. The draft Policy Brief template for TWG workplans for 2007-2010 prepared by the Secretariat was presented. The purpose of a Policy Brief was to inform the Ministers and high-level policy-makers about key findings and recommendations in each of 6 priorities. The content of the template included an overview, summary of findings, work plans, progress made highlighting the achievement, conclusions and recommendations, and TWG members. In addition, there will be a page describing the Regional Forum which the Secretariat will prepare.
12. It was suggested to separate the conclusions and recommendations in different headings, and to change "Progress" to "Results".
13. The secretariat will circulate the revised template to all TWG Chairs for their perusal. The deadline for submission of Policy Briefs is at end of April 2010.

V. Briefing on venue and programme of the 2nd Ministerial Regional Forum in Republic of Korea

14. The Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea briefed the meeting on the venue and programme of the 2nd Ministerial Regional Forum in Republic of Korea, and indicated that there was no major changes from the plan discussed at the High-Level Meeting and Advisory Board Meeting in Beijing in March 2009.
15. The meetings was informed that the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Health, Republic of Korea would meet soon and finalize the venue, dates and programme of the 2nd Ministerial Regional Forum by the end of June 2009, and inform the Secretariat.

VI. Other matters

16. The draft communication guidelines between national communication focal points, TWG members, TWG Chairs and Secretariat prepared by the Secretariat were presented. There was a suggestion to define the Secretariat as UNEP and WHO in the first paragraph of the draft guidelines. There were other discussions. As time was limited, it was decided that the Secretariat would circulate the draft guidelines to all participants in the meeting for further comments.