

SECRETARIAT REPORT ON THE REGIONAL PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES



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

**July 14, 2010,
Jeju, Republic of Korea**



Regional Forum on Environment and Health

1. Charter and Bangkok Declaration

- The first Bangkok Regional Forum (2007) approved Charter, Bangkok Declaration and Regional Forum governing body

2. Charter

- 1) Encourage member countries to have and develop National Environmental Health Action Plans
- 2) Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) on 6 priorities for 2007-2010
- 3) Governing bodies; Ministerial Meeting, High-Level Meeting, Advisory Board and Joint Secretariat – WHO and UNEP
- 4) Strategies

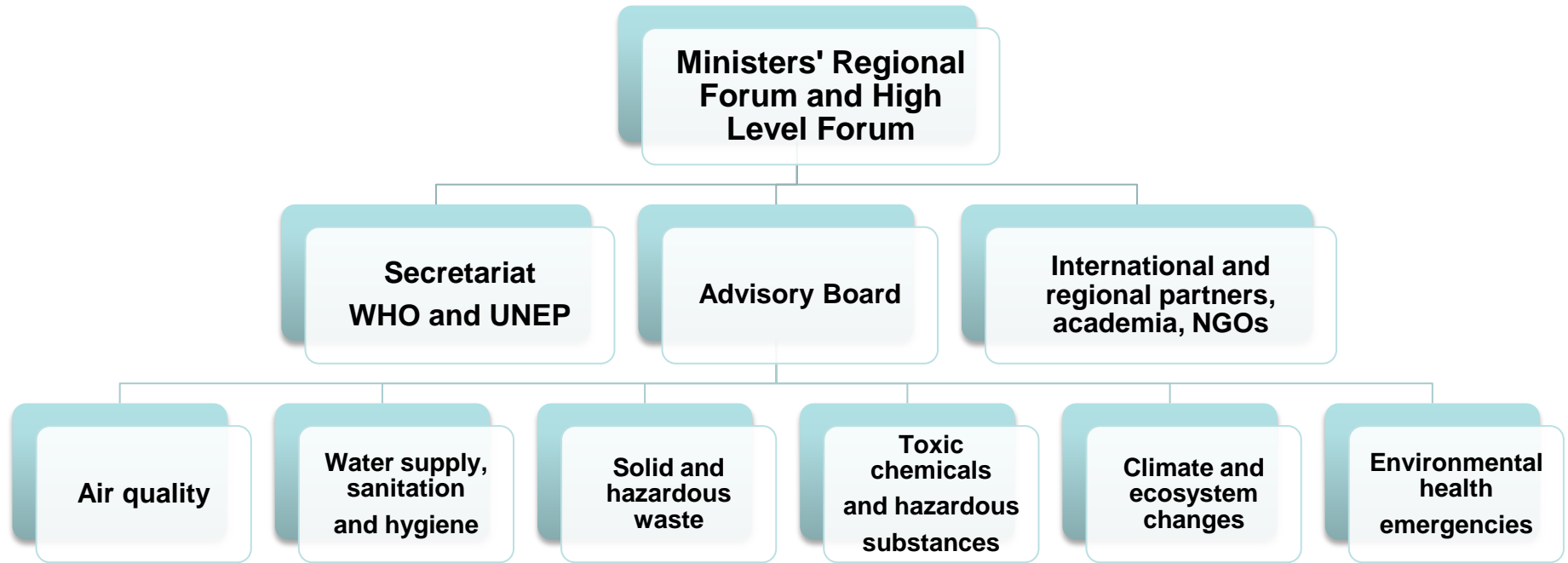
3. Bangkok Declaration; Reconfirm the Charter

STRATEGY

Promote coordinated intervention at regional level to reduce the adverse impacts of environmental deterioration on human health in the region.



The Organization Diagram



1. Ministerial Meeting; Every 3 years, Ministers from MOE, MOH
2. High-Level meeting; Every 1.5 year, High-Level officers
3. Advisory Board; Every year (Board members and Secretariat)
4. Secretariat; UNEP and WHO



Ministerial Regional Forum

1. The First Ministerial Forum, August 2007 in Bangkok

- 👉 **Charter of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries**
< Framework for Cooperation >



- 👉 **Bangkok Declaration on Environment and Health**
- 👉 **Workplans for Thematic Working Groups**

2. The Second Ministerial Regional Forum, July 2010 in Jeju, Republic of Korea

- 👉 **Will discuss next 3 year policies direction, work plan and new priorities**
- 👉 **Strengthening Regional Forum's role**



High-Level Officials' Meeting

The Regional Initiative took off in 2004, through a High-Level meeting at Manila in November 2004

☞ The meeting recommended that a Ministerial Regional Forum be convened.



The second High-Level meeting, December 2005 in Bangkok

☞ A draft charter was produced .



The third High-Level meeting, August 2007 in Bangkok

☞ Finalised documents for the first Ministerial Regional Forum

The fourth High-level meeting, March 2009 in Beijing

☞ Reviewed the progress of countries activities and discussion on the challenges





Advisory Board Meeting

1. First Meeting of the Advisory Board in August 2007

- Review of the First Ministerial Regional Forum and the Third High-Level Meeting
- Future activities and plans for TWGs
- Website of the Regional Forum
- Scheduling of the meetings

2. Second Meeting of the Advisory Board in April 2008, back-to-back with the Third Scientific Conference

- Review of progress in implementing TWG work plans
- Templates and schedule of progress reporting
- Organization of the Fourth High-Level Meeting in the first quarter of 2009

3. Third Meeting of Advisory Board in March 2009, back-to-back with the High-Level Meeting

- Discussion on the priorities for the 2010-2013 period and new priorities (HIA)
- Communication guideline for TWGs members



Thematic Working Groups (TWGs)

1. Air Quality TWG; Co-chairs

(Korea Environmental Health Forum, Republic of Korea, Pollution Control Department, Thailand)

2. Water Supply, Hygiene and Sanitation TWG; Chair

(Institute for Environmental Health and Related Product Safety, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, China)

3. Solid and hazardous waste TWG; Chair (Ministry of Environment, Japan)

4. Toxic chemicals and hazardous substances; Chair (Ministry of Public Health, Thailand)

5. Climate Change, Ozone depletion and ecosystem changes; Chair (Ministry of Environment, Indonesia)

6. Environmental health Emergencies; Chair (Department of Health, Philippines)



Joint (TWGs) meeting

1. Joint Thematic Working Group Meeting

- As one session of the 2nd East Asia Conference of the ISEE which was convened from 18 to 19 April in Jeju, Republic of Korea.

2. Joint Thematic Working Group Meeting

- As one session of the 3rd WHO International Conference on Children's Health and the Environment in Busan, Republic of Korea from 8 to 10 June 2009.



Scientific Conferences

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



Discussion points

1. Jeju Declaration

- The basic policies direction, strategies and agreement to address Environment Health issues for next 3 years
- Reconfirmation Regional Forum's goal and mutual cooperation with member countries.

2. TWGs work plan

- Discussion the work plan and new priorities (Health Impact Assessment)

3. Regional Forum and its Task force (TF)

- Reviewing governance, institutional and partnership issues
- To mandate for Secretariat and Advisory Board to take actions for forming and operating TF



Issues and Challenges facing the Forum

- **Need to raise its profile in the region**
- **Not all countries/TWGs are equally active**
- **Need for more integrated planning & action among TWGs**
- **Limited monitoring of implementation of recommendations and decisions made and reporting same to the Ministerial Forum**



Issues and Challenges facing the Forum

- **No assessment of impact at the regional and country level**
- **Need sustainable financing source**
- **Expand membership – involve more stakeholders**
- **Engage more development partners**



Improve the Governance of the Forum

- **Reconfirm memberships in the TWG**
based on willingness to serve
- **Consider Rotating Chairmanship of TWGs**
allow for better sharing of responsibilities by the member countries/ministries and not unduly burden the Chair
- **Expand membership of the Forum to include academia, private sector, NGOs and the communities themselves.**



Justification for Convening the Task Force

Need for focused group to :

- look at the entire picture (*TWGs focused in their > respective areas only*) to determine areas of collaboration among the TWGs to build synergy into their work
- expand networking
 - > evaluate if the overall objective of the Forum is being achieved.



Proposed TOR for the Task Force

- **Review the Regional Charter and other relevant documents and make recommendations to make it more responsive to the emerging issues and present needs of the Regional Forum;**
- **Study the issues which have emerged and the recommendations made by various meetings and conferences of the Regional Forum and prepare a work plan to address the said issues and/or implement the appropriate recommendations.**
- **Develop in a participatory/consultative manner an integrated work plan for joint activities of some TWGs;**
- **Assess the impact of the Regional Forum at the country level and make recommendations to increase its value-added to its members;**



Proposed TOR for the Task Force

- **Study the feasibility of setting up a Trust Fund or some other sustainable funding mechanism;**
- **Clarify some aspects of the modus operandi of the Advisory Board, the TWGs and the Secretariat;**
- **Suggest ways to involve the members in preparing the Scientific Conferences and strengthen the linkage between these Conferences and the workings of the TWGs, the HLMs and the Ministerial Forum;**
- **Identify opportunities for networking with other groups and other regional and international initiatives;**



Task Force Structure, Composition and Modality of Work

- **An adhoc body of 4-5 members from the Ministries of Health and Environment of the 14 member countries**
- **Working under the Advisory Board (chair and co-chair of the Ministerial forum and the Chairs of the 7 TWGs)**
- **Work through Teleconferences and face-to-face meetings**
- **Submit recommendations to the Ministerial Forum through the Advisory Board which will endorse same to the HLMS.**



Responsibilities of Task Force members

- Fulfill the Task Force's terms of reference.
- Participate in the Task Force's activities (meetings, electronic communications, visits to countries and partners, etc.) proactively and in timely manner.
- High-income members to support own travel costs and host meetings.
- Middle-income members to host meetings.



Criteria for selection of members of the Task Force

- Approximately 5 members
- Balance of high income, middle income, and low income countries
- Balance of environment authorities and health authorities
- At least one country from WHO South-East Asia Region
- Include Forum Chair, Vice Chair and Past Chair



Proposed composition of Task Force

Proposed members

- MOE, Republic of Korea
- MOPH, Thailand
- MOH, Malaysia
- DENR, Philippines
- MOH, Cambodia

Members' representatives to Task Force

- To be nominated by members