



World Health Organization

Regional Forum on Environment and Health



United Nations Environment Programme

English Only

**Fifth High-Level Officials' Meeting
on Environment and Health
in Southeast and East Asian Countries
14 July 2010, Jeju, Republic of Korea**

Summary of the Fifth High- Level Officials' Meeting

Introduction

1. The Fifth High–Level Officials' Meeting on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian countries was jointly organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Offices for the Western Pacific and South-East Asia, and hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea on 14 July 2010 in Jeju, Republic of Korea. The meeting was attended by high-level officials of health and environment agencies from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam as well as representatives from a number of international and regional partners. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Jong-Keuk Oh, Director-General, Ministry of Environment and Dr. Duck-hyung Lee, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Republic of Korea.

Regional level activities since the First Ministerial Meeting and Fourth High- Level Officials' Meeting

2. The Secretariat, UNEP and WHO, made a presentation on regional level activities since the First Ministerial Meeting and Fourth High-Level Officials' Meeting. The presentation and ensuing discussion included the development of a concept note on the proposed formation of a task force to review institutional issues affecting the Forum. The task force would make recommendations through the Advisory Board for improving the governance and impact of the Forum and strengthening partnerships with relevant regional and international bodies and cooperation mechanisms. The meeting endorsed the establishment of the task force, requesting the Advisory Board to define the task force's membership and modalities of work.
3. The meeting endorsed the new regional priorities for 2010-2013 which includes the continuation of the 6 current priorities and an additional priority, namely, health impact assessment. The meeting agreed to submit to the Second Ministerial Meeting for formal endorsement, an addendum to the Regional Charter on the Forum's new priorities for 2010-2013.
4. The meeting noted a need for more integrated planning and action among Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) and strengthening linkages between the Secretariat partners, UNEP and WHO. The meeting also agreed in principle to establish a practice of rotating Chairs of TWGs to allow for better sharing of responsibilities by the members. Plans for implementing this practice shall be further discussed at the Fourth Advisory Board meeting.

5. The meeting expressed strong concern over the Forum's urgent need for sustainable financial support.

Development and implementation of National Programme of Environment and Health since the First Ministerial Meeting and Fourth High- Level Officials' Meeting

6. All member countries present (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam) reported on progress made in their countries since the First Ministerial Meeting and the Fourth High-Level Officials' Meeting, with focus on the development and implementation of national environmental health programmes, including National Environmental Health Action Plans (NEHAPs) or equivalent plans.
7. The meeting noted the progress made at the national level by the countries in strengthening their national environmental health programmes. Some countries have developed NEHAPs or equivalent plans, but some countries would need to finalize formal endorsement of the plans. Countries have also made good progress in strengthening coordination between the health and environment sectors. However, it noted that challenges remained in many countries. It was suggested that the Regional Forum Secretariat should carry on an analysis report to identify ways to address those challenges, to be reviewed and adopted by all member countries.

Policy Briefs of the 6 Thematic Working Group (TWGs) and Future Work Plans of the 7 TWGs

8. The Chairs and Co-Chairs of TWGs made presentations on their respective policy briefs, focusing on the progress made in implementing their activities along with policy recommendations and future work plans. The TWGs include the following:
 - air quality
 - water, sanitation and hygiene
 - solid and hazardous waste
 - toxic chemicals and hazardous substances
 - climate change, ozone depletion and ecosystem change
 - contingency planning, preparedness and response in environmental health emergencies
9. The Chair of TWG on Health Impact Assessment also presented its work plan for 2010-2013.

Special report on Climate Change Adaptation and Green Growth Programme

10. A special report on Climate Change and Green Growth programme in Jeju Island was presented.

Second Ministerial Regional Forum Agenda and Jeju Declaration

11. The meeting discussed and endorsed the Second Ministerial Meeting agenda and draft Jeju Declaration on Environment and Health for formal approval by the Ministerial Meeting.