

**Friday session (1-7-2005)
Regional group meeting "Asia and the Pacific"**

Developing an action plan for the region

Focus Question: What support do you need from SCP Regional /Global team?

A. Technical support

- To develop strategies for mainstream process to be implemented at the local level.
- To Institutionalize and document cities/country experiences.

Main environmental issues to target expertise:

- Vulnerability assessment to national hazards, Clean Technology, Waste Water.
- Management, Poor settlements Sanitation, Air Quality Management Strategy, Improve the quality of house composting for local marketing.

The priority areas for technical support:

- Community based environmental monitoring mechanism.
- Technical support to develop national strategy for developing best practices (skills, mechanisms, policy implementation, regulations and documentation)

How to foster responsibilities?

- By identifying available regional expertise, Changing mind setting, extracting best practices in the region. (It is needed to discuss in more detail defining technical support and management in a workshop at regional level)

B. Regional Network

What should be the function/role of the network?

PNG	Establishing UN-HABITAT coordinating offices in concerned countries.
Sri Lanka	T.A interagency and inter-ministries for mainstreaming E.P.M
Vietnam	Local network connected with regional network on best practices and knowledge sharing.
Korea	To prepare a list of best available techniques and best management in the region sharing with each other through a regional platform.
Philippines	Information sharing composition, city available information leads national institutions and representatives.
Nepal	Establishment of regional information network including Internet platform revealing good practices of EPM process in the cities.
India	To develop knowledge management in EPM/SCP. Update information on status of issues being negotiated under MEAs.

C. Capacity building

- Establishment of training methodology (Training of trainers in E.P.M, leadership and training development management).
- Developing assessment, monitoring and evaluating skills.
- Develop an approach to mobilize communities and community based training.
- Reorientation approach for training (improve planning skills of technical experience).
- Develop a toolkit for sensitisation of parliamentarians.

Final recommendations for Next Steps

City-level Issues

Need to increase:

- ❑ EPM capacity-development support through urban institutions and Training of Trainers.
- ❑ Partner networking – two-yearly meetings were insufficient, needed Regional Group meetings in between.
- ❑ International, national and city-level donor and support programme coordination through global, national and local government partners.
- ❑ National partner commitment to support cities from the outset by strengthening city-national coordination mechanisms.
- ❑ Catalytic funding for pilot (testing relatively high risk) demonstration projects in all SCP/LA21 support projects to mobilise political support through increased visibility and partnership forging.
- ❑ Early linkages to follow-up investments through WB/ADB loan financing to fund citywide up scaling and national replication processes.

National-level Issues

Need for SCPLA21 support to:

- ❑ Strengthen national/city capacity-development through national support institutions, including integration of lessons into curricular.
- ❑ Translate EPM and other UN-Habitat urban management support toolkits.
- ❑ Strengthen national partners and anchor institutions to better support cities.
- ❑ Review national partner linkages to sub-Regional anchor institutions.

Global-level Issues

Need to:

- ❑ Strengthen existing city networks and city-global linkages.
- ❑ Harmonise international programmes and methodologies (terminology).
- ❑ Strengthen capacity-development support mechanisms through ToT and translation of toolkits.
- ❑ Provide joint UNEP/UN-Habitat missions to converge urban environment support approaches and develop stronger national/global linkages regarding MCAs.
- ❑ Strengthen the involvement of sub-Regional support institutions.
- ❑ Mainstream support mechanisms under the MDG umbrella, and strengthen output-based impact monitoring arrangements regarding 7/11.

Conclusions to the Closing Session

The Conference had been invaluable to better understand the need and mechanisms to mainstream EPM lessons learned system-wide at local and national-levels, anchored on a national “coalition” of Ministries responsible for urban, environment and local government functions for policy learning and legislative reform; Local Government Association(s) for political support and policy debate; capacity-development institutions to disseminate EPM process tools, issue-specific good practices and integrate lessons learned into their curricular; and a network of “good practice” cities as incubators for change.

Further SCP/LA21 support was needed to strengthen that city/national mainstreaming partnership through increased EPM capacity-development through Training of Trainers (ToT) interventions, specialised (issue-specific) technical support through a roster of consultants, good practice information sharing and thematic toolkits through expert group meetings, to be coordinated through a “network of networks” to strengthen national/regional/global partnerships.

Additional SCP/LA21 support was needed to further develop national/global linkages and case studies to demonstrate that cities contribute positively to the implementation of multi-national agreements and conventions.