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UNESCAP's Initiative to promote Co-benefit Approach

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Introduction

- UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
 - Regional Arm of UN Secretariat
 - **Supply Innovative Policy Ideas**
 - Multi-disciplinary
 - Advocacy with Analyzed, Proved and Demonstrated
 - **Provide Forum of Dialogue**
 - Inter-governmental, Multi-ministerial Outreach
 - Annual "Commission" Session + Others including MCED, CSD/RIM, Co-founder of *AP Seminar on Climate Change*
 - Altogether, promotes sustainable and inclusive economic and social development in the region



UNESCAP promotes Synergy

- Attempt to respond to mandates given by UN and UNESCAP member countries
- Environment and Sustainable Development Division (ESDD) to integrate Environment into Socio-economic Development
- Millennium Development Goals agreed upon by the World Leaders
 - Mainly, MDG1 (Poverty) and MDG7 (Environment)
 - Other concerns includes Health, Gender, Primary education, Human Rights, etc.
- Win-win Approach “Green Growth”
<Environmentally-Sustainable Economic Growth>
highlighted in MCED 2005



Green Growth – a Key to Synergy

- SOE Assessment on AP Region’s Development
 - Development = Growth stays as primary concern for AP to overcome persistent poverty challenge
 - Burden already exceeding limited environmental carrying capacity
 - Needing paradigm shift to make **economic growth** compatible with **environmental sustainability**
 - Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth = Green Growth adopted by MCED2005
- Two Tracks of Action for promoting Green Growth
 - Intervention at Policy Level
 - Green tax and budget reform;
 - Development of sustainable infrastructure;
 - Promotion of sustainable consumption and production;
 - Greening of markets and business, and
 - Development of eco-efficiency Indicators
 - Promotion of Local Initiatives



Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment (KI)

- UNESCAP's primary instrument to promote local environmental Initiatives
 - Adopted at the 4th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED2000) held in Kitakyushu, Japan.
 - Mandate to achieve measurable progress in improvement of the urban environment by promoting local initiatives
 - 1st Cycle (2000 -2005) participated by over 60 cities in the Region
 - Recommended by MCED2005 in Seoul, for extension up to 2010 with conformity of overall Green Growth approach
 - 2nd Cycle (2006-2010) increasingly highlighting Integrated Approach to Co-Benefits
 - Climate Change components being strengthened



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Environment and Socio-Economic Co-Benefits

- An emerging concept based on...
 - Environmental Co-benefit (Climate Change Action and Local SD / Environmental Protection)
 - Socio-economic Co-benefits (Economic Livelihood / Competitiveness, Poverty Alleviation, Health, Gender, Governance and Human Rights, etc.)
 - Self Sustainability (Financial, Governance, Participation)
 - Synergy amongst MDG1, 7 and more!
- Addressing to overcome technical and financial as well as political barriers to undertaking environmental protection measures at local level



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Challenges of Local Environmental Actions

- Challenges are often cited in terms of...
 - Local Capacity (technical / instrumental)
 - Lack of legal /regulatory instruments
 - Financial resources
 - Awareness and support
- Background problems
 - Policy Priority amongst mounting multiple challenges (poverty, slums, housing, infrastructure, health, social welfare, economic livelihood) > More competition than synergy
 - Perception – Environmental protection measures are financial burden (Prevailing both in city managers, donors and investors)
 - Environmental Departments relatively weak



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How Co-benefit Approach works?

- Environmental Protection Measures often have the socio-economic co-benefits
- Such co-benefits, if explicitly demonstrated, will contribute to
 - Enhancing the priority in local policy making
 - Creating more synergy amongst different department
 - Attracting more financial opportunities (grants) from broad range of sources
 - Strengthening public support with enhanced awareness
- Economic return will help
 - Enhancing the financial feasibility via **Self-finance**
 - Revolving investment for project expansion / replication
 - Attract **external** financial opportunities (loans and investments)
 - Engage expertise commercially available



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Promotion of Innovative Approaches

- **Co-benefits in Municipal Solid Waste Management**
 - CDM : Landfill-to-energy / MSW linked with Composting / Mini-enterprises
 - Non-CDM co-benefits
 - Poverty Alleviation / Employment
 - Community / Social enterprise thru Waste bank / Eco-money
 - Efficient Waste Collection using GPS
- **Co-benefits in Air Quality Management**
 - CURB-Air Case Studies on CDM (Transport / Biomass energy)
 - Energy efficiency improvement for public buildings
 - Link with **economic livelihood / competitiveness** (e.g. avoiding social cost of **traffic jam**)
 - Human-right based approach to Health (w/ WHO, etc.)
- **Eco-efficient and sustainable urban infrastructure (UN Development Account Project)**
- **Climate Change and Local Governance (w/ DESA)**



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KI Support for Co-Benefit Approach

- **Identifying emerging innovative approach + dissemination:**
 - Tokyo Workshop (June 2006) focusing on Lifestyle Changes
 - Yogyakarta BAQ Pre-Workshop (Dec 2006) focusing on Environment and Socio-Economic Benefits in urban AQM programmes
 - Fourth Meeting of KI Network (June 2007) with special session on innovative financial mechanisms for urban SD projects
 - Bangkok Workshop on CDM and Air Pollution Control
 - Joint study with IGES on Self-reliant financial measures
 - Co-organizing Bangkok BAQ in November 2008
- **Guidebooks:**
 - Energy Efficiency Improvement in Public Buildings
 - Municipal Solid Waste-related CDM Projects
- **Replication of successful practices:**
 - Series of Study Tours for replication of successful practices
 - Distant Learning Events
 - Incubation of city-to-city cooperation - Matchmaking
- **Demonstration/ Pilot Projects with Seed Finance**
 - Local : Testing of Selected Co-benefit Approaches (Ongoing)
 - National : Identification of Co-Benefit Potential (Planned)



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- Consultation ongoing with potential donors, partners and participating cities
- Seek for inter-agency / inter-programme collaborations
- Activities on co-benefits in adaptation mainstreaming in preparation
- Any comments, suggestions, proposal welcome

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Thank You

