

Chair's Summary

Seventh APN Inter-Governmental Meeting

21-22 March 2002, Manila, Philippines

Representatives attended the meeting from Australia, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Lao P.D.R., Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, USA, Viet Nam, and observers from the International START Secretariat and SPREP, and by one Co-chair of the APN Scientific Planning Group. The list of participants is given [here](#).

1. Opening

The APN Secretariat Director, Dr. Ryutaro Yatsu, introduced Honoured Guest, Mr. Gregorio V. Cabantac, Undersecretary for Legal and International Affairs, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines, and invited him to make an opening statement. In his speech, Mr. Cabantac emphasised the importance of global change activities and the need for unified and concrete regional and global collaborations in the interest of proactive global change research. He also mentioned that the World Summit for Sustainable Development taking place in 2002 is expected to set sustainable development for decades to come. Mr. Cabantac commended the APN for their noble objectives and pointed out that the Philippines supports APN and acknowledges the significance of APN as an inter-governmental organisation.

The Secretariat Director thanked Mr. Cabantac for his comments and thanked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Mr. Celso P. Diaz for hosting the meeting and for their organisational contributions. The Director also thanked all delegates and observers for their participation in the meeting.

2. Election of Officers

Mr. Samuel Peñafiel of the Philippines was elected as Chair. Mr. Kok Kee Chow of Malaysia was elected as Vice-chair.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

4. Review of Activities 2001/02 from the Secretariat

The APN Secretariat gave a review of the year's achievements. Since the 6th IGM the draft APN recognition document has been prepared and will be discussed as a separate item at the present IGM meeting. The second year of the Networking and Capacity Building programme was completed. One symposium and two workshops were held in Kobe. The Environmental Management of Coastal Seas 2001 (Asian Forum) conference was held, as was a vegetation recovery workshop, Asia-Pacific Environmental Innovation Strategy Workshop and a biodiversity training course. An APN awareness-raising workshop was also held in the Republic of Korea.

APN entered discussions with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme concerning the possibility of APN membership of Pacific Island Countries. It was also reported that Viet Nam had appointed an SPG member and that missions have been made to Australia, China, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam.

A summary of the 2001/2002 funded projects was distributed together with the Liaison Officer (APN supporting officer in START regional centres) Reports. The IGM suggested the Secretariat distribute the publications, results and outcomes of workshops and training information on the APN website.

Action Secretariat

5. Financial reports and 2002/2003 budget

The Secretariat presented the Final 2000/2001 Financial Report for the fiscal year ending March 2001, the Draft 2001/2002 Financial Report and the proposed 2002/2003 Budget. Delegates were asked to consider and approve each of these.

The IGM recommended that:

1. more details be included for the loan interest item in the Final 2000/2001 Financial Report;
2. office equipment be clearly stated as "leasing of equipment" so that depreciation costs need not be considered;
3. future final Financial Reports contain 3 columns (instead of 2) of draft budget, draft finances and actual finances to facilitate the understanding of the report;
4. the Secretariat work with the Japanese Ministry of Environment to try and secure a consumption tax exemption.

Action Secretariat

The Secretariat explained that due to the depreciating yen, an exchange rate of 135 yen to 1 US dollar had been used to draw up the 2002/2003 budget. In the proposed

2002/2003 budget, the Focal Point for USA stated that final approval of NSF/USGCRP funds is forthcoming. The IGM also pointed out the importance of the ratio between administrative expenses and funds reserved for scientific activities. The IGM recommended that APN try to keep their administration overheads to a minimum and emphasised the need to secure increased funding support and in-kind contributions from other organisations. Furthermore, concern was raised at the increased number of projects now being turned down due to APN limited funding and the IGM recommended that, in future inter-governmental meetings, there be an agenda item for discussion on resource development. As APN relies heavily on funding from Japan and USA, and in order for all member countries to have a sense of ownership, APN is encouraged to try and secure funding from other member countries.

Action Secretariat

All financial items were accepted and adopted.

6. Proposals Process

The Secretariat reported on the pre-proposal and full proposal stages in the assessment of 2001 proposals and the recommendations for confirmation of multi-year projects. A total of 99 pre-proposals were submitted in the June 2001 pre-proposals round and, although this stage is viewed to be successful, the APN would follow SPG recommendations and investigate the success of this stage further.

The Secretariat received 78 full proposals in the September 2001 proposals round. In the rapid assessment stage 4 proposals were considered "non-suitable" and rejected. The remaining 74 proposals proceeded to the first stage of the review process by the SPG. Of these, 32 proposals advanced to the final stage of the proposals process. It was noted that the number of developing countries involved in APN proposals has increased, which is a positive trend.

It was reported that the SPG had recommended restricting the number of multi-year projects to be considered for funding to 20-30% of the total funded activities budget and, based on SPG recommendations, the Secretariat will modify the "Call for Proposals - Guide for Proponents" to include: "Proponents should be aware that although APN will consider multi-year projects (maximum 3 years), due to budgetary concerns only a limited number of multi-year projects may be funded. Continued funding will not be guaranteed and these proposals will be subject to rigorous review."

The IGM suggested that the SPG keep in mind the need to assure appropriate reviews in the scientific theme areas and that a balanced scoring system of cross-disciplines is implemented. The IGM recommended that the Secretariat and the SPG work together on this and present ideas at the 8th IGM.

Action Secretariat and SPG

All items were accepted.

7. Scientific Planning Group Report

Dr. Subramaniam Moten, Co-Chair of the Scientific Planning Group read through the Co-Chair Summary of the 7th SPG Meeting.

The following points were clarified for the IGM:

For the Annual Report, an ad hoc committee will be established to ensure that the report meets the needs of readers in terms of both language and content. The work of the committee is expected to be conducted electronically and should, therefore, not have financial implications. Further arrangements will be subject for discussion at the Steering Committee Meeting following the present IGM.

The SPG's interest in including other member countries is purely from a scientific viewpoint and recognises the right of the IGM to approve membership.

Action Secretariat and Steering Committee

8. 2002/03 Funded Activities

The Secretariat Director presented the procedures used to select the 13 projects out of the 78 proposals received under the Call for Proposals 2001 that are recommended for funding. He outlined the SPG rating for scientific excellence and average score were used as the main basis for the funding recommendations. Additional factors included budgetary aspects, the number of high scores, number of workshops and meetings proposed, regional and thematic distribution. Five continuing multi-year projects were also recommended for funding.

The IGM asked that in future, the Secretariat compile the proposals tables and the recommended projects for funding tables so that they also include any in-kind support received.

Action Secretariat

The delegates approved the funding of 13 new projects (9 one-year and 4 multi-year) and 5 continuing multi-year projects. In addition, the IGM agreed that the Secretariat seek the possibility of merging one of the recommended new projects (p51) with a current multi-year project (2001-17) with the aim of not only economising on the joint budget but also to improve the scientific outcomes. In doing this, however, the IGM agreed that the science should not be compromised. A list of approved projects for funding is included [here](#)

9. APN Networking & Capacity Building Programme

The Secretariat reviewed the two-year trial period (2000-2002) and the IGM acknowledged that the programme was very successful.

The Secretariat explained that the following possible future directions were recommended by the SPG:

1. Continue workshops in the same targeted countries in Indochina and South Asia.
2. Partially fund scoping workshops or proposals submitted to APN using networking and capacity building funds.
3. Hold awareness raising symposia in IGM/SPG host countries between SPG and IGM meetings.
4. Consider providing seed money from the networking and capacity building fund to proponents of similar proposals with potential who received a low proposal rating to hold a meeting and develop a stronger proposal to be submitted in the next call for proposals.
5. Hold a regional meeting for North East Asia to be convened in Russia.
6. Hold a joint START/APN workshop in Central Asia and allow participating country scientists to submit proposals to APN.
7. Hold a joint APN/IAI workshop.

The IGM approved the SPG recommendations.

10. Membership Development

The Secretariat presented on membership development and explained that the APN had entered into discussions with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) concerning possible options that could assure the effective representation of Pacific Island Countries in APN activities. The SPREP observer commented that the Pacific Island Countries would be very interested in APN membership; but would have to take into consideration financial implications. The IGM delegates agreed that APN should attend a SPREP meeting in 2002 to further explore the membership of Pacific Island Countries. The possibility of future membership of Central Asia and Singapore was also discussed.

11. APN Recognition Document

The Secretariat explained the process of drafting the APN Recognition Document in

accordance with 6th IGM recommendations. The 7th IGM Vice-chair, Mr. Chow, then presented the document to the 7th IGM delegates. The document was re-named the "Framework of the Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research" and after extensive discussions and further revision the document was adopted by the IGM. The document is attached [here](#)

During discussion several additional issues were raised for action:

1. The Secretariat is to draft a "Terms of Reference for APN Liaison Officers" at the next meeting.
2. The Ministry of Environment of Japan is requested to kindly consider assigning the APN Director to his/her post for 2 or 3 years.

Action Secretariat

12. New APN Activities

The Secretariat introduced three new activities, the Asia Pacific Environmental Innovation Strategy Project, Vegetation Recovery Workshop and an APN "Annual Report." It was explained to the IGM delegates that the SPG, with support from the Small Group, had recommended the Secretariat to proceed with producing an annual report using existing publications of the APN, including a special edition of the newsletter, focussing on sound scientific products as well as performance indicators of the APN. An ad hoc committee would also be set up to assist the Secretariat to ensure the language and contents of the report matched the target audience, such as policy-makers and the general public.

The Secretariat suggested that a synthesis seminar will also take place in Kobe in 2002 with a "Land-Use Cover Change" theme and stated that the SPG had agreed that this kind of synthesis seminar take place annually with location and theme changing each year.

These activities were accepted and approved by the IGM.

13. Next Meeting

The Viet Nam delegate, Mr. Xuan Bao Tam Nguyen, extended an offer to host the 8th SPG/IGM in Viet Nam in 2003. This generous offer was accepted by acclamation. The Secretariat will confirm the date in consultation with the host country in due course.

14. Any Other Business

The IGM reiterated their concern that APN activities are expanding without increased

resources. The IGM proposed that an ad hoc committee be established to mobilise resources for the APN. This will be an agenda item at the next Steering Committee meeting.

Resource options include:

1. Member country co-sharing costs of APN activities;
2. Utilising APN's governmental connections to seek multilateral funding from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), etc.

The IGM asked that the Secretariat investigate the options and produce suggestions and solutions for the 8th IGM.

Action Secretariat and Steering Committee

15. Presentations

1. Mr. Celso P. Diaz, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines. "State of Global Change Research in the Philippines."
2. Prof. Roland Fuchs, Director, International START Secretariat, USA. "Update of Global Change Research Programmes."
3. Dr. Andrew Matthews, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, New Zealand. "Greenhouse Gas Emissions - How would we know if we reduced them?"

16. Closing

The Chair invited the Secretariat Director to make his closing remarks. The Director thanked all participants, Chair Mr. Peñafiel and Vice-chair Mr Chow and informed the IGM that a Steering Committee meeting will be held following the IGM to discuss the most effective implementation of the decisions taken. He then thanked Mr. Xuan Bao Tam Nguyen for hosting the next meeting in Viet Nam.

The delegates expressed their thanks to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines for the excellent efforts made hosting the meeting. The Chair acknowledged the contributions of the delegates and the Secretariat and then closed the meeting.