

## **Chair's Summary**

### **Sixth APN Inter-Governmental Meeting**

22-23 March 2001, Jeju Island, Republic of Korea

### **Summary Report of the Chair, Dr. Chong Chun Kim and Vice Chair, Dr. Andrew Matthew**

Representatives attended this meeting from Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao P.D.R., Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, USA and Vietnam, and observers from the Republic of Korea, 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 His Excellency Dong-Soo Chung, Vice Minister, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea who then delivered his opening address. In his speech he outlined that there is now a general consensus in the scientific community that climate change is occurring in the Asia Pacific Region and that the solution of those changes needs concerted international cooperative efforts and also effective policy prescriptions. He expressed his hope that APN activities focussing on global change research and this meeting will produce tangible outcomes to cope with our diverse challenges.

Mr. Ho-Seong Kim, Vice Governor, Jeju Province, thanked the APN and Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea for making great efforts to hold the meeting on Jeju. He then introduced Jeju, with its diverse ecosystem as an "Island of Treasure".

The Director of the APN Secretariat then welcomed the meeting participants and extended his thanks to the Republic of Korea for hosting the meeting.

#### **2. Election of Officers**

Dr. Chong Chun Kim of Republic of Korea was elected as Chair. Dr. Andrew Matthews of New Zealand was elected as Vice-chair.

#### **3. Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

#### **4. Review from the Secretariat**

The APN Secretariat gave a review of the year's achievements. The first year of the Networking and Capacity Building Programme was completed, during which time the three regional workshops on this subject were held in Colombo, Islamabad and Hanoi. The Pre-Proposal Stage and the Rapid Assessment Stage have been included in the proposals process.

A feasibility study was initiated by the Secretariat for the development of a Mail Review System to support the SPG review system. Besides two symposia (APN/SURVAS/LOICZ on Global Warming and Sea-level Rise and Urbanization and the Global Environment) and one scoping workshop, the APN organized two project workshops in Kobe. In 2000 the APN also joined the first regional network meeting (ENRICH, IAI, START, APN). The SPG suggested that the APN homepage and newsletter could feature some ENRICH and IAI activities in order to highlight APN's role also in a global system of regional networks. Concerning the results of an achievement questionnaire compiled by the APN, it was stated that it is also important to find or develop effective ways to measure and capture the impacts and effects of those achievements.

It was welcomed that the Pacific Island Countries are now also represented in the APN as Fiji had become an APN member and nominated a national Focal Point and SPG Member. Inquiries on APN membership were received from other Pacific Island Countries via START Oceania. India has appointed a SPG Member.

Concerning membership development, the Republic of Korea Delegation suggested that the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea be invited as an observer to the next IGM/SPG meeting and that it would support any initiative the APN would take on this issue. This was positively received by the delegates.

With the support of the Liaison Officers and SPG members, native language versions of the APN brochure have been produced in Chinese, Hindi and Thai. This was suggested as a good means to promote APN in the region. To this end, the Secretariat was tasked to develop effective mechanisms and tools, in cooperation with the Focal Points.

A Summary of the 2000/2001 sponsored projects and the APN Liaison Officer Reports were distributed.

#### **5. Financial Reports, 2001/2002 Budget and Strategic Objectives**

The Secretariat presented the Final 1999/2000 Financial Report for the fiscal year

ending March 2000, the Draft 2000/2001 Financial Report and the proposed 2001/2002 Budget and Strategic Objectives. Delegates were asked to consider and approve each of these.

It was requested and agreed by the delegates that in the future, the Secretariat provide the report in a self-explanatory manner so that it can easily be understood, even by those who could not attend the previous meeting. It was also agreed that member country contributions be clearly identified in the report. It was decided that in the future APN documents be clearly identified as to which are for action and which are for information only.

It was agreed that a financial statement indicating direct, in-kind and cost sharing contributions to APN by country be compiled by the Secretariat and be provided to the delegates as an information paper.

The Japanese delegation suggested that if member countries could make direct financial contributions to the APN, it would also enhance the feeling of 'ownership' of the APN.

The delegates then approved the financial reports

The Strategic Objectives were introduced to the meeting. It was noted that the title and form of the document were misleading and that a document in the form of a work plan should be developed by the Secretariat outlining APN activities and objectives for the coming year, including a brief explanation and approximate financial implications for each item.

## **6. Scientific Planning Group Report**

Prof. Zhao introduced Dr. Subramaniam Moten as new Co-Chair of the Scientific Planning Group (SPG). Dr. Moten then read through the Co-Chair Summary of the SPG Meeting.

## **7. 2001/2002 Funded Activities**

Prof. Zhao, Co-Chair of the SPG, presented the procedures used to select the 16 projects out of the 83 proposals received under the Call for Proposals 2000 that are recommended for funding. She outlined that the Small Group and SPG had used the reviewer rating as the primary basis for their funding recommendations, but that other important factors such as regional or thematic distribution, opportunities to build on past successes or country involvement had also been considered.

The delegates requested and it was agreed that in the future the Secretariat provide more details on each proposal and the selection criteria. Details were given on the different stages involved in the proposals process and clarification was provided on the

criteria applied in the rapid assessment stage. It was agreed that a comprehensive brief on the proposals process and the criteria applied will be provided to the IGM at each meeting. It was further agreed that the SPG should recommend a back-up list of follow-up projects in priority order.

The SPG Co-chair, Dr. Moten, then approached the delegates again for their approval of the recommendations of the SPG and the delegates agreed to adopt the recommendations.

## **8. Proposals Process**

Item 8 was skipped as the information was already provided under Item 7.

## **9. Key Scientific Priorities**

The Secretariat gave a brief explanation on the Key Scientific Priorities and that it had been agreed by the SPG to maintain the current priorities; climate change and variability and the human dimensions of global change. The paper on the priorities was provided to the IGM as a reference. It was outlined that the key scientific priorities do not disqualify proposals under any other of the APN scientific themes.

## **10. New APN Activities**

The Japanese delegation explained the conceptual framework of the Asian-Pacific Environmental Innovation Strategy Project.

After a very extensive discussion on the introduced item it was agreed to change the title of this item into 'activities' rather than 'initiatives' as the actual initiative for this activity originated from an agency other than APN. Serious concerns were raised about APN's role in this kind of activity. It was decided, that the role of the APN needs to be identified very clearly in such kind of activities.

It was agreed that the IGM supports the participation of the APN in the preparation and facilitation of the Workshop of scientific experts to be held in September in Japan in relation to the proposed Asia Pacific Environmental Strategy Project.

This was agreed with the understanding that:

1. APN's section of the Workshop will focus on integrated monitoring and scientific assessment to help with the design of the scientific content and specification of this project;

2. the role of the APN is reiterated to be building global change research and scientific capability in the Asia Pacific Region and hence APN's role in this Workshop will have this focus and be policy neutral and not policy prescriptive;
3. the recommendations from this Workshop will represent the collective views of the participants and not that of APN; and
4. continued participation in this project will be reviewed at the next IGM.

After introducing the scientific framework and the Strategic Plan priority goals of the APN, the Director introduced EMECS, Vegetation Recovery Workshop in Western Australia, and the JICA Training Course (Biodiversity Monitoring Technology).

The efforts of the APN to diversify its financial resources and mobilize additional funds were welcomed by the delegates, but it was again stressed, that the role of the APN must be clearly defined in such activities and that in the future the Steering Committee and, where appropriate, the SPG will be involved.

Concerning the JICA training course it was suggested that the Secretariat should approach JICA to see if it is possible to increase the number of participants.

## **11. Representation of Pacific Island Countries**

Following a presentation by SPREP on Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change, the Secretariat opened the floor for suggestions for effective representation of Pacific Island Countries in the APN.

It was suggested that SPREP could be an appropriate organization to represent the Pacific Island Countries at the IGM. In addition a representative from one Pacific Island Country could be invited on a rotating basis to increase the visibility and relevance of APN to the PIC community.

The Secretariat was instructed to enter into discussions with SPREP concerning these and other possible options that could assure effective representation of PIC countries in APN activities.

## **12. APN Recognition Document**

The Secretariat Director gave a brief introduction of the outcomes of previous discussions and suggestions on the development for a more systematic document in the long-term as recommended by the 6th IGM. The Director requested suggestions from the delegates when and what type of document shall be prepared. It was agreed that a transparent and open process be used in developing this draft document.

In addition it was decided that:

- 1) A small open-ended group (China, Japan, and Republic of Korea) was formed to work with the Secretariat to draft an APN framework document using existing environmental organization documents as a basis.
- 2) The timeframe for the preparation of the draft is the end of May 2001.
- 3) The draft will then be circulated to Focal Points in each country using Fax or Email with a deadline of six weeks for the response. It is emphasized that the Focal Points should consult with relevant individuals and agencies including their SPG member.
- 4) The revised version will then be prepared and re-circulated in a timely fashion.
- 5) The Steering Committee, meeting in October, will have the opportunity to review the document.
- 6) The results of the Steering Committee review will then be distributed.
- 7) At the 7th IGM/SPG meeting a special session will be convened for IGM participants to discuss the draft parallel with the SPG meeting that is reviewing the research proposals.
- 8) The final draft will then be presented to the 7th IGM for consideration and hopefully adoption.

### **13. Next Meeting**

The Philippine delegate, Mr. Batcagan, offered to host the next SPG and IGM in 2002. This generous offer was accepted by acclamation.

### **14. Other Business**

It was recommended that the APN should start communications with DIVERSITAS, as this programme has been recognized as an international organization alongside IGBP, IHDP and WCRP and APN and DIVERSITAS could benefit from increased interaction.

It was agreed that relevant action and information papers be distributed well in advance of APN meetings.

### **15. Science Presentation**

Professor Daniel Murdiyarso presented a paper entitled 'Science-policy linkage and possible future options for APN'.

## **16. Closing**

The Chair invited the Secretariat Director to make his closing remarks. The Director thanked all participants, Chair Dr. Kim and Vice-Chair Dr. Matthews and informed the IGM that a Steering Committee meeting will be held the following day to discuss the most effective implementation of the decisions taken. He then thanked Mr. Batcagan for hosting the next meeting in the Philippines.

The IGM expressed sincere thanks to Ms. Kazuko Watanabe, Deputy Director of the APN, who will take up a new position in Tokyo, for her outstanding contribution to the development of the APN and to the success of its programmes

The delegates expressed their thanks to the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea, and Jeju Provincial Government for the excellent efforts made hosting the meeting. The Chair acknowledged the contributions of the delegates and the Secretariat.

The Chair then closed the meeting.

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22-23 March 2001, Jeju Island, Republic of Korea

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