



## Vision for Rio+20: Global Consensus for System Change towards Green Economy and Poverty Reduction

“A Green Economy is not an ecological conditionality imposed upon developing countries to address climate change which is caused by developed countries. Rather, it is a survival strategy for energy and food security for developing countries.”

This was the message given by Mr. Rae Kwon Chung at recent global meetings in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), otherwise known as Rio+20, to be held in Brazil next year.



Recent estimates indicate that the high food and fuel prices will push 42 million people of Asia and the Pacific into poverty in 2011, in addition to the 19 million from 2010. A Green Economy is a necessary strategy for improving energy and food security in developing countries as it is all about improving the efficiency of energy and resource use.

Mr. Chung further elaborated that the current “Brown Economy” development paradigm, which follows an energy and resource intensive path, cannot continue due to the rising resource prices. “It is wrong to assume that the world can keep developing in this manner and that a Green Economy is simply an alternative option which is more expensive.” On the contrary, a Green Economy is the only option to prepare for the rising resource prices and dwindling natural capital, as many developing countries are particularly vulnerable to energy, resource and food price shocks.

Poverty reduction and a Green Economy cannot be seen as a trade-off, but instead viewed as a win-win strategy. It’s not only about investing in natural capital such as forestry and biodiversity; it’s about an economic system change to improve our efficiency of using natural capital by internalizing ecological prices into the market price so that investing in “Green” can generate profit, employment and growth.

Investing in “Green” will deliver even higher economic growth in the long-run, but there is

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no guarantee that this would be fairly and evenly distributed. Thus, the Green Economy strategy must be supported by inclusive policy initiatives. ESCAP has been advocating INCLUSIVE and SUSTAINABLE growth since 2007, and the Green Growth ap-

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## APUF-5 taking place 22 - 24 Jun 2011, Bangkok, Thailand



Every four to five years, ESCAP and numerous partner organizations from within and outside the UN system organize a multi-stakeholder Asia Pacific Urban Forum.

The Fifth Asia Pacific Urban Forum (APUF-5) will take place 22 - 24 June 2011 at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand under the theme "Cities of Opportunity: Partnerships for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future".

APUF-5 provides a key regional platform for urban actors to discuss emerging and critical urban development issues from the perspectives of different stakeholders, share experiences on good

practices and approaches, and explore cooperation opportunities and links to regional and global processes and development objectives. This year, 250 to 300 representatives from national and local governments, non-government organizations and community based organizations, research and training institutions, academic institutions, the private sector and international organizations are expected to participate.

APUF-5 will feature a variety of events. Three plenary sessions will link various discussion strands and provide participants with a shared space for reflection. At break-out sessions organized by APUF-5 partners during the

"Bazaar of Ideas & Practices", participants will have the opportunity to discuss pertinent urban issues in-depth - sharing successful approaches, practices and ideas and network. Subregional focus groups will discuss urban development priorities for each subregion as well as mechanisms for more effective linkages between different stakeholders at subregional and regional levels. Other events include the APUF-5 exhibition, associated side events as well as field visits. Mark those dates in your calendar as ESCAP and partners are warmly inviting you to join us at APUF-5.

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## Vision for Rio+20: Global Consensus for System Change towards Green economy and Poverty Reduction (cont...)

proach since the 2005 Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development.

"Asystemchangeisfeasibleeven fordevelopingcountrieswithout sufficient finance and technology as a leapfrogging strategy.

"We should ask how we can work together to make a Green Economy happen. Rio+20 is a valuable opportunity to mobilize political commitment and leadership of governments in promoting a system change towards a Green Economy by agreeing on a global package for transformation where

developed countries lead by example and support the developing countries' efforts to move towards a Green Economy" said Mr. Chung.

Many countries in Asia and the Pacific, such as the Republic of Korea, China, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Indonesia and Thailand, are already making this change by adopting a Green Growth approach. This requires a structural change of both the "visible" and "invisible" infrastructure of the economy. The visible infrastructure encompasses the built environment such as city

planning, transport systems and building design. The invisible infrastructure includes the pricing signals, policies, lifestyle and institutional arrangements that need to incorporate eco-efficiency as a core value.

Mr. Chung delivered these key messages at a video-telecast event held at the United Nations University on 6 May 2011. To watch the lecture, visit the UN University's video portal at: <http://videportal.unu.edu/event/216>

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## World Water Day 2011

On 22 March 2011, the United Nations observed World Water Day with the theme “Water for Cities: Responding the Urban Challenge”. In Bangkok, the event was hosted by ESCAP and UN-HABITAT, and officiated by the Acting Deputy Executive Secretary and Officer-in-Charge of ESCAP, the Chief of UN-HABITAT in Bangkok,



Guests of Honor at the Opening Ceremony: From left: Ms. Mariko Sato, Chief of UN-HABITAT; Mr. Chote Trachu, Permanent Secretary MONRE; Mr. Nagesh Kumar, Acting Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP, Mr. Rae Kwon Chung, Director, EDD, ESCAP

and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand (MoNRE). Recognizing the importance of water for achieving the MDG's, the meeting was opened with a message from the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, which was read by the Acting Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP.

“In little over a generation, 60 per cent of the global population will be living in towns and cities, with much of the increase taking place in inner city slums and squatter settlements of the developing world. The theme of this year's observance of World Water Day -- “Water for Cities” -- highlights some of the main challenges of this increasingly urban future” said Mr. Ban. “Urbanization

brings opportunities for more efficient water management and improved access to drinking water and sanitation. At the same time, problems are often magnified in cities, and are currently outpacing our ability to devise solutions.”

The impact of rapid urbanization on water resources management and on equitable access to water and sanitation services is increasing. Facing a growing demand for water, cities in Asia and the Pacific are overexploiting available resources. With large sections of the urban population living in low-quality housing, slums and squatter settlements, providing adequate water and sanitation facilities is a huge challenge with the urban poor often paying up to 50 times more for a litre of water than their richer neighbours.

Mr. Chote Trachu, Permanent Secretary of MoNRE, gave a keynote speech about the challenges of water resource management and urbanization in Thailand and pointed out the importance of commitment to integrate water resource management into the socio-economic development process, as demonstrated by the vision of His Majesty King Bhumibhol Adulyadej. He also announced the organization of the Second Asia-Pacific Water Summit which will be hosted by Thailand in early February 2012.

The celebration of World Water Day continued with a presentation from Mr. Prapas Sangpradab, Bang Bua community leader, detailing the ho-

listic upgrading of the Bang Bua community area with a focus on water, sanitation and the neighbourhood. The event also included an exhibition, but the field visit to the Bang Bua community on the outskirts of Bangkok was the highlight of the day.

The group that visited Bang Bua was greeted with jasmine garlands, Thai classical dance and a drum band from the community youth. The visit included boat trips to the decentralized water treatment facility where a ceremony was held to release Effective Micro-organism (EM) liquid and balls to help fertilize the wastewater at Bang Bua bridge.

About 100 people, including members of diplomatic corps, senior Thai government officials, representatives of UN agencies, and non-governmental organizations, attended the event with the 50 participants that joined the field trip to the Bang Bua community.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unescap.org/esd/Energy-Security-and-Water-Resources>

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Inauguration of the Exhibition by Mr Chote Trachu, Permanent Secretary (middle), Mr. Nagesh Kumar, of ESCAP (right) and Ms. Mariko Sato, UNHABITAT



## ESCAP and KEMCO conclude a successful partnership

ESCAP, in collaboration with the Korea Energy Management Corporation (KEMCO), conducted the Regional Workshop on Supporting Energy Efficiency in Asia and the Pacific on 21 and 22 April 2011 in Bangkok, concluding its two-year project on strengthening institutional capacity to support energy efficiency in Asian countries. The regional workshop gathered participants from Asian countries, the project subregional partners and international organizations for two days to review project accomplishments and brainstorm on future activities. The meeting also provided inputs for opportunities to synergize activities among international organizations to support national, subregional

and regional activities on energy efficiency.

The regional workshop served as a culminating activity for a series of subregional workshops held in three Asian subregions: 17 and 18 March 2011 in Thimphu, Bhutan in collaboration with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Energy Centre; 28 and 29 March 2011 in Almaty, Kazakhstan with the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC); and 19 and 20 April 2011 in



Participants at the Regional Workshop on Supporting Energy Efficiency in Asia and the Pacific, 21 and 22 April 2011, Bangkok, Thailand



Participants at the EurAsEC-ESCAP Subregional Workshop on Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Support Energy Efficiency in Central Asia, 28 and 29 March 2011, Almaty, Kazakhstan

workshop. Although unique challenges for accelerated uptake of energy efficiency exist in the three subregions, the participants at the regional workshop were able to recognize the importance of capacity development in addressing these challenges in the region. This need served as a backdrop for recommending a set of follow-up activities that focused on capacity development and that would engage interested partners and utilized the outputs of the ESCAP-KEMCO project. More details about this project can be accessed from: [eeasia.unescap.org](http://eeasia.unescap.org).

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## Singapore International Water Week, 4 to 8 July 2011

The Singapore International Water Week 2011 is themed "Sustainable Water Solutions for a Changing Urban Environment" to reinforce World Water Week as a platform for solutions to address the latest and most pertinent water issues amidst a rapidly changing world. It also reflects a broader focus beyond urban water solutions and other issues that

affect the urban environment, such as climate change and the management of watersheds and river basins. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP has accepted an invitation from the Public Utilities Board (PUB) of Singapore to take part in the South-East Asia Water Ministers' Forum, which will be held on Monday 4 July 2011 at the Pan Pacific Hotel. The Forum is

a by-invitation high-level platform organised by the PUB for Ministers and selected policy-makers to openly share their concerns and learn from each others' experiences on topics relating to water management.

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## E-Forum on Energy Security Cooperation launched

Due to expected population growth with increasing energy demands vis-à-vis rising fuel prices, the importance of promoting energy security in Asia and the Pacific has never been more pressing as it is at present. The United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP, Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, has emphasized that “energy security is a high development priority for Asia and the Pacific where nearly a billion people lack access to electricity and about 1.7 billion depend mainly on traditional biomass with enormous socio-economic costs in terms of environmental degradation, persistent poverty, poor health, increasing child mortality and weakening social services.”

To provide a platform for major energy exporting and importing nation in Asia and the Pacific as well as sub-regional economic cooperation blocs to share and exchange views on the issue of energy security and development, ESCAP launched the e-Forum on Asia-Pacific Energy Security Cooperation on 24 May 2011. High level panel from Central,



South, Southeast and East Asian, and the Pacific attended the launch. The panel together with other ministerial representatives expressed support to enhance cooperation and promotion of energy self-reliance in the region where high food and oil prices threaten economic recovery and prospects for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Setting the priority to improve physical connectivity and building institutional linkages between the energy-surplus and energy-deficit countries was one of the key messages expressed by member states.

For more information on the e-Forum, please contact [HongpengLiu@un.org](mailto:HongpengLiu@un.org).

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## RESOLUTION HIGHLIGHTS ENERGY SECURITY

At the 67th session of the Social and Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific in May 2011, member States expressed serious concern on the threat that the lack of access to modern energy services, unsustainable energy supply and volatile oil prices pose towards the region's steady recovery from the global economic crisis and its prospects for achieving the MDGs by 2015.

To ensure that the region will not regress, ministerial delegates at the Commission adopted Resolution 67/2 which espouses the promotion of regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific. The adoption shows the member States' willingness to cooperate in addressing energy security challenges and implement coherent energy policies in the

region with consideration to social and environmental concerns. In support of the resolution, member States concurred to promote regional cooperation in increasing energy efficiency by reducing reliance on expensive fossil fuels. Energy importers and exporters are encouraged to develop and deploy cost-effective and renewable energy technologies to meet the growing energy demand.

As a proactive response to the newly adopted resolution, ESCAP will convene the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (APEF) at a ministerial level in 2013. The Forum will serve as a venue to discuss the progress achieved in the region in addressing energy security challenges at the regional, national and household levels, and to facilitate continuous dialogue among member States with a view to enhancing energy se-

curity and working towards sustainable development.

With a view to support relevant key future events such as the “International Year of Sustainable Energy for All” and the “Rio +20” in 2012, ESCAP will hold an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on “Sustainable Energy Development in Asia and the Pacific” in September 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand. The key objective of this EGM will be to seek advice and guidance from the experts of the region in developing strategies towards the enhancement of energy security and organization of the proposed APEF in 2013.

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## ESCAP hosts the 1st Asia-Pacific Regional Synthesis Meeting for the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit and the 6th World Water Forum

In preparation of the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit (APWS) which will be hosted by Thailand in February 2012 in Bangkok as well as preparation for the 6th World Water Forum to be held in Marseilles, France, in March 2012, ESCAP hosted the 1st Asia Pacific Regional Synthesis Meeting towards these two upcoming events. The APWS is the only international gathering where water is the main agenda for Heads of States and Governments.

With 47 representatives from key organizations working on water issues in Asia and the Pacific and Europe, the synthesis meeting provided a venue for water resource management stakeholders to explore ideas on organizing of the Summit next year and on moving the agenda of the APWF. Participants expressed support to the Government of Thailand in hosting the 2nd APWS and committed to integrate their organizational water-related activities into the larger agenda of APWF to ensure achievement of water security for inclusive sustainable socio-economic development in the Asian and Pacific region.

For more information on the synthesis meeting, please visit: <http://www.waterforum.jp/eng/2011/apwf/>.



Participants at the 1st Asia-Pacific Regional Synthesis Meeting for the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit and the 6th World Water Forum, 21 and 22 April 2011, Bangkok, Thailand

## ESCAP to lead technical sessions at the 2nd Asia Pacific Water Summit

In the face of the region's pressing water problems, the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) was formed in March 2006 at the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico to address the challenges of the Asian and Pacific region. The APWF organized the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Bepu, Japan and focused on the theme "Water Security: Leadership and Commitment". More than three years have passed and Thailand has the privilege of hosting the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit (2nd APWS) on 5-6 February 2012 in Bangkok. The 2nd APWS will continue under the guiding theme of "Water Security: Leadership and Commitment" with an emphasis on three policy priorities for water security: development; shocks and resilience; and well-being.

The 2nd APWS is an important opportunity to present Thailand's initiatives as examples of best practices for water resource management, promote active dialogue among regional leaders, and bring about more effective regional cooperation in water security in Asia and the Pacific. The summit will include awareness raising and knowledge sharing activities as well as technical sessions. ESCAP will be leading the technical sessions on household water security and together with FAO, ESCAP is to lead the technical session on economic, food, and water security. For more information on the preparations for the 2nd APWS, please visit <http://www.apwatersummit2.org/>.

## Training on Integrated Water Resource Management

As part of its programme on promoting regional and economic cooperation in North-East Asia, with particular focus on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), ESCAP forged a partnership with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) to provide a training programme on Integrated Watershed Management and Reforestation to ten government officials from the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection and the State Academy of Sciences of

DPRK. The highly specialized four-week training course ran from 16 May to 10 June and was conducted largely by AIT faculty and implemented by ESCAP. Through a combination of lectures, discussions, exercises, case studies, demonstrations, workshops and field visits, the course participants gained knowledge and information related to watershed management,

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## Experts discuss the Food-Water-Energy Nexus

In the purview of ensuring water for energy and food security, the Energy Security and Water Resources Section of ESCAP, and the Water Resources Management Programme of the Asian Institute of Technology, formed a group of experts in consultation with the Regional Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization for Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature to work on the food, water and energy nexus. One of the first tasks of this group of experts was to organize a brainstorming session with the aim to identify possible options and practical strategies to better contribute to the ongoing dialogues in the region and to embark on possible programmes to further promote this nexus in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

Fifteen participants from nine international agencies convened on 25 April 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand to discuss the different issues, challenges, and initiatives that will advance the promotion of the food, water and energy nexus in the GMS. The workshop focused on four important elements: (a) expectations and aspirations of stakeholders in promoting the nexus; (b) challenges to strengthening the nexus; (c) level of commitment of stakeholders to advancing the food, water and energy nexus; and (d) follow-up actions to move forward the nexus initiatives.

The meeting concluded with a united message that the food, water and energy nexus is a critical issue that countries in the GMS should recognize at various scales and levels. The experts concurred that international organizations have the means and the capacity to promote the nexus not only in the GMS but also in the entire Asian and Pacific region.



## Training on Integrated Water Resource Management cont...

project appraisal as well as project development for sustainable and holistic development. Mr. Hongpeng Liu, Officer-In-Charge, Energy Security and Water Resources Section of the Environment and Development Division, represented ESCAP at the opening session of the training course. Ms. Rusyan Jill Mamiit, Energy Security and Water Resources Section, accompanied the participants in their field visits to Thailand's Huay Sai Royal Development Study

Center and the Monkey Cheek Physical Model for Sanam Chai-Mahachai Canal Project - a project of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Both are located in Petchaburi province.

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## The 1st National Seminar on Green Growth Policy Tools for Low Carbon Development in Thailand, 23 - 24 February 2011

The First National Seminar on Green Growth Policy Tools for Low Carbon Development in Thailand introduced key decision- and policy-makers from various Ministries of the Thailand Government to available policy tools that would foster green growth and low carbon development, while addressing poverty alleviation. It also helped establish a platform for further collaboration and development of green growth strategies and applications tailored to address the current and future needs of the country.



“The green growth concept provides a rationale for a new development paradigm. It focuses on how to encourage and stimulate an economic system change by greening conventional economic systems that are based on the over-exploitation of natural resources and the burning of cheap fossil fuels without paying the related ecological and social costs”, Mr. Rae Kwon Chung, Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP told the seminar. “Thailand has a unique chance now and needs to seize the opportunity to initiate such a change in their economic growth patterns, and ESCAP is ready to provide further assistance to the Government for this purpose,” he added.

The Government of Thailand



recognized the need to build the capacity and empower the next generation of policy-makers, entrepreneurs and scientists on how to chart a path for Green Growth and how to invest in new green businesses, clean technologies and infrastructure that can drive Thailand towards greater environmental sustainability, and will support effective climate change adaptation and mitigation action.

“Climate change is happening in South-East Asia and the predicted economic losses are in the range of 6.7 per cent of combined GDP each year by 2010”, said Mr. Asif Ahmad, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Kingdom of Thailand at the National Seminar. “The UK Government is partnering with ESCAP to provide support to developing countries in acknowledgement of its responsibility as a member of the G8 group with a collective contribution of 40 per cent of the global greenhouse gas emissions”, he added.

As the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Mr Surapol Pattani stated in his opening remark: “Thailand is committed to change and has dedicated to become step by step, policy by policy, a green nation, where a better life is

achievable for the people and a healthy society is sustainable for the next generation”.

“To achieve the transformation to a low carbon global economy before it is too late, we need both better international co-operative mechanisms as well as new growth approaches and policy strategies for individual countries”, said Mr. Arkhom Termpittayapaisith, NESDB Secretary General. “Thailand’s 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan underlines the need for green growth pricing and legal tools that will support change in energy production and consumption, and promote new ways of life and consumption behaviour in the country”, he pointed out. This will also lead to “better, greener and more livable cities and a stronger agricultural sector”, he added.

The seminar was held 23 and 24 of February 2011 in the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok. It was organized by ESCAP and the British Embassy to the Kingdom of Thailand, in collaboration with the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), and the Thailand Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

More details of the seminar are available on: [http://www.greengrowth.org/capacity\\_building/National-Seminar/2011/Thailand/index.asp](http://www.greengrowth.org/capacity_building/National-Seminar/2011/Thailand/index.asp)



## Pro-poor Green Business Model for Renewable Energy Supply (Biogas) in Samoa

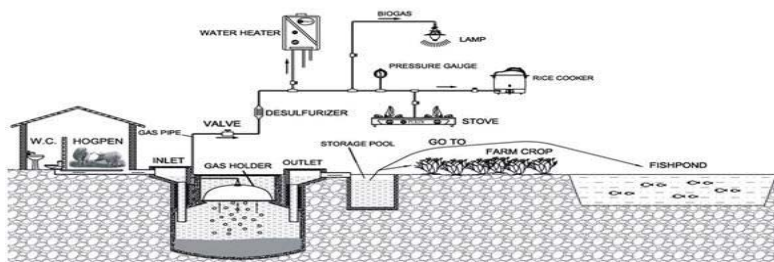
Under the current economic development model, which is based on rapid economic growth, little opportunity exists for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable to participate in income generating activities and to improve their living conditions. Costs for electricity, if actually available, and fuel for households is increasing while the collection of firewood is laborious work and detrimental to the environment and human health. Yet, much of the organic animal, human and kitchen waste material being produced on a daily basis is not properly managed, often causing pollution to waterways and other health concerns.

An integrated approach to addressing these issues is currently being piloted in Samoa by the Youth with a Mission (YWAM) organization, with the support of the Samoan Government, ESCAP and the Republic of Korea. A training and demonstration centre has been established at the YWAM campus in the Falelauniu community of the Faleata district to train trainers in the construction and maintenance of biogas digesters. In addition, the centre works on developing appropriate technologies for brick making, storing and transmitting biogas and electricity,



while ensuring safety and the use of local low cost materials.

YWAM is a large network of communities that train young missionaries to assist poor rural communities throughout the Pacific small islands through a "faith-based" approach. Through these networks, YWAM is already dis-



seminating the knowledge and experience in developing this local solution to community problems in an environmentally friendly and beneficial manner, while also creating innovative opportunities for income generation through savings on fuel and waste disposal, and sales of organically grown vegetables, fruit, and livestock, and products from aquaculture.

Two digesters have been built to capture and treat various types of human, animal, agricultural and kitchen waste to produce methane gas for cooking, lighting and water heating, while the overflow is being used as a natural pesticide and fertilizer for the organic vegetable garden. A third digester is being built to incorporate

livestock waste from pigs and cows and the overflow from this digester runs to a fishpond to promote algae growth which can be used as fish food. YWAM is also looking at other types of renewable energy technologies that already exist or are being generated that makes use of the natural resources such as the sun and biomass waste.

The technology for locally made bricks was developed by YWAM staff with some expert support from a Thailand inventor. Such a technology, if widely used, will enable people to make their own bricks without the use of sand. Over-utilization of sand is considered a threat to coastal areas, which are significant economic assets for coastal tourism in many countries.

The Government of Samoa strongly supports this initiative with the project being officially opened in December 2010 by the Samoan Associate Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Fonotoe Pierre Meti, who together with other guests witnessed the operation of a cooking stove using methane produced on site. The launch was then followed by community training on biogas technology and its benefits.

The private sector representatives and the Chiefs of several communities expressed their keen enthusiasm to receive further hands-on training for building similar facilities. In addition, the coastal tourism industry of Samoa was very interested in the potential for utilizing this technology and other energy efficiency initiatives in restaurants, cafeterias and hospitals.

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## Pro-poor Green Business Model for Renewable Energy Supply (Biogas) in Samoa cont...

Biogas projects were a big eye opener for all the communities in Samoa and other Pacific small island countries. Another benefit is that these create great opportunities for active involvement of youth in positive processes of development of their own communities. The Samoan project has benefited 50 households directly. It employed six workers initially but more than 200

people are now being trained.

A partner organization in Fiji, the Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovations (MORDI) Programme, funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has expressed interest in developing a full-fledged training programme throughout eight Pacific Islands: the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, Papua New Guinea,

Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste. Through this, MORDI is planning to provide effective support to creating sustainable livelihoods in poor, isolated, upland and vulnerable communities in these islands. The MORDI Programme is currently implemented in 31 communities in Fiji, 22 in Tonga and in 13 in Kiribati.

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## Pro - poor Green Business Model Pilot - Bringing Light to Cambodian Villages

ESCAP is pleased to have partnered with the Sunlabob Renewable Energy Company, the Cambodian Renewable Development Team, the National Green Growth Secretariat of the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia, and the Korean International Cooperation Agency, in establishing community partnerships to bring clean, safe, affordable and environmentally-friendly lighting to villages in provincial Cambodia.

The community partnership approach is one example of the Pro-Poor Green Business Model, involving the establishment of mutually beneficial relationships between impoverished communities and socially responsible businesses.

Cambodia is heavily dependent upon energy imports, and many households lack access to electricity. Those who benefit from access to the grid are sometimes faced with prohibitively high costs and intermittent supply. The remainder of the country is dependent upon the use of environmentally unsound, expensive and potentially unhealthy sources for



energy, heat and light, such as portable generators, traditional biomass fuels, kerosene lanterns or lead-acid batteries.

The floating villages of Kompung Prohot and Anlong Ta Ur in Battambang Province are two communities that lack access to the grid and are the focus of the Pro-Poor Green Business Pilot Project. This Project is part of the initial phase of the Cambodian National Green Growth Roadmap, which was



established on the 8th of February 2010 and aims to make the Cambodian development model more ecologically sustainable.

Created through the use of a consultative multi-stakeholder process, the pilot project involves the use of environmentally sound technologies such as rechargeable lamps and solar-powered recharging stations, made available to the villagers by the Sunlabob Renewable Energy company via a low-fee rental scheme. The villagers are trained to administer and maintain this scheme by themselves, granting them energy independence, enhancing their social development, and ultimately stimulating Green Growth.

If successful, it will serve as a model for future Pro-Poor Green Business projects both in provincial Cambodia as part of the National Green Growth roadmap, and in other developing countries across the Asia and the Pacific in line with ESCAP's broader agenda to achieve the Millennium Development Goals through Green Growth.

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## Calendar of Meetings: June – September 2011

Date	Title of Meeting	Venue
<i>June 2011</i>		
12-14	3rd South-East Asia Workshop on Payments for Ecosystem Services: Investment in natural capital for green growth	Banda Aceh, Indonesia
15-16	Working Group on Energy Planning and Policy under the Intergovernmental Collaborative Mechanism on Energy Cooperation in North-East Asia	Chiang Mai, Thailand
20-25	Fifth Asia Pacific Urban Forum	Bangkok, Thailand
23 June – 31 July	“Don’t let opportunity go to waste” photo exhibition at the Foreign Correspondent’s Club	Ploenchit Road, Bangkok, Thailand
<i>July 2011</i>		
4-6	The 6 <sup>th</sup> Policy Consultation Forum of the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth: “Economic System Change for a Green Economy”	Busan, Republic of Korea
5-6	International Round Table on Improving the Municipal Governance System and Infrastructure in Uzbekistan	Tashkent, Uzbekistan
7-8	East Asia Low Carbon Green Growth Roadmap Policy Forum	Busan, Republic of Korea
4-15	First session of the Electronic Forum on “Energy Security in Asia and the Pacific”	TBC
22	Special Rio+20 Ministerial meeting of Pacific SIDS governments	Apia, Samoa
26-27	Third International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific (ISAF2011)	Yokohama, Japan
26-27	Training workshop on eco-efficient water infrastructure and mobile safe water supply system in Mongolia	Ulan Bator, Mongolia
<i>August 2011</i>		
3-4	Inter-regional seminar on eco-efficient urban infrastructure	Santiago de Chile, Chile
23-25 (TBC)	Expert Group Meeting on Energy Efficiency in North-East Asia	Beijing, China
29-30	National workshop on eco-efficient water infrastructure and mobile safe water supply system in Mongolia	Ulan Bator, Mongolia
30-31	Mayors’ Forum on Eco-efficient urban infrastructure	Sucheon City, Republic of Korea
<i>September 2011</i>		
1-2	Sixteenth Senior Officials Meeting of NEASPEC including discussions on Rio+20	Incheon, Republic of Korea
12-14	2nd International Energy Efficiency Forum, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Workshop on Development of Energy Efficiency Policy Frameworks and Investments in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects (13-14 September)</li> <li>- Workshop on Water Resources Management and the Provision of Efficient Water Services (13-14 September)</li> <li>- SPECA Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources, 19th Session (14 September)</li> </ul>	Dushanbe, Tajikistan
19-21	ESCAP and Global Water Partnership South-East Asia (GWP-SEA) Steering Committee Meeting	Bangkok, Thailand
22-23	Expert Group Meeting on Monitoring Investment Results on Water Resources Management	Bangkok, Thailand
20-30	The 6 <sup>th</sup> Seoul Initiative Leadership Programme on Green Growth	Incheon, Republic of Korea
26	Second meeting of the Working Group on Coal (Energy Cooperation in North-East Asia)	Bangkok, Thailand
27-29	Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Energy Development in Asia and the Pacific	Bangkok, Thailand