

Partnership Initiative to Strengthen the Implementation of Agenda 21 For World Summit on Sustainable Development

Name of Partnership/Initiative:

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION THROUGH GREEN PRODUCTIVITY – INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM

Expected Date of Initiation: 2003

Expected Date of Completion: 2007

Partners Involved:

Governments:

19 Member economies of the Asian Productivity Organization's (APO's) in the Asian and Pacific region through their designated National Productivity Organizations (NPOs). Following member governments have indicated their desire to implement the partnership immediately:

Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Fiji, Nepal, Mongolia and Government of Japan as primary seed funding partner.

Intergovernmental Organizations:

Asian Productivity Organization (APO)

Major Groups:

- National Productivity Organizations (NPOs) as designated by each member government in the respective country
- Participating local communities from each of the participating member country

Others:

- Academia
- National and Local governmental agencies
- Local NGOs in the participating countries
- CDM related emission trading organizations

Leading Partners:

- APO Secretariat based in Tokyo, Japan
- Government of Japan
- National Productivity Organizations (NPOs)

Main Objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

While the Asian region has experienced impressive growth in the past decades, still the rural population living in extreme poverty characterizes the region. A number of development programs have been implemented in the past; however the results are far from satisfactory. Recently, it is increasingly recognized that the issues of rural community development are very closely linked with environmental protection.



The APO started its Green Productivity (GP) program in the mid-1990s in response to the challenges of sustainable development arising from the recommendations of the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992. The primary objective of the GP program is to integrate productivity improvement with environmental concerns. GP essentially addresses the triple bottom-line issues of economic profitability, environmental protection, and social fairness.

GP application in communities is an excellent model in which the productivity principles are effectively applied to harmonize the triple bottom-line results for the ultimate goals of poverty alleviation and sustainable development. The APO believes that the GP has a great potential in poverty alleviation and Integrated Community Development (ICD), based on its past experiences in Vietnam. The APO started its GP-ICD projects in 3 communities in Vietnam in 1998 and today 72 communities are implementing GP-ICD for better quality of life, which is poised to become the national program in the coming years. So far the focus has been on water supply, better sanitation, use of waste as the resource for community, natural farming etc.

Another important aspect of these projects is the possible **linkage with the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)**. Many of the GP-ICD projects have resulted in the positive impact on the environment – especially with regard to reduction in usage of coal and the subsequent reduction in the CO₂ emissions which could lead to financial support for the communities / local agencies to continue their GP-ICD initiatives. It may be noted here that under the initial demonstration projects in Vietnam, the participating communities have been able to substantially reduce the charcoal consumption by using the biogas, and this approach appears very promising.

The main objective of the proposed partnership initiative is ***to expand the GP-ICD projects in the selected APO member countries as a novel approach for environmental protection, poverty alleviation and sustainable integrated community development*** to meet the Millennium Development Goals - especially the goals 1 (*Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty*), 7 (*ensure environmental sustainability*) and 8 (*global partnership for development*).

Through the GP intervention and by adopting appropriate technology, following outcomes can be expected from these GP-ICD activities:

- Enhanced national, regional and global partnerships for integrated community development
- Improved living standards for communities through:
 - o Better potable water supply for communities
 - o Better sanitation
 - o Enhanced solid waste management system, with possible reuse of waste (as a community resource)
- Efficient resource management by the participation of local communities to ensure environmental sustainability.

The specific activities under the proposed partnership initiative include:

- Training and Capacity building of the communities and related agencies / organizations
- Demonstration Projects in different countries to demonstrate the workability of the GP-ICD approach in the local situation
- Technical assistance through expert deputation
- Information dissemination
- Appropriate technology transfer through study missions, training seminars etc.



Expected Results:

The expected results of the partnership initiative include:

- Improved living standards for communities through
- Efficient resource management by the participation of local communities to ensure environmental sustainability.
- Reduction in CO₂ emissions by using alternative energy sources other than coal
- Enhanced national, regional and global partnerships for integrated community development
- Establishment of a clear linkage between GP-ICD projects and CDM projects in the participating countries through the initiatives of new partnerships

Arrangements for Funding:

- The initial seed funding will be made available through the ongoing Japanese Government's Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the APO through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- The APO would make its own contribution from its general funds.
- Each participating governments, through their designated NPOs would contribute to the project funding –in cash and/or in kind.
- The participating communities would contribute in kind for the GP-ICD projects.
- Other sources of international funding will also be tapped.

Arrangements for Capacity Building and Technology Transfer

The training and capacity building activities will be accomplished through the network of the NPO's in the APO member countries, since most of the NPOs are renowned training and technical advisory institutions in their own countries with strong linkages with the local experts, this network is expected to be the most efficient means for organizing the necessary training and capacity building activities.

Links of Partnership/Initiatives with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level:

The proposed partnership initiative is primarily in line with the APO's ongoing GP-ICD demonstration program. However, the novelty of the proposed initiative lies in the fact that under this initiative, the GP-ICD program will be expanded to a much bigger scale in the APO region. Moreover, linkages with CDM activities would greatly strengthen the APO's existing GP-ICD program.

Monitoring Arrangements:

While planning the GP-ICD activities for each country, measurable targets would be established. Further, for each national GP-ICD initiative, a national level steering committee of the relevant stakeholders from the country will be established which would be responsible for ensuring the progress of the GP-ICD projects vis-à-vis plan and the targets.

Other Information:

Please find attached some documents related to the GP-ICD success stories in Vietnam.



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