

Type 2 (Partnerships/Initiatives) Proposal  
by JAPAN

**Scientific Capacity Building  
for Sustainable Development  
in Developing Countries**

A New Program under the Framework of  
the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research  
(APN)



Ministry of the Environment, JAPAN

**Name of the Partnership/Initiative**

Scientific Capacity Building for Sustainable Development in Developing Countries

**Expected date of initiation:** April 2003

**Expected date of completion:** 2006

**Partners Involved (tentative):**

Governments:

Ministry of the Environment, Japan and other APN member countries (final decision of launching this new initiative will be subject to the approval of the APN member countries at the Intergovernmental Meeting)

Major groups:

Research institutes in Asia-Pacific region

Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)

*Leading Partner:*

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**Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative:**

The APN, established in 1996, is an intergovernmental network whose mission is to foster global change research in the Asia-Pacific region, increase developing country participation in that research, and strengthen interactions between the science community and policy makers.

The APN has been funding regional cooperative research activities that meet its objectives, providing scientific information on global change to policy makers, organizing workshops, providing financial support for capacity building activities and so forth.

The Ministry of the Environment, Japan, is proposing to create a new program, "Scientific Capacity Building for Sustainable Development" under the framework of the APN in 2003. The objective of this new initiative is to develop scientific capacity in developing countries to improve their decision-making in the target area related to climate change, and water and food security that are directly linked to their sustainable development. The final decision of launching this program will be subject to the approval of the Intergovernmental Meeting of the APN.

This initiative is a concrete regional action to realize the following part of the Plan of Implementation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Draft):

*95. [Agreed] Establish regular channels between policy makers and the scientific community for requesting and receiving science and technology advice for the implementation of Agenda 21, and create and strengthen networks for science and education for sustainable development, at all levels, with the aim of sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices, and building*

*scientific capacities, particularly in developing countries.*

**Expected results:**

Expected results include:

- Capacity building of researchers in developing countries to produce comprehensive scientific information on climate change prediction, impacts, adaptation and mitigation which are made available for policy makers in developing countries;
- Enhanced sharing of knowledge, experiences and best practices on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change between regions in the world, and;
- Capacity building of policy makers and the public by dissemination the outcomes of the research activities.

**Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:**

Specific targets of the program in its first phase (2003-2006) include:

- Planning and implementation of a comprehensive project of climate change research and capacity building including scenario development and future climate prediction, impacts and vulnerability, and adaptation and mitigation, with the leadership and participation of developing country experts
- Planning and implementation of joint scientific activities with the Inter American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) and the European Network for Research in Global Change (ENRICH). Target topics may include impacts of and adaptation to sea-level rise due to climate change in small island developing states (with the IAI), and to water resource variation in Central Asian region (with the ENRICH)
- Provision of the above outcomes to policy makers and the public through workshops, seminars, printed publications and other measures.

**Coordination and Implementation mechanism:**

This program will be coordinated and implemented in accordance with the general APN mechanism set forth in the “Framework of the Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research.”

- The Inter-Governmental Meeting (IGM), as the APN’s general policy and decision-making body, considers and approves programs of activities to be undertaken or supported by the APN based on recommendations made by the Scientific Planning Group.
- The Scientific Planning Group (SPG), as the scientific advisory body to the IGM, recommends a scientific program including proposals for priority of funding and allocation of current available funding for consideration by the IGM, and works with the Steering Committee and the Secretariat in arranging scientific program activities.

**Arrangements for funding:**

Ministry of the Environment, Japan is requesting an additional budget for launching the new program in 2003.

**Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer:**

Capacity building is one of the goals of the APN, stating in its Framework document that “the

specific goals of the APN include improving the scientific and technical capabilities of nations in the region.” This program is particularly dedicated to the scientific capacity building in developing countries through implementing joint research activities among developing countries and linking their outcomes to policy makers. It will be implemented as an activity of the APN, subject to the approval of the IGM of the APN.

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

- Links will be explored through joint workshops and other scientific activities with the other two regional intergovernmental research networks such as the IAI for north and south American region, and the ENRICH for European and African region.
- The APN is cooperating very closely with the System for Analysis Research and Training in Global Change (START), the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), the International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP), the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the DIVERSITAS.

**Monitoring Arrangements:**

This program will be monitored by the monitoring mechanism of the APN, i.e. the IGM, SPG and the Steering Group, which is defined in the “Framework of the Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research.”

**Other relevant information:**

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