

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET

Name of the Partnership/Initiative

Partnership for access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters in Asia and the Pacific

Expected date of initiation: Last quarter 2002

Expected date of completion: 2005

Partners Involved:

Governments: All members and associate members of ESCAP, Italy, Finland

Intergovernmental organizations: ESCAP, ECE

Major groups: Asia-Europe Environmental Technology Centre

Other:

Leading Partner:

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

Please provide a brief description:

The objective of the initiative is to promote public participation effectively. Among other activities, it would develop guidelines to enhance access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters in countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Please also provide a brief description of the relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:

Chapter 23 of Agenda 21 recognizes that one of the fundamental prerequisites for the achievement of sustainable development is broad public participation in decision making. This includes the need of individuals, group and organizations to know about and participate in decisions, particularly those which potentially affect the communities in which they live and work

Expected results:

Please provide a brief description:

Enhanced public participation in the protection of the environment and promotion of sustainable development. The initiative is expected to deliver the following specific outputs:

- (a) A study on institutional and legal arrangements for public participation in selected countries in Asia and the Pacific.
- (b) A set of guidelines on public participation, access to information and access to justice in environmental matters for use in training programmes

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

1. Development and dissemination of country studies on public participation
2. Group training on enhancement of public participation in the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development
3. Development of guidelines on public participation based on country studies and group training

Coordination and Implementation mechanism

Please provide a brief description of expected coordination/implementation mechanism of the Partnership/Initiative.

ESCAP, in cooperation with ECE, will implement the partnership, with countries in the Asia-Pacific region and other relevant international organizations.

Arrangements for funding

Please describe available and/or expected sources of funding for the implementation of the Partnership/Initiative (e.g. donor government(s); international organization(s)/financial institution(s); foundation(s); private sector; other major groups, etc.)

Government of Italy/Government of Finland.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer

Please include information if the Partnership/Initiative provides for training, informational support, institutional strengthening and/or other capacity building measures:

Capacity building through group training, development and use of guidelines, information dissemination and best practices.

Please also provide here a brief description of expected arrangements for technology transfer (if applicable).

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)

Please provide a brief description:

Activity will link to the Convention on Access to Information, Public participation in decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters (Aarhus Convention), as well as Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific

Monitoring Arrangements

Please describe expected arrangements for monitoring of progress in the implementation of Partnerships/Initiative after it will be launched at the WSSD:

(e.g. frequency/modalities of preparation of progress reports; electronic updates, news-letters, etc)

Reports on partnership initiative would be prepared semi-annually.

Other relevant information:

Web-site (if available):

Name and contact information of the person filling in this table:

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