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The Network of Institutions for Sustainable Development (NISD) is a network of 44 institutions, including all region, that have agreed to jointly promote the integration of environment and sustainability issues into economic and trade policies through capacity building activities at international, regional and national levels. Member institutions play a leading role in capacity building at national and regional level and have a wealth of experience in training, research, formal education and outreach activities. The network builds on existing capacities and knowledge of its members to create synergy while also ensuring that activities respond to national and regional needs and priorities.

<http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/DesNISD.php>

2ND MEETING OF THE NETWORK OF INSTITUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 19 September 2005, Geneva, Switzerland

UNEP's Economic and Trade Branch hosted the 2nd Meeting of the Network of Institutions for Sustainable Development (NISD), which was held in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting re-assembled members of the network and several new institutions. The objectives of the meeting were to reflect on the progress that the network has made in its 1 ½ year of activity, to evaluate its evolution, to share knowledge and information among its members and invite new institutions to become members of the network.

Forty-eight participants attended the meeting to discuss the network's future work programme and identify gaps and new opportunities for activities. The workshop was a combination of plenary discussions and parallel working groups on the issues of valuation, integrated assessment, trade and environment and economic instruments. During the working groups, the participants were able to discuss the current needs and areas of work that NISD should address.

The Institute of Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) based in Japan gave a presentation on the NISD Partnership Project on Regional Economic Integration. This project was initiated following the 1st NISD meeting in Jeju Island, Korea in March 2004. The 2nd NISD meeting was helpful in identifying partner institutions for activities of this project. The institutions from Africa were interested in learning from the processes undertaken in this project and in launching a similar research initiative in Africa. To discuss the first step, a gathering of representatives from African institutions was held on 20th September 2005.

The 2nd NISD meeting was held back to back with a UNEP meeting that discussed the findings of a recently completed UNEP initiative analysing the impact of trade liberalization on the rice sector (20 September) and the Second Review Meeting of Country Projects on Integrated Assessment and Planning for Sustainable Development (21-22 September). This provided NISD members with the opportunity to benefit from participation in additional meetings.

For further information regarding the NISD meeting, please visit <http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/2005NISD.php>

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NISD PARTNERSHIP PROJECT ON REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN ASIA

The Institute of Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) in Japan, together with McGill University in Canada, the Korea Environment Institute (KEI) in the Republic of Korea, the National Institute for Environmental Strategies (NIES) in Japan and UNEP-ETB, has launched a project entitled *Promotion of Sustainable Development in the Context of Regional Economic Integration – Strategies for Environmental Sustainability and Poverty Reduction*. Other institutions from the Asian region will provide input and be involved in national level activities, including the Policy Research Centre for Environment and Economy (PRCEE) of the State Environment Protection Administration of China (SEPA), the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, the Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) and the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology of the University of Hanoi in Vietnam. China, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam are selected for the purpose of conducting case studies. This collaboration project will be carried out over the next three years.

The overall objectives of this partnership is to provide policymakers with options for promoting sustainable development in the context of regional economic integration and identifying strategies for environmental sustainability and poverty reduction. The research will focus on regional economic integration in Asia through the process of creating an East-Asian community. The partnership will focus on the following three interrelated and complementary activities:

- Evaluation of the implications of regional economic integration on the environment, while also taking into account the impacts on social equity and economic development
- Assessment of the capacity of existing environmental policies and institutions to deal with the environmental effects of regional economic integration
- Identification of relevant policy instruments and mechanisms for integrating environmental and social considerations in regional economic integration.

The inception workshop was held in October 2005 in Hamaya, Japan. In this workshop the participants discussed the activities to be undertaken, the role of each institution, funding requirements and the schedule of the activities. For more information about the workshop, please visit: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/IGES.php>

National workshops are taking place in February and March 2006. The 1st National Workshop for the case study in China has recently been held in Beijing, China from 1 – 3 March 2006. This workshop was organized by PRCEE and IGES. The next national workshops scheduled will be in Thailand and the Republic of Korea.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/NISDpprjts.php> and http://www.iges.or.jp/en/ltp/activity_rispo2.html

Contact: Mr. Hideyuki Mori, Principal Research Fellow and Project Leader of Long-Term Perspective and Policy Integration Project at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) at h-mori@iges.or.jp

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THE 1ST WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT (IWM) PROJECT

24 November 2005, Korea Environment Institute (KEI), Seoul, Republic of Korea

The partnership project “*Practices, Challenges and Strategies of Integrated Water Management for Sustainable Human Habitat; Integrated River-Basin Management for Selenga River Basin*” was organized by the Korea Environment Institute (KEI). The project was introduced at the 2nd NISD meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. This three-year project is designed to develop an integrated freshwater management model in the Selenga River Basin in the light of internationally sustainable human settlement. This river basin is transboundary and eventually feeds into Russia’s Lake Baikal. However, it has been in danger of becoming polluted recently due to the gold mining activities and rapid growth of population leading to intensive agriculture activities in the region.

The first working group meeting for this partnership project was organized by the Korea Environment Institute (KEI) with representatives from the Baikal Institute of Nature Management of the Russian Academy of Sciences – Siberian Branch Institute (BINM SB RAS) and the Institute of Geology of the Mongolian Academy of Science (IGMAS). The participants identified key strategies, constraints and sustainability gaps in the process of implementing integrated freshwater management systems to develop a framework for the project.

KEI, BINMS SB RAS and IGMAS will finalize the MOU of the partnership project in the beginning of 2006. To better understand the issues in the targeted region, a local assessment in Mongolia will be conducted during the second phase of the project. These activities will excel in the establishment of a cooperative research network to share information and experiences on sustainable development policy options for the Selenga River Basin.

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Economic Instruments

Training-of-Trainers Workshop on the Use of Economic Instruments (EIs) for Environmental Management in Asia
27-29 April 2005, New Delhi, India

The 3-day workshop was organized by the Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), India and was supported by UNEP’s Economic and Trade Branch. UNEP’s Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) and Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests provided additional support. The workshop aimed to deepen the understanding of the participants on the design and implementation of economic instruments and to further develop their skills to train policy makers and other stakeholders. Participants included representatives from policy research and environment institutes, universities and training institutes from Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, South Korea and Thailand, including the Institute of Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC), the Korea Environment Institute (KEI), the Mongolian Nature Environment Consortium (MNEC) and the Thailand Environment Institute (TEI).

The workshop programme combined interactive group work with input by several resource persons coming mainly from Indian research institutions and government as well as UNEP-ETB. The topics covered were:

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- Introduction to the main economic concepts underlying economic instruments
- Benefits and different types of economic instruments and main steps for their implementation
- Environmental fiscal reform
- Case studies on successes and failures in the implementation of economic instruments in different countries
- Use of economic instruments in different Multilateral Environmental Agreements

In the course of the workshop, participants worked in groups on country specific environmental problems identified prior to the workshop, first analyzing the main economic causes for the problem and then presenting a possible economic instruments to address it. The participants stated that they greatly benefited from sharing different perceptions and experiences in the workshop and that they will initiate follow up activities in their respective countries.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/2005TTWIndia.php>



Participants of the Training-of-Trainers Workshop on the Use of Economic Instruments (EIs) for Environmental Management in Asia

Environmental Impact Assessment

Training-of-Trainers Workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Francophone Africa 19-23 December 2005, Tunis, Tunisia

The 'Training-of-Trainers Workshop for Francophone Africa' was organized by the Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies (CITET) with support from of UNEP's Economic and Trade Branch and the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA).

The workshop targeted representatives from the government and institutions who are familiar with EIA. The aim was to increase trainers understanding on EIA system in the African region and to develop their skills to train policy makers and other stakeholders in the topic. The entire workshop was based on the French version of UNEP's EIA Training Resource Manual. The French manual is currently being revised and will soon be available on CD-ROM.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/TraEIAAfricaDec2005.php>

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Participants of the Training-of-Trainers Workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Francophone Africa

Protocol on Environment Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

In line with Article 7 and 17 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea, a Protocol on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context is currently under development. The Centre for International Projects (CIP) in Russia has prepared the draft of this Protocol jointly with UNEP's Regional Office of Europe (UNEP-ROE) that is now the Interim Secretariat to the Tehran Convention. This draft document was considered twice during 2005 at the expert meetings of the Caspian States. The final consideration of the Protocol is scheduled for June 2006.

For more information, please contact, Mr. Sergey Tikhonov, Director of Centre for International Project (CIP) at cip@id.ru.

Arabic Version of EIA Training Resource Manual

The Arabic version of the UNEP's EIA Training Resource Manual that was prepared by the University of Cairo is available online at <http://www.unep.ch/etb/publications/EIAMan2EdiAra.php>.

Trade and Environment

Revised UNEP/IISD Environment and Trade Handbook – Second Edition

UNEP and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) have published the second edition of their popular Environment and Trade Handbook in December 2005.

The handbook was developed to highlight the relationship between environment and trade. The primary aim is to foster a broader understanding of these interlinkages to enable governments to develop practical approaches to integrating these policies. The handbook is aimed mainly at those with some knowledge about trade, environment or development, but not experts on the intersection of the three. It is also a practical reference tool for policy-makers and practitioners.

The online version of the handbook is available at:
http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/pdf/envirotrade_handbook_2005.pdf

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Integrated Assessment and Planning

Launch of 10 Countries Studies including Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Russia, Tanzania and Uganda

This initiative on integrated assessment and planning, including 10 country studies, is now near completion. Several of the country projects were conducted by NISD members (REC of the Czech Republic, KIPPRA of Kenya and RIDES of Chile). While the ten country reports are being finalized, a synthesis report will be prepared by UNEP to summarize results of these studies.

The lead government agencies and the national institutions that have been implementing the projects in the ten countries will organize national workshops to launch the studies in their countries and discuss the results and follow-up with a wide range of stakeholders.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/IAPcountryProject.php>

Green Accounting

International Seminar on Green Accounting 20-21 February 2006, Beijing, China

The Chinese Bureau of Statistics, the Policy Research Centre for Environment and Economy (PRCEE) of the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), Statistics Norway, and UNEP-ETB held an international seminar on Green Accounting in Beijing on 20-21 February 2006. The seminar's objective was to exchange international experience in this field. Around 50 people, mostly Chinese statisticians and environmental economists participated in the seminar. There were also participants from Canada, Germany, India, Indonesia, Norway, and the Philippines presenting their respective national experience, including the Indian institute Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe).

The seminar took place in the context of the Chinese government promoting the use of Green GDP (i.e. GDP adjusted for natural resource depletion and environmental degradation) to evaluate the economic performance of local governments. The government intended to encourage local officials to take the environment into account when pursuing economic growth. But within and outside China, there are different views on the usefulness of a single Green GDP indicator. The seminar provided a forum for debating these issues based on existing experience.

The general consensus out of the seminar includes: a) it may be worthwhile to have a Green GDP and research institutes are encouraged to pursue this, but unresolved methodological problems make it unrealistic for official statistical institutions to estimate and publish such an indicator; b) the focus should be placed on Green Accounting as opposed to Green GDP, since the process of Green Accounting will generate valuable information that can be useful in various ways (such as modeling) to guide integrated economic and environmental policy making; and c) the special needs of developing countries, such as for capacity building and simplified procedures, should be taken into account in the work programme of the United Nations Committee on Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting.

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NISD Forum

At the recommendation of NISD members during the 2nd NISD meeting, a new project is currently underway to establish a NISD Forum on UNEP-ETB's website. The forum will be a tool to announce new activities and projects and facilitate discussion on specific topics among members.

NISD Introduction at Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth Meeting 10 –11 November 2005, Seoul, Republic of Korea

During the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth (SINGG) meeting, the Korean Environment Institute (KEI) had the opportunity to introduce NISD and its activities to the members of SINGG. NISD was introduced to the participants of the SIGNN project to share the knowledge and information that have been compiled through the past NISD activities and feed them into the development of the newly initiated SINGG project.

The SINGG project, adopted at the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED 2005) in the Republic of Korea, aims at promoting regional cooperation through policy consultations and capacity building programmes to help create synergy between economic growth and environmental sustainability in Asia and the Pacific. SINGG is a network of decision-makers for Green Growth with an objective of practical policy implementation, whereas NISD is a network of research institutes and experts to establish a knowledge-based pool on sustainable development. The first SINGG policy consultation forum will be held in September 2006, tentatively in Seoul. The forum will focus on the political issues related to the eco-efficiency, focusing on green GDP and environmental infrastructure for water and waste management. All NISD members are welcome to share their knowledge and contribute their ideas for the Green Growth in Asia and Pacific region.

If you like to share your ideas for the SINGG project or participate in any way, please contact; Dr. Sang In Kang, Sustainable Development Division, KEI at sikang@kei.re.kr or Ms. Nah Yoon Shin at nyshin@kei.re.kr

New Regional Coordinator for the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program – Environmental Impact Assessment (METAP-EIA) in the Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies (CITET)

Ms. Amel Makhlof is the new Regional Coordinator for the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program – Environmental Impact Assessment (METAP-EIA) in the Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies (CITET). She replaces Mr. Rachid Nafti who is now the Project Regional Coordinator for the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program (METAP)-Regional Solid Waste Management Project.

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Non-thesis Masters Programme on Environmental Impact Assessment

McGill University in Canada will offer a non-thesis MSc programme on Environmental Assessment starting 2007. It is currently considering cooperation with developing country universities in this programme.

For more information please contact, Dr. Mark Curtis at mark.curtis@mcgill.edu.

Invitation to NISD members to participate in an Initiative on Environmental Planning for Sustainable Development in East Asia

First workshop organized by KEI and CAEP on 25 August 2005 in Beijing, China

The Korea Environment Institute (KEI) and the Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning (CAEP) jointly organized a Workshop on Environmental Planning for Sustainable Development in August 2005 in Beijing, China. The main objective of the workshop was to build a research network on environmental planning and to promote environmental cooperation strategies between Korea and China based on comparative analysis. Problems in national environmental planning systems related to air and water pollution have often been raised among the researchers, particularly as economic development and land use are intensifying. Given geographical contingency of the two nations, transboundary environmental cooperation systems also are an important issue.

The KEI-CAEP Workshop on Environmental Planning for Sustainable Development (EPSD) re-called the need for further development of a long-term, integrated environmental planning framework in East Asia. The 2nd EPSD workshop will be held tentatively in July 2006, hopefully with more institutions participating. KEI and CAEP agreed to further develop the EPSD network by inviting more NISD member institutions to join. The 2nd EPSD workshop will focus on integrated sustainable development issues such as green GDP, pollution load measurement and sustainable development indicators. All NISD members are welcomed to participate in the EPSD project.

If you are interested in participating, please contact: Dr. Sang In Kang, Sustainable Development Division, KEI (sikang@kei.re.kr, Tel: (+) 82-2-380-7640, Fax: (+) 82-2-380-7644); Dr. Jang Min Chu, Sustainable Development Division, KEI (sinoeco@kei.re.kr, Tel: (+) 82-2-380-7773, Fax: (+) 82-2-380-7644); or Nah Yoon Shin, Sustainable Development Division, KEI (nyshin@kei.re.kr, Tel: (+)82-2-380-7697, Fax: (+)82-2-380-7644).

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Progress Workshop for the NISD Partnership Project for Regional Economic Integration and APEIS Research Coordination Committee Meeting **27-29 and 30 March 2006, Hamaya, Japan**

The progress workshop for the NISD Partnership Project for Regional Economic Integration will be held at IGES on 27-29 March. The priority sectors and issues and the progress of the country reports will be discussed. In conjunction with the progress workshop, the Institute of Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) will organize the Asian –Pacific Environmental Innovation Strategic Project (APEIS) Research Coordination Committee at IGES on 30 March, inviting the researchers of other subcomponents such as Integrated Environmental Monitoring (IEM) and Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) under the APEIS.

Visit <http://www.ecoasia.org/APEIS/> for more information.

National Workshop on Integrated Assessment **April 2006, Islamabad, Pakistan**

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) with the support from UNEP-ETB will hold a National Workshop on Integrated Assessment in April 2006. The overall objective of the workshop is to introduce the concept of integrated assessment to key regional policy makers and stakeholders, with special emphasis on the utility of the integrated approach in addressing impacts of trade liberalization in the context of the South Asian Free Trade Agreements. SDPI will invite some NISD members from the South Asian region to benefit from this workshop.

IAIA06: Power, Poverty and Sustainability – The Role of Impact Assessment **23- 26 May 2006, Stavanger, Norway**

The focus of the 2006 International Association for Impact Assessment's (IAIA) conference is on how impact assessment in its various forms can contribute to poverty eradication and sustainable development. It will further discuss how impact assessment can play a constructive role in the struggle between various interests involved in these efforts.

Visit <http://www.iaia.org> for more information.

UNEP/IIED Side-event on Integrated Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal at the IAIA 06, Stavanger, Norway **23- 26 May 2006, Stavanger, Norway**

In September 2005, UNEP launched an initiative to harmonize various assessment concepts into a common international framework. This initiative is based on UNEP's experience in the field of environmental impact assessment and integrated assessment over the last decade. UNEP, in association with IIED, is convening a side-event entitled *Tool Development Workshop: from project assessment to sustainability appraisal* at the Annual IAIA Conference. Progress with this initiative will be reported and the key opportunities and challenges presented. UNEP will also report on the outcome and lessons that can inform the framework initiative derived from the 10 recent country projects on integrated assessment.

For questions about NISD News, please contact:

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