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ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

Report of the Second Meeting of the Network of Institutions for Sustainable Development (NISD)

19 September 2005
Geneva, Switzerland

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I Background of the Meeting

Over the last six years, UNEP's Economics and Trade Branch (ETB) has entered into agreements with a number of institutions including national training and research institutes, regional organizations, universities, and international and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with a view to establish a collaborative network of institutions. These 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. In March 2004, UNEP and the Korean Institute for Environment (KEI) jointly invited current and potential collaborating institutions to a meeting in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, to launch the Network of Institutions for Sustainable Development (NISD). The institutions present, welcomed the initiative to establish the Network as a vehicle to enhance information exchange, capacity building, outreach activities and the dissemination of publications and training materials on trade and economic-related issues in the regions. Based on the outcome of the meeting a concept note was drafted to summarize the purpose, objectives, expected results, and priority areas of the Network. The institutions agreed that the overarching purpose of the Network would be to promote the integration of environment and sustainability issues into economic and trade policies through the development and implementation of capacity building activities. For this, the Network builds on existing capacities and knowledge of its members while ensuring at the same time that capacity building activities respond to national and regional needs and priorities. Since the meeting in Jeju Island, a number of activities have been initiated by NISD members such as national and regional training workshops, country projects, research programmes and the development and translation of reference and training material.

II Objectives and Process of the Meeting

The workshop, which was the follow-up of the first NISD meeting in 2004, re-assembled the core group of the network and several new institutions. The objectives of the meeting was to reflect on the progress that the Network has made in its 1½ years of activity, to evaluate its evolution, to share information among its members and invite new institutions to become members of the Network. More specifically, it aimed to develop the Network's future work programme by identifying gaps and new opportunities for activities. 48 participants attended the meeting, including representatives from 2 NGOs, 10 universities, 17 research institutions, 7 government institutions, and 1 independent expert. The workshop opened with welcome remarks by UNEP-ETB and the Korean Institute of Environment (KEI).

The workshop was a combination of plenary discussions and parallel working groups on the select issues of valuation, integrated assessment, trade and environment, and economic instruments. In the four working groups, participants were able to extensively discuss the current needs and areas of work that the Network should address. Outcomes of the discussion in the working groups were presented later on in the afternoon plenary session to provide other participants with an opportunity to comment and give further input. The diversity of backgrounds, experiences and understandings that were brought together in the meeting, involving NGOs, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), universities and research centers from all regions (Latin America, North America, Europe, Africa and Asia), created interesting discussions addressing issues from different points of view.

The Second Network Meeting was held back-to-back with an International Workshop that discussed the findings of a recently completed UNEP Initiative on Integrated Assessment of Impact of Trade-Liberalization on the Rice Sector (20 September) and the Second Review Meeting of the Country Projects on Integrated Assessment and Planning for Sustainable Development (21 and 22 September) to provide NISD members with an opportunity to further benefit from the participation in additional meetings.

III Overview on the Progress of the Network (March 2004-September 2005)

The activities of the Network over the last 1½ years covered three main areas:

INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND OUTREACH

In terms of information exchange and outreach, UNEP as a facilitator of the network, keeps the members informed about its activities such as regional training workshops or newly released publications. A newsletter and a web page have been created to facilitate information exchange and outreach. Information exchange among NISD members increased particularly in Asia where recent activities involved several NISD members (e.g. NISD partnership project and regional workshops on economic instruments and transboundary environmental impact assessment, see below).

CASE STUDIES AND OUTREACH

So far, no case studies have been undertaken under NISD specifically, but a number of NISD members have been involved in case and country studies as part of UNEP-ETB's activities in the area of integrated assessment and economic instruments. For example, RIDES (Recursos e Investigacion para el Desarrollo Sustentable-Chile), the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC-Czech Republic) and the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research (KIPPRA-Kenya) are conducting assessments of selected policies and plans under the initiative of integrated assessment and planning. AIDEnvironment is providing input and advice for the overall initiative. Other institutions present in the meeting have been involved in the country projects on integrated assessment of trade-related policies in the rice sector, the results of which were presented in the International Workshop on 20 September 2005 (such as Center for Agricultural Management and Environmental Economics and Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER)-Nigeria, Institute des Sciences de l'Environnement (ISE)-Senegal, Jenderal Soedirman University-Indonesia, Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy (PRCEE)-China)

TRAINING AND EDUCATION, REFERENCE MANUALS

NISD members had initiated several capacity-building workshops over the past 1½ years. These include a regional training-of-trainers on environmental impact assessment organized by the Centre International des Technologies de l'Environnement de Tunis (CITET) in Tunisia in September 2004 and a regional training-of-trainers on economic instrument organized by IRADE in Asia in April 2005. In the latter, 5 members of NISD participated. For the workshops in Tunisia and India UNEP-ETB provided financial and technical support. Furthermore, a workshop organised and financed by the Korean Environment Institute (KEI) on transboundary environmental impact assessment took place in October 2004 and was attended by the Mongolian Nature and Environment Consortium (MNEC) and a UNEP resource person.

In terms of university programmes and education, NISD members have launched two activities:

- McGill University in Canada will offer a non-thesis MSc programme on Environmental Assessment starting from 2007 and is currently considering cooperation with developing country universities in this programme.
- United Nations University (UNU) is offering an online course on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that is based on the UNEP EIA training resource manual.

Progress has also been made with respect to the translation and further dissemination of reference manuals. The International Association for Integrated Assessment (IAIA) set up a training website for the UNEP EIA training resource manual providing links to NISD members that have experience in using it. The French version of the EIA manual was launched by 'Le Secrétariat sous-régional pour l'évaluation environnementale en Afrique centrale' (SEEAC) in Burkina Faso in September 2004 and an Arabic version of the EIA manual has been developed by the University of Cairo, Egypt. Furthermore, KIPPRA was involved in the development of a

first draft for a manual on economic instruments and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in the update of the Environment and Trade Handbook.

IV NISD Partnership Project on Regional Economic Integration in Asia

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES-Japan) presented the NISD partnership project on regional economic integration in Asia¹. The project, which is being carried out by 5 NISD members (UNEP-ETB, McGill University-Canada, KEI-Republic of Korea, NIES and IGES – both Japan) analyses the impacts of the economic integration currently taking place in Asia under a wave of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) that has swept the region since the late 1990s. The objective of the project is to evaluate the implications of FTAs for the environment and to develop sound policy responses to the environmental impacts of this economic integration. The initiation of the project followed the first NISD meeting in Jeju Island in March 2004. With the help of UNEP-ETB, four project proposals have been developed, of which one was taken up by IGES. In subsequent meetings, IGES worked further on the outline of the project in collaboration with the other members, until in September 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding was concluded with the core group. According to IGES, the NISD and related meetings were the main driving force behind launching this initiative. The joint research project will be carried out over the next three years by the four research institutions and in collaboration with a number of other resource persons and institutions from the Network.

The participants showed immense interest in the project and questioned IGES on the issues of how to set up such an initiative, methods to get partners agree on a project and the kind of negotiations that took place before the launch of the project. Other questions focused on the methodology and location of the study as well as on the specifics of the Asian FTAs.

V Proposal by KEI for Joint Research Project on Integrated Water Management

With the objective of raising interest and receiving feedback, the Korean Environment Institute (KEI) presented a proposal for a project on Integrated Water Management (IWM) and Environmental Sustainability. The three-year study aims to develop a model for IWM of a target river basin and in the longer run, to support UNEP ETB's efforts for the design and implementation of integrated sustainable development policies. KEI invited NISD members to join this project and to share information and experience with similar studies.

VI Thematic Working Groups

1. Working Group 1: Valuation

The working group on environmental valuation was attended by 17 participants and discussed the current situation with respect to the application of valuation, shared experiences of different institutions in this area and identified potential future activities for NISD.

The main point of concern raised by the participants was the lack of use of valuation for natural resources and ecosystem services. Participants stated that even though enough literature and theory on valuation is available, its use in decision-making processes is still very limited. Among the concerns identified by the participants were:

- Less complex tools for valuation,
- Lack of capacity of the appropriate people to carry out the valuation and
- Insufficient cooperation between academia and policymakers.

¹ The full title of the project is: Promotion of Sustainable Development in the Context of Regional Economic Integration – Strategies for Environmental Sustainability and Poverty Reduction.

Participants felt that policymakers are still not convinced of the necessity for valuation and thus would not initiate valuation processes and projects by themselves. Participants therefore suggested in order for valuation to become more attractive it needs to be simpler, practical and more instrumental. In addition, it would be good to link it to specific objectives such as the design of incentive measures or the greening of accounts. Technical issues were also raised during this discussion, such as the problems of combining economic and environmental statistics and the need for better data.

In terms of channelling valuation into policymaking, participants expressed a need to decentralise this process and to also address it at regional and local levels. Since in decentralized administrative systems (e.g. in Indonesia), the management of natural resources is the responsibility of municipalities and awareness raising needs to take place at this level. Furthermore, in order to familiarise policymakers with valuation, the valuation tools need to be adapted to become viable and practical for policymakers.

Third, participants identified the prospect for linking valuation to the exploration of markets for natural resources and ecosystem services. Promoting valuation as necessary basis for such markets would raise awareness in the public and private sector and surely highlight the potential and usefulness of valuation.

Participants firmly underscored the need for capacity building for valuation. Lack of financial and technical capacity was recognized to be a major reason why valuation is not used more extensively. Participants stated that training should be focused more at the local level, since it is at this level that valuation is carried out.

Many participants offered to share their experiences and their findings on valuation, and reported on several case studies that they have undertaken. The Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education in Costa Rica (CATIE) highlighted some of their experiences in drafting legislation and policies, applying valuation and implementing payment schemes for ecosystem services, which could be relevant to other NISD members and future activities in this area. The participants acknowledged NISD's role in information dissemination and encouraged it to continue doing so.

Participants suggested that UNEP should start a capacity building programme on valuation and institutionalise roundtables and training workshops on environmental accounting and valuation (similar to the work done by UNEP on economic instruments). In particular, UNEP was encouraged to support capacity-building activities to clarify concepts of and tools for valuation and to further promote the usefulness of environmental valuation. It was suggested to institutionalise the working group on the use of valuation methods and further enhance networking among relevant stakeholders.

The discussion after the presentation of the working group findings focused on capacity building and future promotion of the importance of valuation. It was mentioned that it is essential to publish the results of valuation to a broad audience. One participant declared that even though valuation findings may include some uncertainties, it is important for the broader public to be familiarised with these results. Only by informing the public on the process as well as the outcome of valuation studies, it is possible to promote the use of valuation and to raise awareness of the linkages between environmental degradation and economic impacts.

Participants highlighted the role that policymakers or governments could play to strengthen the use of valuation methods. For example, decentralisation of decision-making process at the national and local levels while linking the need for valuation to the need for exploring markets for environmental services. The issue of a policy context was discussed as different valuation methods are used in different contexts and if valuation should be included in a broader policy context, the value systems attributed to ecosystem or environmental goods and services in each context should be considered.

2. Working group 2: Integrated Assessment

The session on Integrated Assessment was attended by 27 participants, which shared their experience with integrated assessment and discussed areas for future activities.

Participants discussed areas of difficulty, successes in implementing integrated assessment, and recommendations for future activities. As area of difficulty, several participants identified the various definitions and approaches currently used for integrated assessment. This multiplicity causes confusion amongst integrated assessment practitioners, stakeholders and policymakers. But some participants also recognized the very complex nature of integrated assessment, which may defy any single definition or approach.

Participants identified further areas of difficulty in implementing integrated assessment:

- integrating the three areas, environmental, social and economic;
- obtaining data, particularly in developing countries; and
- developing and applying methodologies.

Specifically with respect to economic models, not all stakeholders in the integrated assessment process easily understand the theoretical basis. In addition, many economic models do not incorporate social and environmental factors. It was also stated that timing is essential, as well as determining what to communicate, and to whom.

Participants underscored the value of the participatory, multidisciplinary, and multi-stakeholder approach of integrated assessment. Questions were raised on how to measure the effects of integrated assessment projects. Criteria were offered for measuring the effects including both tangible and intangible outputs as well as the processes. It also is important to determine what has been completed. Government processes are often initiated without completion. Improvement of quality of life was offered as another indicator of success, though measuring this is complex.

Participants made recommendations regarding the use of integrated assessment. In order to convince policymakers of the value of integrated assessment, the process must be useful and accessible to them. To find clarity when communicating the importance of integrated assessment, it is important to address the conceptual differences in the definition and approach of integrated assessment, which participants had identified as an area of confusion. Successful examples of integrated assessment are also essential in convincing policymakers. It is important to link integrated assessment with economic accounting; in addition, there are potential linkages with international environmental statistics and environmental sustainability indicators, which should be strengthened. Integrated assessments should focus on “hot topics” in which the government is interested. In addition, integrated assessment needs to be extended to the organized private sector. Finally, integrated assessment should consider issues of local importance, i.e. food security.

Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), based in New Delhi, proposed two activities for future projects: natural resource accounting, and natural resource management and livelihood for the poor.

The Centre International des Technologies de l’Environnement de Tunis (CITET) in Tunisia, announced that the World Bank had funded a project undertaking integrated assessment in Tunisia.

Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in Pakistan stated that they are planning to get stakeholders together to look at the South Asian Regional Trade Agreement (SAFTA), and seek collaboration.

Participants further suggested that an international initiative should be organized to bring institutions together to agree on a common approach to move forward and that this initiative should also support activities in the field of environmental data/statistics and accounting. Participants also recommended that, in addition to an international framework, clear national-level guidance was needed, including guidance on valuation techniques. Additionally, it was recommended that UNEP allocate funding specifically to support implementation of project results, since there is usually no funding at the Ministry level to support this.

The discussion after the presentation of the working group results, confirmed that there is a need for clarification on the concept, methodologies and rationale for integrated assessment, and that in addition to an international framework; there is a need for simple and clear national level manuals.

The following points while undertaking integrated assessment were emphasized:

- Participatory approach and capacity building for different stakeholders;
- Establishment of linkages between planning and policymaking processes;
- Well-targeted communication and dialogue policy dialogue to help decision-makers or legislators understand how integrated assessment works);
- Data availability;
- Timing of when assessment is taking place;
- Measurement of success of an integrated assessment.

3. Working Group 3: Trade and Environment

The working group was attended by approximately 40 participants and focused on how the NISD might be able to contribute to capacity building in the area of trade and the environment. Even though the issue of trade and environment is very broad, the discussions that developed during the working group focused on a few main points.

Participants noted that more work was needed on the issue of capacity building. The discussion focused primarily on capacity building for government officials, but it was highlighted that capacity building within academia was also essential. In particular, it was noted that governments often lack understanding of the interlinkages between trade and the environment. Some developing country participants expressed a need for experts on this issue that could train officials at the national level. In addition, many participants shared their experiences on training activities and highlighted programmes and websites where information can be found. One participant advocated focusing on bottom-up rather than top-down capacity-building and encouraged NISD members to share their experiences related to national processes and practices so that countries and stakeholders could develop their own sense of what they want.

It was also noted that capacity-building should not focus exclusively on the links between trade and the environment, but should also focus on empowering shareholders to take part in the discussions and negotiations on trade and environment issues.

Participants also discussed the discrepancies and the lack of communication between trade and environmental agencies. It was stated that the division of labour between the two makes it difficult to bring the two groups into one forum for discussion. Participants believed that in the long run it is desirable that people think in terms of economics and environment as fully interlinked and overcome separate streams of thinking and decision-making processes.

The recommendations put forward to NISD and UNEP mainly related to capacity building. UNEP and NISD were encouraged to further promote capacity building, and specific recommendations consisted of conducting working groups and training workshops. They were also invited to act as focal point for the dissemination of training manuals that are currently produced by NISD members. One participant proposed to produce a best practice manual on

capacity building on trade and environment issues, which would facilitate the sharing of experiences and accordingly encourage capacity building at the national level.

NISD was also encouraged to provide a forum to bring stakeholders together and to draw up success stories that could be replicated by other governments and institutions. It was also asked to promote the collaboration at the national level between the minister of the environment and the minister of trade.

NISD in its role as a network was asked to define capacity building. Broader than just training, participants noted that capacity building also involves empowering stakeholders to raise their voice at the national and international level.

Furthermore, it was suggested that NISD help its member organisations, communicate with their government on trade and environment issues and hence alleviate the lack of capacity and understanding at the national level. All NISD members were thus requested to promote more collaboration between the ministries of environment and trade in their capitals and to create national forums for discussion between the two ministries.

The discussion after the presentation of the working group results focused on the recognition that the issue of trade and environment is very complex and broad, and that it is difficult to attain a common ground on this issue. It was therefore recommended that NISD members emerge into synergies for analysis. For example, universities can offer academic programmes to educate local officials, and research institutes closely related to their governments can propose policy recommendations that are specific and appropriate to current WTO negotiations.

One participant also observed that it is important to discuss which type of capacity building is needed and thus appropriately tailor activities towards building that kind of capacity. For instance, there is a difference between enhancing the capacity to change internal processes within an institution and the ability to enhance capacities to change the way institutions work together. Last, a participant emphasised the need for capacity building to be focused on different groups within different areas of society, such as at the grass roots, ministerial, or industrial levels.

4. Working Group 4: Economic Instruments

The working group was attended by 13 participants and discussed the use of economic instruments for environmental management and the different methodologies and processes to implement these instruments at the local, national and international levels.

The discussion in the working group was centred on the different types of economic instruments and requirements for their implementation. Participants tried to identify key parameters and concepts and understand their applicability in different contexts.

Examples of work on economic instruments, including training activities were drawn from local, national and international experiences. KIPPRA referred to a recent plastic bag study in Nairobi and pointed at some of the existing knowledge gaps with respect to the design of specific instruments. The main outcomes of a training for trainers workshop organised by IRADe in India were noted emphasizing the growing interest among policy-makers and stakeholders to use economic instruments jointly with command-and-control measures in the region.

The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) based in Bangkok, highlighted other experiences from Vietnam and Thailand, which revealed the potential of economic instruments to generate revenue for governments. Nonetheless, participants still felt that practical examples have so far been insufficient, insisting that more pilot scale studies should be done. Other concerns raised were related to willingness to charge, since environment is considered a free good, charges are often not considered for political reasons.

Participants were reminded that economic instruments – or market-based instruments - have been discussed for many years to internalise externalities but they have not been widely implemented. It was therefore suggested that more pilot scales studies should be done and the need for more constructive dialogue and interaction at the inter-ministerial level, particularly between the finance and environment ministries was recommended.

Environment and natural resources management were considered as important areas of work and participants were encouraged to identify win-win situations and the methods that were being addressed. It was also recommended that economic instruments should be implemented at the local levels through government institutions and NGOs, and priorities should be given to sectoral approaches in areas like solid waste and wastewater.

Participants suggested that synergies between policies and actions should be built to avoid inconsistencies and promote policy coherence in economic instruments and other policy measures within various levels in a country and to enhance coordination of local and national policies at the international level.

Following the presentation of the working group results, the discussion in plenary confirmed that country projects are the most effective way to demonstrate the potential of economic instruments and governments should be encouraged to embark on practical economic instrument projects. Such pilot projects should clearly demonstrate how these instruments work and the results they can produce, as they could facilitate dialogue amongst stakeholders and promote implementation processes. More so, the design and implementation of economic instruments should be country-specific and also be adapted to the local level. These would provide basis for lessons-learned experiences that will benefit future projects.

It is important to show to policy makers that the use of economic instruments is not politically risky and to do so, it was suggested that UNEP should target politicians and legislators as well as invite different ministers to facilitate dialogue and build consensus among the various stakeholders. Policy dialogues should also include the private sector to promote the further acceptance of the instruments.

Participants recommended promoting a comprehensive policy package, which should not be limited only to economic instruments but also other policy measures. IRADe underlined that this interconnectedness of measures should be taken into account and that efforts also need to be made in related areas such as command and control approaches, participation, rights and responsibilities, awareness raising, education and institutional building. Another suggestion put forward, was to widely disseminate work done by UNEP on economic instruments and further the use of economic instruments for MEAs implementation. Similarly, economic instruments should be used to enhance trade and environment at country's level and UNEP should carry out pilot projects towards this end.

VII Suggestions for Management of NISD

In general, institutions were satisfied with the current facilitation of the Network and acknowledged UNEP's effort in this regard. They made the following suggestion for improved management:

It was requested that UNEP should provide hard copies of the NISD newsletters to help disseminate information as well as to draw the attention of other institutions and agencies. It was also requested to further encourage contact points of NISD to share information with other institutions.

NISD members emphasized the need for increased opportunities to present research proposals, which could be facilitated through NISD website. It was equally recommended that UNEP should set up an E-forum for discussions and exchange of ideas and on-going events of different partners.

Participants expected that a report from this 2nd meeting including suggested activities for the future should be circulated and made available on the website.

Participants confirmed that each institution should appoint one main contact person for the Network. But they also asked that other colleagues in the institutions should be included in circular e-mails. For this UNEP should approach the institutions and collect relevant e-mail addresses.

It was also suggested to establish a working groups around the four themes covered (Valuation, Integrated Assessment, Trade and Environment, Economic Instruments) and that these groups could draw-up work plans for future meetings.

Finally, a participant expressed that possibilities for organizing regional meetings in the near future should be considered in addition to NISD annual meeting in order to strengthen regional cooperation within the Network.

VIII Conclusions and main Recommendations

The NISD partnership project on regional economic integration in Asia was launched in October and the NISD was helpful in identifying partner institutions for activities. It was recommended that institutions in other regions could also join forces and set up similar projects. The institutions from Africa showed interest to learn from the process undertaken by Asian institutions and to launch similar research initiative for Africa (meeting held on 20 September, see Annex 3). KEI presented a new project on integrated water management and invited other institutions to provide feedback and join the initiative.

In connection with the thematic discussions in the working groups the main conclusions/recommendations are summarized below.

Working group on Valuation:

Participants concluded with a call for a capacity building programme on valuation given that valuation is not applied to a large extent at the national levels despite developments over the last 20 years in this area. Another suggestion was to share experiences and make valuation attractive to policymakers by linking it to other objectives such as markets or payments for ecosystem services, economic instruments and environmental accounting.

Working group on Integrated Assessment:

Participants acknowledged the fact that a lot of work has been done on integrated assessment and the work of different organization sometimes overlaps. There is also confusion of concepts in this area and it was suggested that an international process be established for clarification. NISD institutions should play a role to see how different concepts could be brought together into one framework. Important questions such as: what is the real impact of the assessment, what is the linkage between integrated assessment and environmental accounting, and what are the most important indicators for assessment also need to be answered.

Working group on Trade and Environment:

Participants in this working group called for continuous capacity-building efforts on trade and environment at the national level for government officials but also other institutions. Capacity building should focus on issues identified as most appropriate for the countries concerned. The necessity to further enhance inter-ministerial coordination and cooperation on linkages between trade and environment was emphasised. NISD should help disseminate information among members on programmes and training materials from United Nations University (UNU), International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) etc.

Working group on Economic Instruments:

Discussion in this group focused on raising the profile of economic instruments at the international level. A lot of work has been done in this area but most governments are still hesitant to accept this concept. Hence, it is important to enhance the use of economic instruments through activities at international level (policy dialogues involving different relevant Ministries, particularly Finance). The possible plan of action also requires continuous efforts at local level (more pilot studies also on urban issues), aiming at gathering experiences and success stories that will convince policy makers to engage further. The need for a methodology to help select and design instruments, compile and share implementation experiences has been a crosscutting issue throughout the discussion.

Data availability was identified as a major constraint in the areas of valuation, economic instruments and integrated assessment. Therefore, it was recommended that activities on how to collect data, tap the right resources and use them in a meaningful way should be included in capacity building. Participants also noted the lack of available funds for NISD to extend its activities. Thus, more fundraising efforts need to be made at national, regional and international levels to support initiatives of members as well as the overall activities of the Network. It was also agreed that the new institutions that attended the second meeting will become members and will be added to the list of members.

IX Final Remarks

At the end of the NISD meeting, UNEP presented some important lines of action for its future activities and thanked the participants for their marvellous contributions and applauded the massive turnout. However, UNEP cautioned that there would be no results if continuous advocacy for sustainable development goes without any practical action.

Considerations for action will necessitate that the current challenges faced by national governments should not be disregarded. Developing country governments have to deal with the wide range of policy instruments at the international level, such as environmental policies, structural adjustment policies, Millennium Development Goals etc. It was reiterated that some countries are weak in terms of capacity and expertise and face serious financial constraint. Participants were asked to reflect on trade liberalisation since only a few countries have benefited economically and many others are losing on the environment, economic and social fronts. It was recognised that international organisations including UNEP cannot always provide solutions to all national problems, as they may not have the capacities themselves.

NISD members were reminded that countries do have the capacities at national level to build and implement good policies and therefore NISD members play a crucial role in promoting national policies for environment and trade and sustainable development. Also, linkages between poverty reduction and trade and sustainable development are no less important and should be taken into account in national processes. The relevancy of showing the linkages between environmental, social and economic issues as being supportive was emphasized. Through this information, ministers can be convinced to adopt the right policies.

UNEP called upon national institutions to take action at national and regional levels with support from international organisations. Capacity building should be done by nationals/locals who know their needs and priorities and not experts from outside.

Annex 1: Annotated Agenda of 2nd NISD meeting

19 September 2005

Geneva - IEH 2 - Room: Rhine, Aare and Rhone

8:00-9:30 A note on logistics

Participants will meet UNEP staff at 8 am at the hotel lobby in the following hotels: Bernina Hotel, Swiss Hotel, Hotel des Alpes, Hotel Savoy and Hotel Jade. Those entitled will receive DSA, and will be taken to the nearest UBS bank to cash their checks (the bank opposite the train station and is open from 8:30 to 4:30). Then they will be accompanied to the bus stop located at *Places des 22 Cantons* and jointly take the public bus to the International Environment House 2 (No. 6 or 19 from *Chatepoulet / Place des 22 Cantons* direction *Vernier-Village*; get off at *Chatelaine Ecole*). Participants who do not stay in the above hotels or do not need to go to the bank can go straight to the International Environment House 2 (for direction see logistical information sheet).

9:30 – 9:45 Welcome and opening remarks, *Hussein Abaza, Chief, UNEP-ETB*

This session will serve to welcome the participants and present the strategy and main activities of UNEP's Economics and Trade Branch.

For further information about UNEP's Economics and Trade Branch, please see UNEP ETB's website at <http://www.unep.ch/etb/index.php>

9:45-10:15 Objectives, programme and progress report, *Vera Weick, UNEP-ETB*

This session will serve to briefly present the objectives and the programme of the second NISD meeting and summarize the progress made over the last 1½ years since the 1st meeting in March 2004. The first 'NISD-meeting' in Jeju Island, Rep. of Korea served to initiate the Network, get to know each other's activities and draft the concept note. Building on 1 ½ years of experience, the second 'NISD meeting' will focus on the following:

- reflect on the progress made
- identify gaps and opportunities
- discuss selected topics in more detail in thematic working groups
- invite new members to extend the Network
- develop a work programme for the next year.

For further information about the Network and past activities please see:

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

Concept note: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/events2004/networkMeeting/ConceptNoteNISD.pdf>

NISD News No. 1: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/pdf/NISDnewsNo1.pdf>

Description of NISD members: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/nisd.php>

Points of discussion could be:

- Have expectations as regards NISD and its activities been met?
- What has been good, what was missing and what can be improved?
- Are newly invited institutions interested to participate?

10:15-10:30 **Coffee break**

10:30-11:00 **NISD Partnership Project initiated by IGES, Mc Gill University, KEI, NIES and UNEP, Hideyuki Mori, IGES**

Five members of NISD (IGES and NIES-Japan, Mc Gill University-Canada, KEI-Rep. of Korea, and UNEP-Geneva) have recently launched a partnership project on *Promotion of Sustainable Development in the Context of Regional Economic Integration – Strategies for Environmental Sustainability and Poverty Reduction*. The joint research project to be conducted over the next 3 years will focus on regional economic integration in Asia through the process of creating an East Asian community. Core activities will include:

- An evaluation of the implications of regional economic integration on the environment taking into accounts the impact on social equity and economic development.
- An assessment of the capacity of existing environmental policies and institutions to deal with environmental effects of regional integration.
- The identification of relevant policy instruments and mechanisms for the integration of environmental and social considerations in regional economic integration.

This initiative is the first inter-institutional research project launched under NISD and may motivate other members to initiate similar partnership projects.

Points of discussion could be:

- How could other NISD members contribute to the initiative?
- What could other NISD members learn from the experience of setting up a partnership?
- Are there ideas for further partnership projects?

11:00-12:00 **Parallel Working Groups**

The purpose of the one-hour discussions in parallel working groups (11.00-12.00 and 1.00-2.00) is to develop ideas for activities that members of NISD could carry out in the selected areas of work. The topics have been chosen based on interest expressed at the first 'NISD meeting' (see concept note) and over the last 1 ½ years. Participants will be expected to actively contribute to the discussion. Guiding questions for the group discussion will be:

- What experience do participants have?
- What is most needed in this area (awareness raising, capacity building, methodology development, concrete application of instruments, policy dialogue, etc.)?
- What could NISD members do to contribute to meeting these needs?
- What could different institutions do?
- How could activities be financed (own resources, fundraising, etc.)?
- What will be the next steps (to be taken immediately after the meeting)?

Working groups should be able to present at least one concrete suggestion for a joint activity to the plenary in the afternoon session and answer major questions, such as What? Why? Who? and When? Each working group will be moderated by UNEP staff and will select 1 rapporteur to present the results in the afternoon session.

Working Group 1
Valuation

During the past decade valuation of environmental goods and services as well as the development of valuation methodologies have gained increased international attention. But, although there is a vast amount of academic literature on valuation, including a large number of case studies, valuation is not widely applied in decision-making processes at national level. However, knowing the full value of environmental goods and services could lead to better-informed decisions and optimised use of resources, and it would provide the basis for the design of market-based instruments (including payment for ecosystem services) as well as an environmentally-adjusted system of national accounts. UNEP currently seeks to enhance its activities in this area. Building on existing experiences with valuation and environmental accounting, participants will be asked to suggest activities that could build capacities on valuation of environmental goods and services. Possible points of discussion:

- Why is valuation not used more often in decision-making processes?
- How to best focus activities (target groups, sectors, certain resources, etc.)?
- What are ways to build capacities on valuation?

Working Group 2
Integrated Assessment

Integrated assessment as a tool analyze the social, environmental and economic impacts of a plan programme or policy has been promoted by UNEP since almost a decade, with a total of 28 country projects conducted since 1997 and several reference manuals being released. NISD members have led (or are currently leading) several of these studies. Similar assessment initiatives have been launched by other organizations promoting sustainability impact assessment, strategic environmental assessment, etc. Nevertheless, the use of integrated assessments in the policy making process in developing countries and countries with economies in transition is still limited (mainly project-driven), capacity is lacking, there is limited availability and access to data and processes have not been institutionalised. Building on past experiences in this area, participants will be asked to suggest activities that would further enhance the use of integrated assessment, aiming to make it a regular tool in decision making processes.

Possible points of discussion (What is needed?)

- Harmonization of approaches and initiatives
- Political dialogue at country level
- Further development of methodologies
- Use of environmental-economic accounting to support integrated assessment
- More case studies
- Focus on PRSPs or certain sectors (fisheries, agriculture, energy, water, tourism)

12:00-1:00

Lunch in cafeteria in IEH 1

Participants will jointly go for lunch in the cafeteria in the neighboring building

1:00-2:00 Parallel Working Groups:

Working Group 3
Trade and Environment

Working Group 4
Economic Instruments

Capacity building that enhances the integration of sustainability issues into trade policies was highlighted as one of the main activity areas of the Network in the 1st meeting. With the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference approaching the debate on certain items such as fisheries subsidies and environmental goods and services is gaining momentum and opens opportunities for targeted capacity building activities. Other issues such as environmental requirements and market access are continuously being highlighted in international workshops. At the same time the number and complexity of regional and bilateral trade agreements is increasing and countries need to be prepared in order to fully benefit from further liberalization and integration. The working group will provide the opportunity for members to share their experiences with capacity building for trade and environment issues, including a brief update on the current activities of the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development. Building on these experiences participants will be asked to suggest activities which would lead to better integration of environmental considerations in trade negotiations and trade policies: Possible points of discussion:

- What issues should NISD members focus on to have the greatest impact on the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong?
- What can NISD members do to provide information and training to governments and other stakeholders in view of the negotiations?
- Where do participants see win-win opportunities for trade and sustainable development (organic agriculture, forest certification, etc.)?
- What are the main challenges and opportunities in the framework of regional trade agreements? How can they be addressed?

Economic instruments have been widely acknowledged as efficient and flexible tools to meet sustainable development targets. The practical application, however, can be a challenge since it requires a sound understanding of the environmental problem to be addressed, of the existing baseline condition as well as the right design and strategy for implementation. Without the necessary institutional and legal framework, economic instruments will not be likely to bring the expected benefits. Although there is a vast amount of experiences and publications in this area, policy makers and other stakeholders still lack capacity to effectively apply economic instruments on a large scale at national level. NISD members have conducted several activities over the last 1 ½ years to address this problem through training workshops and development of manuals, and selected members will have the opportunity to share their experiences (e.g. IRADe, KIPPRA, AIT). However, much more would need to be done to build capacities on a larger scale. Building on past experiences, participants will be asked to make suggestions for activities that would further enhance the understanding and appropriate use of economic instruments.

Possible points for discussion:

- Which activities will be most suitable (more training, more policy dialogue, more projects)?
- Should work be focused on specific sectors (fishery, forest, etc.)?
- How can market based mechanisms promote the implementation of MEAs (biodiversity, chemicals, etc.)?

2:00-4:00 Presentation and discussion of working group results

During this session the different working groups will have 30 minutes each to present the outcomes of their working group and discuss it with the other participants. The presentation should focus on action that the group recommends to take in the framework of NISD in order to advance methodologies, further the use of certain instruments, raise awareness or build capacities. The other participants will be invited to provide feedback and further input. The discussions in the working groups and the plenary will be the basis for the development of the work programme for the next year.

4:00-4:15 **Coffee break**

4:15-5:30 **Discussion of future activities of NISD**

This session will summarize the main points discussed at the meeting, on which the future work programme will be built. It will also be the possibility to raise additional points and bring up issues, which have not been addressed during the meeting and to discuss general activities of NISD such as outreach, funding, dissemination, etc.

Points for discussion could be:

- Is information disseminated through the Network sufficient?
- How to fund raise for activities of the Network (e.g. joint proposals or single initiatives)? What are possible sources?
- How can the use and look of NISD website be improved?
- Should NISD Newsletter be continued as it is or should it be changed, improved, distributed more widely?
- Should above working groups be institutionalised as sub groups of NISD?
- How can we increase inter-institutional communication other than at meetings?
- Does the Network need an internal governing structure or is facilitation by UNEP currently sufficient?

5:15-5:30 **Final remarks**
Hussein Abaza

Annex 2: Participants list of 2nd NISD Meeting

AIDEnvironment

Mr. Jan Joost Kessler
Ecologist
Strategic Planning
AIDEnvironment
Donker Curtiusstraat 7- 523
1051 JL Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel: + 31 20 6868 111
Fax: + 31 20 6866 251
E-mail: Kessler@aidenvironment.org

Advocates Coalition for Development Environment

Mr. Godber Wilson Tumushabe
Executive Director
Advocates Coalition for Development
Environment
P.O Box 29836
Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256 41 530 798
Fax: + 256 77 590642
E-mail: g.tumushabe@acode-u.org ;
acode@acode-u.org

Asian Institute of Technology

Prof. ATM Nurul Amin
School of Environment, Resources &
Development
Asian Institute of Technology
P.O. Box 4 Klong Luang
Pathumthani 12120 Bangkok
Thailand
Tel: +66 2 524 5604
Fax: +66 2 516 2126
E-mail: amin@ait.ac.th

Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

Mrs. Jaye Shuttleworth
Director
Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and
International Trade
Lester B. Pearson Building;
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2
Canada
Tel: + (1 613) 944 0428
Fax: + (1 613) 944 0432
E-mail: jaye.shuttleworth@international.gc.ca

Center for Agricultural Management and Environmental Economics

Prof. Peter 'Bola Okuneye
Project Director
Center for Agricultural Management and
Environmental Economics,
Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm
Management
University of Agriculture, Abeokuta,
Nigeria

P.M.B. 2240
Abeokuta Ogun State
Nigeria
Tel: +234- 803 323-3230/234-805-466-
885-3
Fax: +234-39-244374
E-mail: b_okuneye@yahoo.com

Center for International Projects (CIP)

Ms. Larisa Orlova
Project Coordinator
Center for International Projects
Pervomayskaya Street 58 B
Moscow 105043
Russia
Tel: + 7 095 165 6381
Fax: +7 095 165 08 90
E-mail: cip@id.ru

Centre International des Technologies de l'Environnement de Tunis (CITET)

Dr. Michel Bouchard
PhD, Chercheur Sénior Associé
Centre des Technologies de l'Environnement
de Tunis (CITET)
Boulevard du Leader Arafat (ex. Boulevard de
l'Environnement)
1080 Tunis Carthage
Tunisie
Tel: +1 514 999 6088 (GSM), + 216 21 336
355 (GSM Tunis)
E-mail: michel.a.bouchard@cogeos.com ;
michel.a.bouchard@citet.nat.tn

Centre International des Technologies de l'Environnement de Tunis (CITET)

Mr. Hanchi Belgacem
General Director
Centre des Technologies de l'Environnement
de Tunis (CITET)
Boulevard du Leader Arafat (ex. Boulevard de
l'Environnement)
1080 Tunis Carthage
Tunisia
Tel: + 216 71 206 632
Fax: 216 71 7206 665
E-mail: dg@citet.nat.tn; uci@citet.nat.tn

Charlene and Michael Global Development Specialists (CMGDS)

Mr. Michael Welch
Charlene and Michael Global Development
Specialists (CMGDS)
1500 South Barton Street, #596
Arlington VA 22204
USA
Tel: +1 703 979 0191
E-mail: mpw@cmgds.com

Chinese Academy of International Trade & Economic Cooperation

Mrs. Zhao Yumin
Research Fellow
Chinese Academy of International Trade & Economic Cooperation
28, Donghousiang - Anwai
Beijing 100710
People's Republic of China
Tel: + 86 10 64246218, 64216661-1334
Fax: + 8610 64212175
E-mail: caitec@126.com; lwg@bupt.edu.cn,
yuminzhao@btamail.net.cn

Chinese University of Hong Kong, SAR - CHINA

Prof. Kin Che Lam
Director
Centre for Environmental Policy & Resource Management
Chinese University of Hong Kong
Wong Foo Yuan Bldg, Shatin NT
Hong Kong
Tel: +852 2609 6458
Fax: +852 2603 5006
E-mail: kinchlam@cuhk.edu.hk

Centro Internacional de Politicia Economia para el Desarrollo Sostenible Universidad Nacional (CINPE- UNA), Costa Rica

Mr. Greivin Hernandez G.
Economist
CINPE – UNA
555-3000, Heredia,
Costa Rica
Tel: + 506 263-4550 ext 135
Fax: +506 260 1270
E-mail: gher@una.ac.cr

Ecologica LLC

Dr. John Shilling
Ecologica LLC
36913 Paxson Rd.
Purcellville
Virginia, 20132
United States
Tel: +1 540 338 4302
Fax: +1 540 338 0236
E-mail: jshillin@bellatlantic.net,
jed.shilling@verizon.net

Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria

Mr. Philip Bankole
Assistant Director
Department of Planning, (Research & Statistics)
Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria
Environment House, Independence Avenue
Central Area, Garki P.M.B 468

Abuja
Nigeria
Tel: +234 9 523 40 14
Fax: +234 9 523 4119
E-mail: philip_olab@yahoo.com

Hue University of Agriculture & Forestry, Vietnam

Dr. Truong Van Tuyen
Dean
Department of Extension and Rural Development
Hue University of Agriculture & Forestry
104 Phung Hung Street
Hue City
Viet Nam
Tel: +84 54 523540
Fax: +84 54 524923/530000
E-mail: tvuyen@dng.vnn.vn

Independent Expert

Mr. Salah El Serafy
Independent Expert
3118 North 17th Street
Arlington Virginia 22201-5202
United States of America
Tel: +703 243 0629
Fax: +701 03 243 7306
E-mail: selserafy@erols.com

Institut des sciences de l'environnement

Dr. Abdoulaye Sene
Professor Sociologue
Universite Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar
Institut des sciences de l'environnement
Faculté de Sciences et Techniques, BP 5286
Dakar Fann
Senegal
Tel: 221 825 43 27 / 824 2302
Fax: 221 822 9313
E-mail: absene@refer.sn; ise@sentoo.sn

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

Dr. Moustapha Gueye
Policy Researcher
Long-Term Perspective and Policy Integration Project
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
2108-11 Kamiyamaguchi, Hayama
240-0115 Kanagawa
Japan
Tel: +81-46-855-3863
Fax: +81-46-855-3809
E-mail: kamal@iges.or.jp

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

Mr. Hideyuki Mori
Project Leader
Long-term Perspective and Policy Interrogation Project
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
2108-11 Kamiyamaguchi,
Hayama
240-0115 Kanagawa
Japan
Tel: 81-46-855-3886
Fax: 81-46-855-3809
E-mail: h-mori@iges.or.jp

Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe)

Prof. Jyoti Parikh
Executive Director
Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe)
17 Teen Murti Marg
Khelgaon
New Delhi-110011
India
Tel: +91-11-2301
Fax: +91 11 2649 55 23
E-mail: jparikh@irade.res.in

International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA)

Mrs. Rita Leistriz
Chief Executive Officer
International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA)
1330 23rd Street South -Suite C
Fargo 58102
USA
Tel: +1 701 297 7912
Fax: +1 701 297 7417
E-mail: rita@iaia.org

International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)

Ms. Deborah Vorhies
Managing Director
ICTSD
International Environment House 2
Chemin de Balexert 7
1219 Châtelaine, Geneva
Switzerland
Tel: +(41-22) 917-8492
Fax: +(41-22) 917-8093
E-mail: dvorhies@ictsd.ch

International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)

Mrs. Bernice Lee
Policy Analysis and Strategy Advisor
ICTSD
International Environment House 2
Chemin de Balexert 7

1219 Châtelaine, Geneva
Switzerland
Tel: + 41 22 917-8492
Fax: + 41 22 917 8093
E-mail: blee@ictsd.ch

International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Mr. Mark Halle
Director and European Representative
Trade and Investment Programme
International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
International Environment House 2
9 chemin de Balexert
1219 Châtelaine, Geneva
Switzerland
Tel: + 41 22 917 8353
Fax: + 41 22 917 8054
E-mail: mhalle@iisd.ca

International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Prof. David Boyer
Associate
Trade and Investment Programme
International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
International Environment House 2
9 chemin de Balexert
1219 Châtelaine, Geneva
Switzerland
Tel : +41 22 917-8373
Fax : +41 22 917-8054
E-mail: geneva@iisd.org

Jenderal Soedirman University

Mr. Matius Suparmoko
Environmental Economist
Faculty of Economics
Jenderal Soedirman University
Metro Permata I Block D7 No. 18,
Karang, Mulia, Ciledug, Tangerang
Tangerang 15157
Indonesia
Tel: + 62-21 733 46 23/+62 81 692 33 45
(mobile)
Fax: + 62-21 733 46 23
E-mail: suparmoko@yahoo.com

Kenyan Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

Mr. Naftali Ndugire
Senior Economist
National Environment Management Authority
Kenyan Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
PO Box 67839
Nairobi 00200
Kenya
Tel: + 254 20 605522/6/7
Fax: + 254 20 608997
E-mail: njmn100@yahoo.com

Kenyan Ministry of Planning and National Development

Mr. Festus Wangwe
Economist
Central Planning and Coordination
Kenyan Ministry of Planning and National Development
7802-00200 Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254 255 22 99 ext. 327; + 254 722 399 680 (Mobile)
E-mail: fwangwe@yahoo.com ;
fmwangwe@treasury.go.ke

KIPPRA

Dr. Moses Ikiara
Senior Analyst / Programme Coordinator
Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research & Analysis
KIPPRA
Bishops Garden Towers
Bishops Road P.O.Box 56445
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254 20 -271 99 33 / 4
Fax: +254 20 -271 99 51
E-mail: mmikiara@kippra.or.ke

Korea Environment Institute (KEI)

Dr. Chang Lee
Head
Environment Management Team
Korea Environment Institute
613-2 Bulwang-Dong, Eunpyeong- GU
Seoul 122-706
South Korea
Tel: +82 2 380 7634
Fax: +82 2 380 7644
E-mail: chlee@kei.re.kr

Korean Environment Institute (KEI)

Dr. Sang Kang
Chief
Global Environment Research Center
Korean Environment Institute
613-2 Bulwang-Dong
Eunpyeong-Gu
Seoul 122-706
Republic of Korea
Tel: +82 2 380 7640
Fax: +82 2 380 7644
E-mail: sikang@kei.re.kr

Korean Environment Institute (KEI)

Ms. Jung Kim
Coordinator External Relations
Korean Environment Institute
613-2 Bulwang-Dong, Eunpyeong GU
Seoul
South Korea
Tel: +82 2 380 77 95
Fax: +82 2 380 77 22
E-mail: jkim@kei.re.kr

Korean Environment Institute (KEI)

Dr. Suh-Sung Yoon
President
Korean Environment Institute (KEI)
613-2 Bulwang-Dong Eunpyeong-Gu
122-706 Seoul
Republic of Korea
Tel: +82 2 380 7700
Fax: +82 2 380 7755
E-mail: ssyoon@kei.re.kr

Makerere University

Mr. Frank Kansime
Director
Institute of Environment & Natural Resources
Makerere University
P.O. Box 7062/7298
Kampala
Uganda
Tel: +256 41 532631
Fax: +256 41 5301 34
E-mail: fkansime@muenr.mak.ac.ug ;
fkansime@hotmail.com

McGill University

Prof. Paul Joseph Thomassin
Department of Agriculture Economics
McGill University
21,111 Lakeshore Road
Ste. Anne de Bellevue
Quebec H9X 3V9
Canada
Tel: + 1 514 398 7956
Fax: + 1 514 398 8130
Email: paul.thomassin@mcgill.ca

Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research

Prof. Tunji Akande
Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research
Oyo Road Ojoo
Ibadan
Nigeria
Tel: +(234-2) 810 29 04 and 234 211 4789
Fax: +(234-2) 810 11 94
E-mail: akande@niser.org.ng ;
stunjiakande@yahoo.com

Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)

Mr. Jiri Dusik
Project Manager-Environmental Assessment for CEE - HQ
The Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)
c/o Jiri Dusik, V Olsich 13
Plenz 32600
Czech Republic
Tel: +36-26 504-000
Fax: +36-26 311-294
E-mail: Jiri.Dusik@telecom.cz

Senegalese Agricultural Institute of the Agricultural and Water Management Ministry

Mr. Amadou Fall
Researcher and program coordinator
Senegalese Agricultural Institute of the Agricultural and Water Management Ministry
ISRA Saint-Louis
B.P 240 CRA Fleuve,
Saint Louis
Senegal Republic
Tel: + 221 9611 751
Fax: + 221 961 18 91
E-mail: aafall2@hotmail.com

South Centre/Trade and Development Programme

Mr. Vicente Yu
Team Leader
Institutional Governance and New Issues
South Centre/Trade and Development Programme
Ch. du Champ d'Anier 17
Case postale 228
CH-1211 Genève
Switzerland
Tel: + 41 22 791 80 50
Fax: + 41 22 798 85 31
E-mail: yuvic@southcentre.org

State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) of China

Dr. (Tom) Hu Tao
Chief Economist
Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy (PRCEE)
State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) of China
No.1 Yuhuananlu Chaoyank District
100029 Beijing
China
Tel/Fax: + 86 10 81 725630/ 84 30 854(O)
Mobile: + 86 139 0107 9143
E-mail: hu.tao@vip.163.com

Thailand Environment Institute

Dr. Chamniern Vorratnchaiphan
Director
Grassroots Action Program (GAP)
Thailand Environment Institute
16/151-154, Muang Thong Thani, Bond Street
Tambon Bangpood, Amphur Pakkred
Nonthaburi 11120
Thailand
Tel: + 66 2 503 3333
Fax: + 66 2 504 4826/8
E-mail: chamniern@tei.or.th ; gap@tei.or.th

Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education

Mr. Pedro Ferreira
Director General

Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education
CATIE
Turrialba 7070
Costa Rica
Tel: +506 556 6081
Fax: +506 556 6161; + 506 556 1533
E-mail: ferreira@catie.ac.cr

Uganda Trade Department - Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry

Mr. Oule David Epyanu
Senior Commercial Officer
Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry
Farmer House
Parliament Avenue
Kampala
P.O. Box 7103
Uganda
Tel: + 256 (0) 77 32 7958
Fax: + 256 41 341247
Email: oulepyanu@yahoo.co.uk

United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS)

Dr. Joy Kim
Program Coordinator
Sustainable Development Programme,
Institute of Advanced Studies
United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS)
1-1-1 Minato Mirai, Nishi-ku
Yokohama 220-8502
Japan
Tel: + 81 45 221 2326/2303
Fax: + 81 45 221 2326/2303
E-mail: kim@ias.unu.edu

University of Dschang, Cameroon

Mr. Dieudonné Bitondo
Senior Lecturer
University of Dschang
P.O. Box 30465
Yaounde
Cameroon
Tel: + 237 231 4231
Mobile: + 237 741 4928
Fax: + 237 222 1873
E-mail: bitondo@hotmail.com

Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Dr. Trinh Khac Quang
Deputy Director
Science and Technology
Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
2 Ngoc Ha Street, Ba Dinh
Ha Noi
Vietnam
Tel: +84 4 843 68 14
Fax: +84 4 843 36 37
E-mail: quangtk_khcn@yahoo.com

**United Nations Environment
Programme – Economic and Trade
Branch (ETB)**

Mr. Hussein Abaza
Chief

Economic and Trade Branch
Division of Technology, Industry & Economics
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13 Chemin des Anemones
CH 1219, Chatelaine/Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: + 41 22 917 82 98
Fax: + 41 22 917 80 76
E-mail: Hussein.abaza@unep.ch
Website: www.unep.ch/etb

Ms. Vera Weick
Programme Officer
Economic and Trade Branch
Division of Technology, Industry & Economics
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13 Chemin des Anemones
CH 1219, Chatelaine/Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: + 41 22 917 8151
Fax: + 41 22 917 80 76
E-mail: vera.weick@unep.ch

Mr. Fulai Sheng
Economic Affairs Officer
Economic and Trade Branch
Division of Technology, Industry & Economics
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13 Chemin des Anemones
CH 1219, Chatelaine/Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: + 41 22 917
Fax: + 41 22 917 80 76
E-mail: fulai.sheng@unep.ch

Mr. Benjamin Simmons
Legal Affairs Officer
Economic and Trade Branch
Division of Technology, Industry & Economics
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13 Chemin des Anemones
CH 1219, Chatelaine/Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: + 41 22 917 8361
Fax: + 41 22 917 80 76
E-mail: benjamin.simmons@unep.ch

Ms. Cecilia Pineda
Economic Affairs Officer
Economic and Trade Branch
Division of Technology, Industry & Economics
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13 Chemin des Anemones
CH 1219, Chatelaine/Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: + 41 22 917 8103
Fax: + 41 22 917 80 76
E-mail: cecilia.pineda@unep.ch

Mr. Asad Naqvi
Programme Officer
Economic and Trade Branch
Division of Technology, Industry & Economics
United Nations Environment Programme

11-13 Chemin des Anemones
CH 1219, Chatelaine/Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: + 41 22 917 8620
Fax: + 41 22 917 80 76
E-mail: asad.naqvi@unep.ch

Ms. Veronique Marx
Economic and Trade Branch
Division of Technology, Industry & Economics
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13 Chemin des Anemones
CH 1219, Chatelaine/Geneva, Switzerland
E-mail: Veronique.marx@unep.ch

Ms. Emily Lydgate
Economic and Trade Branch
Division of Technology, Industry & Economics
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13 Chemin des Anemones
CH 1219, Chatelaine/Geneva, Switzerland
E-mail: Emily.lydgate@unep.ch

Mr. Kenneth Chulley
Economic and Trade Branch
Division of Technology, Industry & Economics
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13 Chemin des Anemones
CH 1219, Chatelaine/Geneva, Switzerland
E-mail: kenneth.chulley@unep.ch

Ms. Nazlee Khalis
Economic and Trade Branch
Division of Technology, Industry & Economics
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13 Chemin des Anemones
CH 1219, Chatelaine/Geneva, Switzerland
E-mail: nazlee.khalis@unep.ch

Annex 3: Minutes of 1st Meeting of African NISD (20 Sept. 2005)

UNEP NETWORK OF INSTITUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1st Meeting of African Institutions
September 20th, 2005, Geneva

RÉSEAU DU PNUE DES INSTITUTIONS POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE

1^{ère} Réunion des Institutions Africains
Le 20 septembre 2005, Genève

1. OPENING/ OUVERTURE DE LA RÉUNION

The meeting was convened at 17h00 with 17 attendees. List is annexed.

La Réunion est ouverte à 17h00, avec 17 personnes présentes. Liste en Annexe.

2. DETERMINATION OF THE CHAIR/CHOIX DU PRÉSIDIUM

Dr. Bouchard (TUNISIA) was invited to chair the meeting.

Le prof. Bouchard (Tunisie) est invité à présider la rencontre

3. PRESENTATION OF THE INSTITUTES ATTENDING/PRÉSENTATION DES INSTITUTS PRÉSENTS

The chairman thanked all the attendees. He explains that the official attendance at the UNEP NISD meeting, as per UNEP listing was 14 individuals, representing 12 institutions, from 6 different African countries. (see Annex 3-2).

The 12 institutions include 6 universities, 1 NGO, and 5 government institutions. Additional delegates from Tanzania and Kenya attended:

A preliminary mailing list will be made of all institutions that have attended, plus the individuals on the UNEP list that could not attend.

Le président de la séance rappelle que la liste compilée par le PNUE pour la réunion de Genève compte 14 représentants africains, provenant de 12 institutions et de six différents pays (Annexe 2). Parmi ces institutions, 6 sont universitaires, 5 sont gouvernementales et 1 est une ONG. D'autres délégués, de Tanzanie et du Kenya, se sont ajoutés aux membres présents.

Une liste préliminaire sera constituée aux fins d'envois électroniques, à partir de la liste des présences, ainsi que la liste du PNUE.

4. LISTING OF KEY INSTITUTES WHICH ARE NOT ATTENDING/IDENTIFICATION DES INSTITUTIONS ABSENTES QUI DEVRAIENT JOUER UN RÔLE

It was acknowledge by all participants, that additional key players were not present in Geneva, while being key partners in the Network of Institutions for Sustainable Development (NISD).

The chairman indicate that each participant, and UNEP ETB, will be solicitant for indicating such key partners which should be added to the mailing list.

Tous les participants conviennent que plusieurs institutions importantes sont absentes à Genève et la présente réunion. Le président indique que chacun des membres présents, ainsi que le PNUE ETB, sera sollicité afin qu'il indique tous les partenaires qui devraient impérativement être pressentis et inclus dans la liste de discussion électronique.

5. GUEST PRESENTATIONS FROM OTHER ON-GOING NISD PROJECTS/PRÉSENTATIONS INVITÉS DE PARTICIPANTS À D'AUTRES PROJETS NISD

a. IGES

b. MCGILL UNIVERSITY

The chairman recalled that the purposes of the meeting was: a) to create the seed of a Network of African Institutions for Sustainable Development, and b) to create the momentum for one or few African-based NISD projects. For that latter purpose, two active players in the presently on-going NISD project in Asia, have been invited to attend the meeting and provide some organisational or methodological background to the project development.

Le président rappelle que les objectifs de la réunion sont a) de créer un premier noyau d'institutions africaines intéressées ou expertes en matière de Développement Durable et b) de susciter des discussions et un dialogue en réseau afin de dégager un ou plusieurs projets africains, international et multi institutionnel, comparable au projet actuellement développé en Asie. À cet effet, deux des acteurs importants de ce projet NISD asiatique ont été invités à venir présenter les contextes méthodologiques ou organisationnels de ce projet.

Dr Moustapha Gueye, from the Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES) (Japan) explained the role of IGES's in the on-going project. He offered to send along a copy of the MOU between participating institutions, as well as the full presentation that was made on the Asian project presented during the NISD meeting, on 19 September

Le Dr Moustapha Gueye, de l'Institute for Global Environment Strategies (Japon) rappelle le rôle joué par son Institut à titre de Leader du Projet asiatique. Il offre de faire tenir à tous un exemplaire du MOU (Lettre d'Entente) entre tous les partenaires aux fins de la conduite et du financement du projet. De même il fera tenir à tous une copie de la présentation qui a été faite du projet ici à Genève.

Dr Paul J. Thomassin, from McGill University (Canada), explained his role as quantitative economic model analyst in the IGES-led on-going project, while providing background on the evolving responsibilities of each partner within the project. He offers to act in similar capacity and expertise, jointly with CITET (Tunisia), on an eventual African-based project, that would require economic modeling of trade policies.

Le Professeur Paul J. Thomassin, de l'Université McGill (Canada) explique son rôle de modélisateur et de responsable de la partie économie quantitative du projet. Il présente aussi la nature des discussions entre les partenaires du projet et comment les rôles respectifs de chacun ont été arrêtés. Il offre d'agir à nouveau à titre d'expert en économie quantitative, en lien avec le CITET (Tunisie) pour tout projet africain qui requerrait une telle modélisation.

6. PROPOSALS/SUGGESTIONS DE PROPOSITIONS

All delegates were invited to present a short statement on their institution, their involvement in any sustainable development projects and on issues or subjects that they think could be used as a basis for an African based NISD project or series of projects.

The presentation, however do not represent a complete or exhaustive list of issues and they are not engaging the group in any way to work on those specific issues. Topics mentioned were:

- Economics of Wildlife and Conservation (Nigeria)
- Sustainable Development of Lake Victoria Basin (Tanzania, Kenya)
- Energy issues (Tanzania)
- Trade Policies (Kenya, Tunisia)
- Sub-regional Economics of Structural Adjustment Programs (Cameroon)
- Economics of Natural Catastrophes (Nigeria)

Suggestions were made to move towards and relate closely to African Union, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) secretariats.

Les participants sont invités à faire une courte présentation de leur institution, de leur implication et expérience en matière de développement durable, et surtout, de fournir quelques suggestions quant à des pistes qui pourraient faire l'objet d'approfondissements ultérieurs en vue de développer un ou plusieurs projets NISD en Afrique.

Les suggestions sont nombreuses. Tout en soulignant qu'il s'agit d'un exercice spontané, et qu'il ne s'agit en aucune façon d'une liste exhaustive, complète, ou même engageante, la liste de s sujets mentionnés est la suivante :

- *Économie des Aires Protégées et la protection de la Faune Sauvage (Nigeria)*
- *Développement Durable du Bassin du Lac Victoria (Tanzanie, Kenya)*
- *L'Énergie (Tanzanie)*
- *Le Commerce et le Libre-échange (Kenya, Tunisie)*
- *Les effets sous régionaux des Plans d'Ajustements Structurels (Cameroun)*
- *L'Économie des Catastrophes Naturelles (Nigeria)*

7. DECISIONS FOR FOLLOW UP/DÉCISIONS DE SUIVIS

Follow-up activities agreed upon included

- 1) A preliminary mailing list will be compiled (Annex 3-1 and 3-2),
- 2) Dr Bouchard, from CITET (Tunisia) will act as coordinator of the mailing list until otherwise decided by the participants,
- 3) The notes of this meeting will be sent to the preliminary list with a request to correct and complete (the corrected notes will be send again, if necessary),
- 4) The material provided by Dr. Gueye (IGES) will be circulated to all participants,
- 5) All participants will shortly be asked to provide
 - a statement on his/her experience and the specific strength of his/her institution (economics, modeling, trade, a given sector, etc.);
 - a suggestion (or series of) on topics, cross-cutting issues, or subject areas for an eventual African-based NISD project;
 - the capacity in which they would play a role in the suggested project or projects;
 - partners for the said project or projects;
 - (*) suggestion as to the NEXT STEP in the building of the present network of African institutions of NISD;
 - key players that should be added on to the present list.
 - Compiled answers will be circulated.

(*) It's acknowledged that there was insufficient time available to correctly conclude the meeting, as everyone should have had time to express their own conclusion and suggest of the next steps. In order to partially correct for the shortage of time, additional question was added to the list that will be requested from the participants.

Les suivis de cette rencontre sont les suivants :

- 1) *Une liste électronique sera constituée à partir des Annexes 1 et 2*
- 2) *Le Dr Bouchard (CITET, Tunisie) agira comme coordonnateur de la Liste, jusqu'à ce que les participants conviennent autrement*
- 3) *Le compte-rendu de cette rencontre sera circulé à tous, pour fins de correction et d'archivage. (Le cas échéant, une version corrigée ou complétée sera envoyée à nouveau)*
- 4) *Le matériel fourni par le Dr Gueye (IGES) sera envoyé à tous*
- 5) *Chaque participant à la liste recevra sous peu une demande de :*
 - Un énoncé des forces et expertises particulières de son institution en matière de développement durable
 - Des suggestions de projets type pour un ou plusieurs projets NISD-Afrique
 - Le rôle qu'il ou elle se voit jouer dans tel ou tel projet
 - Les partenaires pour tel ou tel projet
 - (*) Des suggestions quant à L'ÉTAPE SUIVANTE dans la constitution d'un réseau d'institutions africaines du NISD
 - Des noms de personnes ou institutions qui seraient des partenaires indispensables du Réseau
- 6) *Les réponses seront compilées et envoyées à tous*

(*) Pour des raisons incontrôlables, la réunion devant s'achever à 18h00, les participants n'ont pas eu le temps de s'exprimer et d'apporter chacun leurs conclusions ou remarques quant aux étapes suivantes. Aux fins de pallier à cet inconvénient, cette question additionnelle sera incluse dans les demandes qui vous seront adressées.

8. OTHER ITEMS/VARIA

9. CONCLUSION

After duly thanking everyone for his/her participation, and due to time constraints (the meeting room being requested for other purposes), the chairman had to bring the meeting to a close.

Pressé par le temps (la salle étant requise pour fins de réaménagement), le président appelle la clôture de la séance, après avoir remercié tous les participations pour leur présence et leur contribution

10. CLOSING/CLÔTURE DE LA RÉUNION

The Meeting is closed at 18h00.

La Réunion se termine 18h00

Annex.3-1 List of attendees/Liste des présences (IN THE ORDER OF THE ORIGINAL LIST)

1. Prof. P.A. Okuneye	NIGERIA	b_okuneye@yahoo.com
2. Prof. L.A. Msambichaka	TANZANIA	msambi@udsm.ac.tz
3. Mr. F. Wangwe	KENYA	fwanwe@yahoo.com
4. Mr. N. Ndugire	KENYA	njmn100@yahoo.com
5. Ms. L.C. Lema	TANZANIA	envirocare@bol.co.tz
6. Ms C.Kimania	KENYA	bridgeafrica@tdays.co.ke
7. Mr. J.R. Mboya	TANZANIA	jrmboya@yahoo.com
8. Ms A.M.Mwasha	TANZANIA	admwasha@yahoo.com
9. Dr D. Bitondo	CAMEROON	bitondodieudonne@yahoo.fr

10. DR M.K.Gueye	SENEGAL	kamal@iges.org.jp
11. Ms Vera Weick	UNEP(Genève)	vera.weick@unep.ch
12. Dr M.M.Ikiara	KENYA	mmikiara@kippra.or.ke
13. Dr P.A. Thomassin	CANADA	paul.thomassin@mcgill.ca
14. Dr B. Hanchi	TUNISIA	dg@citet.nat.tn
15. Prof. T.Akande	NIGERIA	stunjiakande@yahoo.com
16. Mr.P.O. Bankole	NIGERIA	philip_olab@yahoo.com
17. Dr M.A. Bouchard	TUNISIA	michel.a.bouchard@cogeos.com

Annex. 3-2 List of organisation attending the meeting/Liste des organisations présentes à Genève ; (Individual whose name is preceded by (*) could not attend ; they are nevertheless on the present mailing list) (Les personnes dont les noms sont précédés de (*) n'ont pu assister à la rencontre, mais sont néanmoins sur la présente liste d'envoi)

ADVOCATES COALITION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

***Mr. Godber Wilson Tumushabe**, Executive Director

P.O. Box 29836

Kampala

UGANDA

g.tumushabe@acode-u.org

acode@acode-u.org

CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENT ECONOMICS

Prof. Peter Okuneye, Project Director

Dept. Of Agriculture Economics and Farm Management

P.M.B. 2240

Abeokuta Ogun State

NIGERIA

CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DES TECHNOLOGIES DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT DE TUNISIE

Dr Belgacem Hanchi, Director General

Dr Michel A. Bouchard, Senior Research Associate

Boulevard du Leader Yasser Arafat

1080 Tunis Carthage

Tunisie

dg@citet.nat.tn

michel.a.bouchard@cogeos.com

michel.a.bouchard@citet.nat.tn

UNIVERSITÉ DE DSCHANG

CAMEROON

Prof. Dieudonné Bitondo

bitondodieudonne@yahoo.fr

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF NIGERIA

Mr. Philippe Bankole, Assistant Director

Department of Planning (Research and Statistics)

Environment House, Independence Avenue

Central Area, Garki

PMB 468, Abuja

NIGERIA

philip_olab@yahoo.com

INSTITUT DES SCIENCES DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

***Dr. Abdoulaye Sene**, Professeur de Sociologie

Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar
Faculté des Sciences et Techniques
Dakar Fann
SÉNÉGAL
absene@refer.sn
ise@sentoo.sn

KENYAN MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. Naftali Ndugire, Senior Economist
Mr. Festus Wangwe, Economist
National Environment Management Authority
P.O.Box 67839
Nairobi 00200
KENYA
njmn100@yahoo.com (Mr. Ndugire)
fwangwe@yahoo.com (Mr. Wangwe)
fmwangwe@treasury.go.ke

KENYA INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS (KIPPRA)

Dr Moses Ikiara, Senior Analyst/Programme Coordinator
KIPPRA
Bishops Garden Towers
Bishops Road, P.O. Box 56445
Nairobi
KENYA
mmikiara@kippra.or.ke

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

***Mr. Frank Kansiime**, Director
Institute of Environment and Natural Resources
Makerere University
P.O.Box 7062/7298
Kampala
UGANDA
fkansiime@muienr.mak.ac.ug
fkansiime@hotmail.com

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Prof. Paul J. Thomassin
Department of Agriculture Economics
21,111 Lakeshore Road
Sainte Anne de Bellevue (Québec)
CANADA H9X 3V9
paul.thomassin@mcgill.ca

NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

Prof. Tunji Akande
Oyo Road, Ojoo
Ibadan
NIGERIA
akande@niser.org.ng
stunjiakande@yahoo.com

SENEGAL AGRICULTURE INSTITUTE OF THE AGRICULTURE AND WATER
MANAGEMENT MINISTRY

***Mr. Amadou Fall**, Research and Programme Coordinator
ISRA Saint-Louis

BP 240 CRA Fleuve
Saint Louis
SÉNÉGAL
aafall2@hotmail.com

UGANDA TRADE DEPARTMENT-MINISTRY OF TOURISM, TRADE AND INDUSTRY
***Mr. Oule David Epyanu**, Senior Commercial Officer
Farmer House, Parliament Avenue
P.O.Box 7103
Kampala,
UGANDA
oulepyanu@yahoo.co.uk

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM- ECONOMIC AND TRADE
BRANCH (ETB)
Ms. Vera Weick, Programme Officer
11-13 Chemin des Anémones
CH 1219, Chatelaine/Genève
SWITZERLAND
vera.weick@unep.ch