



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

Second Meeting of the Network of Institutions for Sustainable Development

19 September 2005
Geneva - IEH 2 - Room: Rhin/Aar and Rhone

Annotated Agenda

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 *Chantepoulet / 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 1½ 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?



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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 account 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 2 rapporteurs to present the results in the afternoon session.



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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 institutionalized. 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



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1:00-2:00

Parallel Working Groups:

Working Group 3

Trade and Environment

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?

Working Group 4

Economic Instruments

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. Several activities have been conducted by NISD members 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.



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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