

APO Multicountry Observational Study Mission on Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction

1–5 October 2012, Taipei

The Asian Productivity Organization (APO) organized a multicountry observational study mission on greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction, 1–5 October 2012, in association with the China Productivity Center and Taiwan Environment Management Association. The mission was attended by 24 delegates from 13 APO member economies from the Asia-Pacific. The mission delegates discussed various issues pertaining to climate change and GHG emission reduction over the five days and developed the following recommendations for the consideration of governments and related organizations.

OBSERVATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The delegates noted with appreciation that all APO member economies represented at the study mission were in a position to provide an overview of their past and current GHG emissions and that relevant policy documents and institutional structures were in place. However, those policy documents should be translated into **national legislation and its enforcement**.
2. The delegates emphasized that while all partners were aware of the need to address climate change from an intersectoral viewpoint, **intersectoral cooperation** among governmental institutions remained an immediate concern. Structures facilitating such intersectoral cooperation should be established or strengthened.
3. The delegates pointed out that intersector cooperation would allow **prioritizing key actions** to reduce GHG emissions beyond immediate sectoral interests.
4. The potential of **energy efficiency** measures as a cost-effective tool was stressed by the delegates.
5. The delegates highlighted the role of the private sector in addressing climate change and noted with appreciation the numerous voluntary efforts it has made to reduce GHG emissions. They expressed their understanding of the private sector's wish to set a planning horizon and suggested that APO member economies step up their efforts **to define regulatory frameworks with well-defined, time-staged targets**.
6. The delegates stressed the interrelationship between **climate change and poverty alleviation** and urged APO member economies to define their mitigation and adaptation options in this context.
7. The sharing of experiences of countries with similar developmental backgrounds was viewed positively. The delegates suggested that **subregional groupings** within APO member economies be formed to address climate change-related issues. Member economies were requested to take the initiative in this.

8. The delegates noted the intrinsic relationship between climate change adaptation and mitigation actions and welcomed the transition of several APO member economies to a low-carbon, **green growth development** path.

9. The efforts and goals of the host country of this APO study mission in addressing climate change were welcomed; particular interest was expressed in its innovative **technological approaches**, such as the Green Building and Green Factory Initiative. The delegates were impressed by the anticipated **voluntary emission reduction** goals of a number of APO member economies. The delegates recommended that other APO member economies follow suit with similar approaches.

10. The delegates expressed satisfaction with the progress made by APO member economies in addressing GHG emission reductions through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and recommended that the CDM should advance from its **current project-based approach to a sectoral approach**.

11. The delegates observed that currently the multiple-country participation in the CDM was minimal and should be further strengthened through a **programmatic approach**.

12. The delegates expressed the need for more flexible rules and regulations for the CDM and underlined the need for **capacity-building opportunities** at regional level.

13. The delegates recognized the need to **harmonize environmental standards** among countries in the APO region and to strengthen arrangements for **technology transfer and sharing best practices** among APO member economies.

14. The delegates noted that emissions from increased production of **internationally traded products** were more than offsetting the emission reductions achieved. They stressed the need to examine the balances among APO member economies and strengthen the position of the Asian region in upcoming international climate change negotiations. It was suggested that the APO in cooperation with the Central Asia Regional Environment Centre seek additional funding from bi- and multilateral sources for a study by and in the countries of participants in this study mission.

15. The delegates expressed their admiration for the **online GHG Emission Registry program** of the host country and recommended an online reporting mechanism tool for all industries and businesses in APO member economies to report on GHG emission and mitigation measures.

Taipei, 5 October 2012