

Asia-Pacific Gateway to Climate and Development

Concept Paper

Objective of the Asia-Pacific Gateway

Climate change is an urgent issue that requires global participation in actions. The IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) provides critical information on current climatic condition, impact assessments, and the relationship between various mitigation paths and future GHG concentration scenarios. Based on its understanding, it is increasingly clear that we need to take concrete and immediate actions to minimize the impacts of future climate change. Also, at the COP13 of the UNFCCC held in last December at Bali, Parties agreed on the “Bali Action Plan”, which confirms that all countries, both developed and developing, need to make efforts to tackle climate change. As developing countries’ priority is development, it is necessary to integrate mitigation and adaptation into national development policies and plans, in order to address climate change.

Asia-Pacific Gateway to Climate and Development is a platform to assist countries to make concrete efforts to address climate change and development. The AP Gateway to Climate and Development captures two focal areas; *Co-benefits Approach* (mitigation) and *Integrating Adaptation into Development*.

- ***Co-benefits Approach to Climate Change*** enables realizing tangible economic and social development benefits, and reducing greenhouse gases (GHGs) at the same time, by introducing appropriate policies and measures in an integrated way. Such development benefits may be realized in different sectors, including energy, manufacturing, pollution abatement (local environment) and rural development. Recent intensive efforts to promote the co-benefit approach in pollution abatement sector such as improvement of local air quality is highlighted under this gateway, given the environmental deterioration and health damages caused by expanding economic activities in the region. Official Development Assistance (ODA), Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and other financial mechanisms need to take co-benefits into consideration, and dialogues between climate authorities and development agencies should be strengthened to address these issues. To promote the co-benefits approach more effectively, in addition to project-based approaches such as the CDM, co-benefits should be considered at early stages of formulating programs and/or policies in developing countries. This should be actively pursued as it can also help build capacity in developing countries.
- ***Integrating Adaptation into Development*** supports countries to increase resilience to negative impacts of climate change by effectively reflecting adaptation concerns in economic and social development. Assessing impacts and vulnerability, selecting and financing adaptation actions should

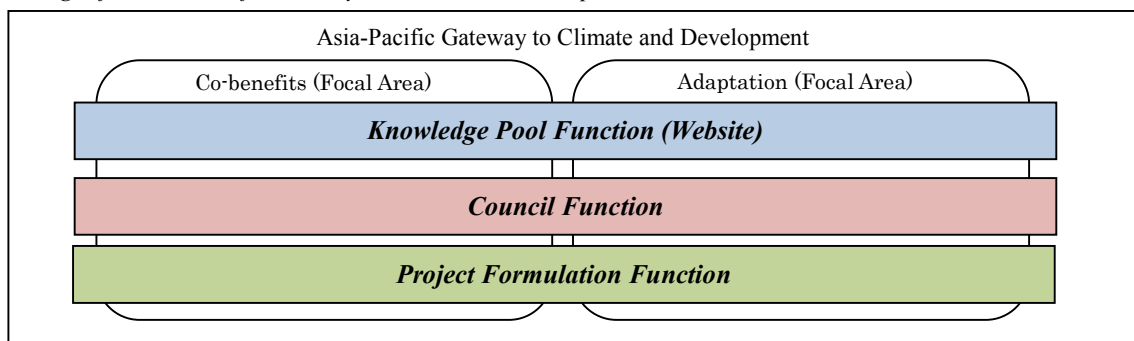
be an integral part of national development. For impact and vulnerability assessments, climate projection at the national or sub-national levels and other basic data are important but currently insufficient. The provision of remote sensing data, down-scaling climate projections (e.g. by Earth Simulator), and observations through international cooperation will be important to enhance assessments of adaptation-related impact and vulnerability. By conducting appropriate vulnerability assessment and integrating such scientific knowledge into development, resources of development can be utilized more effectively and potential risks can be reduced. To realize this, it should be also emphasized that mainstreaming climate change into development planning and implementation is a key. In this context, it would be important to note that enhancing partnership between different sectors is necessary, so that countries can better be prepared for negative impact of climate change, as a new risk for economic and social development.

Key Functions of the AP Gateway

The AP Gateway will have 3 key functions that cover the above focal areas;

- **Knowledge Pool Function (Website)** covers accumulation, dissemination and management of key information on Co-benefits Approach and Integrating Adaptation into development.
- **Council Function** promotes information interaction, collaborative work and partnership between domestic and international key players. Leadership of development planning agencies and climate change authorities will be supported in efforts to take co-benefits approach and adaptation on their national and local agenda.
- **Project Formulation Function** aims to incubate project/programmes in the focal areas. For example, co-benefits projects to reduce GHG can be developed and supported by participants of the Gateway.

Image of the Asia-Pacific Gateway to Climate and Development



Japan's Initiative for the AP-Gateway

As part of Japan's new initiative under the G8 Summit process of 2008, the Gateway is being prepared as a new window of cooperation with developing countries. Recently in his special address by H.E. Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, Prime Minister of Japan at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Japan proposed to establish a new financial mechanism, Cool Earth Partnership, on the scale of US\$10 billion. In this background, the MOEJ and their key partners call for participation of countries to jointly address the issues of climate change and development.