

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Agenda Item 5 (n)

PROGRAMME AREA: MOU with World Meteorological Organization

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to the decision taken by the 3rd Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting of the South Asian Seas Programme held on 26th August 2005, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme which is the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Meteorological Organization on 22nd November 2005, in Colombo at the SACEP Secretariat.

The World Meteorological Organization is an intergovernmental organisation with a membership of 187 Member States and Territories. It originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), which was founded in 1873. Established in 1950, WMO became the specialized agency of the United Nations in 1951 for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.

As weather, climate and water cycle knows no national boundaries, international cooperation at a global scale is essential for the development of meteorology and operational hydrology as well as to reap the benefits from their applications. WMO provides the framework for such international cooperation

Since its establishment, WMO has played a unique and powerful role in contributing to the safety and welfare of humanity. Under WMO leadership and within the framework of WMO programmes, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services contribute substantially to the protection of life and property against natural disasters, to safeguarding the environment and to enhancing the economic and social well-being of all sectors of society in areas such as food security, water resources and transport.

The provisions of the Convention of World Meteorological Organization, by which WMO was created in order to facilitate cooperation in the establishment of networks of stations for making meteorological including climatological, hydrological and other related geophysical observations; to promote the rapid exchange of meteorological information, the standardization of meteorological observation and the uniform publication of observations and statistics; to further the application of meteorology to water problems, agriculture, drought monitoring, natural disaster reduction and mitigation, ozone and pollution monitoring, monitoring of climate change, weather- and climate-sensitive socio-economic activities, to promote operational hydrology and encourage research and training in relevant fields

SACEP has been in negotiation with WMO for the implementation of the following project:

Title of Project

Networking for Greater Awareness and Understanding of the Impacts of Environmental Degradation and Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for South Asia

Geographical Scope

The geographical scope of the project is restricted to the member countries of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

Targeted Participants

✚ Parliamentarians, Executives, Conservation NGOs and Experts

Objectives

- A. The identification of existing methods and development of new methodologies and tools for improving the effectiveness of scientific knowledge transfer to user communities.
- B. The strengthening of ties with policy- and decision-making processes and society in general for mainstreaming environmental concern, in order to develop pathways and effective mechanisms to approach economic and industrial planning processes, and enhancing practical research activities, in keeping pace with progress in international policy processes.
- C. The encouragement of initiatives from developing countries, especially for place-based integrative research that includes interdisciplinary analyses of the effects and consequences of development pathways, and potential coping strategies pertinent to the region.
- D. The promotion of science and technology relating to sustainability, by aligning with global scientific programmes such as those being coordinated by the International Council for Science (ICSU), etc.
- E. The detection of global change, observing, and information gathering for early warning systems, disseminating this information to appropriate end-users, and contributing to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

Project Implementation

- (i) Executing Agency; South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
- (ii) Collaborating Agencies APN & IUCN
- (iii) Funding Agencies; World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- (iv) Implementing Agencies; National Focal Points of the member states

Duration of the Project 24 Months

Cost of Project (US Dollars) US \$ 237,000

The SACEP Secretariat is currently in communication with WMO Secretariat in working out the modalities and the financial details of this project