



SACEP

# SACEP

*Report of the*  
*Third Governing Council Meeting of the*  
**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

*12 & 13 January 1987*

*New Delhi, India.*

**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

**(S A C E P)**

**REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE  
GOVERNING COUNCIL — GC 3**

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**Report of the Third Meeting of the  
Governing Council of the South Asia  
Co-operative Environment Programme  
(SACEP), 12th & 13th January 1987,  
New Delhi, India.**

## **SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

### **THIRD MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC 3)**

**12th & 13th January 1987**

**NEW DELHI, INDIA.**

## **REPORT**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Third Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme was held in New Delhi, India, on the 12th and 13th January 1987.

### **2. ATTENDANCE**

The Governing Council (GC 3) was attended by Representatives from the following Member Countries: viz. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Representatives from the following United Nations Agencies and bodies also participated: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), World Health Organisation (WHO), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), East West Centre, Hawaii and SACEP Vienna Liaison Office.

A list of participants is at Annex I

### **3. INAUGURATION**

The Third Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme was inaugurated by Honourable Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India. In his inaugural address he stated inter alia that: "The region that is covered by SACEP are amongst the most ravaged and degraded in the world. Our forest cover is amongst the lowest due to rampant desertification, rapid denudation, fast soil erosion and there is a very high rate of growth in air, water, noise and other types of pollutions. Our challenge will be to have economic development and protect the environment, not to separate into water tight compartments, but one integral integrated approach to remove backwardness and to move ahead."

A copy of his address is at Annex II

Mr. T. N. Seshan, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India in his welcoming address noted that this function combines in itself two matters that are being given the highest priority by the Honourable Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. One is co-operation amongst the South Asian Countries and the other is environment.

A copy of his address is at Annex III

The Honourable Mr. Bhajan Lal, Minister of Environment and Forests, Government of India in his address stated: "The efforts initiated by SACEP in identifying the regional problems and initiating projects such as Regional Seas Programme, Environmental Education etc., for tackling them, are gratifying. The SACEP has to be strengthened and promoted to serve as an effective machinery for enabling it to play a very meaningful role. A careful look at its financial position, some of the focal point activities and funding of its projects will require attention of the delegates. I am sure this meeting of the Governing Council will deliberate on these and come out with suggestions which will be of help to all the member governments. The efforts of SACEP will go a long way in controlling pollution and protecting the environment."

A copy of his address is at Annex IV

Hon. Shah Moazzem Hussain, Minister of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chairman of the Governing Council addressing the inaugural session stressed that "The importance of SACEP lies as much in the action programmes undertaken in South Asia as in the fact that the SACEP has been recognised as an obvious and essential regional forum by donor countries and agencies as well."

A copy of his address is at Annex V

Mr. M. J. Kazem, Director, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme delivered the Vote of thanks.

A copy of his address is at Annex VI

4. **AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 4 (c) ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF SACEP**

With the Chairman GC 2, Hon. Shah Moazzem Hussain, Minister of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh in the chair, on a recommendation made by the Consultative Committee of SACEP, Article 4 (c) of the Articles of Association of SACEP was amended unanimously, in order to conform to accepted international practise and the system followed by all U.N. and affiliated organisations as regards the election of a Chairman to the Governing Council of SACEP.

The text of the approved amendment to Article 4 (c) of the Articles of Association of SACEP is as follows:

"Unless otherwise agreed by members, the Council shall normally meet once a year. The quorum for a Meeting of the Governing Council shall be a simple majority of the membership. The Meetings of the Governing Council shall be hosted by Member States in alphabetical order and the Presidency of the Governing Council shall be offered to the Host Country; the Chairman shall hold office for a period of one year or till such time as a new Chairman takes office in that year."

5. **ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS**

In accordance with the provisions of the Amended Article 4 (c) of the Articles of Association of SACEP, Honourable Bhajan Lal, Minister of Environment and Forests, Government of India was elected Chairman of the Third Governing Council of SACEP.

His Excellency Dr. M. Humayun Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan in New Delhi, India was elected Vice-Chairman.

Hon. Dr. Abdul Ghafar Lakanwal, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reforms of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was elected Rapporteur.

6. **AGENDA**

The Governing Council (GC 3) discussed and adopted the Agenda of the Meeting. A copy of the adopted Agenda is at Annex VII

7. **STATEMENT OF HEADS OF DELEGATION**

The Heads of delegations from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Pakistan and Sri Lanka addressed the Governing Council highlighting the efforts made in their respective countries on matters concerning the environment and also listing critical areas where national and regional programmes will need to be launched as a matter of priority.

The respective country statements are found in Annexes VIII — XIV.

8. **OTHER STATEMENTS**

The statements made by U.N. and other Organisations attending this Meeting are in Annexes XV—XX.

9. **INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS OF THE SACEP SECRETARIAT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Though the above two items were listed in the Agenda as items 8 (a) and 8 (a) & (b) respectively, due to its close relevance, they were discussed together.

The Director explained in detail the financial constraints faced by the Secretariat. The Governing Council noted that due to financial constraints the Secretariat is inadequately staffed and equipped; that a certain minimum staff and equipment is necessary if SACEP is to function effectively; that the Governing Council must approve every year the budget necessary for this purpose and that the expenditure approved by the Governing Council must be borne by the member countries in a fair and equitable manner.

The Governing Council considered the suggestion made by the members regarding the sharing of expenditure by the member states. The suggestion of the members included the sharing of the expenditure on the UN or SAARC pattern. The Governing Council decided that the Consultative Committee must consider thoroughly the formula to be adopted for sharing of the expenditure and circulate their recommendations to all member countries as early as possible before the end of March 1987.

The Governing Council will finalise this matter through circulation or at its next meeting. The member countries will make available their contributions according to the formula to be agreed upon and the Secretariat will be assured of the full money requested in the yearly budget.

The Governing Council considered the issue of a Trust Fund and decided that the Consultative Committee should also go into this matter thoroughly and submit their recommendation before the end of March 1987.

The Governing Council decided that the budget for each year and the latest audited report of the accounts must invariably get approval by the Governing Council.

#### 10. VIENNA LIAISON OFFICE

The Governing Council considered the Agenda Item 6 (c) regarding the Vienna Liaison Office. It noted that the question of the Vienna Liaison Office and its modalities needed to be reviewed in order to bring them in consonance with the objectives of SACEP and decided therefore that a committee comprising representatives from all member states, under the Chairmanship of Sri Lanka should review the issue of the Vienna Liaison Office in totality and report as early as possible to the Governing Council which will take a decision on this issue. The Government of Austria may be informed in suitable terms of the review being undertaken by SACEP. Since the issue of the Vienna Liaison office is under review, the Governing Council decided that it was not necessary to consider the Agenda Item 7 (c).

The delegation from the Vienna Liaison Office was not present when this item was discussed.

#### 11. SUBJECT AREA FOCAL POINTS

The Institutional and Programme Matters listed in Agenda Item 6 (b) and 7 (b) were discussed together.

The Governing Council decided that the individual countries should seriously examine the appropriateness of their National and Subject Area Focal Points hitherto designated and should a change be necessary it should be done immediately and the Secretariat be informed accordingly.

#### 12. REVIEW OF PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY SACEP

The Director SACEP presented the working paper SACEP/GC 3/WP6 which described in detail the present status of Projects and Programmes undertaken by the SACEP Secretariat.

SACEP sought the support of U.N. and other International Organisations in fulfilling their obligations. The Director SACEP, also brought to the notice of the Governing Council the decision of SACEP being recommended as the Secretariat for the implementation of the Action Plan in connection with the South Asian Regional Seas Programme and that six Priority Projects with collaboration from various International Organisations will be implemented during the year 1987.

The Governing Council expressed their wholehearted appreciation of the SACEP Secretariat for the achievements in this respect.

#### 13. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

The Governing Council conveyed their appreciation to all the International Organisations for the support it has given SACEP and look forward to their continuing support.

14. ANY OTHER MATTERS

Under this Agenda Item, the Governing Council gave the mandate to the SACEP Consultative Committee

- (a) To inform the Government of Bangladesh that the next Director of SACEP should be from Bangladesh and that they should take the necessary steps to fulfill this obligation. He would be expected to assume duties in August 1988.
- (b) In consultation with the Member Countries to decide on the venue and timing of the next Governing Council Meeting.

15. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The Meeting considered and adopted this report on the 13th of January 1987.

16. CONCLUDING SESSION

Mr. M. J. Kazem, Director of SACEP thanked the Government of India for the excellent arrangements made for this Governing Council and for the distinguished delegates from the member countries and U.N. and International agencies for their participation at this Meeting.

The Chairman GC III in his concluding remarks thanked the Director and SACEP staff for their excellent work in spite of limited resources and assured that the member countries would rally round to make SACEP a vibrant and vital organisation in this region.

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

## SACEP MEMBERS

## AFGHANISTAN

- Hon. Dr. Abdul Ghafar Lakanwal — Minister of Agriculture & Land Reforms.  
 Dr. Abdul Rashid Rauof — President of the Agriculture Department, State Planning Committee, Kabul.

## BANGLADESH

- Hon. Shah Moazzem Hussain — Minister of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives.  
 H.E. Mr. Faruq A. Chowdhury — High Commissioner of Bangladesh, Bangladesh High Commission, New Delhi.  
 Mr. Syed Muazzem Ali — Counsellor, Bangladesh High Commission, New Delhi.  
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahmed — Director, Department of Pollution Control, Dhaka.  
 Mr. Anver Hussain Bhuiyan — Assistant Private Secretary to Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives.

## BHUTAN

- Mr. Sangey Thinlay — Joint Director of Forests, Thimphu.  
 Mr. Narayan S. Katel — Attache, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thimphu.

## INDIA

- Shri Bhajan Lal — Minister for Environment and Forests, New Delhi.  
 Shri Z. R. Ansari — Minister of State for Environment and Forests, New Delhi.  
 Shri T. N. Seshan — Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi.  
 Shri K. R. Sinha — Deputy High Commissioner, Indian High Commission, Colombo, Sri Lanka.  
 Shri K. Madhav Sarma — Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi.  
 Shri Prakash Shah — Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi.  
 Shri V. P. Jauhari — Director, Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi.  
 Shri R. M. Roy — Deputy Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi.

## IRAN

- H.E. Dr. Hadi Manafi M.D. — Assistant Prime Minister and Director, Department of Environment, Teheran.  
 Mr. Mohammad Saied Hosseini Shie — Head, International Affairs Department of Environment, Teheran.  
 Mr. Amir Hossain Hakimian — Director, Environmental Impact Assessment Bureau, Teheran.

## **PAKISTAN**

H.E. Dr. M. Humayun Khan  
Mr. Kamran Niaz  
Mr. Masroor A. Junejo

- Ambassador for Pakistan in New Delhi.
- Counsellor, Embassy of Pakistan, New Delhi.
- Third Secretary, Embassy of Pakistan, New Delhi.

## **SRI LANKA**

Hon. Gamani Jayasuriya  
Mr. K. H. J. Wijayadasa  
Dr. L. S. K. B. Herath  
Mr. G. Wijayasiri

- Minister of Agricultural Development and Research.
- Secretary to the Hon. Prime Minister & Chairman, Central Environmental Authority.
- Chairman, Dairy Development Foundation.
- Deputy High Commissioner, Sri Lanka High Commission, New Delhi.

## **OTHERS**

### **SACEP VIENNA LIAISON OFFICE**

Dr. Norbert Knoll

- Secretary-General Federal Chamber of Architects & Engineers, Federal Ministry of Construction & Technics, Vienna.

Mr. Eduard Wilmsen

- Vice-Chairman, Austrian Academy for Environment & Energy, Vienna.

Dr. Gerhard Burian

- Head of Economic Policy Dept., Federal Ministry of Trade, Commerce & Industry, Vienna.

Mr. Siegfried Haas

- Architect and Consulting Engineer.

## **UNEP**

Mr. William Mansfield III

- Assistant Secretary-General, U.N. & Deputy Executive Director UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya.

Dr. Nay Htun

- Regional Director & Representative UNEP Regional Office for Asia & Pacific, Bangkok.

Dr. R. D. Deshpande

- Regional Adviser, UNEP Regional Office for Asia & Pacific, Bangkok.

## **ESCAP**

Dr. K. F. Jalal

- Chief, Environmental Co-ordinating Unit, ESCAP, Bangkok.

## **IUCN**

Hon. Nagendra Singh

- Deputy Chairman of IUCN's Commission on Environmental Policy, Law and Administration and President of the International Court of Justice.

## **UNESCO**

Dr. M. Derkatch

- Director, UNESCO, Regional Office of Science & Technology, New Delhi.

**UNDP**

Mr. Gamil Hamdy

— Resident Representative, UNDP, New Delhi.

**WHO**

Dr. Chaiyan K. Sanyakorn

— Director, Programme Management, Regional Office for South East Asia, New Delhi.

**WWF**

Major-General Eustace D'Sousa

— Secretary-General, WWF, India.

**EAST WEST CENTRE, HAWAII**

Dr. Toufiq A. Siddiqi

— Research Associate & Special Assistant to the President, East West Centre, Hawaii.

**WMO**

Mr. S. C. Sharma

— Director, India Meteorological Department, New Delhi.

**SACEP SECRETARIAT**

Mr. M. J. Kazem

— Director.

Mr. P. N. Dias Abeyegunawardene

— Consultant.

Ms. Marlene Pereira

— Administrative Assistant.

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF  
HON. SHRI RAJIV GANDHI,  
PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA**

"I would like to first give you warm welcome to India from the Government and the people of India and wish you all the very best for 1987. I hope your stay here will be pleasant, comfortable perhaps most of all fruitful.

The cause that brings you here is of great concern to us. Your deliberations will be of tremendous importance to the millions of poorest people who live here in this part of the world. There is no false division between development and the imperative for preserving and enriching our environment. Our experience has shown that the neglect of the environment is at the cost of development. We have found that we have not evaluated the cost of the deprived environment when we have calculated the cost and benefits of particular development projects. We have seen during these past two years that we are giving more and more relief for drought and flood. We have, for example, during the first one and a half years of the Seventh Plan which is 1985 and half of 1986, given an equal amount to what we gave to the full Sixth Five-Year Plan in terms of relief. The floods have been severer, the droughts have been severer. When it rains, the water with the top soil wash out into the sea and it is not available during the rest of the year, primarily because we have neglected our environment, we have degraded our environment, we are paying a very heavy cost for it now.

We cannot have development today without evaluating the full cost of every project, not just the immediate cost but the long term cost. We cannot leave the long term part of that cost for future generations to pay. We cannot leave the legacy of deficit in development. We have to account for it during our own generations. The cost of protecting the environment goes up higher and higher as the environment gets more and more degraded. We have seen today the firefighting that we are having to do to protect the environment which is a very heavy drain on our exchequer. But if it had been included during the earlier part of our development, the cost would have been much less. The region that is covered by SACEP are amongst the most ravaged and degraded in the world. Our forest cover is amongst the lowest, due to rampant desertification rapid denudation, fast soil erosion, and there is a very high rate of growth in air, water, noise and other types of pollutions. Our challenge will be to have economic development and protect the environment, not to separate into water-tight compartments, but one integral integrated approach to remove backwardness and to move ahead. This integrated approach will require a lot of new thinking in our Planning Commission, in our bureaucracy at political levels. The immediate aspects of protecting the environment become very political. If a forest is to be protected, the immediate result is that fuel wood is not available, timber for construction is not available. Other benefits and fruits from the forests are not available to the poorer sections, those that live near the forests, those that live in the forests. So, there is a dilemma. This dilemma will have to be faced and faced strongly. It cannot be overcome by stiff legal action. The alternatives must be found. Alternative fuel, alternative construction material, alternatives to the other products that are available from the forests. We have to also relook at our opening up of forested areas, how we do it, and how we are going to protect those areas which are still heavily forested. We have to give priority in the peripheral areas of forests to things such as fuel, construction material so that forests do not have pressure put on it. We have to see how we can change our fiscal and taxation policies so that other materials are more readily available, and cheaper as an alternative. What is needed is a holistic view of the human needs of the area, of the poor that are living in and around the forests and the environment that needs protection. Man and nature have lived in harmony for centuries. The balance was not upset. The tribes that lived in forests have not upset the balance in the forests. It is what we call civilisation and development that has encroached upon nature and has destroyed her environment. We must develop the right tools of development and for protection of the environment. We must develop the human genius to give us the right answers. The irony is that the technological progress that we have seen is requiring much higher levels of technology, to fight the damage that very technological progress has done, the ravages of past technologies, engineers who didn't think twice about exploiting natural resources must now think very carefully about whether

that exploitation is in the ultimate benefit of the human beings living in that area. In our part of the world in South Asia we are very inter-dependent, perhaps much more so when it comes to environment and other spheres of our activities.

Degradation in one country, one part of the country, can have very serious consequences on another country and it is very necessary that we work together to maintain the ecological balance in South Asia. We have to look more specially at the specially endangered areas in our part of the world, the mangroves, coral islands, the particular ecosystems in each zone. We have, I remember rightly, had a Seminar, the 1st Seminar in 1983, but very little action has taken place since then. We need to give a bigger thrust to specific action, time bound action, because time is running out very fast on our environment, the regional action to keep pace with each of our specific national action programmes. In this area India being the largest, is perhaps the worst affected and that has given us some experience in tackling these problems, in combating the degradation of our forests and our environments. We lay this expertise in front of SACEP in whatever way we can in assisting, training and development and environment protection manpower. We will go all out to help the countries.

Our friends and our neighbours have also gained expertise in these areas and we would be happy to co-operate with them in developing our common expertise. I wish you all the very best in your deliberations to press ahead with deliberate speed. What we need is concrete plans of action that have quick impact on the environment, on the people that are suffering from the consequences of a deprived environment, from the ravages of the deprived environment.

**ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY****MR. T. N. SESHAN,****SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST,  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

Your Excellency Chairman of the Governing Council, Honourable Prime Minister of India, Your Excellencies, Delegates from the Countries who are part of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, other Distinguished Delegates, Honourable Minister for Environment and Minister of State for Environment, Friends and Colleagues:

I deem it a very great privilege to welcome you to this inaugural function of the Third Governing Council Meeting of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. We consider it a great privilege which has been given to us to hold this meeting in India this time. To you Sir, the Prime Minister we are particularly beholden for having time to be with us today, for this inaugural function.

If I may say so with humility it does not surprise us because this function combines in itself two outstanding matters dear to your heart. One is co-operation among the South Asian Countries and the other is environment and therefore to you Sir, we extend a warm welcome.

Your Excellencies, Delegates from the countries of the Region who have come here for this meeting, I would like to extend an extremely warm welcome. Weather in Delhi during this part of the year is not entirely warm but that will be more than compensation by the warmth of our hearts. Delegates from the United Nation Agencies, other International Agencies and Regional Agencies to them also we would like to extend a warm welcome.

To our own Minister for Environment and our Minister of State for Environment I would also like to add a brief but warm word of welcome. Sir, we do hope that at the end of the deliberations in the next two days we would have achieved another outstanding milestone in South Asian Co-operation on Environment which is a subject which repeatedly proves to all of us that the world is becoming a village.

Thank you.

**ADDRESS BY SHRI BHAJAN LAL,  
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS,  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

Mr. Chairman, beloved Prime Minister of India, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and distinguished delegates:

1. At the very outset I convey my New Year's greetings to all of you.
2. I have great pleasure in welcoming you to our country on the occasion of this inaugural Function of the 3rd Governing Council Meeting of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP).
3. We are all aware that the countries of this region face similar environmental problems and our decision to support a programme like SACEP was very timely. As developing countries, we are all interested in stopping the environmental degradation and in protecting our natural resources which are the basis of our efforts for development. The ecological balance enables the species of this earth to survive. Man has, however, interfered with many natural processes in pursuit of development. He has cut trees and forests indiscriminately. He has polluted land, water and air, so essential for the development process. He is proceeding on these lines so fast that the quality of life of the whole human race is threatened.
4. Our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, had on several occasions, articulated the perspective on environmental protection in the context of developing countries. In her Key-note address to the Stockholm Conference on Human Environment in 1972, she said "How can we speak to those who live in villages and slums about keeping oceans, the rivers, and the air clean, when their own lives are contaminated at the source? The environment cannot be improved in conditions of poverty; nor can poverty be eradicated without the use of science and technology".
5. While the major damage to the environment is caused by the developed countries, it is the developing countries who have to bear the brunt of such process. Now is the time for us to impress upon the developed countries to stop over-exploitation of natural resources and to compensate for the damage they have already caused. Environment is one entity globally and we all have a responsibility to protect it. I understand that some countries as well as international agencies are coming forward to assist us in protecting the environment. We have to make sure that this assistance is devoted fully to activities considered appropriate by the countries of this region. We are the best judges of what needs to be done in this area.
6. India, for more than two decades, has been acutely conscious of the need for environmental protection. The Constitution of India specifically provides for such action. Several laws had been enacted earlier to prevent and control pollution of water and air, to protect forests, to screen insecticides and to provide safe and healthy working conditions to workers. Recently we have enacted in 1986 a comprehensive law, the Environment (Protection) Act, which empowers the Central Government to effectively protect all areas of environment.
7. Enactment of stringent laws punishment of violaters, though important, are not enough to protect the environment. It is important that the Governments take major initiatives in each priority area. Recently, two such major initiatives have been taken by our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. One is the massive Ganga Action Plan launched in our country to clean up the Ganga River to signal the Government's resolve to tackle the pollution of our rivers. The estimated cost of this action plan is Rupees 2900 million. Similar efforts are planned for other rivers such as Yamuna in the country. Another initiative is the setting up of National Wasteland Development Board with the objective of afforesting the wastelands of the country to fulfil the fuel and fodder needs of the country. India recognises that promotion of forests and of vegetative cover in the country is essential to tackle the problems of soil loss, droughts and floods.

8. We also recognise that the most effective way of protecting the environment is to make people aware of its importance and to educate all concerned about the means of protecting the environment. Under the guidance of our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, we have launched a massive awareness campaign in the country aimed at enlisting the co-operation of professionals, teachers, Government officials, people's representatives, students and youth.

9. The efforts initiated by SACEP in identifying the regional problems and initiating projects such as regional seas programme, environmental education, etc. for tackling them are gratifying. The SACEP has to be strengthened and promoted to serve as an effective machinery for enabling it to play a very meaningful role. A careful look at its financial position, some of the focal point activities and funding of its projects will require attention of the delegates. I am sure this meeting of the Governing Council will deliberate on these and come out with suggestions which will be of help to all the member-governments. The efforts of SACEP will go a long way in controlling pollution and protecting the environment.

Thank you.

**ADDRESS BY CHAIRMAN GC 2,  
HONOURABLE SHAH MOAZZEM HOSSAIN,  
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATIVES,  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**

Your Excellency Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India and the Chief Guest of this Session, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

As the Second Chairman of the SACEP Governing Council let me, first of all, convey my deep appreciation to His Excellency, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India and the Chairman of SAARC for his august presence at this inaugural session. His presence amongst us this morning will be a source of inspiration to us and we look forward to him to provide us the guideline and direction for the deliberations of this meeting.

I, on my own behalf as also on behalf of the representatives of the SACEP Countries, would like to express my special thanks and gratitude to the Government of India for hosting the Third Governing Council Meeting of SACEP in New Delhi. I would also appreciate the participation of the International Agencies and donor countries for their continued interest in our co-ordinated and co-operative plan of action to meet the environmental challenge faced by about one-fourth of the global population.

Your Excellencies, this Third Meeting of the Governing Council has been another mile stone in the history of co-operation among the countries in this region to fight the environmental hazards.

The presence of the distinguished delegates, here, undoubtedly assures that we are determined to prevent the following common issues in a spirit of self-reliance:—

- i) The phenomenal increase in population and severe food-shortages that cause enormous pressure on the land of this region.
- ii) The unplanned mass migration of people to large cities from the impoverished countryside leading to awful slums.
- iii) Inadequacies of basic amenities of life that are forcing the people to live under most inhuman conditions.
- iv) The undesirable way of modernisation and development that contribute depletion of natural resources, degradation of environment and disequilibrium of socio-economic conditions of the people.
- v) Inflation and depression that cause poverty and health hazard to the people.

Your Excellencies, the Second Governing Council Meeting held during 17-18 April, 85 at Dhaka commended the steps taken by the Focal Points to improve the ecological status of this region and expanded SACEP's activities by establishing a Liaison Office at Vienna for co-ordinating assistance from donor sources. The significant progress in such a short time only proves the determination of the countries in the region to combat environmental hazard in a co-operative spirit with a view to establishing a new Environmental Order.

The importance of SACEP lies as much in the action programmes undertaken in South Asia as in the fact that SACEP has been recognised as an obvious and essential regional forum by donor countries and agencies as well.

It is undeniable that the preservation of environment and socio-economic development must go hand in hand. The tremendous momentum in this area generated in the South Asia Region and in the donor countries or agencies for developing Environmental Security is a positive indication for optimism in success.

In conclusion, I would like to assure you that People's Republic of Bangladesh, strongly supports the over-all goals and objectives of SACEP and is prepared to make all efforts for further strengthening SACEP's role in the South Asia.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finally, may I record my appreciation for the work done so far by SACEP despite multitudes of constraints.

Thank you all.

**VOTE OF THANKS BY MR. M. J. KAZEM,  
DIRECTOR, SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME.**

Hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, I consider it a duty of great honour and privilege to thank you, Mr. Prime Minister, for giving of your precious time to inaugurate the Third Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.

Your presence here today, to address this Meeting, is a measure of your profound concern about the alarming environmental situation in our region, and your feelings for this organisation which is a source of great encouragement to us.

Mr. Prime Minister, under your leadership, the Government of India is playing a major role in assisting SACEP to get off the ground. Hosting of this important meeting is a vivid manifestation of India's will to support and strengthen our young organisation. I would particularly like to acknowledge the co-operation and assistance of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of India with SACEP in general, and specifically in arranging this meeting.

It is also my duty to record on behalf of SACEP Secretariat, deep appreciation of the presence here of the Distinguished representatives of Member Countries, particularly the presence of Hon. Ministers, which is not only a source of great inspiration to us, but also symbolises the priority we all accord to the value of this sub-regional environmental programme. We are very thankful to all the distinguished Ministers for participation in the Meeting despite the demand of their other important duties.

Using this opportunity, I would like to acknowledge the role of UN system and other International Organisations, and particularly UNEP and UNDP for their valuable contribution and support to the activities of SACEP. The co-operation and assistance of UNEP, particularly its Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific has been very significant to SACEP for mounting its programmes and projects.

Mr. Prime Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to conclude, by wishing this Third Meeting of the Governing Council every success and hope that the Co-operative effort which has been initiated through SACEP by its member governments would result in the preservation and conservation of the Environment in our region for the mutual benefit of all.

Thank you.

**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
GOVERNING COUNCIL — THIRD MEETING  
12TH & 13TH JANUARY 1987  
NEW DELHI, INDIA.**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2.     a) Amendment to Article 4 (c) Articles of Association of SACEP  
       b) Election of Office Bearers
3. Adoption of Agenda and Organisation of Work
4. Statements by Heads of Member Country Delegations
5. Statements by United Nations Agencies,  
   International/Regional Organisations & Aid Consortia
6. INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
  - a) SACEP Secretariat
  - b) Subject Area Focal Points
  - c) Vienna Liaison Office
  - d) International Co-operation
7. PROGRAMME MATTERS
  - a) Review of Priority Programmes and Projects  
   undertaken by SACEP - (Director's Report)
  - b) Review of Activities of Subject Area Focal  
   Points - Report by Member Countries
  - c) Approval of Projects Proposed by the SACEP  
   Vienna Liaison Office
8. FINANCIAL MATTERS
  - a) Financial Position of SACEP
  - b) Establishment of Trust Fund
9. Any Other Matters
10. Adoption of Report
11. Closure of Meeting

**STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE AFGHANISTAN DELEGATION**  
**HONOURABLE DR. ABDUL GHAFAR LAKANWAL,**  
**MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & LAND REFORMS**  
**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN**

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure, Mr. Chairman, to extend to you, on behalf of the Afghan Delegation, our heartiest congratulations upon your election to chair this important meeting of the Third Governing Council of SACEP. We are confident that with your able guidance and active participation of the distinguished delegates, the deliberations of this meeting will be successful. I also thank the Government of India for the kind hospitality and courtesies extended to us.

The efforts made by the Director and other members of the SACEP Staff to arrange this meeting in an excellent manner, are commendable and I thank them all. I would like to extend my particular thanks to His Excellency Mr. Shah Moazzem Hussain, Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives of the Government of Bangladesh, of the valuable and successful efforts made by him as the Second Chairman of SACEP Governing Council.

Mr. Chairman, the Stockholm Conference held in 1972 created an awareness and understanding of the human environment and its problems by the international community. As a result of this conference, many countries have adopted environmental legislations and measures for the protection of the environment. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan recognises the increased threat to the environment and the necessity for effective management. Afghanistan as a member of SACEP, is interested in the goals, objectives and programmes adopted in the documents of the First and Second Governing Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has predominantly an agrarian economy with agriculture constituting the major economic resources, contributing more than 60% to the gross domestic product (GDP) and more than 50% to export.

Forests occupy an area of 1.9 million hectares located in mountainous areas of eastern south-eastern and north-eastern part of the country. The fruit bearing natural forest tree species such as pistachio (pista) occupy an estimated area of 450,000 hectares and located in the north and north-western part of the country. However, these forests are under heavy pressure of unscientific exploitation which is causing serious harm to the future of the country.

The rehabilitation of these forests urgently calls for long term investments. The Government has a modest programme of development of popular and fast growing species. In order to be able to meet the increasing demand of forest products, the existing programme needs substantial expansion for which the technical and financial assistance as well as transfer of requisite technology from SACEP and other international organisations will be very helpful.

According to the decision of the First Governing Council of SACEP, 1988 has been designated as the Year of Trees for Asia and the Pacific. The Government of Afghanistan has specially sought assistance of SACEP in the formulation of projects and programmes as under.

- (a) Raising large scale plantations of popular and other fast growing species
- (b) Establishment of audio visual facilities to create awareness, enthusiasm and co-operation between the people and the Forestry Department in promoting popular and fast growing species, and
- (c) Developing requisite training programme and facilities for forestry personnel and the people involved in popular and fast growing species cultivation.

Besides formulating the project as above, financial, technical and assistance by way of materials, from SACEP and other international organisations, would also be needed for implementing the project, programme and activities.

Your Excellencies, according to the resolution of the 86th Session of the FAO, the year 1985 had been declared as International Year of the Forest. To implement this decision, the DRA has passed a resolution, the special features of which are:

Improvement of the current programme for better management to raise forestry, species seedings, to fulfil the increasing demand of the public.

Rehabilitation of forests, implementation of voluntary programme of planting trees, and involvement of all concerned in the programme of forest resources.

Protection and rational utilisation and also introduction and improvement of the programme of supply and distribution of seedling to the people to promote greenery.

For celebrating the Year of Trees in 1988, a programme of afforestation and re-afforestation has been launched and will be continued by planting the areas largely located in watersheds for protection of agricultural lands against erosion.

Vegetation and ecological mapping plays a vital role of designing, formulating and implementing the country's future development and economic plans particularly in the Agriculture and Forestry section. Democratic Republic of Afghanistan undertook this gigantic task as early as 1965. The objective is to prepare an ecological and vegetation map 1/500000 scale.

This unique project is in an advanced stage of completion and is presently assisted by a UNDP Project. With the completion of this map, Afghanistan will possess basic information on the status of its natural resources, land classification and plan future agriculture, forestry and pasture development programmes.

For the protection of endangered species of wild fauna and flora, DRA, realising the importance of such species, has decided to become a member of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

MR. CHAIRMAN and Distinguished Delegates, the Government of DRA is firm in carrying out various activities to the betterment of the environment. A National Environment Committee is going to be set up under the Chairmanship of the State Planning Committee with the representatives of sectoral Ministries, Academy of Science and Kabul Municipality for co-ordinated approach. The Government has taken up extensive programmes for irrigation and water resources section; flood control measures such as those taken up on Helmand Valley South Western region of Afghanistan, that can control the regime of the Helmand River and stop its meandering taking vast areas under its bed. It will reclaim about 50,000 hectares and provide water for irrigation.

Water logging measures taken up in this region will solve the salinity problems but extensive programmes and financial resources are needed.

Kabul, the capital of the country, because of the rapid growth of population and limited quantities of ground water, is facing the shortage of water supply. But for the implementation of certain programmes of the Five Year Plan, under consideration, financial resources are needed.

Shortage of electricity for heating and other domestic uses is putting pressure on conventional use of firewood. Government has taken up extensive programmes in respect of utilisation of solar and other forms of energy. Several projects have been approved by the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of DRA. Some experimental stations have been completed with the assistance of United Nations and put to operation.

MR. CHAIRMAN, Distinguished Delegates, in such an august gathering, I would request your kind attention to one of the very important decisions taken in the Extraordinary Plenum of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan concerning the realisation of the policy of National Reconciliation in the country. Following it, an extraordinary session of the Revolutionary Council of DRA has been held supporting the decision of Plenum and adopted a special declaration on National Reconciliation. The aim behind the peace programme and policy of National Reconciliation is clear. We want the war to be stopped. In the course of the last eight years, war has brought us grave sorrows, people are killed, the number of widows increased and mothers deprived of their sons.

Human wisdom and conscience command that an end must be put to war and firing of bullets. We believe if we can reach reconciliation, we do away with poverty, hunger and ignorance, and make the burning deserts fertile.

MR. CHAIRMAN, we feel that the decision that will be taken in this Third Governing Council will be of far reaching importance, for SACEP and for the conservation and preservation of the environment in our region.

I once again thank you very much for your patient hearing.

**STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE BANGLADESH DELEGATION  
HONOURABLE SHAH MOAZZEM HOSSAIN, MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATIVES  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**

Mr. Chairman,

I, on behalf of the delegation of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, would like to congratulate you on your unanimous election as the Chairman of the 3rd Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP).

I would also take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Humayun Khan of Pakistan on his election as the Vice Chairman and the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Land Reforms of Afghanistan His Excellency Dr. Abdul Ghafar Lakanwal as the Rapporteur.

I wish to express our deepest gratitude to the Government of India for kindly hosting the Third Governing Council Meeting of SACEP here in New Delhi and for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to us. May I also record our deep appreciation for the kind comments that you, Mr. Chairman and other distinguished delegates have made about our contribution during the Chairmanship of Bangladesh.

I would not dwell on the conceptual framework of SACEP as it has already been excellently narrated this morning in the inaugural address of His Excellency Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India and I would only like to say that the key concept of socio-economic and ecological interdependence emphasized in his speech is certainly beginning to find a special place in this region. May I suggest Mr. Chairman, that the statement of Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi be included as a part of the conference document.

Mr. Chairman,

We, the members of the SACEP, share many issues responsible for environmental problems. All of us belong to the developing world. This region has the largest concentration of world's population with the vast majority of them living in a state of dire poverty. The situation has had a very important implication for the environment. The combination of adverse effects of development, over population and poverty have resulted in heavy pressure on land, uncontrolled urbanisation and over-use of natural resources. This in turn has led to soil erosion, desertification and air, soil and water pollution. These ills are posing a serious threat to lives of our people. Our efforts during the last few decades have been increasingly directed toward the achievement of the goal of development. Our population increased but the rate of food production and economic growth could not keep up with it. Development strategies continued to concentrate on quantitative growth without integration of environment into development activities. It is now a recognised fact that preservation of environment and socio-economic development must go hand in hand.

Mr. Chairman,

Proper care and prudent management of our environment are the only answers to these problems. Individual national efforts need to be complemented by the collective endeavours of the countries of this region to combat the menace in order to achieve quality environment. An environmental problem which confronts a particular country will invariably affect the others in the region at some stage.

Mr. Chairman,

The establishment of SACEP has been a positive step forward in bringing together the countries of South Asia to jointly combat environmental challenges. A promising beginning has already been made in developing comprehensive environmental programmes and projects. It is heartening to note that, as a result of SACEP's initiative, there has developed increased consciousness about the seriousness of environmental problems for undertaking remedial measures.

Mr. Chairman,

In Bangladesh, the past few years have witnessed a growing awareness of the following dangers that emanated from the following factors:—

- i) Threat to the terrestrial eco system due to the growing population which is now about 103 million in an area of 55,598 sq. miles with a density of more than 1700 persons per square mile.
- ii) Deforestation, soil erosion, extinction of vegetative cover, water-logging, salinity, destruction of species and consequent extinction have threatened the terrestrial eco-system.
- iii) Disturbance of ecological balance due to flood and other natural calamities which are often a regular phenomena in Bangladesh.
- iv) Pollution of air, soil and water by vehicles and industries, use of fertilizer and untreated domestic and industrial waste.
- v) Contamination of sea and coastal water and destruction of mangrove, coral and island ecosystem by numerous contaminated rivers.
- vi) Limitation in linking development programmes with the environmental requirements.
- vii) Consumption of substantial part of our resources in meeting energy requirements.
- viii) Inadequacies of institutional infrastructures.
- ix) Lack of Environmental Education and lack of promotion of public awareness.

Mr. Chairman,

Our efforts were first directed towards lessening of population pressure. The present growth rate of 2.3% has been targeted to attain 1.8% by 1990 and, accordingly, plans and programmes have been undertaken.

We have also concentrated on pollution control. The Government has already issued directives for full control of industrial pollution within 3 years and the works are under way. The question of the control of pollution in other areas such as control of domestic sewage pumping and treatment plants and control of solid waste has engaged attention of the Government.

Bangladesh is the focal point for conservation of mangroves, corals and deltas and coastal areas. For island eco-systems, Bangladesh has been made the focal point in collaboration with Maldives. We organised in co-operation with ESCAP/SACEP a regional symposium in Dhaka in August 1983 on "Environmental Management of Mangrove, Corals and Island Ecosystems". The Symposium was in fact the first of its kind since the inception of SACEP. The Symposium provided a forum for meaningful deliberations and discussion by participants from the member countries. Specific recommendations including the establishment of a Regional Mangrove Institute in Bangladesh were made. The recommendations were also discussed in Bangkok in the ESCAP Ministerial Meeting on Environment in Asia and the Pacific. We are delighted that the recently concluded meeting of experts on the South Asian Seas unanimously recommended SACEP as the Secretariat for the implementation of the South Asian Seas Action Plan. We are also glad that SACEP has been assigned to implement 2 specific priority projects — 'Survey of Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution and Formulation of Guide Lines' and 'Promotion of Environmental Education and Public Awareness.' We feel very happy that the SACEP Secretariat has highlighted the recommendations of the Symposium in order to undertake an integrated Action Plan. All we lack now is the institutional infrastructure to handle the South Asian Seas Programme. It is our view that the sooner the Regional Mangrove Institute in Bangladesh is established, the better.

To ensure integration of environment into development, conservation of natural living resources, eco-development and pollution control, a draft legislation has already been framed

to amend the existing legislation. For ecological uplift of Barind Tract — an arid area of Bangladesh — Barind Integrated Area Development Project has been undertaken.

In accordance with the resolution of the 1st meeting of the Governing Council relating to the Declaration On The Year Of Trees for South Asia, 1988, we have prepared a comprehensive scheme and now waiting for the consultant of SACEP to come for assisting in its finalisation.

Mr. Chairman,

As a developing country, we are determined to solve our existing environment problems. We are also determined to make our future development programmes environmentally viable. But resource constraints appear to be the most formidable handicap that continues to keep our goal far away. Our delegation, therefore, hopes that SACEP would come forward for arranging fund for the following:—

- 1) Supplementing the existing institutional infrastructure that can handle the existing environmental problems in Bangladesh including the South Asian Seas Programme and the Programme related to the Year of Trees.
- 2) Imparting environmental education and promotion of public awareness.
- 3) Exploration of energy-saving-techniques and implementation of related projects.
- 4) Combating of air, soil and water pollution.

Mr. Chairman,

The importance of pollution free environment in our life is now globally recognised. It is human action that is mainly responsible for its impairment and by the same human action alone it can be righted.

The fact underlines the close relationship between environment and our activities. This is a challenging task specially for the developing countries and calls for relentless co-operative and collaborative efforts. It could be said beyond any reasonable doubt that the co-operative programme formulated only a few years ago has made appreciable strides in helping the SACEP countries to move forward during this short span of its existence. Bangladesh reiterates its support to SACEP in its programmes and activities and gives assurance of positive co-operation within the framework and mandate of SACEP.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I once again sincerely thank the Government of India for the warm hospitality extended to us and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

Thank you all.

**STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF BHUTANESE DELEGATION**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on behalf of the Bhutanese delegation and on my own behalf on your unanimous election as Chairman of this important meeting. I would also like to congratulate the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur on their election to their respective positions. We are confident that our deliberations will lead to fruitful results under your able and dynamic Chairmanship.

My delegation would like to express our gratitude to His Excellency Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for his inspiring inaugural address which has set the correct tone of this meeting. I propose that the text of His Excellency's address be included as a part of the final document of this meeting.

I would like to offer our sincere thanks to the Government of India for the excellent arrangements made for this meeting and for the generous hospitality extended to us.

As we have mentioned in the past, I would like to reiterate that the subject of environment has a vital bearing on the prospect of development and well-being of our present and future generations. The inhabitants of our region, as in other parts of the world, are certainly affected by the ecology and the surroundings in which they live. In many developing countries, including our region, rapid growth of population has aggravated environmental problems such as soil erosion, deforestation and desertification, leading to floods and other natural disasters affecting millions of people annually. Man has contributed to this situation and it is only he who should take corrective steps to remedy such disasters.

Due to rapid industrial development and urbanisation, the total forest area has been reduced considerably. Large jungle tracts are also annihilated due to various irrigation and development projects. If we go deep into these problems, the cause of all this is only one: increased population making constant demand on environment for its livelihood. One of the best remedies, to our belief, is to control the growth of population.

In my country, Mr. Chairman, there is abundant forests which we not only conserve but also improve for the better quality of the life of our future generations keeping in view the integral relations between the life of our people and the environment. Likewise, we are sure that the objectives of other member countries also directed towards the same goal that our collective endeavour would contribute significantly to the management of environment for the benefit of the people of South Asia which has the largest concentration of the world's population.

It has been unfortunate that the combination of over-population and poverty has resulted heavy pressure on land, soil, water, wood, etc., and, therefore, it is obligatory for the member countries to give some thought on the maintenance of the environment for the benefit of our people in general.

The Royal Government of Bhutan at present is giving committed itself high priority for the preservation of its natural habitat and the quality of life of its people. Very stringent regulations have been framed in the field of mining. Besides other obligations, the mining agency should take up afforestation programme in and around the mining areas as soon as mining operations have been completed. Under the Department of Forests we have created more than 8,000 hectares of new plantation so far in the denuded and degraded forest areas. New plantation in various districts are carried out every year. Suitable measures have been taken to protect our valuable forests from fires.

Environmental studies are introduced in all schools in Bhutan as one of the regular subjects with a view to create awareness of the importance of environment among the younger generations.

Realising the damages done to the growth of wild seedling in the forests by the cattle, the Government has started to earmark particular areas and tracts of land near the villages to use as pastures for the cattle. Such measures, we believe, will undoubtedly contribute towards the development of forests and thereby improve the management of the environment for the benefit of both our region and people.

Mr. Chairman, I am delighted to be here attending this Third Governing Council Meeting of SACEP. Though new and problems many, it is already showing signs of progress and advancement. The Royal Government of Bhutan reiterates its support to SACEP's programmes and projects and will be happy to co-operate closely with other member countries in realising its objectives and aspirations.

Before I conclude, may I once again sincerely thank the Government of India for the hospitality extended to us and the excellent arrangements made for this meeting.

Thank you.

## STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION

The Government of India extends its best wishes to South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme and conveys its greetings for the new year to all the member countries. The aspirations of SACEP have started taking concrete shape. The activities of the past will get further impetus with the shared experiences of the experts from the member countries during this meeting.

Environmental consciousness in India was fostered by our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Her key-note address to the Stockholm Conference on Human Environment in 1972 has articulated the dilemma of the developing world in harmonising development with protection of environment. This environmental momentum built up by her is further strengthened by our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Many bold and important decisions have been taken on the subject under his leadership during the last two years.

A major achievement has been the enactment of a landmark legislation — The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. This enactment covers comprehensively all aspects of environment and provides for a single focus for environmental issues in the country. For the first time, the citizen has been provided with power to file complaints to courts against any violation of the provisions of the Act or rules made thereunder.

Operational linkage, with various Ministries/Departments of the Government and voluntary agencies has been further strengthened. Promotion of research and development forms an important area of activity on various subjects concerning the environment. The environment impact assessment of major projects is being done on scientific lines. Zoning and classification of the major rivers, inventorisation of polluting industries, launching of country wide programmes for enforcement of national standards and formulation of ambient air quality standards are among the important achievements in the field of pollution control. Efforts are on way to prepare a comprehensive disaster management plan to deal with accidents in hazardous industries and operations.

The Ganga Action plan to clean the River Ganga at a cost of Rs. 2900 million is under progress. This project will be a major land-mark in the area of integrated pollution control in India.

The National Wasteland Development Board constituted to afforest the wastelands for fulfilling the fuel and fodder needs of the growing population has started functioning.

The Government have established a National Land Use and Wasteland Development Council under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister. A National Land Use Policy is evolved, covering aspects of scientific irrigation, enhanced productivity, and afforestation to tackle the problems of salinity, water-logging and soil erosion. Specific areas of action have been identified for protection of forests such as afforestation of wastelands, re-afforestation of degraded forest lands, survey, restriction of grazing, encroachments, ban on mono-culture, delineation of right of tribals and compensatory afforestation in case of diversion of forest-lands for non-forest purposes. A special programme of conservation and afforestation in the desert areas is also under implementation. Action on the prevention and control of floods finds an important place in the agenda of action of our Government.

Significant progress has been made towards establishing a network of conservation areas for designation as biosphere reserves. Through the computerised Environmental Information System (ENVIS) with distributed data base centres, facilities have been created for systematic storage, retrieval and dissemination of environmental information. This ENVIS Centre has been recognised as regional centre for INFOTERRA of UNEP.

A massive national environmental awareness campaign has recently been launched to create environmental awareness at all levels particularly among students, teachers, women, professionals, Government officials and elected representatives of the people. Several activities such as seminars, training courses, workshops for school teachers/students, public meetings camps, rallies, audio-visual shows/films, advertisement campaigns, display of posters, dissemination and use of education kits, tree plantation, etc., are being organised throughout the count-

ry. Over 120 non-governmental organisations/voluntary agencies, research and educational institutions, museums, citizens groups, professional associations, political and cultural organisations supported by individual environmentalists are engaged in these activities.

At the instance of our Prime Minister, the National Education Policy recently enunciated, has included integration of environmental consciousness in the entire educational process. Considerable emphasis is being laid on both formal and non-formal education among several target groups.

The National Policy of the bio-gas development is a programme which, in addition to conserving fuel wood, has positive impact on environment. In addition to using animal dung, emphasis is now being given on use of human night soil as input for generating bio-gas for lighting and cooking purposes. Utilising urban waste for generation of power is another programme of the Government. Schemes of power generation from other sources such as solar energy, thermal energy, bio-gas, agricultural residues and use of photo voltaics for lighting purposes and for meeting local energy needs of the rural people are also taken up. This will lead to reduction in the demand of the fuel wood. A national project on improved stoves in the rural areas is also under successful implementation.

It will be unfair to expect the developing countries to divert their scarce resources for tackling environmental issues which transcend national frontiers. Developed countries are largely responsible for affecting global environment through phenomenal industrialisation. They should, therefore, earmark a portion of their profits from high industrialisation in the form of additional aid resources for the developing countries to finance environmental programmes. The responsibility and the attitude of the multi-national companies should be the same in the developing countries as in the developed countries.

Air, water, land and life, form an inter-locking system on a global level. The climate, shaping the fertility of earth, is governed by both atmosphere and oceans which are trans-national in character. India is actively participating in the world-wide research and action programmes in atmosphere and in the oceans by co-operating in several programmes sponsored by United Nations Organisations as well as by SACEP.

In this massive effort of environmental protection, my country looks forward to attempts of SACEP to bring together countries of this region to work towards solutions. My Government extends its good wishes to SACEP and its member countries in their efforts for saving this planet from environmental degradation.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE IRANIAN DELEGATION  
H.E. DR. HADI MANAFI M.D., ASSISTANT PRIME MINISTER AND  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

Dear Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my congratulations on your election as Chairman and to appreciate for hosting this important meeting in this great country and for the importance given by H.E. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India, who very kindly inaugurated this meeting today morning. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran will present their country's report on present situation and different fields of environment, the various ongoing programmes, present problems, and progress so far achieved in this regard. It is necessary to mention here that our report may differ from other reports mainly because of extraordinary situation faced by us. I would like to thank you in advance for your attention.

First of all, in reference to Article 1 of the Articles of Association of SACEP, I wish to emphasise on the nature of environmental problems in developing countries. As you know, main factors of these problems are more socio-economic rather than technical. It stems from oppressor-oppressed economic relationship, somehow imposed upon developing countries by imperialistic powers. Such dominant relationship gives rise to environmental deterioration and pollution.

It requires some changes in economic relation with imperialistic governments and at the same time improvement of relations among the Third World Countries in order to ease the present situation. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a revolutionary Government, has taken many steps in this direction from the very beginning of the establishment of the Islamic Republic in 1979.

As you might be aware, Iran has an area of 1,648,000 square kilometers, with different climates and about 48 million population.

I don't propose to review the environmental situation in Iran in the distant past but a survey of the last decade would seem to be quite in order. The environment situation in Iran could not but deteriorate in the period before the Islamic Revolution because of the dependence of the overthrown regime of the Shah on the imperialist powers in the social and political but also economic sphere. The relationship of that regime with these powers was of the oppressed-oppressor type. This subjected our traditional economy and our social and cultural institutions to a violent and enforced change. The senseless aping of Western economic patterns caused new and acute environmental problems to emerge and these were compounded still further by the irrational and mono-dimensional exploitation of our natural resources, besides forcing peasant exodus to the cities and their chaotic growth. And, though the environment problem had assumed such a great enormity, the Shah regime's policy of subservience to the West provided the Department of Environment neither with the authority nor the resources to deal even with a fraction of this mega problem.

Following the victory of the Islamic Revolution and establishment of Islamic Republic of Iran in 1979, the new State Constitution contains Article 50 which deal with this significant issue, the text of which is reproduced below:

"In Islamic Republic, conservation of the environment in which the present and future generation will live a social life bound to develop, is considered a public duty. Hence, any economic and non-economic activity which might pollute the environment or destroy it in an irreversible manner is prohibited."

As a turning point in our attitudes towards the environment, which are based on high teachings of Islam, the Department of Environment was given necessary authority.

The Department of Environment has since then undertaken many programmes to fulfil its mission for protection and enrichment of the environment in Iran. But, a war was imposed upon the Islamic Republic of Iran shortly after the victory of the revolution and since then it has caused extensive economic, social and environmental damages. In this respect, the Department of Environment has to confront with a very complex situation. New environmental problems arose due to ruining of cities, devastation of natural resources, demolition of

industrial and agricultural infrastructures, destruction of social services infrastructures, overcrowding of cities and resettlement of 3 million war refugees, etc., and, therefore, a much greater task was put before the Department.

In spite of existing constraints, which are the direct results of such a long and widespread war, the Department of Environment has implemented all its projects in accordance with the Environmental Protection and Enhancement law and other by-laws. In addition to our current activities to control and monitor the environmental condition in Iran, we have undermentioned research and development programmes:

1. Programme on preparation of criteria and standards for water and soil pollutant sources:
  - 1.1 Project on studying self-purification ability of rivers.
  - 1.2 Project on treatment of industrial wastewater.
  - 1.3 Project on rehabilitation of Parishan Lake.
2. Programme on preparation of Emission standards for air pollutant sources:
  - 2.1 Project on studying of air pollutant industries, qualitatively and quantitatively.
  - 2.2 Project on study of carbon monoxide density from motor vehicles.
  - 2.3 Project on Studying of SO<sub>2</sub> density in Teheran.
3. Environmental impact assessment programme:
  - 3.1 Project on study of urban environment in Teheran (Green space project).
  - 3.2 Project on carrying capacity of the Environment in 9 provinces of the country.
  - 3.3 Study on use of weapons and explosives and their impacts on the environment in connection with imposed war.
4. Programme on equipping and use of National Parks.
  - 4.1 Project on equipping and use of Golestan National Park.
  - 4.2 Project on equipping and use of Urmieh Lake National Park.
  - 4.3 Project on equipping and use of Bamoo National Park.
  - 4.4 Project on equipping and use of Tandooreh National Park.
  - 4.5 Project on establishment of Natural Park.
  - 4.6 Project on preparation of Master Plan for Khojir and Sorkh-e-Hesar National Parks near Teheran.
5. Programme on wildlife species research:
  - 5.1 Project on Persian fallow deer in Dasht-e-Naz National Park.
  - 5.2 Project on Persian fallow deer in Urmieh Lake National Park.
6. Programme on inland water fisheries:
  - 6.1 Project on studying sea turtles in Persian Gulf coasts and islands.
  - 6.2 Project on studying crocodile in Sarbaz river and possibility of its propagation.
  - 6.3 Project on limnological study of the lakes and reservoirs.
7. Public awareness programme:
  - 7.1 Project on publication and dissemination of environmental subjects.
  - 7.2 Audio-Visual Project.

All of these programmes and related projects have been initiated since mid 1983 as a part of First 5-year economic, social and cultural development plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran and they will be completed in mid 1988.

Mr. Chairman,

Now, I wish to state about one of our most important regional activities as a Member State of the Regional Organisation for Protection of Marine Environment (ROPME) in Persian Gulf. As you are probably aware, this organisation was established in 1979 on the basis of the Final Act of the Kuwait Regional Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the protection and development of the marine environment and the coastal areas; Action Plan for the protection and development of marine environment and the coastal areas of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates; Kuwait Regional Convention for co-operation on the protection of the marine environment from pollution; and Protocol concerning regional co-operation in combating pollution by oil and other harmful substances in cases of emergency.

The Department of Environment, as the focal point of afore-mentioned organisation in Iran, has undertaken implementation and co-ordination of various national and regional projects in Persian Gulf in this regard, some of these projects and activities are mentioned below:

1. Land based sources of pollution.
2. Reception facilities.
3. Combating pollution resulting from exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf.
4. Studies on oceanography, oil and non-oil pollutants.
5. Environmental awareness activities.

In connection with the problem of pollution in the Persian Gulf due to persistent attacks on Iranian offshore oil wells and oil tankers, it should be noted that this waterway is considered a "Special Area" by MARPOL and is one of the important "Regional Seas" in the UNEP activities, where the most rigid pollution controls must be enforced. The catastrophic oil pollution has caused the death of many dugongs, dolphins, fish, sharks, sea snakes, marine turtles, waterfowls, aquatic plants and other marine life. I must add that recently we have received the reports of catching masses of consolidated oil in fishing nets. Considering the fact that the Persian Gulf is one of the most fragile and vulnerable eco-systems in the world and recognising that this sensitive area should at all time stay safe from marine pollution, my delegation believe that the causes of this tragic pollution should be brought to an end. Thus, we request the Governing Council to find an appropriate avenue for halting attacks on oil tankers in the Persian Gulf and strongly condemn such attacks.

Mr. President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Furthermore, I wish to point out the adverse environmental effects of the use of chemical weapons, which my delegation consider as one of the most significant emerging environmental issues. The current debate on the adverse effect of industrial chemicals reflects the extent and importance of such effects on environment. It should be noted that those substances are not necessarily designed to disrupt the environment, whereas lethal chemical weapons have been specifically designed to cause human death and disruption of his surrounding environment.

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates,

In the last part of my address, I wish to lay stress on our duties and responsibilities in the face of above-mentioned acts which have culminated in severe ecological dis-equilibrium and environmental degradation in the region, and attract your attention to the irreversible consequences.

As you are well aware, ecologically such environmental destructions are not confined to geographical borders but the detrimental effects go far beyond them and threaten the whole region.

I believe that all environmentally conscious bodies are responsible for any inhuman action which damages the environment irreparably. These bodies have the duty to condemn such irrational acts without taking into account any political considerations. The environmental mottos and slogans are not sufficient and some appropriate measures are necessary to prevent the continuation and repetition of such felonious acts.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

You are aware that the use of chemical weapons against Iranian solidarity and citizens was condemned by several international organisations, including UN and UNEP.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

The above mentioned information which were addressed to you, was a brief report of environment situation in Iran and current activities of Department of Environment relating to existing difficulties and constraints. We are endeavouring to implement all of our programmes and projects on different environmental subjects in order to pinpoint factors of environmental problems and phenomena and to adopt appropriate measures for mitigating them and at the same time to enrich our environment. We hope that after termination of the war, we would be able to make the best use of our resources on this important job.

Finally I request from the sight of Exalted God the success of SACEP in attaining to its sacred goals.

**STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE PAKISTAN DELEGATION**

**H. E. DR. M. HUMAYUN KHAN, AMBASSADOR FOR ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN IN INDIA.**

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

May I join other delegations in congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, on your assumption of the Chairmanship of the Third Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. I am sure that under your able guidance we will successfully carry out our deliberations. I assure you of the fullest co-operation of my delegation in the discharge of your responsibilities. We fully endorse your remarks, Mr. Chairman, in which you expressed appreciation of the work done by the out-going Chairman, H. E. Shah Moazzam Hussain. Our thanks go to him and to his Government. Our thanks also go to the Government of India for the excellent arrangements made for this Conference and the hospitality extended to us.

The inspiring address by the Prime Minister of India, H. E. Shri Rajiv Gandhi, at the inaugural session this morning has aptly set the tone for our deliberations. My delegation has taken careful note of the very pertinent remarks made by the Prime Minister of India and we believe that his speech can serve as a basic guideline for our work.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan like its fellow-members attaches great importance to the protection and preservation of the environment both at the national and international levels. In this context a number of areas could be identified where co-operative efforts at the regional level of SACEP countries could bring about meaningful improvement in the environment of the region.

In several countries of our region the land under agriculture is deteriorating due to inappropriate soil and water management. Loss of top soil through erosion is the most wide-spread form of degradation. Other serious problems include water-logging, salinity and compaction. All these adversely affect productivity and jeopardize long range sustainability. We therefore, require concerted efforts at national and regional levels to check the erosion and deterioration of soils through development of environmentally sound agricultural technologies and policies. Another area where SACEP can play a vital role relates to the protection of forests. It is well-known that the forest areas in the developing countries have declined substantially during this century. Currently the shrinkage is estimated at about 10 to 11 million hectare per year. The loss of forest cover is an extremely serious problem with immediate and long-term socio-economic and ecological consequences. We, therefore, require well conceived regional co-operative planning aimed at the containment of de-forestation in the region. SACEP can also play an important role in the conservation and augmentation of food supplies for the teeming millions of our region. It could do so by, inter alia, developing a regional plan of action to contain pollution of the seas which is harmful to human health or marine life. Yet another area for SACEP's attention could be the criminal dumping of dangerous pesticides and chemicals in the Third World countries.

Mr. Chairman,

In most of the regional countries, while fossil fuels are fast depleting, the demands for energy are rapidly increasing. In some countries even the hydroelectric generation capacity has been fully exploited. It is, therefore, imperative to make all out efforts for the development of new and renewable sources of energy. We also need to evolve through co-operative efforts, national strategies for the conservation of biological diversity.

Mr. Chairman,

Since we have a rather elaborate agenda before us and as we do not have much time in which to finish our work, I would like to avail of this opportunity to offer brief comments on some of the items on our agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

The Pakistan Forest Institute situated at Peshawar is the focal point for the subject area of "conservation of montane eco-systems and water sheds." The focal point is taking necessary

steps to improve the situation in its area of responsibility, within the resources available. My delegation intends to circulate a detailed report from the Pakistan focal point, which we hope would put the distinguished delegates fully in the picture, regarding its activities.

Mr. Chairman,

The second Governing Council meeting, held at Dhaka, had agreed to establish a SACEP Liaison Office in Vienna and had approved the modalities of its operation. It is the view of my delegation that a clearer enunciation of the aims, objectives, functions, and mandate of the Liaison Office is needed. However, this should be done within the parameters set by the Governing Council at its last meeting. Pakistan had made some suggestions regarding the by laws of the Liaison Office. Since these have been circulated by the Secretariat, I need not go into them, I hope our proposals will receive the consideration of the member countries.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Pakistan acknowledges with appreciation the efforts made by the SACEP Secretariat to strengthen co-operation with international bodies for achieving our common objectives. In this regard I would like to particularly mention the valuable assistance and co-operation received from the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme. We hope that this co-operation will continue to grow. We are grateful for the gestures made by the FAO and UNIDO towards our organisation and endorse the efforts to establish similar co-operative relations with other multilateral bodies.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan had evinced interest in two of the 12 projects identified by the Secretariat some time back. These two projects are (i) Demonstration Plant for the Manufacture of Feed Blocks for Agricultural Residues; and (ii) Co-ordinate Environmental Education Programme (CEEP). With regard to the first project a request has already been made to the Secretariat to arrange the visit of an expert on feed science and technology to Pakistan to prepare a feasibility report of the project. As for the second project it was launched by Pakistan in December, 1985 at a cost of more than 6.5 million Pak. Rupees. The project is to be completed in three years. Of the total cost, Pakistan has provided about 3.9 million Rupees and the rest, we hope, will be contributed by SACEP in the form of experts, equipment, teaching material, etc. The Pakistan Government hopes that the necessary arrangements for providing the inputs required by it would be completed by the Secretariat in the near future.

Mr. Chairman,

My Government realises the important role that an efficient Planning and Monitoring Cell in the SACEP Secretariat could play in strengthening the activities of the Secretariat. Such a Cell could, in collaboration with the focal points, propose and plan programmes and projects, in a manner which enables the Secretariat to look for resources well ahead of time and thus ensure effective implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

As already stated by me, my delegation intends to circulate the report of the Pakistan Forest Institute, the Pakistan National Focal Point, in the Area of "Conservation of Montane Eco-Systems and Watershed." I may, however, mention that the focal point has been rendering assistance in a number of ways to the member countries in its area of concern. For instance, it has provided the services of its officers to the FAO regional project on Himalayas Pasture and Fodder Research Network, based in Kathmandu. Within the country, the Pakistan Forest Institute, is co-ordinating the work of six other institutions engaged in agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry and pasture development in the Himalayas for the FAO regional project just mentioned by me. A Director of the Pakistani Institute was deputed for consultancy services for the development and management of a farm in Nepal. The Institute had offered six placements to Sri Lanka in its water shed management programme. Unfortunately, only one seat could be utilised by the Sri Lanka government. The Pakistan Forest Institute is prepared to provide additional services to the member countries, especially in the areas of

- (1) In-depth specialisation courses from technician level up to professional level,

- (ii) Short courses in various aspects of watershed management,
- (iii) Advisory services for setting up research and training institutions and writing reports on different aspects of watershed management and supervision and advice on research in related fields.

Mr. Chairman,

After the July 1984 experts' mission and the study on energy in South Asia, the Vienna Liaison Office had prepared a list of projects for the consideration of the SACEP members. Out of these projects the one entitled "New Aspects of Wildlife" appears quite useful. My government would, therefore, like to be included among the countries where Austrian expertise may be utilised in this field. We would appreciate if funding for the project is arranged by SACEP.

During the visit of the experts' mission, just mentioned by me, Pakistan had identified some projects where it would welcome financial assistance. These were:—

- (i) Management of high altitude pasture land.
- (ii) Modern methods of management of national parks with plans to preserve wildlife eco-systems.
- (iii) Training at technical level.
- (iv) Designing, architectural planning and landscaping for zoos and botanical gardens.

My delegation would appreciate it if these projects could also be included in the list of Vienna Liaison Office Projects.

Mr. Chairman,

The establishment of a Trust Fund had been discussed at the last meeting of the Governing Council. In the view of my delegation the Fund was essentially perceived as a mechanism for attracting extra regional resources. My government has no objection to the establishment of the Trust provided it does not involve extra financial commitments on the part of the member countries.

Mr. Chairman,

May I conclude, Mr. Chairman, by reaffirming the commitment of my Government to the objectives of SACEP and our resolve to contribute our full share to the efforts necessary for achieving those objectives.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE SRI LANKA DELEGATION**

**HONOURABLE GAMANI JAYASURIYA, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
AND RESEARCH AND MINISTER OF FOOD, REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA**

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

I consider it an honour and a privilege to have had the opportunity of leading the Sri Lanka delegation to this third meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme which is being held in New Delhi.

At the outset, let me, express my deep appreciation to the Government of India, for the very warm and cordial welcome and the generous hospitality extended to me and the members of my delegation. Let me also offer my congratulations to the Leader of the Indian delegation on his election as Chairman of this meeting.

These Governing Council Meetings provide us an opportunity to discuss some of the environmental concerns which are of importance to all of us in this region. All of us are aware of the manner in which we came together in 1981 in Colombo; the achievements since then, and also the trials and tribulations which this infant organisation has faced. Nevertheless, we stand committed to strive for the achievement of a better life, built on a solid foundation with sustainable growth as our end objective.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, ever since the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Environment in Stockholm, countries around the world have been awakened to the fact that mis-directed policies and mis-managed development programmes could bring to nought the pious hopes and aspirations of governments. Our minds keep going back to that eventful meeting. Each year on different occasions, on different platforms, we resolve diligently to charter a course, which in the long run should assist in consolidating the investment of development on a sustainable basis. The road ahead is tough and movement is slow. Undoubtedly the constraints are many. Yet I feel confident that through our cooperative effort we will be able to overcome these obstacles and achieve success.

Distinguished Delegates, let me briefly quote from that meeting in Stockholm.

"A point has been reached in history when we must shape our actions throughout the world with a more prudent care for their environmental consequences. Through ignorance or indifference we can do massive and irreversible harm to the earthy environment on which our life and well-being depend. Conversely through fuller knowledge and wiser action we can achieve for ourselves, and our posterity a better life in an environment more in keeping with human needs and hopes."

We, as poor Third World countries, dependent so much on the dictates of powerful international lobbies are fighting with our backs to the wall to rise from the economic doldrums we have got into. Even though we desire to ensure sustainable development, we often times lack the capital, technical expertise and the managerial skills. Thus we have been caught up in a dilemma on how to expedite development in order to bring about a better tomorrow for the vast majority of our people. At the same time we have to find ways and means of preventing catastrophes like degradation of the thin veneer of top soil, diminishing forest reserves, depletion of the wealth of the ocean and combating air and water pollution.

Until the dawn of the 20th century man lived in harmony with nature. The pressures of development and population growth on the environment began to make dents only in this century. Many of the present day environmental problems have been caused by the irrational utilization of the non-renewable natural resources. Industrial growth has in its wake brought about problems of pollution.

Ideally we should strive to think of natural resources as a savings account accruing interest which then sustains the account holder. Sadly, when we look around the world the real situation appears far from the ideal. Distinguished Delegates, it is now becoming more and more clear that the long term sustainability of development rests on how well the environmental considerations have been integrated into the development process. The fact that development and conservation are two sides of the same coin need not be over-emphasised.

The rational utilization of natural resources for the greater good of the largest number is inextricably linked with population and environmental considerations. These inter-relationships need to be clearly understood if development is to deliver the goods on a long-term basis. It is to drive this point home that this forum, should call upon member governments to take a fresh look at their development programmes so that they could build into the planning process, the all important paradigm of sustainability.

Mr. Chairman, I need not at this stage delve into the recommendations of the World Conservation Strategy. Almost all our member countries, have been made aware of its potentialities in achieving greater efficiencies in resource management. I do wish to commend the World Conservation Strategy to all countries and to those who have yet to give serious thought to formulating their own National Conservation Strategies. We in Sri Lanka are nearing the completion of such a National Strategy. The many useful discussions, seminars and workshops that have been part of the preparation of the strategy have given us an insight into the inter-related nature of natural resources development and has enabled us to perceive our goals objectively.

An area for which Sri Lanka has been identified as a SACEP focal point is environmental impact assessment. I am happy to state that we have made considerable headway in this subject area. Our Government has made Environmental Impact Assessment mandatory for all development projects both public and private. We have conducted a number of training courses and evolved our own EIA procedures. In 1985, a training course held in Colombo, was attended by participants from two SACEP countries, namely Nepal and Pakistan. In March 1987, we hope to hold a regional seminar in collaboration with UNEP and SACEP on the same subject. We do hope that member countries would avail of this opportunity to have some of their personnel exposed to the EIA problems that are common to the region.

It is gratifying to note that, consequent to the decision to formulate a plan of action for the environmental protection of the South Asian Seas, UNEP, in corporation with SACEP has prepared a regional overview and a draft action plan. This plan has been reviewed and revised at a recent meeting held in Bangkok. The objectives of this action plan are to protect and manage the marine environment and related coastal eco-systems of the region. We are happy that SACEP will be designated as the Secretariat for the South Asia Regional Seas Programme.

Another important area of work undertaken by SACEP with UNDP assistance is the survey of Environmental Legislation and Institutions in the SACEP Countries. A Meeting to review and synthesise the SACEP Country Studies will be held in New Delhi later in the week. I have no doubt that the findings and recommendations contained in these studies would lead to strengthening of the Legal and Institutional framework for Environmental Protection and Management in our countries.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, our countries are blessed with a wide variety of natural resources and contain almost all the different types of eco-systems found in the world. These range from snow-capped Himalayan mountains of Nepal to the tropical coral formations in the Maldives. In between are the lush tropical rain forests, the deserts, the montane forests and the mangrove forests, to mention just a few.

These natural systems are fast being replaced by a variety of agricultural and industrial enterprises, many of which have been established without adequate consideration to the ecological web on which, precariously hang the linkages between man and nature. For example the tropical rain forests, which contain some magnificent hardwoods are perilously close to being exhausted. If the present rate of felling goes on these valuable species would vanish from the face of the earth within the next 50 years.

Distinguished Delegates, we should strive to preserve sizeable representative samples of all these unique eco-systems for posterity. These should be subjected to systematic study so that their hidden treasures may yield benefits to mankind. We need to inventorize the wealth of these assets and set in motion studies, like the Botanical Survey of India, for which we could obtain assistance from our own region.

While on the subject of mutual assistance, I am a firm believer that co-operation amongst us will be very rewarding, and perhaps more appropriate, in that advisors will be in the advantageous position of looking at problems, having had experience of working in similar environments. Therefore, I earnestly request this meeting to examine, in detail this aspect of co-operation where one member benefits from the experiences, successes and failures of another. I also hope that exchange programmes of scientists will be pursued as this will provide them with the experience and confidence to grapple with problems at home.

As regards multilateral and bilateral assistance in support of the programmes and projects of SACEP, a concerted effort should be made to solicit the fullest co-operation of all donor agencies which are acceptable to our Countries. Sri Lanka notes with satisfaction the assistance pledged by the Government of Austria in the establishment of the SACEP Vienna Liaison Office. The decision of the last Governing Council to establish a sub-office of the SACEP Secretariat in Vienna and the ratification of its modalities of operation augurs well for the future of SACEP. We are looking forward to strengthening and streamlining the institutional and financial linkages with the European donors through the SACEP window in Vienna. However, the modalities of operation that have been approved at the last Governing Council need further examination to arrive at a more workable relationship between the SACEP Secretariat and the Vienna Liaison Office.

Before concluding I would like to invite the attention of this meeting to the fact that we are now in the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. This proposal is more important to us in Sri Lanka, as it was mooted at the United Nations General Assembly by our Prime Minister.

Shelter, which is one of the basic human needs is intricately interwoven with good environmental management. The International Year requires the active support and participation of all member Governments in the SACEP Region, as it is a programme aimed at improving a fundamental requirement of the people — a requirement which is complementary to what we are attempting to achieve through sustainable development. As human settlements and environment are closely linked, I would like to request this meeting to affirm its support to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

Let me conclude by thanking our host the Government of India once again. I congratulate the Director and the Staff of SACEP for the excellent preparations made for this meeting. Let me also reiterate Sri Lanka's commitment to furthering the objectives of SACEP.

I thank you.

**STATEMENT BY MR. WILLIAM H. MANSFIELD III, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME, NAIROBI.**

On behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, I would like to express to you sincere greetings and good wishes from UNEP and especially from the Executive Director, Dr. M. K. Tolba, who regrets that he cannot join you today at this important session. I, and my UNEP colleagues, are delighted to be able to take part in your meeting. We thank the Government of India for its warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements that have been made for us. We congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur on your election.

We at UNEP consider the establishment of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) in 1981 to be an important step in the creation of environmental awareness and establishment of the inter-governmental machinery to respond constructively to regional environmental issues in a grouping of countries which together constitute one quarter of the world's population and embraces the full range of environmental problems and opportunities. UNEP is pleased to have had the privilege to work closely with SACEP, its member countries and its dedicated Directors since the organization's very beginning. At a time when environmental issues are increasing in their importance, when the internationalization of these issues increasingly calls for co-operation and when regional self-reliance in addressing these problems is required, SACEP's creation was a far-sighted act on the part of your governments. Making full use of the institution and its capabilities surely is the immediate future task. UNEP wants to continue its support of your efforts and join you in your future work.

SACEP is especially relevant today, in our view, because the nature of our environmental issues is changing. When global concern about the environment exploded in the early 1970s, the harmful side effects of industrialization mainly in the form of pollution, and conservation were principal worries. In the 1980s these concerns still exist and are gradually becoming even more important in newly industrialized countries.

But also in this decade we are increasingly aware of much more fundamental environmental problems; visible in excessive use and sometimes misuse of our environmental resources. Deserts are spreading, forests decline, soils erode, cities swell, freshwater is lost or contaminated, the oceans polluted, the climate altered. These emerging problems threaten the great life support systems of the human race — the oceans, atmosphere, soil, forests and waters. Together these problems result from either excessive poverty and population growth in the developing world or the careless and excessive use of certain technologies and resources in developed countries.

The cumulative impacts of these threats, have far more serious consequences in the developing than in the developed world. Moreover, it is becoming increasingly clear that the environmental issues are becoming more international and global in their scope and implications and are concerned more with protecting and managing economically important resources than with traditional pollution control.

These developments put the emphasis of our environmental agenda on new problems. They will focus our environmental efforts on protecting our people's health and our nation's renewable resources. They demonstrate that international co-operation and the instruments of such co-operation must be strengthened and used. We must "think globally and act locally." SACEP therefore assumes greater importance in today's environmental agenda.

And, additionally, the new issues show clearly as H. E. Prime Minister Gandhi emphasised in his inspiring address this morning, that environment and development are not separate activities but are indeed intimately related. We must develop our economies. But we cannot develop successfully if, in so doing, we destroy the water, air, forests, soil and other natural resources that will sustain the development over the longer term. This concept of "sustainable development" is one which UNEP supports vigorously. It requires a broadening of the idea of development so that it covers not merely economic growth but social, cultural and environmental enhancement. The recognition that environmental protection and economic development are complementary is one

of the most important value changes we have seen in environmental thinking in recent years. Acting on this new awareness is the first order of business for future management of environmental affairs.

In this respect, we may wish to bear in mind the old Indian saying: "It is the spirit of the quest, which determines its outcome."

The subject areas SACEP have identified very well cover the wide range of critical environmental issues the region faces. We encourage vigorous efforts to address these problems. One of the principal areas where UNEP feels a responsibility and has the capability to assist the member governments is in the management of ocean resources and prevention of ocean pollution. In May 1982 UNEP's Governing Council requested our Executive Director to consult with SACEP and its governments to determine measures they desired for developing a regional seas programme. In 1983, UNEP's Governing Council requested that the South Asian Seas be included in the regional seas programme and that a plan of action be formulated for that purpose.

The Regional Seas Programme is one of UNEP's most successful environmental ventures. Initiated in 1974, it consists of a network of 10 regional action plans for controlling marine pollution and protection of marine and coastal resources. It promotes the development and implementation of regional conventions and protocols to provide a solid legal framework, and trust funds to furnish financial resources. With the completion an action plan for the South Asian Seas we would have a ring of some 120 countries in the programme circling the earth. Each of the regional seas areas would be using similar approaches for dealing with ocean and coastal pollution so we would have the world's major coastal nations using a compatible approach to ocean pollution around the globe.

To that end the National Focal Points met in Bangkok in March 1985 to explore approaches to an action plan. The plan was prepared and an experts meeting was held last December to renew the plan and structure its functions and implementation. In this respect, I should emphasise that UNEP's experience makes it clear that it is best to adopt an action plan and at the same time a binding convention, which reinforces the link between the two provides the political commitment for the plan. Eight of our Regional Seas Conventions use this approach. The experts at the Bangkok Meetings recommended that SACEP should be considered as the Secretariat for and management of the plan. The experts called for meetings in on legal aspects in July or August in 1987 and of national focal points to consider the results of the legal and experts meetings sometime later. SACEP will prepare terms of reference and proposals for a trust fund and its management for the focal point meeting. Meanwhile, the experts recommended starting projects in two priority areas — a Survey of Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution with Guidelines and Proposals for Sound Techniques and Policies as well as proposals for Environmental Education and Public Awareness.

There is then a good basis for a constructive ocean programme in SACEP. SACEP countries would have to provide resources to strengthen SACEP institutionally. You can count on UNEP to give appropriate support to the secretariat and the governments to formalize and develop the programmes.

I might say on a personal basis that in December, I took part in the signing of the South Pacific Regional Seas Convention in Noumea. It was achieved after four years of negotiation among some 16 island states and metropolitan governments, involving several very critical strategic issues. There was no doubt in my mind that all signing states felt a great sense of satisfaction that they are now launched on a very valuable co-operative endeavour. We feel confident a South Asian Seas Programme will give you that same sense of achievement.

In other activities, UNEP is co-operating with SACEP with financial support from the Netherlands, in organizing a senior level expert workshop in March at Colombo to evaluate the benefits and constraints of Environmental Impact Assessment in SACEP countries.

We are collaborating in developing a Network for Industrial Environmental Management (NIBM) starting with the pulp and paper industry and including some 12 institutions and laboratories from India Bangladesh and Sri Lanka using Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) funding.

In Bhutan we are discussing with the Asian Development Bank ways to assist in environmental institution strengthening to enable the government to formulate and carry out a national environmental and natural resource management programme.

In Bangladesh we are continuing to locate funding for a UNEP Clearing House demonstration and training project for the treatment of industrial wastes at Chittagong and provide monies to support the non-governmental Society for the Conservation of Nature and Environment in conducting a youth training course. In India we are working with The National Wasteland Development Board, and with Hawaii using Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funding to organize in New Delhi a workshop on the economics of dryland degradation and rehabilitation. With an eye on the Ganga River's clean-up, UNEP is helping to organize an international workshop on environmentally sound water quality management in Bombay this month. We are providing help, advice, and support to non-governmental organizations in tree planting, for example, to the G. G. Soans Memorial Peoples, Van Vygyan Vendras and Karnataka State.

We provided support to the Maldives Government for a workshop on sound environmental management of tourism, and we are co-operating with the government and other international organizations to shape a project proposal for implementing the workshop's recommendations. Next month, we will be collaborating with ESCAP in organizing a training seminar on environmental management in Pakistan. When requested UNEP's Desertification Control Programme Activity Centre plans to send a team to Pakistan to formulate a proposal for desertification control.

In Sri Lanka UNEP has inspired help for the Uvagram Foundation to plant trees, help the National Aquatic Resources Agency conducted a benign research on marine mammals, and worked with the government to evaluate the impact of UNEP supported environmental activities. Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, This is a substantial agenda of environmental activities. It is indicative of the growing needs related to environment and development and, we believe, is responsive to the requests of the SACEP states. We are honoured to co-operate with the secretariat and member states and can assure you that we will continue this close collaboration with you as you build a region that is more secure, prosperous and environmentally and economically sustainable.

As you plot your course for the future, a sound guideline might be the Kashmiri proverb which states — "We have not inherited the earth from our forefathers; we have borrowed it from our children."

**STATEMENT BY DR. K. F. JALAL,  
CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL CO-ORDINATING UNIT,  
UNITED NATIONS/ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC,  
BANGKOK.**

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies and Delegates, it is an honour and privilege for me to participate in the Third Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP on behalf of ESCAP and I bring greetings from Mr. S. A. M. S. Kibria, Executive Secretary of ESCAP for the successful conclusion of this meeting. Let me begin by congratulating you, Mr. Chairman and members of your bureau for your unanimous election to the Governing Council of this esteemed Intergovernmental Body.

The establishment of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme six years ago was an historic event for the countries of South Asia. This co-operative arrangement highlighted the fact that despite the wide diversity of environmental problems, the countries have adopted an arrangement for subregional co-operation with a view to promoting integrated and environmentally sound development in the subregion. Owing to the population pressure, economic and social development activities and technological innovations, the pace of the exploitation of natural resources and environmental amenities in the region has increased enormously. The quality of environment has, therefore, visibly deteriorated. According to a recent ESCAP report on the State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific, the trends of resource degradation are clearly manifested in the mounting problems of deforestation, desertification, water and marine pollution, urbanization and problems of human health. The situation in South Asia is probably the most alarming in Asia.

There is growing recognition that regional and national strifes and conflicts are to a large extent contributed by environmental degradation and sub-optimal utilization of non-renewable natural resources. Accelerated trends in forest and soil degradation combined with growing population and stagnant economy are rapidly driving millions of Asian people especially from the fragile ecological zones to cities already stretched beyond their carrying capacities or to regions with better agricultural lands and across national boundaries as ecological refugees. In order to rehabilitate these refugees, environmentally sound development efforts have to be undertaken at an increased pace, both at national and at regional levels. Obviously the tasks of environmental rehabilitation and restoration are daunting.

Being the regional arm of the United Nations for promoting economic and social development, ESCAP in close co-operation with UNEP has been concerned with the issues relating to environmental protection and management for more than a decade. It has accordingly attached high priority on dealing with most serious environmental problems of the region in its work programme, that is, management of terrestrial ecosystem and protection of marine environment and related ecosystems with a view to evolve methodologies and strategies leading to sustainable development.

The Ministerial level Conference on the Environment in Asia held in February 1985 has also stressed the need for promoting an action-oriented programme for this integration and has adopted a Declaration and a Framework for Action Plan for the Asian Environment for this purpose. Since then the secretariat is catalyzing these efforts in countries of South Asia, at their request. These included technical assistance activity in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

In co-operation in SACEP, a Symposium on Environmental Management of Mangrove, Coral and Island Ecosystems in South Asia was organized in 1983. Follow-up activities arising from the recommendations of the Symposium such as a feasibility study for the establishment of a regional mangrove research and development institute has been undertaken in co-operation with SACEP. ESCAP is willing to organize a training workshop on the protection of marine environment and related ecosystems for South Asia, sometime during 1987. As a part of its environmental awareness efforts, ESCAP has recently promoted an Asian Forum of Environmental Journalists with corresponding national forums in the respective countries.

It has extended catalytic support to the national forums of environmental journalists in Nepal and Bangladesh to carry out investigative journalism on environment and development issues, publish newsletters and organize workshops and seminars. Efforts are under way to establish similar forums in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. There is a proposal to convene a South Asian Sub-Regional Media Conference on Environment and Development under the sponsorship of Nepalese forum of environmental journalists, ICI-MOD and ESCAP to be held towards the end of 1987. We hope to seek SACEP's collaboration in this effort. It would also be useful for SACEP to undertake joint programming exercises with ESCAP with a view to further strengthening this co-operation.

Mr. Chairman, since its inception, SACEP has strived hard to deal with the environmental problems of the subregion. It could, however, make only modest progress owing to several problems facing the Secretariat. If the environmental challenges are to be met seriously, it is necessary that institutional and financial base of the organization should be sufficiently strong. What could be more opportune moment for discussing these issues, than the governing council where the ministers of the member governments deliberate on the policy issues. The member governments have all onerous responsibility in providing adequate political and financial support and strengthen this organization.

In this connection, it may be useful to draw lessons and aspiration from the experiences of other subregional environmental programmes in the region. The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) established in 1982 has emerged a strong force in forging environmental programmes in the South Pacific. In our view, it could be possible because strong leadership and policy directives of the heads of governments in the South Pacific Commission have always guided the functioning of SPREP. Similarly, ASEAN Expert Group on Environment (AEGE) is also an integral part of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, which directs its activities. Both SPREP and AEGE are not only institutionally and financially more viable but are carrying out valuable environmental amelioration efforts in their respective jurisdictions. It may, therefore, be worthwhile to consider whether SACEP would emerge stronger, should it become an integral part of the SAARC which enjoys strong political commitment at the highest levels among the member government of South Asia. I am confident through, such an arrangement SACEP would soon emerge as a vibrant, dynamic and self-propelling organization capable of dealing with the complex and challenging task of protecting and managing the environment of South Asia.

The tasks ahead of SACEP are really challenging. Given the commitment and goodwill of the member governments, I have no doubt that the deliberations of this meeting will suggest ways and means for responding to the serious challenges faced by SACEP. ESCAP on its part will always stand ready to assist, in any way it can, in SACEP's endeavours towards environmental amelioration efforts.

I thank you for your patience.

## STATEMENT BY WORLD WILDLIFE FUND, SWITZERLAND

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Ministers, Excellencies and distinguished participants.

I have been charged with the pleasant duty of bringing to SACEP and this august gathering the greetings and good wishes of WWF and its 23 National Organisations and affiliates WWF is fully seized of the important role SACEP is playing in South Asia and wishes to fully associate itself with its activities in the cause of conservation.

Many of you in this distinguished gathering here may not be aware that WWF's thrust has undergone a change from saving individual species to caring for nature — protecting the habitat. This is why we are no longer the World Wildlife Fund but the Worldwide Fund for Nature.

At its annual meeting on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary at Assisi, WWF adopted the theme care for Nature by the people and for the people and set down new objectives and priorities. If WWF is to work in concert with SACEP, it is essential to spell out this new thrust. I do so now in as concise a manner as possible. In doing so may I remind you that we are a NGO; that we have vested interest in South Asia that we have two major National Organisations in Pakistan and India and activities in Nepal and Sri Lanka, to some extent in Bhutan and recently in Burma. WWF's purpose is to conserve nature and its natural resources by mobilising on a worldwide scale the strongest possible political and moral support.

Its goals, objectives and activities are guided by the World Conservation Strategy viz sustainable resources mobilisation, improving the equality of life of the people particularly in the Third World and living in the harmony with nature.

In the forthcoming years, WWF will concentrate on specifics rather than generalities both in methodology and in identifying specific focal regions and countries.

## GOALS

The primary goals are threefold forests and woodlands; Wetlands and Coasts, and the preservation of global diversity of all forms of life.

The reasons for selecting these goals are: Pressure Worldwide on forests, Wetlands and coasts which you have highlighted; conservation of these three biomes which will ensure maintenance of ecological processes and life support systems of flora, fauna and human kind conservation of these habitats will preserve genetic diversity and slow down and stop species extinction and human survival and development.

Because of its experience over the past 25 years, WWF is in a happy position for intensified and concentrated involvement in forest and wetland conservation and preservation of genetic diversity, making it possible for a relatively high rate of success probability.

The importance of forests has been stressed especially in South Asia with its abundance of tropical rainforests and its effects on desertification precipitation, water tables, climatic stability and biological diversity in addition to meeting the basic cultural and economic needs of millions of people. Let us also not forget the aesthetic and recreational importance.

Wetlands and Coasts are biologically productive eco system contributing to human survival and well being and a source of income, food, fuel and timbers eg mangroves. Wetlands also form buffer zones in time of floods not forgetting the aesthetic and recreational values.

Biological diversity — a major source of agricultural, pharmaceutical and industrial benefits and a source of food as well. Add to this ethical and aesthetic values.

Secondary aims — WWF now recognises that highlands, in so far as South Asia concerned is no longer a secondary goal. The Himalayan Range and its off-shoots, are the sources of major river systems flowing through Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Burma, affecting the life of millions. Therefore WWF recognises the vital importance to South Asia.

**Methodology** — WWF will focus on training and education, setting up conservation — institutions, establishment and management of threatened species, and development of better techniques for sustainable development.

**Conservation Research and Monitoring** — to be achieved by strengthening the WWF Network interalia in South Asia, promoting international treaties, monitoring and influencing funding policies, monitoring and influencing national and multinational policies and setting up and operating educational institutions and programmes.

South Asia has been designated as one of the focal areas covering, interalia, the Indian Sub-Continent and Nepal.

Based on the considerations mentioned, WWF is prepared to collaborate wholeheartedly with SACEP.

Thank you for your patient hearing.

**STATEMENT BY DR. CHAIYAN K. SANYAKORN,  
DIRECTOR, PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT, WHO/SEARO, NEW DELHI.**

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to convey to you best wishes from our Director General, Dr. Hafdan Mahler, and our Regional Director/SEARO, Dr. U. Ko Ko, for the success of the meeting of the Third Governing Council of SACEP.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of this important meeting. I also would like to congratulate the distinguished delegates of Pakistan and Afghanistan for their election as the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur respectively.

I would like to congratulate the Government of India for organizing this meeting which is most timely.

I also want to thank the organizers for the invitation extended to the World Health Organization to participate in this meeting.

Mr. Chairman, WHO is the international organization which has been collaborating with the Member States in the fields of international health for the last 39 years right from its inception in 1948.

Since the establishment of WHO, profound changes have taken place throughout the world. Many new sovereign States have emerged and, on attaining independence, have assumed new responsibilities. Important changes have taken place in the relationship between countries, strengthening the spirit of co-operation among them. During the same period, the human environment has changed more than ever before mainly due to human interventions, and the effects of these are only gradually becoming apparent. Health has to be attained in this continually evolving setting of political, economic, social, cultural, scientific, technological and psychological factors.

Human environment, in its wider sense, is very extensive and covers many areas of interest and activities. We in WHO are concerned with human environment since it is closely intertwined with human health. The well-being of people is, in part, a reflection of their healthy environment. But both the environment and human health can be adversely affected by pollution. Pollutants released into the air, water, and soil can find their way into the human body as a result of direct contact, breathing, eating, and drinking. If pollutant levels are high, or if low doses are absorbed and accumulated over a long period of time, sickness, disease and death can result.

To measure the concentration of pollutants in air, water, food and also in the human body in order to provide an early indication of the levels that are considered unsafe for people, WHO and UNEP run a programme to:

- improve and strengthen national monitoring capabilities, particularly in developing countries through technical co-operation;
- provide an international mechanism for achieving quality assurance and the exchange of information and data;
- collaborate closely with all participating countries in the collection and analysis of environmental data for the development of adequate national environmental pollution control programmes and study of trends.

In addition to this health-related environmental monitoring programme, there is an ongoing Human Exposure Assessment Locations (HEALs) programme executed by WHO which is mainly concerned with analytical quality control in environmental monitoring. There is also, in the South-East Asia Region, an inter-country programme on "Chemical Safety" executed by WHO. In all these as well as any other health-related environmental programmes that may be formulated, WHO would be pleased to interact or co-operate with SACEP.

Thank you.

## STATEMENT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

I have the great honour and privilege of extending the warmest personal greetings from the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Dr. G. O. P. Obasi, who wishes the third meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) every success.

As you are already aware, Mr. Chairman, the major environmental problems that we face these days are on a trans-boundary or international scale and are usually atmospheric in nature. As the atmosphere is the major transporting agency of pollutants, WMO has been expanding its activities in new directions related to a wider range of environmental issues and in assessment of their possible role in climate variations and associated impacts on global/regional scale. It has already contributed significantly by the World Weather Watch Networks to define the motions of the atmosphere which are so important in many of the environmental problems.

Under its Environmental Monitoring and Research Programme, WMO has established a Background Air Pollution Monitoring Network (BAFPMN) all over the world (about 200 stations in 73 countries), thanks to the efforts of many countries and active support of UNEP. It is the only as well as the biggest network presently in existence which is global in nature for monitoring background air pollution to study the effects of atmospheric composition on climate and to predict the consequences of future activities of man or environment. BAFPMN stations could, therefore, provide information useful for environmental quality assessment for the rational management of the environment and their dense network could aid in the study of long range transport and deposition of potentially harmful substances. One manifestation of the long range transport of air pollutants is acid rain which has fairly good potential of gaining prominence in this region due to rapid industrialization. The present network of BAFPMN stations in South Asian Region is very sparse and needs augmentation. Some of the member countries of SACEP do not have even one BAFPMN station. I humbly submit through this august body that member countries of SACEP may direct their meteorological services for early implementation of the WMO Background Air Pollution Monitoring Network which will go a long way in co-operative Environmental Management of this region. WMO will provide all possible support to its member countries in this region for implementation of the programme on priority basis.

WMO commends the initiative and interest taken by the member countries of SACEP in identifying priority programmes for management of their natural resources. These programmes are considered by WMO of tremendous environmental, social and economic importance for all the countries of the region, singly or co-operatively. WMO has initiated a project through its member countries, for integrated monitoring and assessing the state of various environmental media. This project if implemented in this region would provide information on environmental state of water bodies and forestry. WMO will be happy to work closely with SACEP and provide necessary guidance to the member countries of SACEP in implementation of this project.

UNEP in co-operation with SACEP have prepared a regional overview and a draft action plan on South Asian Seas. WMO has carried out considerable research on "Air-Sea Exchange of Pollutants" which has direct relevance to your South Asian Seas Programme. GESAMP Report No. 26 contains useful information on regional sea problems and WMO interest. It is my humble submission that the report may be glanced through to examine its utility for this programme.

Before I conclude my statement I would like to take this opportunity in assuring you, Mr. Chairman, that WMO will continue its efforts in strengthening the international understanding of meteorology as science and services and its application to Environmental Pollution Monitoring and Research Programmes for enhancing environment protection. WMO will always be willing to share its knowledge and experiences in this field.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**STATEMENT BY DR. M. DERKATCH, DIRECTOR, UNESCO REGIONAL OFFICE  
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR SOUTH & CENTRAL ASIA, NEW DELHI**

It is a pleasure and an honour for me to be present here on behalf of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

UNESCO is glad to be associated with SACEP Programmes and I should like to give you some details of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB). The MAB Programme is an international programme of research, training and information diffusion aimed at providing the scientific basis and the trained personnel needed to deal with problems relative to resource use and conservation and human settlements.

The MAB approach to research emphasizes problem solving, often involving multi-disciplinary teams and field training, which applies a systems approach to understanding the linkages between the natural and human components of environmental management.

MAB is a decentralized programme with field projects and training activities in over 100 countries. These are carried out by scientists from universities, Academy of Sciences, national research laboratories and other research institutions under the auspices of 110 MAB National Committees.

The International Secretariat for the Programme is located at Unesco Headquarters in Paris. MAB is an intergovernmental programme of Unesco with its own intergovernmental governing body: the MAB Council.

MAB was launched as an international intergovernmental programme whose execution primarily concerns the Member States of Unesco. The first MAB-IOC therefore recognized that each Member State would need to identify a qualified, permanent focal point at the national level, not only to define and implement national MAB activities, but only to establish and maintain regional and international links using the MAB framework. Since the recommendations of the IOC in 1971, as of mid-1986, there are 110 MAB National Committees. In the South and Central Asia region, 10 out of a total of 11 countries have established National MAB Committees.

When MAB was launched in 1971, its research programme was structured into 13 project areas, most of which had an eco-system or geographic focus (e.g. tropical forests, islands). These were enlarged to 14 themes in 1974 with the addition of research on environmental pollution, and were subsequently focussed down to six main areas between 1975-1985 (Coastal areas and islands; humid and sub-humid tropics; arid and semi-arid zones; temperate and cold zones; urban systems and biosphere reserves).

A regional Meeting of MAB National Committees for South and Central Asia was organized in New Delhi in March 1985. Recommendations from this meeting emphasized the need for more action-oriented integrated research, such as studies relevant to food and fodder production. Comparable studies carried out on the eco-system level — as for example on humid tropical forests or semi-arid grazing lands — were also emphasized. In specific thematic areas, recommendations were made concerning five eco-system types: arid and semi-arid lands; tropical forests; mountains; wetlands; coastal and marine systems. Among major topics suggested for increased research were: agri-silviculture as an ecologically sustainable means of increasing overall land productivity; basic studies on tropical forest ecology — especially on succession and regeneration after logging watershed studies in mountain region, basic inventorying of wetlands and oceanic zones; primary productivity of aquatic systems and the impact of industrial effluents thereon.

The Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves received strong support as a practical means of harmonizing needs for conservation and economic development in the region. It was recommended that the establishment of a viable regional network of biosphere reserves receives priority attention. The need for more coastal and marine biosphere reserves was also emphasized.

Implementing the MAB Programme, UNESCO seeks the active co-operation of governmental and non-governmental organizations and programmes working in related fields. These collaborative efforts aim at combining the strengths of the different organizations and avoiding unnecessary

overlap or duplication of effort. Co-operation with international non-governmental organizations in particular, ICSU, provides a means by which the skills and expertise of the international scientific community are made available most usefully to MAB.

MAB activities in the humid tropics have been undertaken in collaboration with UNEP, FAO, and IUFRO. More recently, comparative studies under MAB on issues in tropical ecology have been developed as joint Unesco-MAB/ICSU-IUES ventures in the framework of the IUBS Decade of the Tropics.

For arid and semi-arid lands, close collaboration has been established with UNEP, UNSO and FAO, particularly within the context of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. An Inter-Agency Working Group on Desertification has been charged to co-ordinate relevant activities within the UN family and to promote collaborative programmes and projects. Close collaboration has also been developed between UNESCO-MAB and specialized regional institutions such as the Arab Centre on the Studies of Arid Zones and Drylands (ACSAD) and the Intergovernmental Committee to Combat Desertification in the Sahelian Region (CILSS).

MAB Urban projects have been undertaken in collaboration with UNEP, Habitat (UNCHS), IIASA and IFIAS (Project Ecoville). Under a joint UNESCO MAB - Project, several pilot projects were undertaken between 1975-85, including case studies in Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur. A series of case studies in francophone Africa have been conducted in collaboration with IFIAS (Project Ecoville). More recently, collaboration is taking place with ICSU-SCOPE, IIASA and IFIAS (Project Ecoville) to examine the role of modelling in urban management. Future collaboration with these organizations will focus on the role of expert systems in urban risk management.

The Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves has been submitted to the international organizations associated with its implementation, notably UNEP, FAO and IUCN.

The complete list of the international organizations and programmes which collaborate with MAB is too long to be enumerated here. It would include in particular many more member unions and committees of ICSU such as INTECOL, IGU and SCOP, as well as the International Council of Social Sciences (ICSS).

Active collaboration of international organizations and bilateral programmes is also sought in order to pool financial resources for implementing a number of MAB activities in particular those undertaken in developing countries. UNESCO can assist the MAB National Committees for those countries in submitting project proposals for financial support to funding sources in the UN system UNEP, UNSO and UNDP, as well as to bilateral sponsors mainly for funds-in-trust arrangements. UNESCO's funds are used primarily for regional and international activities of the MAB Programme. Only limited UNESCO funds are available as "seed money" to develop national MAB activities.

Finally, I should like to mention that through its support to research projects and networks, training programmes and individual scientists, MAB has helped many institutions to develop their research and training capability nationally and internationally. A few institutions have also been found through the activities of the Programme. These include Kenya Arid Lands Research Station (KALRES) in Kenya and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas (ICIMOD) in Kathmandu, Nepal. ICIMOD forms part of a new type of "scientific" institution promoted in particular under MAB. Their specific focus is on the link between science and development, in this case ecologically-sound development of mountain regions.

In closing, may I state that a major objective of MAB is to transmit scientific information to those who can make use of it. This includes the scientific community, national and local governments, planners decision-makers, educators and the general public. From a modest beginning in 1971 with the publication of the first Green Report (MAB Report Series), MAB has developed an Information System, scientific publications, public information brochures, poster exhibits, news bulletins, and audio-visual materials. In addition, MAB is co-operating with other units in UNESCO and with professional film producers to make documentary films, videos and television programmes to disseminate its research findings to a wide audience internationally and to promote the MAB integrated ecological approach to resource management and conservation.

Thank you.