

North-East Asia Development Cooperation Forum

31 October – 1 November 2014, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Background

North-East Asia has become the key player in development assistance and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific as well as in the world. However, there is no subregional or multilateral process that facilitates joint reviews of policies and practices of such assistance and cooperation, and promotes dialogues and cooperation among key stakeholders in North-East Asian countries. While development cooperation among those key players potentially brings a great benefit for the development of the Asia Pacific region, there has not been strong drive for such cooperation, due to varying strategies for development assistance and geopolitical factors among these countries. Thus, the Forum seeks to explore how development cooperation can be strengthened, focusing on four countries in North-East Asia, i.e., China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation, and to strengthen the link between politically neutral bodies for policy dialogue and multidisciplinary research on development issues and cooperation.

The Forum will be jointly organized by **ESCAP East and North-East Asia (ENEA) Office**, which covers 6 member states (China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, and Russian Federation) and 2 associate members (Hong Kong, China and Macao, China), and **Korea Association of International Development and Cooperation (KAIDEC)**, which is a network of scholars from academic institutes, government personnel working in development cooperation, private sectors, field workers and NGOs. The Forum also collaborates with **Japanese Society for International Development (JASID)** and **China International Development Research Network (CIDRN)**, as well as **Green Technology Center Korea (GTC-K)**.

It is envisaged that this Forum leads to further activities on development cooperation in the subregion.

Goals:

- To facilitate analytical discussions on policies and practices of development cooperation in North-East Asia
- To identify potential areas of collaboration among North-East Asian countries in development cooperation and assistance
- To create a network of research institutions, government institutions, inter-governmental organizations, and UN organizations engaged in issues related to development cooperation in North-East Asian countries

- To create a forum of researchers, practitioners and policy makers to critically review and analyze trends and policies of development cooperation in North-East Asian countries
- To marshal the potential of North-East Asia in making a fundamental difference to the development of Asia Pacific region

Tentative structure of the Forum

Session A: North-East Asian countries' experience in development assistance

Session 1: *Experiences of North-East Asia*

North East Asia hosts countries of various development stages and each of them possesses strengths and weaknesses from their respective development history, strategies, and performances. Keeping these factors in mind, this session highlights common features as well as particularities of each country in their strategies and approaches for development cooperation and discusses opportunities and challenges in development cooperation within North-East Asia.

Session 2: *Improving effectiveness of development assistance prospect for North-East Asia*

This session will discuss the main challenges and concerns in ensuring the accountability and transparency of development partners in ENEA. Example may be drawn from (but not limited to) the varied reaction of ENEA countries to the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (e.g., Japan and Korea as OECD members vis-à-vis China and Russia as BRICS block). It is a result of the Busan partnership agreement (on effective development cooperation), established with focus on inclusive partnership as an effective implementation and monitoring mechanism for global goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Session 3: *South-South and Triangular cooperation:*

Since 2008 High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness of the OECD/DAC, international development community has envisaged South-South and Triangular cooperation mechanisms as effective approaches to development cooperation. The East and North-East Asia holds traditional donor as well as emerging donors, blurring the distinction between South-South and triangular cooperation. In addition, activities among "South" countries range from trade to capacity building with different degree of "development assistance" elements. In the light of this, this session will discuss on potential areas of mutual interest among ENEA countries for development assistance in the context of South-South and Triangular cooperation.

Session B: Regional cooperation in North-East Asia for sustainable development

Session 4: *Towards regional development cooperation for sustainable development in the region*

With intensifying pressure on resources and its inter-linkages with socio-economic development, sustainable development has become an urgent concern. The environmental issues become critical concern for development in the North-East Asia. Many of the environmental issues are borderless

in nature or common among neighbouring countries. Environmental issues thus pose both challenges and opportunity for effective cooperation among NEA countries while most NEA countries have taken environmental sector as a key area of development cooperation. This session will discuss on experiences and potential areas of development cooperation in NEA addressing environment issues.

Session 5: *Implementing cooperation for sustainable development in the region – technology facilitation*

In materializing sustainable development, one of the areas of development cooperation is development, transfer and dissemination of environmentally sound technologies (technology facilitation). Countries in ENEA have many initiatives for such technology facilitation. This session will discuss on such initiatives with particular focus on potential for cooperation among ENEA countries to pursue such initiatives, highlighting benefits and obstacles to promote cooperation among ENEA countries.

Session 6: *Gateway to maintain dialogue among countries in North-East Asia*

In North-East Asia, in addition to Japan, Republic of Korea and China as well as Russia, as emerging donors, are increasing contribution to the achievement of global development agendas including poverty reduction. However, development cooperation within North-East Asia is hampered by geopolitical challenges among those countries, as well as in relation with countries like DPRK. Nonetheless, engagement of DPRK in international forum is of interest of the countries in the North-East Asia. This session discuss on possible areas of common interest, such as environment or sustainable development, for which development cooperation with North-East Asia can be promoted. Speakers will be invited from among national experts and a Davos-style discussion panel will follow to share their views.

North-East Asia Forum on Development Cooperation

Provisional Programme

Friday, 31 October 2014	
09:00 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 10:00	Opening Session
10:00 – 10:15	Coffee break
10:15 – 12:15	<u>SESSION A: NORTH-EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES' EXPERIENCE IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE</u> <i>Session 1: Experiences of North-East Asia</i>
12:15 – 13:45	Lunch
13:45 - 15:50	<i>Session 2: Improving effectiveness of development assistance- prospects for North-East Asia</i>
15:50 – 16:10	Coffee break
16:10 – 18:00	<i>Session 3: South-South and Triangular cooperation</i>
18:30 –	Dinner
Saturday, 1 November 2014	
9:00 – 10:30	<u>SESSION B: REGIONAL COOPERATION IN NORTH-EAST ASIA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</u> <i>Session 4: Towards regional development cooperation for sustainable development in the region</i>
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 – 12:00	<i>Session 5: Implementing cooperation for sustainable development in the region – technology facilitation</i>
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	<i>Session 6: Gateway to maintain dialogue among countries in North-East Asia</i>