



Environmental Policy Monthly

Environmental Protection Administration, R.O.C. (Taiwan)

Feature Column

Environmental Protection Administration Establishes Office of Sustainable Development

The Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) established the Office of Sustainable Development in August of 2008 in order to strengthen the cross-department coordination mechanism for work related to sustainable development, science and technology development, and international cooperation, as well as to build the capacity of the Administration's personnel in their respective areas of expertise. It is hoped that the establishment of the office will help raise environmental science and technology research and development and the practical application of such technology, while at the same time expanding the level and effectiveness of Taiwan's international participation to help the country achieve its sustainable development goals.

I : Cross-department Coordination Mechanism:

A. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SECTION:

1. EPA and ministries sustainable development coordination and promotion meeting

A regular meeting is convened once every three months, with additional *ad hoc* meetings held when necessary. The main mission: to coordinate the sustainable development work of the EPA's various departments and that of the National Council for Sustainable Development's (NCSD's) various working groups, including monitoring the implementation of the sustainable development action plan put forward in President Ma Ying-jeou's campaign platform.

Expected Results:

(a) Effective coordination, integration of the various EPA departments' sustainable development work, and complete review of the compatibility of the sustainable development action plan put forward by President Ma

and carried out by the EPA.

(b) Formulation and enactment of National Sustainable Development Act, revision of Taiwan's Sustainable Development Indicators, carrying out of calculations for the Sustainable Development Indicators and the Environmental Performance Index.

2. National Environmental Protection Seed Instructor Training Plan

Every year, the EPA holds courses on sustainable development to train environmental protection personnel as seed instructors to promote sustainable development, and to help local governments in their sustainable development promotion efforts.

B. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT SECTION:

1. Preliminary Work of Science and Technology and Commissioned Projects

(a) Science and technology projects preliminary plans and review: Conduct initial review of the Administration's science and technology projects and report the results to the National Science Council for further review. The EPA's review meeting is chaired by the Administration's two deputy ministers and attended by review committee members, including the heads of the Administration's various departments and 5-7 outside experts.

Method of Operations:

(i) Adopt a bottom-up strategic planning mechanism. Each department put forward outlines of their respective annual science and technology project plans after careful assessment.

(ii) This office first convened a cross-department coordination meeting to hold initial discussions on the contents and expenses of the various outlined plans.

(iii) An EPA science and technology projects outline meeting is held, to confirm the expenses and details of the various plans. After review and revision, a report of the various projects is sent to the NSC for further review, which then presents the report to the Executive Yuan and Legislative Yuan for approval of the budget(s).

(iv) After passage of the budget(s), revisions are made to the contents and goals of the various projects based on the reviews of the project outlines, and bidders are invited to open tenders for the projects in accordance with the Government Procurement Act.

(b) Examine commissioned projects and give preliminary review suggestions

The main mission: in line with the preliminary review work for the planned commissioned projects, examine and consider the contents, expense layouts, and expected effectiveness of the approximately 300 planned commissioned projects, and strengthen management and quality of preliminary work concerning the projects.

The administrative deputy minister serves as the convenor of the EPA's preliminary review committee, whose members include the Administration's chief of staff, as well as the directors of the Administration's departments.

Method of Operations:

(i) In line with the Administration's annual project review work, each department prepares preliminary review materials and presents the materials to the preliminary review committee for examination and consideration.

(ii) This office's mission is aimed at reviewing the commissioned projects to determine whether the projects' goals are clear and definite, the contents of the project work correspond with the goals, the project evaluation methods are concrete, and whether continuing projects have clear overall goals as well as annual progress goals.

Expected Results:

(i) Clear and definite expression of interrelationship between commissioned projects and administrative goals to avoid redundancy in research and misallocation of resources.

(ii) Improvement in the quality of commissioned projects' preliminary planning and work by means of a standardized management plan.

2. Science and Technology and Commissioned Projects Quality Improvement Plan

(a) Commissioned projects and consultancy company directors' symposium

According mainly to the importance and interrelationship of administrative goals and comprehensive projects (containing several sub-projects), ongoing large-scale projects are selected for discussion, with key performance indicators and horizontal integration of the projects serving as the main topics of the talks.

Method of Operations:

(i) Select at least five of the Administration's project groups and hold symposium for directors of engineering consultancy team projects for the administration projects, inviting five academic experts as well as representatives of local government environmental protection bureaus to each symposium to exchange views and communicate on policy.

(ii) The directors of the projects communicate and discuss their understanding of EPA policies, each project's contribution to the EPA's administration, and their suggestions and the situation regarding horizontal integration of project groups, as well as the key performance indicators (KPI), during the first-half period of implementation of project groups.

Expected Results:

(i) Creating synergy from project groups' integration.

(ii) Expansion in the participation as well as training and cultivation of administration personnel's project management capacity.

(iii) Increase in the quality of management standards of commissioned projects being carried out by the administration.

(iv) The results will serve as a basis for revising and improving project management and guidance.

(b) Analysis of the results of completed projects.

The analysis is mainly focused on providing opinions and assessment of the project implementation as well as practical application of the results of large-scale projects already completed by the EPA.

Method of Operations:

(i) According to the importance and policy interrelationship of completed projects, one or two projects will be selected every week, with the reports on utilization of the results of the completed projects to be delivered at the EPA's directors meetings.

(ii) This office will present assessments and opinions on the results of the projects in advance for further review at the directors meetings for the practical applications of the project results.

Expected Results: Provide to administration personnel directions to follow for implementation of planned commissioned projects.

(c) Evaluation of effectiveness of science and technology plans

The main mission: to carry out science and technology plans performance assessment work in line with the national science council's performance budgeting system.

Method of Operations:

(i) According to the NSC's planning timetable, relevant departments write a science and technology project results and benefits report on each technology project outline.

(ii) Invite five outside academic experts to conduct a preliminary review of the science and technology project results and benefits, and to compile a performance assessment report and present the report to the NSC for reference in deliberations on the

following year's science and technology projects.

Expected Results: By means of the project implementation performance evaluation, improve the implementation capacity of projects and press forward with carrying out the projects.

3. Science and Technology and Commissioned Projects Examination and Value-adding Plan

(a) The main mission: via annual project results announcement meetings and forums, publicize the EPA's science and technology research and development performance and discuss project implementation results.

Working Members: Representatives of administration's related activities

Method of Operations:

(i) Based on project expenses and administrative importance, screen the administration's large-scale projects, and hold three project results announcement meetings and seminars.

(ii) In order to gather the opinions of meeting members, distribute questionnaires and compile the results of the completed questionnaires to enable relevant departments to use the practical suggestions as a reference in carrying out their work.

Expected Results: 1. Announcement of the administration's science and technology research and development results and achievements for practical application by the government and private sectors. 2. Review of the projects to be used as a reference in the planning and formulation of future science and technology projects.

(b) Forum on the situation regarding European countries' technology assistance for environmental management

The main mission: collect information on each European country's important environmental research organization's and government administration's large-scale environmental science and technology projects, deliberate on Taiwan's research over the years as well as the country's future needs, and incorporate the conclusions into a compilation of concrete

suggestions on proceeding with the country's short- and mid-term environmental science and technology development to be used as a reference by relevant EPA departments in carrying out their work.

Method of Operations:

(i) Through the collection of information online and an understanding of the large-scale science and technology projects of each country's research organizations and government agencies, as well as deliberations on the current situation regarding Taiwan's research through the years and the country's future needs, put forward a set of concrete suggestions regarding the country's short- and mid-term science and technology development for use as reference by relevant EPA departments.

(ii) The main bodies of the aforementioned work include the following parties: the United Kingdom, France, Germany and the European Union. (the United States, Canada, Japan and other countries are included in an additional project.)

Main theme: environmental science and technology and environmental management's related policies and technology (for example: regarding air quality, water quality, waste management, toxic substances, soil conservation, etc.). Complete a preliminary report on concrete suggestions for carrying out related work.

(iii) Invite local academic experts who studied in those countries, or industry, government or academic representatives that understand the situation in these countries, as well as EPA representatives to take part in five seminars (with ten participants in each seminar), to confirm the accuracy and feasibility of the concrete suggestions presented in the preliminary report.

Expected Results: Draw from the successful experiences of European countries in environmental management and implementation of large-scale science and technology projects, for use as a reference by EPA personnel in planning and formulating future science and technology projects.

(c) Global science information support to Taiwan's sustainability policy: Mainly focused on the quick introduction of global science information, to assist each ministry and EPA department in carrying out the upgrading of policy in line with international

sustainable development mainstream values.

Method of Operations:

(i) Screen and select over 1,200 articles/reports from major websites, published materials and research theses from the European Union, the United States, Canada and other advanced countries, as well as authoritative international publications and periodicals (including *Nature* magazine, *Science* magazine, and *Scientific American* magazine, etc.)

(ii) Write Chinese introductions for the aforementioned 1,200-plus articles and categorize in 20 separate files, with each file containing simple Chinese introductions and the original articles' citations.

(iii) According to each ministry's current functions and duties, this office will forward the relevant information in the 20 files by email to appointed personnel in each ministry and every city and county government, who in turn will further sort and categorize the information in the files and send it to relevant personnel following each office's own processing mechanism. It is hoped that this will assist civil servants of every level when planning and formulating relevant policies.

(iv) This office will conduct a survey at the end of every year, sending questionnaires to each ministry and every city and county government, to learn more about the effectiveness of the provided information and to collect suggestions for reference in working to improve the program in the future.

Expected Results: Screening and selection of more than 1,200 articles every year; Distribution of over 600 articles each year; More than 12 articles to have a major impact on each ministry's policy every year.

C. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION SECTION:

1. EPA and Ministries International Cooperation Consultation Meeting(s)

According to the needs of domestic environmental protection work and important international environmental protection trends, the office will integrate the EPA's international cooperation work resources and review priorities concerning the international cooperation efforts in order to avoid redundancy in carrying out the work.

Method of Operations:

(a) Hold international cooperation consultation meetings according to work needs, inviting relevant offices and departments to attend, with the executive director of the Office of Sustainable Development hosting the meetings, and the EPA deputy minister doing so when needed. The Office of Sustainable Development is responsible for the meeting staff's work.

(b) Topics of the meetings include the EPA's international cooperation needs, including expenses for trips abroad, observation and examination work, and training, as well as bilateral cooperation meeting issues, annual bilateral cooperation matters, budget plans, the EPA's position on attending international meetings and response measures to international issues, reports on international meetings planned and sponsored by the administration, or any other issues related to international cooperation work.

Expected Results:

(a) Advice and suggestions on the budget for and contents of the EPA's annual plans regarding trips abroad by staff for official work.

(b) Mapping out of plans concerning the itinerary of bilateral cooperation meetings.

(c) Implementing arrangement for the Agreement between the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection, as well as Taiwan-Japan environmental protection cooperation arrangements, and arrangements on cooperation with other countries.

(d) Taiwan's stance and response measures concerning international issues

2. Improving EPA Personnel's Capacity Building on Carrying Out International Environmental Work

The main mission: to increase the participation and planning skills of the administration's staff in international environmental affairs, and expand the level and effectiveness of international participation.

Method of Operations:

(a) Invite related offices and departments every quarter to attend an "international environmental affairs participation and planning forum" to share their experiences. Compile the information and suggestions put forward in the forums and post them on the EPA's internal website as reference for all of the administration's staff.

(i) Forum participants: individuals and groups within the administration set to head abroad for official business, as well as staff convening or planning to convene international meetings or seminars.

(ii) Forum contents: exchange of opinions, experiences and information on participation in international conferences and fact-finding and study trips abroad by administration staff, as well as on the planning and holding of international conferences in Taiwan

(iii) Forum format: forum contents divided into four subjects, with each related office and department delivering a 10-minute report on its experiences or plans for each topic/issue. In addition, an exchange of opinions and sharing of information on each of the subjects.

(b) Hold Training Classes on International Environmental Affairs

(i) Deliver a report on training needs, including annual plan on training of environmental protection staff.

Basic class: trainees include those participating in international conferences or helping hold such conferences, as well as those receiving foreign visitors. The class is aimed at raising the entire administration's capacity and participation concerning international affairs.

Intermediate class: trainees include each administration department's and office's staff who have recently been or will soon be given the responsibility for work related to international environmental affairs. The aim of the class is to increase international participation and planning capacity, and accelerate the training of new personnel.

Advanced class: trainees include senior staff and

officials responsible for work related to international environmental affairs. The aim is international organization participation capacity building, as well as boosting participation effectiveness.

(ii) After the conclusion of the training sessions, the related materials will be posted on the administration's internal website as a reference for all personnel.

Expected Results:

(i) Compilation and posting on the administration's internal website of suggestions and experiences regarding participation in international environmental affairs as a reference for all staff.

(ii) Posting on the website of materials related to the international environmental affairs training courses for all of the administration personnel's reference.

3. Raising the quality of foreign visitors' reception

The main mission: (a) to gradually increase the quality and effectiveness of the EPA's reception of foreign guests; (b) promote international visitors' understanding of Taiwan's environmental protection work and related exchanges.

Method of Operations:

(a) Procedure:

Current method: the office or department responsible for receiving a foreign delegation handles the request for approval for the visit and related affairs.

Suggested method: 1. Simplify and systemize the process of approval for visits by foreign delegations. 2. According to the foreign visitors' official position, duration of visit, location of visit and host, establish a system divided into a comprehensive set of standard operating procedures (SOP) and a set of procedures for special emergency cases.

(b) Talking points:

Current method: request each related department to provide and update information on topics to be addressed during the foreign visitor's visit.

Suggested method: Set up a FAQ web page monitoring and evaluation mechanism, with each

related office and department assigning a staff member to provide updated information or at least confirm by the 5th day of each month that there have been no changes/updates and that the information is still accurate.

(c) EPA top officials' reception of foreign visitors and gatherings with foreign officials stationed in Taiwan:

Current method: the department or office hosting the foreign guests handles the related EPA reports and meeting records, which are still not compiled in a file.

Suggested improvements to procedures: set up an online meeting records and FAQ page mechanism, with each related department assigning a staff member to provide updated information or at least confirm by the 5th day of each month that there have been no changes/updates and that the information is still accurate.

(d) This office will study and propose principles concerning reception of foreign visitors by top officials. After the principles are approved, each department and office will be asked to handle matters in line with them.

Expected Results:

(i) Standard operating procedures for visits by foreigners, and a standard format for talking points information and for providing documents to the foreign visitors.

(ii) Improvement of the EPA's online FAQ page(s)

4. Raising the quality of English information on the EPA's achievements

The main mission: to raise the quality of the EPA's English materials and documents as well as English abstracts of final reports on commissioned projects.

Method of Operations: Raising the quality of the EPA's English written materials: any EPA English-version written materials or documents (including publications, proclamations, meeting minutes, online information, etc.) or English content within Chinese-version written materials and documents, must first be edited/proofread by the administration's English

secretary before being printed, published or presented to top officials for approval. English reports or briefing material on announcements about EPA personnel making overseas visits or attending international conferences held domestically are compiled every quarter and posted on the EPA's internal website as a reference for all of the administration's staff.

Review of English abstracts of the final reports on the EPA's commissioned projects:

(a) The department or office responsible for a commissioned project is requested to send the first draft of a final report on the project to this office for review after it is received from the commissioned organization and before the convening of a review meeting on the final report.

(b) After reviewing the English abstract, this office will send its review suggestions to the relevant department or office for its reference.

(c) When necessary, the person responsible for creating the English abstract should ask a staff member with strong English skills within the department or office for assistance.

II EXPLANATION OF ROUTINE WORK:

A. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SECTION

1. Project Name: Publishing of national sustainable development annual report and national sustainable development information website renovation and maintenance project

Project contents: (a) convene National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) committee meetings and work meetings; (b) hold selection activity and awarding ceremony for Taiwan Sustainable Development Awards; (c) carry out "Sustainable Development Action Plan" tracking and evaluation work; (d) issue the 2008 national sustainable development annual report, and website renovation and maintenance.

Expected Results: Completion of all of the Secretariat's missions stated in Article 6 of the NCSD's Establishment Guidelines.

2. Project Name: Preliminary work for the formulation and enactment of the "National Sustainable

Development Act".

Project contents:

(a) Assess, based on the Environmental Basic Law as well as sustainable development related issues, including land subsidence, the ecology, and water, soil and forest conservation, the feasibility of formulating and enacting a national sustainable development law.

(b) Refer to the contents of South Korea's National Sustainable Development Law and Taiwan's sustainable development strategy assessment to determine the feasibility of such a law for Taiwan.

(c) Compare the strong and weak points of the aforementioned two items, come up with concrete suggestions, and present them at a NCSD working meeting for discussion.

Expected Results: Completion of national sustainable development framework, preliminary suggestions, and presentation to sustainable development working meeting for discussion.

3. Project Name: Taiwan Sustainable Development Policy Outline and Action Plan (2009-2016): Foresight Plan

Project Contents:

(a) Near future plans: Rolling reviews for "Sustainable Development Action Plan," and incorporation into the various working groups' action plans of the items related to sustainable development in the list compiled by the Executive Yuan's Research, Development and Evaluation Commission of President Ma Ying-jeou's campaign platform to be carried out.

(b) Foresight plans: (replace current sustainable development action plan)

Refer to the "21st Century Agenda - the Republic of China's Sustainable Development Policy Outline," the policy items in the list of President Ma's campaign platform to be pursued and implemented, as well as international development trends, and study and make a draft of Taiwan's national sustainable development strategy.

(c) Give a report on the draft to the NCSD for

discussion and passage by the Executive Yuan, and then implement it, replacing the NCSD's original action plan.

Expected Results: Completion of the revised draft of "sustainable development action plan" and the first draft of "ROC national sustainable development strategy."

4. Project Name: Taiwan Sustainable Development Indicators Foresight Plan

Project contents include: understanding of the current situation and trends concerning international sustainability indicators; analysis of the current situation regarding Taiwan's sustainable development indicators; analysis of the relationship between Taiwan's sustainable development policies and the indicators set in the sustainable development action plan and national sustainable development indicators; study and discussion of Taiwan's future sustainable development system framework and method of operations; assembling the aforementioned plans and produce a first draft.

Expected Results: Complete a first draft of suggestions regarding the "Taiwan Sustainable Development Indicators" Foresight Plan.

5. Project Name: National Sustainable Development Regulations, Strategy and Performance Evaluation Research Project

Project Contents:

(a) Invite relevant ministries and sectors of society to take part in forums on the "National Sustainable Development Act" planned by this office to form a consensus, and to help draw up a first draft of the National Sustainable Development Act.

(b) Based on the five national sustainable development issues put forward by the NSCD Secretariat,

(i) Establish an expert advisory group, gather the latest information on each issue from relevant ministries and the international community, examine the plans implemented by each ministry, launch related studies and analysis, and propose concrete suggestions on methods of operations,

(ii) Gather relevant ministries and sectors of society

and convene a forum to arrive at a consensus,

(iii) Set up an online forum on the National Council for Sustainable Development Network to provide for discussion by all sectors,

(iv) Compile the opinions from all sectors on each of the issues and write up a study report, and present the report at an NCSD working meeting.

(c) Examine the compatibility of the revised draft of the "Sustainable Development Action Plan" with the policies put forward in President Ma's campaign platform.

(d) As for the first draft of the "national sustainable development strategy" planned out by this office, refer to the "Securing the Future" national sustainable development strategy (188 pages) passed by the British cabinet in 2005 as a model in assisting in completing the drawing up of the "national sustainable development strategy," and refer to the "British sustainable development action plan" in assisting each ministry to map out sustainable development action plans for 2009-2016.

(e) Hold several large-scale (consultation meetings) with all sectors of the public on the first draft of suggestions regarding the "Taiwan sustainable development indicators" foresight plan, then finalize the draft after revisions.

(f) Organize "2009 International Forum on Sustainable Development", inviting 4-6 foreign experts or national representatives who have made outstanding achievements in the promotion of sustainable development, as well as local sustainable development representatives and academic experts for study, discussions and exchanges of experiences, in order to better understand sustainable development laws and regulations, strategies and achievements in other countries, and assist in the promotion of sustainable development in Taiwan.

Expected Results:

(a) Completion of first draft of the "National Sustainable Development Act"

(b) Completion of the process of putting forward concrete methods and suggestions concerning the five national sustainable development issues put forward

by the NCSA Secretariat

(c) Completion of a report on the compatibility of the "sustainable development action plan" with the policies put forward in President Ma's campaign platform

(d) Completion of draft of "national sustainable development strategy," and assistance to each ministry in formulating "sustainable development action plans"

(e) Completion of revised draft of "national sustainable development indicators"

(f) Holding of the 2009 International Forum on Sustainable Development

B. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SECTION:

1. Project Name: Green Nanotechnology Promotion Project

Project Contents:

(a) In line with the national nanotechnology plan promotion policy, carry out the cross-ministry nanotechnology environment, health and safety (EHS) core project, including policy research in nanoparticles risk assessment, management, communication, etc., as well as the project on the innovative practical application and concrete environmental benefits of green nanotechnology.

The plan's main focus:

Analytical tools for measuring and characterizing nanomaterials in the environment; nanoparticle structural transformation and fate in aqueous medium; nanotechnology risk identification; strengthening environmental nanotechnology database; developing sustainable or green nanotechnology practical applications (three items)

(b) Related management promotion plans: promote the project via the "project to raise the quality of the science and administrative projects"; map out the EPA's annual science and technology plan and a four-year medium-term outline plan; manage efforts to increase the quality of the administration's annual science and administrative projects; spread the achievements of the administration's

science and administrative projects; provide support in management and administration of the "nanotechnology national project," and assistance in the administration of related projects by the National Science Council.

Expected Results:

(a) Coordinating with domestic health, labor safety and health departments, carry out the cross-ministry integrated EHS core project to create a responsible environment for nanotechnology research, development and production.

(b) Through the integration of emerging nanotechnology, traditional chemical engineering and environmental engineering technology, find solutions to current difficult environmental problems, including monitoring and analysis technology, as well as pollution remediation and clean production technology standards.

2. Project Name: Innovative environmental science and technology research and development project

Project Contents:

(a) Each year, the EPA posts online request-for-proposal projects, as well as the selected techniques and facilities, subsidies according to the requirements of current laws and regulations and domestic environmental protection policies, with preferential subsidies concentrated in two major areas -- namely innovative recycling techniques and equipment, as well as future practical applications of innovative technology in the area of environmental protection.

(b) Open application method: incubator centers and environmental protection industries can apply with the EPA for subsidies of up to 50 percent of the costs of their joint research and development of technology and equipment projects. In reviewing applications, the administration will consider the incubator center's ability to develop related technology based on its past history as well as its ability to transfer the technology to industry.

(c) In the initial review of the environmental protection research and development projects proposed by public and private incubator centers, the EPA will invite academics and experts to form a "technology review committee" to select projects to be subsidized.

(d) Related management and promotion plan: promote the project via the "environmental science and technology innovative research and development promotion plan". Other work includes: carry out tracking and analysis of incubator center projects subsidized by the EPA over the years, as well as the current situation regarding the commercialization of technology developed in these projects; conduct a systemized review of the projects and offer suggestions and concrete measures for improvements; compile the results of the environmental protection technology incubator centers' work through the years.

Expected Results:

(a) Acceleration of industry's commercialization of innovative technology to help find solutions to the priority environmental problems according to government policy and laws and regulations

(b) Gradual focusing of individual incubator center's areas of expertise to create special industrial niches, such as resource recycling, that fit Taiwan's unique local requirements and characteristics, and to help with the commercialization of technology, as well as create a win-win-win cooperation model based on long-term interactions among academia, industry and the environment.

(c) Upgrading of domestic environmental protection industry, as well as raising the standard of environmental protection technology and industry's research and development capacity.

C. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION SECTION:

1. Project Name: Agreement between the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection

Project Contents: The 8th implementing arrangement (2008~2010) including 17 cooperation programs that focus on global climate change issues, transboundary pollution, pan-Pacific port cleaning partnership program as cooperation themes.

Expected Results: pre-implementation coordination and post-implementation achievement filing and website establishment

(a) Activity items: Global climate change issues: 6 programs; transboundary pollution: 4 programs; pan-Pacific port cleaning partnership program: 1 program; Others: 4 programs; Administrative: 2 programs

(b) Activity forms: Joint research projects; inviting American experts to provide technological assistance; inviting American experts to hold workshops in Taiwan; sending personnel to the US for on-site investigation or short study tours

(c) Project benefits: Benefits for Taiwan, US and other Asian regions; additional benefits from new yearly budgets for continual projects; each project's impacts on the environment measured; planned transfer of the results of each project to other areas in Asia

2. Program Name: Environmental Cooperation Between Taiwan and Japan

Program Contents:

(a) Through the convening of Taiwan-Japan Bilateral Environmental Meetings, establish a dialogue platform for high ranking officials of the two countries to discuss regional and global environmental issues and strategies, as well as bilateral environmental cooperation and exchanges issues.

(b) Convene consultation meetings to propose and confirm the topics of discussion for the bilateral environmental meetings. On the Taiwan side, issues proposed are compiled by the Office of Sustainable Development and sent to the East Asia Relations Committee to be handed over to Japanese officials for their opinions. After the Japanese side's opinions are compiled, representatives of the East Asia Relations Committee, Japan's Interchange Association, as well as the various ministries, agencies and departments that made proposals gather for a consultation meeting to arrive at a consensus and place the confirmed issues on the bilateral environmental meeting's agenda. Four consultation meetings for the 3rd Taiwan-Japan Bilateral Environmental Meeting were held between July and November of 2008.

(c) Holding of preparatory meeting(s) for the bilateral environmental meeting: a preparatory meeting was held in Japan in October 2008 with officials from Japan's Ministry of the Environment and the Interchange Association

(d) Convening of the 3rd Taiwan-Japan Bilateral Environmental Meeting: The meeting is scheduled for February 2009 in Taipei City, with participants to include representatives from the East Asia Relations Committee, the Interchange Association, the environmental and foreign affairs ministries of the two countries, as well as other relevant ministries.

(e) Holding of review meeting for the 3rd Taiwan-Japan Bilateral Environmental Meeting: a review meeting is slated for March 2009 to exchange opinions on the bilateral meeting, the contents of the meeting minutes, as well as follow-up cooperation matters,

Expected Results: Joint signing of the 3rd Taiwan-Japan Bilateral Environmental Meeting Minutes and confirmation of items and contents of bilateral cooperation programs over the next year.

3. Project Name: Participation in APEC Marine Resource Conservation Working Group

Project Contents:

(a) In response to the APEC Manila Declaration of 1996, uphold Sustainability of Marine Environment, and carry out "promotion of public-private partnership," and carry out this plan based on the 2002 Seoul Declaration of the APEC Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting and the Bali Plan of Action of the 2nd Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting.

(b) Collect and compile information related to the latest activities, policies and current work of the APEC, as well as APEC's Marine Resource Conservation Working Group (MRCWG) and Fishery Working Group (FWG), and select and edit material and issue English-language APEC MRCWG and FWG joint publication as well as set up related web page to serve as a reference for APEC members.

(c) Send officials to attend MRCWG meetings and report the results of APEC plans carried out by Taiwan.

(d) Hold an annual Roundtable on the Involvement of the Business/Private Sector in Sustainability of Marine Environment in Taiwan and invite academic experts from Taiwan and APEC member states to attend to exchange opinions on marine environment conservation issues, with the roundtables serving as a platform for APEC region discussions on marine

environment conservation issues.

Expected Results:

(a) Publication of two issues per year of the Bulletin on Marine Resource Conservation and Fisheries and establishment of related web page.

(b) Report on the Roundtable on the Involvement of the Business/Private Sector in Sustainability of Marine Environment for APEC members' reference.

4. Project Name: APEC Satellite Application in Knowledge-based Economies Project

Project Contents:

(a) After completing the Ocean Models and Information System in the APEC Region (OMISAR) project, EPA proposed the Satellite Application in Knowledge-based Economies (SAKE) project which was approved by APEC, receiving US\$45,390, US\$49,390 and US\$44,950 in subsidies for 2006, 2007, and 2008, respectively from the forum.

(b) Considering the fact that developing countries have difficulty getting access to high resolution satellite imagery because of the high costs involved, members of this project negotiated with Taiwan's National Space Organization, which agreed to provide images and data gathered by the FORMOSAT-2 satellite to the EPA at a preferential price, with the EPA then providing the images and data to APEC members taking part in the SAKE project.

(c) Hold high-resolution imagery analysis training courses and seminars in order to help academic experts from APEC member states increase their capacity in terms of utilizing satellite imagery (including that taken by FORMOSAT-2) and to encourage the practical application of satellite imagery in marine resource conservation and the protection of marine environments.

(d) In line with this project, the EPA commissioned National Taiwan University to carry out the "APEC - Practical Applications of Oceanographic Satellites in the Asia Pacific Region" special working project.

Expected Results:

(a) Increase the satellite imagery analysis and

application capacity of developing APEC member states and promote technology and talent exchanges.

(b) Participate in APEC regional marine science seminars and introduce Taiwan's contributions to APEC to increase its visibility in the organization.

(c) Promote the use of FORMOSAT-2 data by academics of neighboring countries, participate in APEC regional satellite sciences seminars and announce marine remote sensing research results to display Taiwan's technological strengths, and absorb member states' science and technology knowledge.

5. Project Name: WTO environmental issues related Affairs

Project Contents:

(a) In order to be in line with trade and economic affairs related to Taiwan's entry into the World Trade Organization, Taiwan has organized a cross-ministerial International Economic and Trade Strategic Alliance Arrangement Taskforce, with the EPA being a member of the sub-groups of the taskforce dealing with trade services, trade and the environment, and technical trade barriers issues. This office's International Cooperation Section serves as the contact window for the EPA's related work.

(b) The issues of the Doha Round of WTO negotiations related to the EPA are trade and the

environment (handled by the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment) and the environmental services industry (handled by the WTO Council for Trade in Services). Practical participation and consultations and implementation of response measures.

(c) Sent officials to take part in the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment's special meeting held in July 2008, and participated in Doha Round trade and environment issues talks.

(d) Ensure Taiwan's environmental protection laws are in line with the WTO's technical regulations and transparency standards. The EPA will continue to give notice of proposals on environmental regulations related to trade for WTO members to review. The administration gave notice on proposals on "Restrictions on Use of Plastic Trays and Container Boxes" and "Revisions to the Vehicular Air Pollutant Emissions Standards" in December 2006 and May 2007, respectively, for review.

Expected Results:

(a) Practical participation and consultations in Doha Round of WTO negotiations, and proper response measures.

(b) Submission of notifications to the WTO on proposals, and acting in accordance with technical regulations concerning trade as well as with transparency standards.

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