



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



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INVITATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION MEETING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION NETWORK

Dear xxx,

It is a great honour for me to invite you to participate in the International Consultation Meeting on the Development of the Global Climate Change Adaptation Network, to be held on 30 and 31 October 2008 in Changwon, Republic of Korea.

The impact of climate change is an unprecedented and increasing global threat to life, livelihoods and life-supporting systems. Even if the most stringent mitigation measures were put in place today, the impacts of climate change would continue for centuries. There is an urgent need for immediate and adequate actions to adapt to climate change before its impacts become unmanageable. At the same time human beings must prepare for long-term consequences of a changing climate. However, significant barriers and constraints persist for adaptation efforts in developing countries, including a lack of necessary finance and technology. Even if adequate financial and technological resources were in place, capacity to utilize these resources on adaptation is one of the most pressing challenges for developing countries. Hence a prerequisite for any adaptation effort must be to build essential adaptive capacities.

As you are aware, the Parties to the UNFCCC have recognized the paramount importance of promoting adaptive action and have adopted actionable mandates under the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI). In addition, the Bali Action Plan which sets the stage for the evolving negotiations on the post-2012 regime under the Ad-hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action has adopted adaptation as one of the pillars of the future regime. The four areas identified for further action in this regard include streamlining and scaling-up resources, adaptation planning, knowledge sharing, and institutional frameworks. Specifically, the SBSTA at its 28th Session *“recognized that regional centres and networks undertaking work relevant to climate change play an important role in enhancing adaptation”* and also *“agreed to promote existing networks for impacts, vulnerability and adaptation and encouraged the establishment of new networks.”*

To this end UNEP, in partnership with key relevant institutions such as UNFCCC and UNDP, is planning to develop a Global Climate Change Adaptation Network (the Network), which will compose of a series of selected national and regional centers and an international support group of technical institutions. The aim of the Network is to enhance key adaptive capacity of developing countries through mobilizing the world's best knowledge and technologies to help build the climate resilience of vulnerable ecosystems and economies. It will have a strong focus on supporting the implementation of the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change through its contribution to local, national, regional and international climate change adaptation initiatives.

Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI)

P.O. Box 30552 • Tel: (254 20) 762 4782/4791/3475 • Fax: (254 20) 762 4249 • Email: ibrahim.thiaw@unep.org

www.unep.org



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As the first step, UNEP plans to hold an international consultation meeting to discuss and agree on the Network structure, its core set of functions, management principles and a roadmap for its development. Enclosed, kindly find a draft discussion paper and a provisional agenda for this consultation (**Annexes 1 & 2**). We are also preparing a background paper taking stock of the relevant existing networks and centers, which we will make available well in advance of the meeting.

The Government of Republic of Korea has kindly offered to host this consultation in the margins of the Ramsar Convention's 10th Conference of the Parties. Logistic and visa information is attached as **Annex 3**.

Follow up activities to the consultation meeting have been planned. The Government of Japan has kindly offered to host a regional consultation for the Asia-Pacific on 19 and 20 November 2008. Consultations for other developing regions are being discussed. Results of these consultations will be presented to the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC. Most importantly, we would like to see pilot regional networks start delivering adaptation services to communities and governments in developing regions starting from their inception phase.

Extensive communication paving the way towards the consultation meeting has already been undertaken. Your attendance to this meeting demonstrates your personal and your organization's commitment, and will be invaluable to the success of the development of the Network.

Kindly let us know your travel itinerary so that we can secure your accommodation in Changwon in the high season. In addition, please also let us know whether you wish to display any introduction and/or publication of your organization so that we can make the necessary arrangements in advance.

Should you have any queries about this meeting, kindly contact my colleagues Mr. Jian Liu jian.liu@unep.org and Mr. Jechul Yoo jechul.yoo@unep.org.

I look forward to seeing you in Changwon, Korea.

Yours sincerely,

Ibrahim Thiaw
Director, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation
UNEP

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- Enclosed: 1. Discussion paper on the Global Climate Change Adaptation Network
2. Provisional agenda for the consultation meeting
3. Logistics and visa information

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