Greening Asia’s integration: An urgent challenge

Green integration: Background

➢ Asia-Pacific is developing rapidly but unsustainably and unequally.
  ▪ The fastest GDP growth in the world during 1990s and 2000s
➢ Many regional integration processes are on-going
  ▪ ASEAN Community
  ▪ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
  ▪ Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)
➢ Mainly focus on regional economic
  ▪ Intra-regional economic dependence is increasing

ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations): Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam (10 countries)
Sustainability risks of current development patterns

- Rapid increase in CO\textsubscript{2} emissions and resource consumption
- Water crisis
- Responsible for 25% of world forest loss during 2000-2010
- Severe air pollution
- Inequality is worsen in many countries

ASEAN+6: ASEAN 10 countries, Japan, China, Republic of Korea, India, Australia, New Zealand

Green integration vs. Business-as-usual

- **Sustainable development:** Environmental improvement and enhanced human wellbeing
  - Proper environmental and welfare safeguard
  - Deep regional integration
    - Regional policy with enforcement
  - Regional cooperation
    - Nurture cooperative spirits
    - Success experience in joint efforts
    - Narrowing developmental gaps
  - Integrated market
  - Globalisation

- **Environmental degradation and reduced human wellbeing:**
  - Exploitation of negative externalities
  - Lack of environmental and welfare safeguard

- **Regional economic integration:**
  - Economic growth
  - Poverty alleviation
  - Narrowing developmental gaps
Covered topics

- Sustainable Development Goals in the Context of the ASEAN Community 2015
- Protecting forest values as economic integration advances – The importance of regional collaboration
- Greening trade of recyclable materials: recycling certification for improved e-waste management
- Responses to Regional Economic Integration in East Asia: Stronger Air Pollution Control
- Water-Food-Energy Nexus Approach: Towards Green Regional Cooperation in Southeast Asia
- Low Carbon Technology Transfer in the Context of Asian Regional Integration
- Realising integrated Carbon Market Mechanism in the Asia-Pacific region
- Building Capacity for Environmentally Sustainable Trade in Asia: Aligning Needs and Supplies

Key messages

**Trade & investment work for SD**
- Mandatory Sustainable Impact Assessment for trade and investment agreements
- Regional information tools such as labelling and certification schemes *(Forest chapter)*

**Strengthen/refocus regional institutions**
- Monitoring/evaluation of SD indicators, data collection
- Knowledge brokerage and funding mechanisms *(Low carbon technology transfer chapter)*
- Capacity building on regional basis

**Build capacity at national and sub-national levels**
- Capacity to formulate and implement policies, and to monitor and evaluate policy outcomes
- Capacity to effectively participate in regional and global policy processes

**Mainstreaming social and environmental sustainability in goal setting** *(SDG chapter)*