



UNITED STATES-ASIA ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP

THE UPDATE

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Asian City Officials Commit To Environmental Change

A select group of mayors, municipal commissioners and utility managers from China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia met in Honolulu April 3rd-6th for the first *Asia-Pacific Urban Institute (APUI) Executive Seminar*. US-AEP took a leading



role in organizing the Seminar with the City and County of Honolulu and the USAID Water Team. Associated with the highly successful bi-annual Mayors' Asia-Pacific Environmental Summit (MAPES), APUI aims to provide a full spectrum of support to senior local government political and city management leaders around

pressing environmental issues. Because participants at last year's MAPES cited water resource management as one such issue, the seminar focused on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), a planning and implementation process which brings together stakeholders in order to meet society's long term needs for water resources while maintaining ecological services and economic benefits.

The Seminar was organized into two programs – one targeting senior water utility managers and

the other city leaders. The water utility managers' program focused on the principal components of IWRM. The city leaders focused on examining specific water and sanitation issues in the context of finance, public/private partnerships, infrastructure and service design, technology, operations management, community participation, and political will power. Throughout the week, decision-makers and practitioners worked together to discuss local water resource issues and formulate plans of action for when they return to their cities. At the end of the conference, over 25 representatives pledged commitments to address environmental issues in their cities.

For instance, Mayor Prakaieo Rattananaka of Uttaradit, Thailand, committed to upgrade water delivery infrastructure and implement flood control techniques in an effort to improve water quality and stormwater management. In her commitment statement, she stated, *"To address water resource and environmental sanitation concerns with long-term strategic...*

"I commit to introduce environmental management systems in the four cities of Metro-Cebu," - excerpt from Chairman Ruben D. Alemandras, Metro Cebu Water District, Philippines

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Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in South Korea

Over the past three years, US-AEP has worked with the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) to improve energy management and landfill methane capture in South Korea. As part of the effort to uphold the commitments made by the U.S. on technology transfer under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the *Technology Cooperation Agreement Pilot Project (TCAPP)* was launched to serve as a test model for success. The efforts by US-AEP and NREL in linking Korean companies with technologies and expertise in the U.S. have been tremendously successful in generating projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

An auditing project conducted by Semptra, a U.S. Energy Service company (ESCO), in conjunction with a Korean ESCO and the Korean Energy Management Corp., resulted in a comprehensive analysis of the Hyundai Ulsan facility, the world's largest auto manufacturing plant. A set of recommendations to increase efficiency was created and later taken over by another ESCO, Honeywell, to continue implementing multimillion dollar energy efficiency improvements on the plant.

In the landfill methane component, TCAPP engaged the expertise of EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Program to help forge two partnerships to carry out methane recovery projects in the cities of Taegu and Ulsan.

The TCAPP have also leveraged direct contributions to the project. In FY 2000, an investment by US-AEP of under \$60,000 generated almost \$408,000 in direct contributions to the project; and in FY 2001, \$45,000 in US-AEP funding leveraged over \$200,000 in direct contributions. Additionally, the Government of Korea set up a fund of over \$60 million to make loans for energy efficiency projects.



US-AEP Acknowledged In U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Hearing

Don Ritter of the National Environmental Policy Institute and David Angel, Laskoff Professor of Economics, Technology and the Environment of Clark University, testified recently at a U.S. Trade Representative hearing on potential environmental impacts of the U.S. - Singapore Free Trade Agreement. They related improved economic welfare with environmental quality, noting US-AEP's success in building networks for adopting clean technologies in Asia.

The United States-Asia Environmental Partnership (US-AEP) is an interagency and public-private partnership program led by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Visit us on the web at www.usaep.org.

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approaches is to enhance environmental quality, improve economic efficiency, and contribute to better social conditions, collectively enhancing quality of life for all Uttaradit residents for generations to come."

In order to support city leaders in achieving their commitments, US-AEP will support the development of a capacity building program that will be closely associated with MAPES and APUI. This

program will work with Asian local leaders to trans-

late their commitments into action with tangible and measurable results, while supporting the central APUI concept that political leadership is a necessary component for livable and sustainable cities.

"I commit to increase water service from 50% of urban population (2002) to 52% in 2003, and 55% in 2004," - excerpt from Dr. Taufan, PDAM Jember, East Java, Indonesia

As Gordon Weynand, Acting Executive Director of US-AEP, stated in his speech, *"The partners associated with the Institute, including US-AEP, understand that leadership cannot really be taught, but instead should be encouraged, cultivated, and, perhaps most important, rewarded."*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 8-18 Study Tour: Laguna Lake Development Authority, Laguna Lake, Philippines**
- 15-19 International Conference on Environmental Compliance & Enforcement (INECE), San Jose, Costa Rica**
- 15-30 Program to support the Development of City Managers Association of India (CMAI), India**
- 17 The US-AEP Policy Forum: "U.S. Thai Environmental Partnerships- Maryland's Experience," Washington, DC, USA**
- 22-26 Dioxin and Furan Study Tour, Washington, DC, Ohio, & North Carolina, USA**
- 24-26 Urban Solid Waste Management Workshop, Jakarta, Indonesia**
- 28-30 7th International High-Level Seminar on Cleaner Production Seminar, Prague, Czech Republic**

For a complete list of upcoming events, please visit:
<http://www.usaep.org/calendar/index.htm>

US-AEP/Thailand Launches Next Phase of Innovative Environmental Governance Activity

"Reforming governance structures is crucial to Thailand's continued development. This activity is one of the most important efforts that we undertake this year." - Jack Kneeland, Director of US-AEP/ Thailand

US-AEP/ Thailand launched the next phase of an innovative environmental governance activity in collaboration with the Thai Council of State and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to incorporate U.S. best practices into the draft Public Consultation Act. This law will have a significant impact on environmental management and infrastructure development in Thailand. Under a follow-on Community Participation Grant to the Executive Public Administration Foundation (EPAF) and US-AEP's Environmental Regulatory Dialogue, US-AEP and EPA are working with the Council of State to implement a "notice and comment" process based on U.S. law for soliciting public comment on the draft Thai law, and providing an official response.

Developing a new law with direct input by civil society is completely new to Thailand. Under this activity, Secretary General Chaiwat Wongwattanasan of the Council of State is exceeding all legal requirements and going directly to the public on the new Public Consultation Act. He is effectively applying principles and practices that will be mandated in the law to the development of the law itself. The Council of State is also soliciting public comments and expert opinion using the internet, direct mail, and other channels to solicit public comments and expert opinion.

To launch this activity, Michael Feeley of EPA Region IX and US-AEP worked with the Council of State lawyers over the course of a week, guiding the design of a web-enabled notice and comment process. The Council of State will soon complete its notice and comment website and launch a major campaign to solicit comment on the new act.

