



**UNITED NATIONS
ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM (RCM)**

Record of the RCM Meeting

15 December 2016, 15:00-16:00 hours

Meeting Room B, United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok

I. Organization

A working level meeting of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) was held on 15 December 2016 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok to cover 1) a briefing by the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) on ASEAN-UN Secretariat to Secretariat matters, 2) to discuss the implementation of the ASEAN-UN Plan of Action 2016-2020 and, 3) to review the Philippines agenda as Chair of ASEAN in 2017. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Adnan Aliani, Director of the Strategic Programme Management Division, ESCAP. It was attended by representatives of 13 agencies (incl. ESCAP).

II. Key Discussions Points

Implementation of the Plan of Action

Mr. Mark Harris, UN Liaison Officer to ASEAN, Asia-Pacific Division, Department of Political Affairs, briefed the group on recent activities under the Political-Security Cooperation pillar. He introduced the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) template for the implementation matrix for 2016-2020 reporting that ASEC wished to limit the matrix to 12 pages and that it would be reported annually to AUMM (31 August to 1 September 2017) and mid year at the regional S2S/CPR meetings. Mr. Harris emphasized that concrete and specific action lines were to be identified in the matrix, with only highlights from other, more detailed work plans (JSPDM, Environment & Climate Change, Labour). Specific agencies on both sides will be identified in the matrix and assessment/ recommendations provided rather than more formal monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. ASEC and the UN are to agree on the action lines by February 2017 with the first updated version reported at the S2S meeting 18-19 April 2017.

The Chair opened a discussion on the implementation of the Plan of Action by inviting OCHA and UNEP to brief the group on the issues related to the development of joint work plans for disaster risk management and environment and climate change. The merits and challenges of these models were highlighted. In the case of the JSPADM, OCHA reported that its genesis (2011) was an effort by UN agencies to map out cooperation with ASEAN aligned to ASEAN's own well defined work programme on disaster risk management. The joint work plan as evolved as the ASEAN work programme has been revised, now in the third iteration. Although a heavy coordination process, the JSPADM benefits from clearly defined leads/counterparts with ASEC, AHA, member countries and among UN agencies. In addition, there is a discipline in only incorporating UN activities under the joint plan which contributes to the norms development for whole of ASEAN (institutional). Funding for the activities have been absorbed by agencies in earlier iterations- looking ahead joint resource mobilization with ASEAN will be tested.

UNEP informed that the Environment and Climate Change joint work plan was incubated at the meeting of the ASEAN Ministers of the Environment in 2015. A technical meeting followed in early 2016 which provided a valuable opportunity for UN agencies to better understand ASEAN's priorities and understand more holistically what the UN could offer more broadly beyond individual mandates. The consultation also allowed for innovative thinking on new work and project concepts, rather than packaging existing UN agencies work. Approval of the joint work plan has been delayed until September 2017 awaiting ASEAN Environmental Ministers

resolution of issues related to final approval of the ASEAN internal plan on the environment and climate change. It is anticipated that a meeting will be held with ASEAN, Dialogue Partners and UN to explore fund raising options.

ILO informed the group that it has a work plan on labour with ASEAN that is updated regularly and in cooperation with Labour Ministers. There will be a technical meeting in early 2017 and ILO will advise agencies for cross reference in due course. UNESCO has a comprehensive work plan on Education under its MOU with ASEAN.

It was generally agreed by the agencies that apart from the mentioned joint work plans already established, there was a preference to organize and report agency work as per the implementation matrix provided by ASEAN. The potential for other more detailed work plans led by the TWGs or certain agencies could be considered if any real benefit could be derived from a more complex sub plan in cooperation with clear ASEAN counterparts. ASEAN has proposed that the 2016-2020 implementation matrix be ready for the April S2S meeting. It was agreed that the matrix template would be circulated to the RCM for inputs by the end of January, followed by a working level meeting as needed to refine the activities inventory for submission to ASEAN for its consideration and an eventual agreed implementation plan by the April meeting. The group was reminded of ASEAN's wish for a compact document (12 pages).

The Philippines Agenda for 2017

Mr. Harris reported that the priorities announced by the Philippines for its chairmanship in 2017 are: 1) realize a people-centred and people-oriented ASEAN; 2) peace, security and stability; 3) maritime security and cooperation; 4) ASEAN resilience; 5) promote inclusive and innovation-led growth; 6) showcase ASEAN as a model of regionalism and a global player. He informed that the annual ministerial meeting on the side lines of the General Assembly in September was likely to be elevated to an ASEAN Leaders Summit. Noting the indication of a Grand Commemorative Celebration of ASEAN's 50th Birthday on 8 August (ASEAN Day), Mr. Harris was asked to explore with ASEAN any role that may be available to the UN at the event for early planning and budgeting purposes.

Other Matters

Mr. Harris informed the group that the ASEAN-UN Plan of Action had been formatted for publication and agencies were encouraged to consider printing copies for distribution during key meetings. It was discussed that an electronic version of the booklet would be available on the RCM website for on demand downloads and printing. ESCAP will explore in-house printing costs. It was suggested that the TWG trust funds could be considered as a source of funding for printing. The twitter account was announced as: @ASEAN_UN.

UNEP reported the launch of the new ASEAN Institute for Green Economy, hosted by Myanmar in Yangon. The focus of the Institute will be on renewable clean energy, green productivity, sustainable production, natural capital accounting, education, training and capacity building. It is housed in the Green Economy Green Growth Centre, local think tank. Japan, ROK, China, major donors and the UN will be invited to a launch work shop taking place in mid 2017.

III. Action Items

1. Agencies to populate the implementation matrix by end of January 2017, followed by internal review of consolidated submission to ASEAN and eventual agreed document by April S2S meeting.
2. RCM Secretariat to post the Plan of Action booklet to the RCM website and explore cost for ESCAP in-house printing.

Attachments: DPA presentation; implementation matrix 2016-2020 template; PoA booklet

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**RCM working level meeting to discuss the implementation of ASEAN-UN Plan of Action
15 December 2016
15:00 - 16:00 hours
Meeting Room B, UNCC**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

RCM MEMBERS

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Name of representative(s)</u>
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Mr. Aziz Arya South-South Cooperation Officer Email: Aziz.Arya@fao.org
International Labour Organization (ILO)	Mr. David Lamotte Deputy Regional Director ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Tel. 02 288 1722 Fax. 02 288 3056 Email: lamotte@ilo.org
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Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Ms. Kristen Knutson Regional Disaster Response Adviser Tel : 02 288 2572 Email : knutson@un.org
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Mr. Bishwa Nath Tiwari Programme Specialist - Human Development Report Bangkok Regional Hub Tel.: +66 (0)2 304 9100 ext. 5285 Email : bishwa.tiwari@undp.org
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Mr. Jonathan Gilman Regional Development Coordinator Email : jonathan.gilman@un.org
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Mr. Jayakumar Ramasamy Programme Specialist and Chief of Natural Sciences Unit Email: r.jayakumar@unesco.org

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Name of representative(s)</u>
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	<p>Mr. Muhammad Taimur Programme Officer Programme Support and Coordination Sustainable Development Mechanisms United Nations Climate Change Secretariat Martin-Luther-King-Str. 8 53175 Bonn, Germany Tel: +49 228 815-1740 Email: MGandapur@unfccc.int</p>
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United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)	<p>Mr. Andrew Mcelroy Programme Officer Tel : 02 288 2747 Email : Mcelroy@un.org</p>
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)	<p>Ms. Anna-Karin Jatfors Deputy Regional Director UN Women Tel : 02 288 2094 Email : anna-karin.jatfors@unwomen.org</p> <p>Ms. Janneke van der Graaff - Kukler Strategic Planning and Coordination Specialist Tel: +66 2 288 2584 E-mail: janneke.kukler@unwomen.org</p>

ESCAP

Mr. Adnan Aliani	Director, Strategy and Programme Management Division (SPMD)
Ms. Michele Von Rautenkranz	Programme Officer, Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism Secretariat, SPMD
Mr. Larry Maramis	Special Advisor on ASEAN, SPMD (Note: attend via skype)
Mr. Hongpeng Liu	Acting-Interim Director, Energy Division
Mr. Nokeo Ratanavong	Economic Affairs Officer, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD)
Mr. Sudip Basu	Economic Affairs Officer, Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division (MPFD)

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Department of Political Affairs (DPA)

Mr. Mark Harris	UN Liaison Officer to ASEAN, Asia-Pacific Division Department of Political Affairs, United Nations Office: United Nations, Jakarta, Indonesia (Note: attend via skype)
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