



CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP FOR POLICY MAKERS FROM ASEAN MEMBER STATES

Venue: Hanoi, Viet Nam

Date: 18-19th June 2014

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

The UN Climate Change Conference in Warsaw (COP 19) ended keeping governments on a track towards a universal climate agreement in 2015.

Although delivering a set of relatively low ambition decisions, COP in Warsaw produced enough to keep countries on track to agreeing a new global climate deal at COP21 in Paris in 2015—provided that substantive progress is made in the coming 12 months and by COP20 in Lima, Peru in 2014. Whether negotiators did enough to keep the world on a path to less than 2°C of warming is far less certain, however.

“Warsaw has set a pathway for governments to work on a draft text of a new universal climate agreement so it appears on the table at the next UN Climate change conference in Peru. This is an essential step to reach a final agreement in Paris, in 2015,” said Marcin Korolec, President of the COP19 conference.

In the context of 2015, countries decided to initiate or intensify domestic preparation for their intended national contributions towards that agreement, which will come into force from 2020. The stakes are high. With the Kyoto Protocol having expired, the UNFCCC signatories have committed to organise its successor in 2015 at the latest.

The project aims at contributing to the first goal of the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC), namely “encourage ASEAN common understanding on climate change issues and where possible, engage in joint efforts and common positions in addressing these issues.”

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The two day workshop will take place in Hanoi, gathering 2 representatives of each ASEAN member country. The French Regional Delegation and the ASEAN Secretariat – with the support of French Embassies in the region – will select participants.

ASEF will facilitate the event providing experts from its Political and Economic Department and other partnering think tanks.

The workshop will use participatory methods to achieve its objectives and build on active involvement of the group. The methods will consist of: presentations of status quo regarding climate change, small group work and plenary discussions as well as simulation of the international negotiation on climate change.

The participants will receive the manual on climate change negotiations status quo of ASEAN countries prepared especially for the purpose of this training.

OBJECTIVES

Main objective:

- To contribute to the Asia-Europe dialogue on climate change issues in preparation for the COP20 and COP21;
- To increase understanding of climate change issues with the focus on negotiation process for ASEAN diplomats and stakeholders involved in the international debate

Specific objectives:

- To foster understanding of the importance of regional coalitions in the climate change negotiation process
- Provide dialogue platform for ASEAN member states to work on common understanding of challenges for ASEAN with regards to the COPs' outcomes

PARTICIPANTS

This training will gather 22-25 participants:

- ASEAN Secretariat
- Mid-level representatives from ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change
- Diplomats from the ASEAN countries involved in the climate change technical preparations and negotiations
- EU delegation to the ASEAN

OUTPUTS

- Two day workshop in view of the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to be held in November-December 2015 in Paris, France; and
- A list of national and regional priorities on climate change issues identified during the discussion.

OUTCOME

- Contribution to Asia-Europe dialogue on climate change;
- Strengthening expertise exchange and cooperation between ASEAN countries on challenges related with the climate change.

PARTNERS

- ASEAN Secretariat
- Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
- EU delegation to ASEAN
- French Regional Delegation for cooperation with ASEAN
- French Agency for Development Vietnam (AFD)
- Hanns Seidel Foundation Viet Nam
- Vietnamese Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)