

**DRAFT REPORT OF
THE ASEAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs)
CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**2 – 4 MAY 2007
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA**

INTRODUCTION

1. The ASEAN Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Consultative Forum on Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development was held on 2-4 May 2007 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Forum was organised by the ASEAN Secretariat and Global Environment Centre, and supported by Hanns Seidel Foundation and USAID.

2. The objectives of the Forum were to provide a platform to bring together representatives of CSOs in ASEAN to exchange ideas on key environmental issues facing the region, to share experiences and lessons learned, and to explore and develop mechanisms and modalities for more formal and regular interaction, collaboration and consultation among ASEAN national CSOs and between CSOs and the ASEAN environmental bodies on promoting environmental protection and sustainable development.

3. The Forum was attended by representatives of Civil Society Organisations from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Representatives of USAID, Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), UNEP, Malaysian Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (NRE), British High Commission Malaysia, Global Environment Centre (GEC), and the ASEAN Secretariat also attended the Meeting. The list of participants and the Agenda of the meeting appear as **ANNEX 1**.

OPENING OF THE FORUM

4. Mr. Zainudin Ismail, the Chairman of GEC, welcomed all participants to the Forum. His welcome remarks appears as **ANNEX 2**.

5. Mr. John Pasch, Regional Environment Advisor of USAID-RDM, gave statement on behalf of USAID. He indicated that USAID placed a high priority on addressing environment issues and in working with civil society organisations. He expressed hope that the meeting would identify mechanisms for activities which USAID could collaborate and support in the near future.

6. Mr. Christian Hegemer, the Director of HSF Indonesia, gave opening statement on behalf of HSF. His statement appears as **ANNEX 3**.

7. Dr. Raman Letchumanan, Head of Environment and Disaster Management Unit of ASEAN Secretariat, gave opening remarks on behalf of ASEAN Secretariat. He noted that the proposal to organise a forum of CSOs working on environmental protection and Sustainable Development was prepared by the ASEAN Secretariat and endorsed by the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN) Meeting in August 2005. He

indicated that the ASEAN Secretariat would be willing to support any mechanism identified by the meeting to enhance regional cooperation among CSOs working on environment issues in the region.

SESSION 1 – CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS’ ENGAGEMENT IN REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

8. Session 1 was chaired by Mr. Christian J. Hegemer, Director of HSF Indonesia.
9. Dr. Raman Letchumanan Head of Environment and Disaster Management Unit of ASEAN Secretariat gave an overview of ASEAN environmental cooperation including ASEAN framework, its priority areas, and the major projects in relation to environment. He also gave background on ASEAN relation with CSOs. The ASEAN CSO Forum is expected to result in further collaboration, partnership, and mechanism in environmental activities among CSOs and between CSOs and ASEAN. His presentation appears in **ANNEX 4**.
10. Mr. Mahesh Pradhan, Regional Environment Affairs Officer of UNEP delivered a presentation on the UNEP’s Experience in Engaging with Civil Society. His presentation appears in **ANNEX 5**.
11. Mr. Faizal Parish, Director of Global Environment Centre delivered a presentation on Experience of a Civil Society Organisation Working in ASEAN – Example of Global Environment Centre. His presentation appears in **ANNEX 6**.
12. During Session 1, the participants discussed the following:
 1. On the issue of relation between climate change and deforestation, the Forum noted that such initiatives have been taken in regional level to actually reduce deforestation. These initiatives should be supported by global community and considered as priority.
 2. The Forum also acknowledged the importance of collaboration between intergovernmental organisations (e.g. ASEAN, UNEP) and donors (such as HSF and USAID) with CSOs to address environmental protection and sustainable development issues. The Forum agreed to further explore the possibility of establishing mechanism for such collaboration.
 3. The Forum noted that it might be difficult to cover the wide range of environmental protection and sustainable development issues together. However, in order to address environmental issues it will be important to consider sustainable development strategies.

SESSION 2 – CSO PRESENTATION ON NATIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES AND ENGAGEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT / PRIVATE SECTOR

13. Session 2 was divided into two parts. The morning session was chaired by Dr. Geh Min, President of Nature Society, Singapore. The afternoon session was chaired by Prof. Chan Ngai Weng, President, Water Watch Penang, Malaysia.

14. During the morning session representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and Malaysia delivered their presentation as appears as **ANNEX 7 – 11**.

15. Representatives from Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand delivered their presentation during the afternoon session. Their presentation appears as **ANNEX 12 – 15**. Viet Nam did not deliver their presentation since the head of delegates was unable to attend the Forum. The presentation and the full report of Viet Nam appear as **ANNEX 16**.

16. The highlights of the country presentations were as the following:

- The need to enhance formal collaboration amongst CSOs in ASEAN region to improve abilities to act on Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development.
- Regular regional information sharing of the lessons learned and expertise could be made available via forums or networking via the web
- Partnerships and strong linkages in the areas of coordination mechanisms, capacity building and human resource development in related fields, networking, communication skills, and joint research activities
- Cooperation in providing information related to comprehensive understanding about environmental CSOs movement, programmes and activities in each country of ASEAN (The need for an accurate directory of CSOs)
- Establishment of the ASEAN Environmental Trust Fund to support CSO activities
- Establishing CSOs task forces to address key issues such as transboundary issues, such as peatland fires and haze, climate change, etc.
- Facilitating inputs of CSOs into the development of ASEAN plans and strategies
- Explore options for joint fundraising or capacity building programmes

SESSION 3: DISCUSSIONS ON POTENTIAL ISSUES AND COLLABORATION AMONG CSOs IN ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES

17. Session 3 was a brainstorming session which was co-chaired by Ms. Christine Reyes, Executive Director, Foundation for the Philippines Environment, and Dr. Joseph Weinstock, Environment Advisor, ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility. This session was to explore ideas of key and common environmental issues faced by CSOs in the ASEAN region.

18. The discussion identified the following:

Common Environmental Issues in different countries in the region:

- Climate Change
- Deforestation and land Clearance

- Pollution
- Transboundary Haze
- Biodiversity
- Solid Waste Management
- Water Resources Management
- Marine and Coastal Resources Management and Protection
- Energy Security
- Trade and Environment

Common Constraints and Challenges facing CSOs in the region:

- Financial Resources
- Wide areas of focus and scope
- Human Resources
- Expertise and Skills in Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development
- Access to Information
- Linking regional concerns with national interests
- Engaging government and private sectors
- Lack of mechanism toward regional partnership and collaboration
- Documentation of experience
- Legal issues
- Public apathy and ignorance

Specific Operational Mechanisms for CSO Collaboration:

- Regional sharing of experiences and expertise via forums or networks
- Establishment of Mechanism for future partnership and joint actions among CSOs
- Development of future collaboration between CSOs and ASEAN or other bodies.

SESSION 4: DISCUSSION ON REGIONAL COLLABORATION / COOPERATION AMONG CSOs – OBJECTIVES AND MECHANISMS

19. Dr Raman Letchumanan of the ASEAN Secretariat Chaired a plenary session to review and refine the summary of key points of Session 3 as a preparation for breakout discussions. This plenary session also reviewed and summarised the key strengths of Environmental CSOs as follows:

Main Strengths of CSOs:

- Flexible and able to take quick action
- Able to develop collaborative partnerships to address common issues
- Able to connect with and mobilize communities and grass root support
- Able to monitor and report rapidly
- Creative and innovative with limited resources
- Passion and commitment for environment protection and sustainable development.

20. The participants were divided into two groups for break-out sessions. Group A reviewed the options for establishment of an environmental CSO Cooperation Mechanism in ASEAN region and was chaired by Mr Tri Nugroho, Chairman of LATIN from Indonesia. Group B discussed the possible solutions to constraints facing CSOs as well as prioritisation of environmental issues to be addressed and was chaired by Dr Annadel Cababan Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion Manager from WWF Malaysia. The results of

group discussions were presented in plenary session, discussed and modified based on comments.

RESULTS OF BREAK-OUT SESSION TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO CONSTRAINTS FACING ENVIRONMENTAL CSOS IN THE REGION

21. The agreed outcome of the discussion on possible solutions to address constraints facing CSOs is as follows:

Access to information and data, development plans, etc from government agencies

- Establish CSO network under the umbrella of ASEAN or governmental /intergovernmental bodies. These bodies can facilitate access to information. (How CSOs can access data from government)
- National CSOs to advocate governments to be more open (How CSO can contribute data to government)
- CSOs to provide input for reports to Conventions

Duplication and overlap of activities of different CSOs

- information sharing
- Collaboration and networking among the CSOs and beyond

Inadequate Human Resources

- Expertise and Skills in Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development
 - Knowledge sharing via forum, website, etc
 - Capacity building trainings and cross-visits
 - Sharing of expertise and experiences
- Expertise in Organisational Management
 - Sharing of expertise among CSOs in project management (fund raising, etc) facilitated by CSO Forum.
 - CSO Forum facilitates group trainings in project development and financial management
 - Codes of Conduct in Financial Transparency and accountability

Inadequate Financial Resources

- Establish Group of CSOs to be affiliated with ASEAN
- Provide Training in project development and writing proposals
- Develop Regional projects
- Establish an ASEAN Trust Fund on E& SD
- Develop strategy to do fund raising from various donors: private, international, individuals (survival fund, project fund)
- Request ASEAN to develop the donor list with specific objectives
- Develop ASEAN CSO profiles to provide more background information for donors
- Advocate for environmental tax or tax incentives to raise funds
- Increase involvement in EP and SD of MNCs which operate in ASEAN countries, through CSOs

Difficulty to work with Government agencies

- Building trust
- Participatory approach
- Credible data
- Best practice / case studies
- Identify environmental champions in government
- Support public pressure
- Engaging middle-management

- Knowing the law (environmental democracy) and working in the system

Difficulty to work with or Conflict with the Private Sector

- Building public pressure (boycotts, etc)
- Undertake Consumer campaigns
- Find win-win solutions (that business have social and ecological responsibility)
- Undertake Capacity building for private sector on EP and SD
- Promote clean technology and practices
- Build trust between corporations and CSOs
- Co-operating with private sector on environmental issues
- Document best practices and case studies
- Work together to build better synergy among CSOs with private sector
- Act as corporate watchdog
- Tax and other incentives for green private sector actions
- Promote and discharge genuine CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility)
- Advocate for implementation of environmental participation

Education for Community Awareness and Participation

- Participation of CSOs in the implementation of ASEAN action plans on environmental education

Government not prioritizing EP and SD

- Promote EP and SD agenda in government agencies
- building public pressure
- advocate for implementation of environmentally sound policies

Lack of a regional mechanism to link CSOs in the ASEAN region:

- Regional sharing of experiences and expertise via forums or networks
- Establishment of Mechanism for future partnership and joint actions among CSOs
- Development of future collaboration between CSOs and ASEAN or other bodies.
- Establish demonstration activities to show multi-stakeholder approach to solve problems drawing on regional experience

Proposed Priority environmental issues

22. The meeting identified a number of priority themes and issues which should be addressed by the alliance as follows:

Priority themes

- Climate Change
- Loss of Biodiversity

Transboundary Issues:

- Transboundary Smoke Haze (Air Pollution) – cooperating with existing ASEAN initiatives
- Coastal and Marine Resources (marine pollution, aquaculture, coastal protection, etc.)
- Freshwater Resources (shared river basins, drinking water, biodiversity loss, flooding, etc.)
- Trade in Natural Resources (inappropriate and illegal trade in wildlife, timber and non-timber forest products; trans-border energy development etc.)

Common Issues:

- Land-based pollution (river pollution, solid waste, etc.)
- Deforestation

- Need for efficient use of energy (promoting energy efficiency and environmentally-sound renewable energy)
- Sustainable livelihoods for communities as part of the strategy to promote E&SD.
- Education and awareness and sharing information and experience among CSOs

RESULTS OF BREAK-OUT SESSION TO DISCUSS NEED AND PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A CSO COOPERATION MECHANISM

Establishment and Vision of regional organisation

23. There was unanimous agreement by the CSOs from all the 10 ASEAN countries on the need to establish an alliance between CSOs working on environment and sustainable development to enhance cooperation and promote the consideration of environment issues in the region.

24. The Proposed Vision of the alliance of CSOs in the ASEAN region

“An environmentally sustainable ASEAN that promotes the well-being of its people and the global environment through partnership between civil society organizations, governments and other stakeholders”

Objectives

25. The proposed objectives of the Alliance are:

1. Strengthen the linkages and capacity of civil society organizations in the SEA region to enhance synergies and approaches to environmental protection and sustainable development
2. Facilitate dialogues and partnership between civil society and ASEAN to mainstream and prioritise E&SD into ASEAN deliberations and mechanisms
3. Enhance environmental quality by preventing and responding to key regional, transboundary and shared E&SD issues through joint action between CSOs and other stakeholders

Scope

26. The proposed Scope of the Alliance is on will be environment and sustainable development. It was agreed that this needed to be elaborated to clarify the scope in relation to other CSO groups. The agreed geographic scope for the activities is the entire ASEAN region.

27. The meeting recognized the need to distinguish the organization from other Regional CSO mechanisms such as the ASEAN People’s Assembly or the ASEAN CSO Forum.

Nature of organization

28. The meeting agreed that the nature of the Alliance should be a strong network with active national focal points and strong central secretariat. It was agreed that coordination/strategy should be undertaken through the secretariat. Implementation activities should be undertaken through the members and task forces.

Membership

29. It was agreed that the membership of the organization will be restricted to Not-for-profit CSOs with their headquarters registered in one of the ASEAN countries which are

undertaking activities relate to the environment and committed to principles of environment and sustainable development. It was agreed that a set of principles should be prepared to guide the selection of members.

30. Additional guidance on membership included :
- There is a need to set up a simple vetting procedure for members to ensure that they are genuine organizations and have the appropriate commitment and orientation. This process should be coordinated by the respective country focal points in coordination with the secretariat. Final membership approval may need to be confirmed by the Steering Committee.
 - Guidelines on the requirements for Legal status of organizational members will need to be prepared - taking into consideration the varying requirements in different ASEAN countries for registration. In order to facilitate the participation of certain stakeholder groups (eg farmers networks, CBOs) flexibility on registration requirements may be needed. An alternative may be to represent such groups at the region through membership in broader national networks.
 - To meet ASEAN requirements the organization must have constitution/rules /secretariat etc. Further clarification will be sought from the ASEAN secretariat for any specific legal or other requirements.
 - Countries should develop guidelines for membership based on local consultative process.
 - Procedure to remove members for breach of rules should be included.
 - Option could be considered for a category of associate members or supporters from outside region or international CSOs could be considered.
 - Separate information or consultation forums with an open-ended membership could be operated.

Governance

31. It was proposed the organisation will have a tiered governance structure. The organisation will be overseen by a Steering group (comprising 10 focal points and if appropriate, other members). This group will meet once or twice per year. Focal points will be appointed in each country (need to look at the membership at country level). Country networks will be established facilitated by country focal points. A strong central Secretariat will act as a hub for the network. Active Task forces or working groups comprising groups of members will undertake focused activities on priority topics in the whole region or sub-regions. Consideration will be given for the need for periodic review and strengthening and adjustment of the governance mechanism

Finance

32. The main expenses required for the operation of the proposed alliance were agreed to be
- Budget for Secretariat,
 - budget for communication,
 - budget for activities,
 - meeting of steering committee
 - Country consultations in interim period (covered by local sources plus part funding)
 - Seed funds for task forces
 - Support for capacity building for CSOs
33. The potential sources of income identified were as follows:
- Possible contributions from members
 - contributions from country networks,
 - voluntary contributions,
 - grants, project funds,

- International donors
- voluntary time and resource allocation
- Request funding support from AMCs
- UNEP, Hanns Seidel Foundation and USAID
- ASEAN Foundation

Proposed Activities

34. Proposed activities during an interim Phase (till the end of 2007) were as follows:

- moderated e-group
- web site/home page
- inventory of E&SD CSOs
- national consultation meetings
- steering group meeting
- calendar of activities – who is doing what
- attendance at appropriate workshops
- Task force on urgent issues – eg climate change, haze
- Developing proposal for accreditation
- Interim contact with ASEAN on key issues
- Develop a description of interim programme based on existing regional activities of the members eg Community haze prevention programme, FLEG (Forest Law Enforcement and Governance) CANSEA, programme. others
- Promotional events, press releases etc – related to announcements of progress or success by the members

35. Proposed activities during the operational period were proposed to include:

- moderated e-group
- web site/home page with calendar of activities
- Annual technical workshop/conference with varying themes (maybe back to back with Annual steering group meeting)
- Biennial meeting of members to review the progress of network or strategy development (back to back to workshop)
- Training and exchange programme to build CSO capacity
- Task forces on range of urgent issues – eg climate change, haze etc
- Strategy to guide actions to achieve objectives and vision.
- Promotional events, press releases etc. – related to announcements of progress or success by the members.

Constraints and risks

36. Potential constraints and risks were reviewed and the following strategies were identified to reduce risk

- Important to map CSO involvement in other ASEAN mechanisms (eg ACB, HTTF and the ASEAN People's Assembly and ASEAN CSO Forum to ensure synergy.
- Develop a document on ASEAN processes to inform the CSO networks
- Resources
- Need to have a strong secretariat and adequate resources to maintain activities
- Future risk may come from differences of opinion between viewpoints of the CSOs and the governments.

Timeframe and actions for Interim Phase

37. It was proposed that a period of one month be allocated to confirm the basic structure and objectives and operating procedures and membership requirements. Thereafter a period of six months may be needed to fully establish the organization, develop the internal mechanisms, firm up the focal points, formalise the structure/

membership and request affiliation to ASEAN. It was agreed that some task forces could be immediate eg for climate change COP in December 2007 or to address the transboundary haze.

SESSION 5: FINALISATION OF THE CONCEPT PROPOSAL FOR A REGIONAL CSO ALLIANCE AND IDENTIFICATION OF FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS.

38. Outstanding issues to finalise the concept for the proposed CSO alliance were reviewed in a plenary session chaired by Dr Sundari Ramakrishna, Coordinator of the Malaysian Environmental NGOs (MENGO).

Proposed name

39. The Forum discussed various options for a name for the organisation and provisionally agreed on an interim name for the organisation, i.e. **SE Asian Civil Society Environment Alliance (SEACSEA)**. It was proposed that upon accreditation to ASEAN the name shall be changed into **ASEAN Civil Society Environment Alliance (ACSEA)**.

Performance indicators for first six months

40. The Forum also proposed the performance indicators for next 6 months as the following:

Objective 1 Strengthen the linkages and capacity of civil society organisations in the SEA region to enhance synergies and approaches to environmental protection and sustainable development.

Key results and performance indicators:

- Country Contact person/organization identified 4 May 2007
- Country focal points confirmed in 10 countries within 1 month
- 1 overall Website linked to at least 5 national home pages within 4 months
- Interim secretariat in 1 m set up within one month and sending communications every 2 weeks to members
- Country consultations undertaken in at least 6 countries within 2 months to agree national networking arrangements and reported to the Secretariat
- One physical and one virtual Meeting of the Steering committee
- 5 Sub groups/task forces on different themes established with active members

Objective 2 Facilitate dialogues and partnership between civil society and ASEAN to mainstream and prioritise E&SD into ASEAN deliberations and mechanisms and other regional/international groupings

Key results and performance indicators:

- Input provided to selected ASEAN environmental meetings, referring to the ASEAN Calendar of events
- CSO groups contributing to the implementation of ASEAN activities as outlined in the Vientiane Action Plan
- Regular contact between national CSOs in ASEAN member countries and ASOEN national focal points
- Results of this forum be circulated to the ASEAN Focal points within 1 month
- Input provided by the Alliance to ASOEN Meeting in August 2007

Objective 3 Enhance environmental quality by preventing and responding to key regional, transboundary and shared E&SD issues through joint action between CSOs and other stakeholders

Key results and performance indicators:

- At least 4 Task forces established to address key issues
- Through the CSO network, collectively provide inputs to ASEAN governments on reducing carbon emissions in relation with climate change, before the COP in Bali.
- CSOs to collectively provide strong inputs to the ASEAN Sub-regional Ministers meeting on Haze to take serious action to address haze problems/issues, which scheduled to be held at the end of May 2007.
- Joint action initiated on awareness on environment (ASEAN Environment education plan), including solid waste issues in ASEAN countries
- Action initiated on shared water resources with regard to the especially Mekong sub region

41. It was also agreed that the Alliance should coordinate with other sub regional groupings in the Asia Pacific region as well as in the sub region.

Scope

42. The following is the agreed initial set up arrangement of the organization

Detailed scope of organization (E&SD)

- Guided by the scope of ASOEN (10 main issues)
- Focus on the core issues of environment protection and management but must take into account other key sustainable development measures
- Environment issues and how they relate to other aspects of sustainable development
- Task forces can determine the detailed scope for specific issues

Membership criteria/charter

- Environmental CSOs and E&SD CSOs which have a focus on the environment
- CSOs registered /HQ in country in the ASEAN region
- Members must agree to operate in conformity to Bangkok declaration
- Membership process
- Letter requesting membership
- Proof of non-profit status
- Proof of interest in the environment
- Account of the international(regional) nature

Terms of reference

43. On the issue of Term of Reference, the Forum proposed the following :

TOR for the CSO network Steering committee

- Oversight of the network
- Approving basic policies and procedures
- Adoption of Programmes, projects and plans, setting of indicators

- Approval of basic core budget
- Oversight of the Secretariat
- Decision on the task force establishment
- Oversee the linkage with ASEAN
- Support the secretariat in generating resources
- The members of the SC – would include the 10 national focal points, the Secretariat plus possibly leaders of some of the task forces.
- Meetings would be held every 6 months (physically or virtually)
- An option should be considered to establish a smaller management committee or delegate some tasks to individual members – eg oversight of membership, budget etc

TOR for the Secretariat

- Undertake main coordination tasks
- Coordinate implementation of the programmes, projects and plans
- Prepare agendas and papers for SC
- Communication and clearing house ,
- Web-site and e-group maintenance
- Liaison/reporting with ASEAN secretariat
- Reports to members
- Assist with coordination of capacity building/exchange programmes
- Maintain the membership database
- Accounts and fund management
- Proposal writing and Fundraising
- Preparation of workplans and budgets
- Maintain a directory of donors and coordinate submission of funding proposals

TOR for the National Focal points

- Coordinating at a national level
- Organizing national consultations and liaison with CSOs in the country
- Develop directory of national CSOs with competency in E&SD
- Assist in implementation of relevant task forces
- Liaison with national ASOEN focal point
- Stimulation of action at the country level
- Consider options for period of appointment of the focal points
- Start with an interim lead or contact Agency (individual) and sort out the consultation to select longer term lead.
- Generating funds to cover the cost of national activities

TOR for Task forces

- Headed by a lead agency with appropriate expertise
- Issue-based group comprising members from several countries which will undertake focused tasks or activities
- Report on actions undertaken
- Implement relevant programmes and projects approved by CSO steering committee
- Encourage the involvement of other members in the task force activity.
- Report to SC/attend SC meet

Appointment of the Secretariat

44. The Forum appointed Global Environment Centre (GEC) as the Interim Secretariat until the end of 2007 or such time as the permanent secretariat is established whichever is later.

Appointment of Contact persons and Interim National Focal points

45. It was agreed that the national focal points should be organizations who had the capability to coordinate and facilitate activities of CSOs at the country level. A senior representative of the organization should be appointed as the lead person for the governance of the Alliance. They should be represented at a senior level. The Forum also appointed the following as contact persons or interim National Focal Points:

| Country | Proposed Interim contact persons /focal point organizations / | Comments |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Brunei Darussalam | Datin Soraya Dato Hamid, Petar Perunding SDN BHD | Need to consult with local organisations and set up a national CSO |
| Cambodia | Mr. Ken Serey Rotha, CBNRM-LI | Will consult and respond in 2-3 weeks on the longer term arrangements |
| Indonesia | Mr. Tri Nugroho, LATIN – alternate Mrs. Anida Haryatmo, KEHATI. | KEHATI as Interim contact organisation Both contact persons to work together with other CSOs to provide appropriate Indonesia focal point |
| Lao PDR | Mr. Thevarack Phonekeo (temporary contact person), STEA | Will provide information within 1 month on the appropriate CSO to be identified as the national Focal point. |
| Malaysia | MENGO will be the focal point. Dr. Sundari Ramakrishna will be the contact person | To call a meeting with the 19 MENGO members and others to discuss follow-up. |
| Myanmar | U Myint Than, FREDA | FREDA will be the focal point and will liaise with all other CSOs regarding the establishment of the Forum |
| Philippines | Ms. Christine Reyes, FPE Alternate: Ms Ella Antonio (Interim focal points) | Some fund is available to initiate meetings to select appropriate Philippines focal point for this Forum |
| Singapore | Contact persons: Mr. Gavin Chua Hearn Yuit, SIIA, and Dr. Geh Min, Nature Society | SIIA and SSN will discuss with other agencies. Interim Focal point to be provided in 2-3 weeks |
| Thailand | Dr. Chaiyod Bunyagidj, TEI (Interim focal point) | Confirmation after one month |
| Viet Nam | Dr Ho Ngoc Hai/ Mr Nguyen Ngoc Sinh (interim contact points) | To seek confirmation from Viet Nam on nomination of focal point to this Forum. |

Establishment of Task Forces

46. The Forum agreed on the proposal to form four task force/ sub groups on key issues as follows (each with a lead person/organisation to develop a description/scope of work to be done):

Climate change

Lead agency/person to be proposed in one week by Mr. Tri Nugroho, LATIN and Ms. Anida Haryatmo, KEHATI (the Indonesia contact persons).

Loss of Biodiversity

Proposed lead person Atty Rodolfo Quicho Jr, FPCI Philippines

Transboundary Haze

Proposed lead person/agency: Mr Chee Tong Yiew, GEC with existing Haze prevention programme

Environmental Education and awareness in the Mekong Region countries

Proposed lead person/agency: Dr. Chaiyod Bunyagidj of the Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) as the lead person/agency:

OPTIONS FOR SUPPORT

Support from the British High Commission, Malaysia

47. Mr Murugasas of the British High Commission, Malaysia indicated that he welcomed the progress made by the Forum to develop a regional environmental CSO alliance. He indicated that there were several options for the British Government to support the Alliance. One immediate option was the regional Conference on Climate Change being organized in Malaysia in late October 2007. It would be possible to support participation of CSOs from the region involved in climate change and incorporate specific sub-group discussions.

Support from USAID

48. Dr Joseph Weinstock, Environmental Advisor of the ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility indicated that USAID was very happy with the outcome of the workshop and would like to explore options of further assistance to the follow-up activities. Together with the USAID Bangkok office it allocated some resources to support a working meeting of the Alliance to follow up from the current meeting. In the medium term, USAID may be able to allocate programmatic support especially on issues related to climate change as the top priority for regional support for next USAID planning cycle is climate change.

Support from UNEP

49. Mr Mahesh Pradhan the representative of UNEP highlighted the following options for linkage between the proposed Alliance and UNEP.

- The alliance could link to UNEP as a sub-regional network linked to UNEP's Asia Pacific CSO Network on the environment.
- The alliance and appropriate members organizations should aim to obtain accreditation to UNEP, which would enable UNEP to invite 3-4 SEACSEA

representatives to attend the UNEP Asia Pacific CSO Meeting scheduled to be held in November 2007 in Korea.

- The UNEP Eco Peace Leadership Centre could possibly support activities on capacity building for the Alliance.
- UNEP has been requested by EU to develop a proposal on Environmental CSO networking in the Asia Pacific region and will include the Alliance as the lead in the SE Asia sub-component.
- GEF has recently supported the development of a CSO Network in Central Asia and similar funding may be available for SE Asia.
- At national level, Viet Nam has been a pilot country for UN to work as an integrated organization to support the implementation of the Millennium development Goals. Spain has allocated USD750 million for this purpose. Environmental sustainability as one of the MDG goals will be included and this may give an opportunity for CSOs in Vietnam

Support from ASEAN

50. Dr Raman Letchumanan, Head of the Environment and Disaster Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat indicated that he would support the proposed Alliance and would promote the formal affiliation of the Alliance with the ASEAN. He would also send a letter to each of the ASOEN Focal points to inform them of the outcome of the meeting and encourage their support for the alliance. He will also review the options for funding support from donors and funding mechanisms linked to ASEAN.

Comment from the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, Malaysia

51. On the second day of the Forum Mr. Maximilian Conrad, Assistant Secretary of the Conservation and Environmental Management Division of the Malaysian Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (NRE) indicated the support of NRE for the process of CSO collaboration being discussed at the meeting and indicated that the Ministry looked forward to receive information on the outcome of the meeting and potential linkages.

Other support

52. The Forum identified other immediate funding options to support the development and activities of the Alliance as follows:

- Toyota Foundation,
- UK governance initiative
- National ASOEN focal point and other ASEAN member Country contributions,
- DANIDA,
- DfID,
- SIDA,
- CIDA,
- JICA/Japan,
- ASEAN Japan Fund,
- ASEAN Foundation

DISCUSSION ON FOLLOW UP ARRANGEMENTS

53. The Forum proposed that the secretariat would send a format for Task force outlines and send to the proposed lead persons to prepare a one-page scope of work and short term actions to be done.

54. It was agreed that participating CSOs would identify ongoing activities implemented by CSOs for possible inclusion in a register of collaborative activities to be prepared by the secretariat based on the format circulated at the meeting (**see Annex 17**)

55. It was agreed that an Inventory of E&SD CSOs in the ASEAN region would be undertaken in each of the countries following a format to be circulated by the Secretariat.- building on the outlines in the country papers from Singapore and Cambodia.

56. The Forum decided that the participants in the workshop would have one month to make any necessary revisions to their country papers before the publication of the proceedings.

57. The draft country papers and presentations would be included as annexes in the workshop report to be provided to all participants on CD by the Secretariat.

58. Each of the nominated contact points would consult as necessary and inform the Secretariat within one month at latest on the selection of the agency who would be the interim national focal point as well as the contact person within that agency.

59. It was proposed that the secretariat would prepare a proposal describing the new alliance and the proposed operating arrangements within 10 days to the national contact points for use in national consultations.

60. It was proposed that a first meeting of the Steering Committee for the alliance be held in July or August to assess progress and plan for future activities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

61. Closing remarks were given by Dr Raman Letchumanan who indicated that the ASEAN Secretariat was very happy with the outcome of the meeting and believed that the new CSO Alliance would make a positive contribution to addressing regional environmental issues. On behalf of the meeting he thanked the Hanns Seidel Foundation and the USAID for their financial support for the Meeting.

62. The participants of the Forum expressed their appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat and GEC for their effort in organising this Forum.

63. The Forum was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN cordiality and solidarity.
