

Casebook on Innovative Activities for Achieving Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific



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**Casebook on
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Asia-Pacific is at the forefront of global discussions on sustainable development and the melding of environment and economic policies. From access to clean water to biodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture - community involvement and investment when solving environmental challenges is crucial to managing local resources. In order to move towards and realize sustainable development on a larger scale, proven-successful practices at the grassroots should be contextualized and replicated across Asia-Pacific. As a group of regional experts, the Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development addressed critical issues facing the region and proposed new models for equitable and sustainable development. Two programmes resulted from the forum, the APFED Showcase Programme and the APFED Awards.

With 58 projects in 20 Asia-Pacific countries, the APFED Showcase Programme has engaged with stakeholder organizations, namely civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, research institutes and government agencies to assist them in piloting creative technologies and practices for poverty alleviation and sustainable development. On the other hand, the APFED Awards recognized innovative actions and promoted information dissemination of good practices. The two initiatives collected lessons and experiences from innovative activities implemented in the region in order to promote sustainable development and share knowledge and wisdom with other stakeholders concerned.

The result of the APFED Showcase Programme and APFED Awards has been a collection of valuable lessons from experimental, community-level sustainable development initiatives. The projects promoted societal transition to sustainable development through capacity building and civil society participation. The Showcase and Award projects enabled local stakeholders to realize their innovations in policy development, technology application, social mobilization and partnership building. Many have succeeded in meeting the environmental challenges and needs of local communities and are fit to act as proven-successful models for equitable sustainable development solutions in the areas of climate change, 3R, biodiversity, water and capacity development.

The casebook shares not only lessons from project innovations and implementation, but successful initial and long-term project results in pilot communities. It identifies an array of crucial project factors, highlighting the importance of focus on and involvement of the community, optimization of local resources, gender and social inclusion, stakeholder mobilization and empowerment, and linkage with macro policy. The Casebook on Innovative Activities for Achieving Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific aims to promote tested micro-solutions as scalable initiatives, able to be picked up and replicated as part of the broader strategy for sustainable development in the region.

APFED Showcase Programme Secretariat
United Nations Environment Programme
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific



Kaveh Zahedi

Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific,
United Nations Environment Programme

Environmental problems caused by unrestrained growth – from air pollution to destruction of forests and ecosystems - are becoming so severe in the countries of Asia-Pacific that they are undermining development. But many countries and communities in the region have put in place innovative pilot programmes and projects to promote economic development without undermining their natural resources and capital. The Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED) Showcase Programme has brought together key stakeholders, mobilized expertise and enabled civil society to experiment with innovative actions for sustainable development. These innovative actions cover a diverse range of issues including climate change, biodiversity and ecosystems, waste, water management and stakeholder empowerment. This casebook showcases the best of these innovative actions and draws out empirical lessons and valuable insights gained during the implementation of the projects and beyond. As countries look to finalise and begin implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals – the new global roadmap for development - the casebook brings together examples of successful initiatives that could offer insights for solving ongoing environmental challenges and helping to put Asia-Pacific on a more sustainable path. The casebook and the many extra ordinary APFED initiatives showcased here were made possible thanks to the generous support of the Government of Japan and the Ministry of the Environment. We hope the casebook offers a small glimpse of the possibilities of turning Asia-Pacific's development pathway towards greater environmental sustainability by investing in its innovative communities and peoples.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'K. Zahedi', written on a light blue background.



Yoriko Kawaguchi

Professor, Meiji Institute for Global Affairs, Meiji University,
Former APFED Chair, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Former Minister of the Environment,
Former Member of the House of Councillors of Japan

The Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED) brought together experts, institutes and stakeholders to spearhead innovation for sustainable development. I am pleased to learn the continuous progress in materializing peoples' compassion to improve the environment and livelihood. Our knowledge and spirit in pursuit of sustainable development must be amplified and transferred to the younger and future generations for effective actions. I look forward to hearing more success stories in Asia and the Pacific in achieving development.



Emil Salim

Chairman of Advisory Council to the President of the Republic of Indonesia,
Former Minister of the Environment

Asia and the Pacific still need to move forward more proactively and expeditiously toward achieving sustainable development. Each one of us has a role to play in advocating, supporting and participating in actions for achieving sustainable development. The APFED Showcase projects are the concrete evidences that prove the important role played by the stakeholders in pursuing sustainable development. We must further reinforce our efforts

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