

Aide Memoire

Regional Stakeholders Consultation on Cross-Border Governance Issues in Asia and the Pacific

18 – 19 May 2009
Bangkok, Thailand

Sponsorship and Purpose

The Cross-Border Governance in the Asia-Pacific Region (CBGov) Project (Initiation Phase 2008-2009) aims to enhance cross-border governance within the Asia-Pacific region by examining how to strengthen regional capacities to formulate and enforce appropriate regulatory policies, develop legal frameworks, clarify the roles of national and regional institutions, and protect the rights of marginalized groups through civil society and media watch-dog roles. It will focus on four critical cross-border issues: regulation of the movement of people across borders including refugees and migrants; more effective and efficient use of water resources; trade integration for human development; and combating human trafficking to protect human rights. A fifth issue examining infectious disease surveillance and response has recently been added to the agenda.

A Regional Stakeholders Consultation on Cross-Border Governance Issues in Asia and the Pacific is being organized by the United Nations Development Programme Regional Center (UNDP RCB) in partnership with the East-West Center (EWC). The purpose of the Consultation is to examine regional governance dimensions of cross-border issues in promoting human development in Asia and the Pacific and to identify focus areas for a possible UNDP-supported regional project on Cross-Border Governance (CBGov). It will be held from the 18 to 19 May 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Regional Importance of Cross-Border Governance

Asia and the Pacific is the fastest growing region in the world. However, despite its high rates of growth many developing countries within the region are not making significant progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In fact, none are currently on track to meet all of the goals by 2015. Advancement in the achievement of development objectives within Asia and the Pacific Region has been constrained by many factors: an inability to sustain government initiatives due to a limited relationship between larger governance processes and programme level intervention; weaknesses in basic transaction cost infrastructure including the judiciary, police, and revenue and land administration; high levels of corruption which impedes government reinvention; and the lack of a rigorous analysis of historical and legal context and socio-economic factors before initiating new government interventions. Other challenges are the environmental degradation, inter and intra-state conflicts, inadequate access to basic social services, and low levels of women's participation and the civil society engagement in economic and political activities.

Within this context countries within Asia and the Pacific have also become more interdependent as a result of globalization. Information, ideas, culture, people, resources, capital, and crime all move across

borders in larger numbers than ever before. As such, problems and challenges that face one nation often have a rippling impact throughout the region. Essential to this understanding is the issue of externalities, where costs and benefits may be assumed by countries and people who in any given situation have little or no control over the decisions which resulted in them. As a result, the international community has gained an improved understanding of the urgency and importance of addressing the challenges of development, cross-border issues, as well as other issues of shared concern.

Cross border issues are those which cannot be resolved successfully by isolated policy action at the national or sub-national levels. This is not to suggest that that sub-national governance institutions have a lesser role in working on cross-border governance issues, but merely reflects that these issues cross-over local and national boundaries. The list of issues is long and growing. The management of common resources such as water, trafficking of women and children, trade integration, and forced child labor are serious cross-border issues that require regional responses. Other issues include illegal migration, market access for LDCs, regional investment funds, as well as aid and debt relief for the poorest and disadvantaged countries to address imbalances within the region. In order to address the cross-border issues faced by countries within the Asia and Pacific region, it is essential to forge strategic alliances at the regional level which support the development of consolidated approaches through regional platforms for dialogue.

Cross-Border Issues

As a part of the CBGov Initiation Project the Regional Stakeholders Consultation on Cross-Border Governance Issues in Asia and the Pacific will examine the governance of five serious cross-border issues in the Asia-Pacific region:

- 1. Trade Integration for Human Development**
- 2. Movement of People**
- 3. Human Trafficking**
- 4. Infectious Disease Surveillance and Response**
- 5. Water Management**

The Governance Challenge

Rapid globalization has led to increased flows between countries of goods, services, capital, ideas, information and people. Within this context, cross-border governance issues have become increasingly identified as requiring additional attention, as the breadth of circumstances in which Member States must now coordinate their actions with others in order to successfully address and resolve issues which were previously defined as being primarily of a domestic nature has multiplied.

Each of the above issues requires significant cross-border coordination between national governments, as well as good systems in place to enable consultation with other stakeholders and collaboration between national and local governments. In turn, this cross-border coordination requires that

governmental agencies and departments be aware of which existing procedures may be already in place, and new steps needed to improve the process. When these procedures are not clearly defined or available, this is when issues may “fall through the cracks” and receive insufficient follow-up and resolution.

Over the past two decades, governance has received increasing prominence as a key success factor in the achievement of a wide range of items on the UN development agenda. During this time, the United Nations has organized conferences and summits on key issues of global concern, including the environment, human rights, human settlements, social development, status of women, children, and financing for development. One of the most critical issues emerging from each of the above has been the central role of governance systems and institutions in promoting economic development, increasing the access of basic services to the vast majority of the poor, eradicating poverty, enforcing human rights legislation, enhancing the participation of women in the development process, and protecting the quality of the environment.

In recent years, support from the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen governance within Asia and the Pacific has materialized in three distinctive phases or generations. The first generation of governance projects in the region addressed the need for the improvement of public sector capacity in policy-making, implementation, and evaluation at both the systemic and sectoral levels. In the second generation of governance projects, a shift occurred from “government to governance.” This shift entailed a recognition of the increasingly overlapping spheres of interest of government, civil society, and the private sector; and hence the need to find new methods of encouraging democratic, participatory, and transparent governance. The third generation of governance projects within the Asia Pacific region represents a natural progression in understanding of ways to improve governance in line with changing global conditions and takes into account the lessons learned during the previous generations. Member States must now coordinate their actions with others in order to successfully address and resolve multiple issues which were previously defined as being primarily of a domestic nature.

To address the challenges that cross-border governance presents, each cross-border issues will be scrutinized through four specific governance lenses and will include specific and comparative examples of national plans, regional undertakings, and inter-regional, and transnational activities. These four lenses are:

1. Governance institutions at national and regional levels
2. Governance policies and policy-making
3. Legal framework and equity considerations
4. Vital governance actors: civil society and the media

Objectives

The objectives of the Regional Stakeholders Consultation are to:

- Identify key issues and trends in Asia and the Pacific on cross-border-governance related to: regional trade integration for human development; movement of people including refugees and migrants; human trafficking; health focusing on infectious disease surveillance and response; and effective and efficient water management; and in Asia and the Pacific
- Identify regional governance mechanisms and institutional arrangements in Asia and the Pacific to effectively respond to the issues and trends identified above
- Examine how cooperation can be enhanced across borders and nation-states through the four governance lenses
- Provide a platform to review policies, legal frameworks, and roles of civil society and media in dealing with the issues in selected countries
- Identify areas of focus for a possible UNDP-supported Project on Cross-Border Governance.

Modalities and Expected Outcomes

The participants will include policymakers and government officials, civil society organizations, resource persons and representatives of international organizations and training and research institutions.

Over the course of the two days, five senior-level resource persons will present each issue in their regional context in plenary sessions. This will then be followed by presentations and discussions by the stakeholders in the region. In the afternoon of the second day, participants will be divided into five working groups demarcated by each cross-border issue and will discuss each through the four governance lenses (detailed guidance in the Agenda). In the last session, the groups will present summary of discussions and highlight recommendations on how to strengthen regional governance mechanisms in each of the issues covered by the consultations.

The consultations will contribute to our understanding of the governance mechanisms involved with cross-border issues as they relate to human development. Having provided an inter-agency and regional platform to review policies, legal frameworks, and roles of civil society and media on the identified issues, the consultations will specifically:

- 1) Facilitate experience-sharing on key cross border governance issues and trends which are priorities at national and/or regional levels;
- 2) Determine where gaps exist so that resources can be made available to effectively respond to the issues, possibly through the formulation of a demand-driven regional initiative and further policy dialogue; and
- 3) Promote closer collaboration among regional agencies and relevant national stakeholders on follow up action.

Edited versions of the papers will be posted on the UNDP SNAP portal and East-West Center website and will be published by the United Nations University Press for wider circulation among the training and research institutions in the region. A Policy Brief will be prepared for dissemination among stakeholders in the region.

Contacts

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Monday, 18 May 2009	
08.30 – 09.00	Registration (Welcome)
09.00 – 09.40	<p>Opening Statements</p> <p>Gwi Yeop-Son United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Thailand</p> <p>Nancy Lewis Director East-West Center</p> <p>Introduction of Participants</p> <p>Setting the Context: Objectives, Review of Agenda and Methodology</p> <p>G. Shabbir Cheema Senior Fellow and Director Asia-Pacific Governance and Democracy Initiative (AGDI) East-West Center</p> <p>Pauline Tamesis Regional Governance Programme Coordinator UNDP Regional Center in Bangkok</p>
9.40 – 10:15 First Session	<p>Keynote Presentation</p> <p>Understanding the Cross Border Governance Challenges in Asia Pacific Representative from ASEAN or SAARC (TBC)</p> <p>This session will provide the substantive overview of the cross border governance issues in the Asia Pacific region, particularly in the current context of the global financial crisis. It will set the stage for discussing the interlinkage among the five themes identified and stimulate exchange on how various stakeholders, including UNDP, can begin to address the challenges.</p>
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee / Tea Break
10:30 – 12:30	Presentation and Discussion of Cross Border Issues

<p>Second Session</p>	<p>Regional Study on Governance Dimensions on Trade Promotion for Poverty Reduction in Asia and the Pacific (30 minutes)</p> <p>Taeho Bark Professor, Graduate School of International Studies Seoul National University</p> <p>Discussant: Yumiko Yamamoto, Trade Adviser, UNDP Regional Center Colombo (15 mins)</p> <p>Country Presentation(s):</p> <p>Dr. Rene Ofreneo, University of the Philippines, School of Labour and Industrial Relations (TBC), and</p> <p>Representative from Malaysia, India, Indonesia, Philippines, and/or China, TBC (10 minutes each)</p> <p>Chair: TBC</p> <p>Facilitated Discussions: (60 minutes)</p>
<p>12.30 – 13.30</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>13.30 – 15.30</p> <p>Third Session</p>	<p>Presentation and Discussion of Cross Border Issues</p> <p>Regional Study on Governance Dimensions of Water Management in Asia and the Pacific (30 minutes)</p> <p>Clyde Michael Douglass Director, Globalization Research Center University of Hawaii</p> <p>Discussant: Anna Tengberg, Policy Adviser on Water, UNDP Regional Center in Bangkok (TBC) (15 mins)</p> <p>Country Presentation(s):</p> <p>Mr. Poonsin Srisangkom, Thailand National Coordinator, GEF/SGP on the South China Sea Cooperation and PEMSEA (TBC)</p> <p>Representative from Mekong River Commission or Coral Triangle (TBC)</p> <p>Representative from selected countries (e.g. Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Pakistan, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, TBC (10 minutes each)</p> <p>Chair: UNEP, TBC</p> <p>Facilitated Discussions: (60 minutes)</p>
<p>15.30 – 15.45</p>	<p>Coffee / Tea Break</p>
<p>15.45 – 17:15</p>	<p>Presentation and Discussion of Cross Border Issues</p>

Fourth Session	<p>Regional Study on Governance Dimensions and the Mechanisms for Effective Cooperation in Addressing Infectious Disease Surveillance and Response (30 minutes)</p> <p>William J. Long School Chair Sam Nunn School of International Affairs Georgia Institute of Technology</p> <p>Chair and Discussant: Maureen Birmingham, Representative, WHO (TBC)</p> <p>Country Presentation(s):</p> <p>Dr. Bhounpheng Philavong, Assistant to the Director and Head of Health and Population Unit, ASEAN (TBC)</p> <p>Representative from selected countries (eg. Thailand, Laos PDR, Cambodia, China TBC (10 minutes each)</p> <p>Facilitated Discussions: (30 minutes)</p>
17:15 – 17:30	<p>Wrap Up and Summary of Day 1</p> <p>Simon Finley and Johanna Cunningham, Rapporteurs</p>
18.00 – 20.00	<p>Reception</p>
<p><i>Tuesday, 19 May 2009</i></p>	
<p>08.30 – 10.30</p> <p>Fifth Session</p>	<p>Presentation and Discussion of Cross Border Issues</p> <p>Regional Study on Governance Dimensions of Migration in Asia and the Pacific (30 minutes)</p> <p>Graeme John Hugo Professor of Geography The University of Adelaide</p> <p>Discussant: Federico Soda, Regional Programme Development Officer for Southeast Asia International Organization for Migration (IOM) (15 mins)</p> <p>Regional/Country Presentation(s): (10 minutes each)</p> <p>Dr. Rosalia Sciortino, Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR) Mahidol University, (15 mins)</p> <p>Promboon Panithapakdi, Director, CARE Thailand (Raks Thai) (TBC)</p> <p>Chair: Irena Vojakova-Sorollano, Regional Representative for Southeast Asia, International Organization for Migration (TBC)</p> <p>Facilitated Discussions: (60 minutes)</p>
10.30 – 10:45	<p>Coffee / Tea Break</p>

<p>10.45 – 12.45 Sixth Session</p>	<p>Presentation and Discussion of Cross Border Issues</p> <p>Regional Study on Governance Dimensions of Human Trafficking and Human Rights in Asia and the Pacific (30 minutes)</p> <p>Mely Caballero-Anthony Associate Professor S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) Singapore</p> <p>Discussant(s):</p> <p>Matt Friedman, Regional Manager, UN Inter Agency Project on Human Trafficking, (10 mins) and</p> <p>Homayoun Alizadeh, Regional Representative South-East Asia Regional Office, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)</p> <p>Country Presentations: (10 minutes each)</p> <p>Madam Wan Yan, Director General, China (TBC)</p> <p>Madam San Arun, Secretary of State, Ministry of Women’s Affairs, Cambodia and COMMIT Chair (TBC)</p> <p>Chair: Homayoun Alizadeh, (OHCHR), TBC</p> <p>Facilitated Discussions: (60 minutes)</p>
<p>12.45 – 13.45</p>	<p>LUNCH</p>
<p>13.45 – 16:15 Seventh Session</p>	<p>Working Group Discussions</p> <p>Participants will break up into 4 groups (according to topic) to discuss emerging issues and identify required responses from national and regional perspectives. Using the four governance lenses, each group will develop responses to the following questions: (1) What are the policies and institutions, legal and regulatory framework, and roles of civil society and media at the national level dealing with this issue? (2) What are the present regional governance mechanisms and institutional arrangements to deal with the issue and how effective are these? (3) Identify areas of focus of the UNDP supported program of capacity development for cross-border governance. Moderator and rapporteur for each working group will be pre-selected in advance. Resource person will be available to facilitate the discussions.</p> <p>Working Group Facilitators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Trade (Yumiko Yamamoto, UNDP RCC) 2) Migration (Rosalia Sciortino, IPSR) - TBC 3) Human Trafficking (Matt Friedman, UNIAP) - TBC 4) Water Management (Ana Tengberg)- TBC
<p>16.15 – 17.15</p>	<p>Report Back from Working Group Discussions</p>

Eighth Session	This session will present summary of discussions from each working group and highlight recommendations for improving regional mechanisms in the five cross border issues covered by the consultations. Each working group will be given 7 minutes each for report back. Plenary discussions follow.
17:15 – 18:00	Summary of National / Regional Follow-Up and Closing (Preliminary Ideas for the Possible Project, Evaluation of the Workshop) Shabbir Cheema (EWC) and Pauline Tamesis (UNDP)
<i>Wednesday, 20 May 2009</i>	
09.00 – 17.00 (Bilateral Meetings)	Follow up meetings with UN Agencies and Other Partners Working Group Discussions

Brief Bios of Background Paper Authors

Taeho Bark

Taeho Bark is currently Professor, Graduate School of International Studies at Seoul National University. His research interests include International Trade, Foreign Direct Investment and International Trading System and Negotiations.

Mely Caballero-Anthony

Mely Caballero-Anthony is an Associate Professor at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Singapore and Head of the RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies. Her research interests include regionalism and regional security in Asia Pacific, multilateral security cooperation, politics and international relations in ASEAN, conflict prevention and management, as well as human security. At RSIS, she teaches courses on Non-Traditional Security, and Government and Politics in Southeast Asia. She also lectures regularly on special topics related to regionalism and security in Asia-Pacific at the SAFTI Military Institute (Command and Staff College), Singapore Police Academy and Civil Defence College.

Clyde Michael Douglas

Mike Douglass is the Director of the Globalization Research Center and is Professor and former Chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Hawai'i (UH). He received his Ph.D. in Urban Planning from UCLA. He previously taught at the Institute of Social Studies (Netherlands) and at the School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia (U.K.). He has also been a Visiting Professor at Stanford University, UCLA, and Thammasat University. A specialist in planning in Asia, he has lived and worked for many years in Asian countries, including Japan, Korea, Indonesia and Thailand. He has joined numerous research and planning projects and has been a consultant for international development institutions as well as national and local governments in Asia. He has advised university programs in planning education in Indonesia, Australia, China, and the U.S. Current research in Asia: 2004-2007 grants total approximately US\$1 million in several research projects and training programs, including those in (1) livable cities (the environment, personal well-being, and public space); (2) urbanization and civic space with research teams in 10 countries; (3) mega-urban region dynamics (6 cities); (4) international migration and the globalization of householding (Vietnam, Singapore, Taiwan and Japan); (5) short-course training for urban specialists in research and planning; (6) The global water agenda and the rural-urban transition in Asia (Vietnam); (7) rural-urban linkages and rural regional development.

Graeme Hugo

Graeme Hugo is a University Professorial Research Fellow, Professor of Geography and Director of the National Centre for Social Applications of Geographical Information Systems at the University of Adelaide. He is the author of over two hundred books, articles in scholarly journals and chapters in books, as well as a large number of conference papers and reports. In 2002 he secured a \$1.125 million ARC Federation Fellowship over five years for his research project, "The new paradigm of international migration to and from Australia: dimensions, causes and implications". His research interests include:

- Urban and population geography and demography, social geography, demographic trends (especially population mobility) and development in Southeast Asia. The impact of development on economic and social well-being in Southeast Asia.
- Population trends and their implications in Australia
- Immigration, its changing patterns, causes and implications for social and economic change.
- Ageing, its changing patterns and implications for social and economic change.
- Internal Migration and Urbanization in Australia and Asia.

William J. Long

Dr. Long is Professor and Chair of the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at the Georgia Institute of Technology. His research focuses on international conflict resolution and international trade and technology transfer and their relationship to national security, economic competitiveness, and international cooperation. He is the author of three books *War and Reconciliation* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2003), *Trade and Technology Incentives and Bilateral Cooperation* (Ann Arbor; University of Michigan Press, 1996), and *U.S. Export Control Policy* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1989) and numerous articles and book chapters. He is the recipient of research and teaching awards from the Council on Foreign Relations, Hewlett, Pew, and MacArthur Foundations, the Fulbright Commission, and the U.S. Department of Education. Before entering academia, he practiced international law at the Washington, D.C. offices of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison and Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld.