



ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change

A. Background

1. The ten Southeast Asian countries situated on an area of 4.5 million km² are one of the world's most vulnerable regions to climate change due to its long coastlines of 173,000km (approximately 14% of world total), high concentration of 590 million population (about 130 person/km², while the world population density is about 49 person/km²)¹, economic activities in coastal areas and heavy reliance on agriculture, fisheries, forestry and other natural resources. Climate change in the region may have adverse impacts on livelihoods and communities.

2. The high vulnerability of the region to the adverse impacts of climate change has been recognized and indicated in many reports from important ASEAN meetings. An ASEAN climate change initiative (ACCI) designed for responding to climate change and addressing its impacts had been indicated in the Blueprint of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community of the Declaration on the Roadmap for ASEAN Community 2009-2015 signed at the 14th ASEAN Summit in Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand. The Terms of Reference of the ACCI were endorsed by ASEAN Ministers at the 11th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment held on 29th October 2009 in Singapore, which included the establishment of the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC) to enhance closer and deeper regional and international cooperation on climate change.

3. The ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Joint Response to Climate Change (otherwise known as "the Statement") which was adopted on 9 April 2010 at the 16th ASEAN Summit *recognizes* that the Southeast Asian region is vulnerable to climate change which will seriously affect most of aspects of livelihood and limit ASEAN development options for the future, including regional efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; and also *shares* the vision for an ASEAN Community resilient to climate change, supporting national and global efforts to combat against climate change consistent with our common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The Statement includes the possibility of developing an ASEAN action plan to better understand and respond to climate change (Paragraph 21).

4. In reference to the above, an ASEAN Action Plan to implement the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Joint Response to Climate Change (AAP-JRCC) has been developed by AMS and is set down below.

5. The AAP-JRCC is a living document, guided by the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2009-2015 and the ACCI.

B. Strategic Objectives for Addressing Climate Change in the Region

6. The strategic objectives for addressing climate change in the region are as follows:

- (i) To leverage activities previously identified in ACCI including opportunities for regional cooperation on adaptation and mitigation, and seek support in climate friendly technology, knowledge transfer, finance, and capacity building.
- (ii) To enhance research collaboration on climate change science in ASEAN.
- (iii) To contribute to the global negotiation process of the UNFCCC through a common understanding, and where possible, a common position, and the collaboration to effectively reflect the concerns of the Statement.

C. Programme of Action for Addressing Climate Change in the Region

7. The Programme of Action consists of, but is not limited to, the following activities:

C.1 Adaptation

- (i) Sharing information on ongoing and planned efforts on research and development (R&D) in hydrological and agricultural management and practices that aim to enhance food security, agricultural productivity and water resources sustainability;
- (ii) Sharing information on ongoing and planned adaptation efforts in urban, rural, and coastal areas;
- (iii) Enhancing existing ASEAN climate/meteorological/oceanographical centers and networks to possibly look into:
 - Assessing climate change impacts on socio-economic development, health, environment protection for example by establishing a network of academics to undertake a regional vulnerability study on climate change;
 - Assessing detailed climate change impacts, vulnerability, adaptation options and needs for the region and sub-regions such as the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) and Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS);
 - Promoting regional climate information/data sharing in order to develop ASEAN climate change impact scenarios, and also to provide inputs to the Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);
 - Enhancing climate/meteorological/oceanographical observatory systems in the ASEAN region;

- Downscaling global climate models to produce climate change impact scenarios at the regional, national and local levels.
- (iv) Developing ASEAN work programme to address loss and damage, and options for risk management and reduction.

C.2 Mitigation

- (i) Sharing best practices on mitigating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from energy production and use, agriculture, land use, land-use change and forestry (including REDD/REDD+), industrial processes, and waste in the region:
- Highlighting the co-benefits of achieving GHG emission reduction and sustainable economic growth (such as through clean energy, renewable energy, energy efficiency, etc.);
- (ii) Promoting a common understanding on Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), and Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) through workshop(s) and other activities;
- (iii) Sharing information and experience on promoting, developing, and enhancing Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) activities;
- (iv) Exploring the possibility to develop a carbon cap and trade system in the region.

C.3 Finance and Investment

- (i) Promoting common understanding on institutional arrangements for accessing multilateral funds such as Green Climate Fund, Green Investment Fund, Adaptation Fund, etc;
- Sharing information and experience on promoting private sector investment in low carbon development, production, and technology;
 - Sharing information and experiences on accessing multilateral funds.

C.4 Technology Transfer

- (i) Facilitating international support for technology transfer to ASEAN, including through the UNFCCC Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), based on the technology needs assessment for mitigation and adaptation;
- (ii) Sharing information and experiences on strengthening science and policy interface towards low carbon development and green economy;
- (iii) Establishing strategic alliances with private sector to promote R&D collaboration and technology transfer and commercialisation.

C.5 Capacity Building

- (i) Facilitating regional and international support for capacity building for ASEAN based on capacity building needs for mitigation and adaptation; such as organizing training courses on developing national GHG inventories for AMS; taking into account all relevant stakeholders, including government officials, national experts and the private sector.
- (ii) Facilitating long-term regional cooperation in strengthening negotiating skills;
- (iii) Sharing information and experiences on strengthening of adaptive capacities of communities, including through the enhancement of education on climate change, towards a low carbon society.

C.6 Other Matters of the Regional Cooperation

- (i) Encouraging cooperation/collaboration with other existing regional and sub-regional institutions/initiatives, for example, Greater Mekong Sub-region, Mekong River Commission (MRC) and Heart of Borneo initiative;
- (ii) Promoting a better understanding of climate change and trade-related issues;
- (iii) Promoting research cooperation/collaboration in climate related sciences.

D. Implementation Mechanism

8. The AWGCC will serve as the implementing body under the framework of ACCI for the implementation of this Action Plan following established ASEAN procedures. The ACCI will function as a consultative forum to promote coordination and collaboration among various ASEAN sectoral bodies dealing with sectors impacted by climate change such as energy, forestry, agriculture, disaster management etc to ensure a well coordinated and integrated approach to address climate change;

9. Regional and international sources of funding will be sought to implement this Action Plan.

Adoption

The ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change was endorsed in principle by the 13th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (IAMME) on 18 October 2011 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.