

South-East Asian Training of Trainers Seminar on Green Growth Policy Tools for Low-carbon Development, 31 August to 5 September 2009, Bangkok, Thailand

Background Note

Navigating towards a sustainable development path and adapting to climate change are enormous tasks that can appear beyond the capacity of many countries. In this light, there has been an increasing request for capacity development assistance from governments in the region. To meet such needs ESCAP has designed a unique training package for Green Growth in the Asian and Pacific region. Modeled on a recent report from the Asian Development Bank, entitled '*The Economics of Climate Change in Southeast Asia*', and with generous support from the Government of the United Kingdom, ESCAP has taken steps to include a session on policy tools aimed at fostering low-carbon development. As the basis of the training session, the report will be used to inform discussion, guiding the review of various adaptation and mitigation policy options that exist for countries in the region.

Recognizing that capacity development is a process in itself, ESCAP's Training of Trainers (TOT) Programme works to assist building individual, organizational and institutional capabilities to ensure Green Growth goals can be defined and realised at the national level. Training is targeted towards middle-level government managers and ministerial officials from South-East Asian countries. Each seminar day will offer a variety of participatory training solutions including group exercises, negotiations, role playing and problem solving case studies that work towards improving knowledge and skills related to developing policies for:

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Low-carbon development
- Sustainable infrastructure
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Greening of markets and business
- Green tax and budget reform

As part of the programme, participants will be asked to take part in an evaluation exercise carried out by an external organisation appointed by the Government of the United Kingdom – to assess their understanding of Green Growth policies before the Seminar, and afterwards.

Once the participants have completed the course, they will be awarded a certificate as Trainer of Trainers for Green Growth Policy Tools and will be provided with a full set of training tools for future use.

Upon completion of the Seminar, it is expected that participants will have improved their:

- i. understanding of the potential impacts of climate change and the economic rationale for taking early action within South-East Asia;
- ii. capacity to develop and implement policies and programmes that contribute to Green Growth and low-carbon development, particularly in regards to climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- iii. knowledge of how to develop and apply socio-economic policy instruments to improve environmental management and performance;
- iv. ability to identify effective policies and programmes for efficient and cleaner production, management and use of energy resources on the sectoral, national, sub-regional and regional level.

It is hoped that through enhancing individual capacities, that consequently in the long-term, national and institutional capacity for achieving low-carbon Green Growth will also be improved.