

CONCEPT PAPER
ASEM GREEN GROWTH FORUM
Proposed by Viet Nam, Korea, the United Kingdom, Germany and the Netherlands

1. BACKGROUND

“Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time”, pinpointed the Copenhagen Accord of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in December 2009. Many countries have realized that the global economic growth over the past 50 years has been achieved at a huge cost to the environment and ecosystem. While global GDP more than doubled between 1981 and 2005, 60% of the world’s ecosystems were degraded or exploited unsustainably. The current patterns of growth and development, that consume rather than renew natural capital, will eventually undermine the source of our security, livelihoods and well-being. There has been vivid evidence of close link between ecosystem degradation and poverty.

As a result, countries are convinced that green growth can be a long term and sustainable solution which could be one of the greatest journeys of the 21st century. The United Nations Environment Programme has been coordinating a Green Economy Initiative that helps governments to accelerate the transition to green economy. Economic and Social Committee of the Asia – Pacific has been working closely with regional countries on a Green Growth Strategy for Sustainable Initiative for the Asia – Pacific Region. Asia and Europe have been making tremendous efforts by issuing “the ASEAN Vision 2020” – toward “a clean and green ASEAN” and “the Europe 2020: a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth”.

In order to make practical contribution to regional and global endeavors, Viet Nam, Korea, UK, Germany and the Netherlands put forward an initiative of organising the ASEM Green Growth Forum.

2. OBJECTIVES

(i) Raising awareness of ASEM governments and people of the urgent need of transition to green growth.

(ii) Exchanging experience on how to develop green growth policies and measures of implementation as well as making recommendations on possible cooperation in research and development.

(iii) Further contributing to the decision of COP 16/CMP 6 to be held in Mexico in November, 2010 and to regional and international schemes on green growth.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

(i) Cosponsors will work closely to organise the Forum in Viet Nam in 2011.

(ii) Any further contribution by ASEM members is encouraged.

(ii) Officials, policy makers, experts and business people from ASEM members as well as representatives from related regional and international institutions will be invited.

(iii) Organizing cost will be covered by the host while traveling and accommodation expenses will be born by participants.
