

Web Press Announcement

On-line E-learning Facility for Green Growth Capacity Development

Bangkok (15 September 2011)

In response to many regional requests, ESCAP, the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and the Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (here: RRC.AP) have partnered with the Government of the United Kingdom to establish an **On-line E-learning Facility**. This Facility will provide capacity building in Green Growth economic policies for policy makers and government officials in Asia and the Pacific.

The fundamentals of green growth policies are introduced to participants through “a Map to Green Growth” - a first of its kind on-line e-learning tool. This offers participants a set of interactive and visually appealing training modules. Certificates will be issued upon successful completion of each module, and after submission of cases documenting examples of national green growth policies and actions. Participants will be coached by an on-line trainer, and will have access to an on-line reference library with readings and video materials on Low Carbon Green Growth and the Economics of Climate Change.

The **On-line E-learning Facility** will be expanded in 2012 and 2013 to provide further knowledge and learning opportunities on various low carbon green growth tracks, policies, and case studies. It will also cover more practical skills on issues, such as livable cities, payment for environmental services, eco-efficiency indicators, sustainable water resources management, waste for energy, pro-poor green business, and many others areas.

The Asia-Pacific region has been at the forefront of much of the world's recent growth in economic activity, enabling many countries to make significant progress in reducing poverty and enhancing the quality of life for their citizens. However, this growth has primarily been based on environmentally unsustainable, high carbon growth patterns that have strained the carrying capacity of the environmental endowment of countries throughout the region. It is anticipated that countries in the region may not be able to sustain current and projected economic growth trajectories over the medium to long-term due to dwindling natural resources, depleting ecosystems and volatility of energy prices. In response to these issues, Green Growth has been adopted as one of the regional strategies for achieving sustainable development at the 5th and 6th Ministerial Conferences on Environment and Development for Asia and the Pacific, held in March 2005 (Seoul) and October 2010 (Astana), respectively. Green Growth is a policy focus for Asia and the Pacific that emphasizes environmentally sustainable economic progress to foster low - carbon, socially inclusive development. Among the various pathways to Green Growth are: Sustainable Consumption and Production, Sustainable Infrastructure, Green Tax and Budget Reform, Greening of Business, Investment in Natural Capital, Eco- and Resource Efficiency, Low Carbon Economics

All good practices and case studies made available through the **On-line e-Learning Facility** will form the core of an on-line **Green Growth Community of Practice**. This is conceived as a virtual space for sharing knowledge and practical “how to do it” learning. It is expected to grow into an on-line green growth virtual space of ideas and opportunities for regional and global green growth partnership.

The target audience for this on-line e-learning programme includes middle-level government managers and ministerial officials. In time, the **On-line e-Learning Facility** will be offered to private-sector decision makers, NGOs, university students and civil society users as well.

The first Green Growth on-line e-learning course will be launched on 3 October 2011 and will last for six weeks. Expressions of interest should be sent to escap-ggcdp@un.org with a copy to eLGGCB@ait.asia by 28 September 2011. For further information please refer to the www.greengrowth.org, <http://www.extension.ait.asia> and <http://www.rrcap.unep.org> websites.

Each successful participant in this programme will receive a “Trainer of Trainers” certificate issued by ESCAP and AIT Extension and will become a member of a virtual network of **Green Growth Champions**.

