

**Statement of Participants
Asian Green Governors Roundtable
Singapore, 12 November 2009**

A Roundtable meeting of "Asian Green Governors" was convened on 12 November 2009 in Singapore on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting convened by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Carbon Conservation (CC). The purpose of the meeting was to allow sub-national leaders from forested Asian countries an opportunity to learn about current developments regarding the Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) mechanism.

Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation in developing countries, including the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, or REDD+ has been proposed as part of the negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on a post-2012 climate change regime to provide a new incentives to arrest forest loss and degradation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries. This approach was introduced as a greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation strategy in the Bali Action Plan, which provides a roadmap for the UN intergovernmental climate talks leading to an agreed outcome in Copenhagen.

The Roundtable heard that the Asia Pacific region, with one-quarter of the world's land mass but almost 60% of the global population – including roughly 600 million people living on less than \$2 per day – faces grave challenges to its further development from the adverse impacts of climate change, which threaten food and livelihood security, public health, and access to water, and exacerbate the effects of other environmental and social strains, including transboundary haze and extreme weather events.

Roundtable discussions took account of the fact that deforestation accounts for around 20% of global GHG emissions, with a recent ADB study indicating that up to 75% of Southeast Asia's emissions are from this source. The REDD+ approach, when combined with afforestation and reforestation efforts and close attention to the needs of forest-dependent communities and indigenous peoples (the so-called REDD+ approach) aims to protect and restore forests for global benefit through sequestration of carbon from the atmosphere and to provide local benefits through activities such as improved forest protected areas management, adjustments to logging and land conversion practices, and restoration of degraded lands and watersheds.

The participating Asian Governors represented both those who had already begun pilot REDD project designs and related preparatory measures at the sub-national level and those who are still developing REDD concepts in their provinces. The Governors also agreed to identify and initiate potential subnational pilot projects for REDD+, targeting compensation under the REDD mechanism to support economic development and improved environmental management in their provinces and as part of national REDD or REDD+ strategies.

The Roundtable participants found that the REDD+ approach offers tremendous promise in creating a new set of incentives for the preservation and sustainable management of forests, and they encouraged the APEC leaders, the international development community, and those negotiating a post-2012 climate change agreement to bring this concept to reality so that the REDD+ mechanism can provide tangible local and global benefits.

This Statement of Participants is agreed to [or In addition to resource persons and other Asian representatives, the meeting was attended by] by the Governors or Vice Governors of the following States or Provinces: Albay Province, Republic of the Philippines; Central Kalimantan, Republic of Indonesia; South Sumatra, Republic of Indonesia; West Kalimantan, Republic of Indonesia; West Papua, Republic of Indonesia; and Attapeu, Lao People's Democratic Republic and also the meeting attendees from the private sector and development banks.