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Water and Sanitation / Environmental Governance

2008 Annual Report



Environmental Cooperation-Asia (ECO-Asia) Water and Sanitation / Environmental Governance Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report

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Acronyms

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEAN ESC	ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities Initiative
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADFIAP	Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia
AECEN	Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network
BBC	Baras Business Council (Philippines)
BNWSSC	Bac Ninh Water Supply and Sewerage Company (Vietnam)
BPI	Best Practices Inventory
CAC	Compliance Assistance Center
ECO-Asia	Environmental Cooperation-Asia
ECAC	Environmental Compliance Assistance Center (West Bengal, India)
EIP	Efficiency Improvement Program
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
IEC	Information and Education Campaign
IGES	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (Japan)
INECE	International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement
IWA	International Water Association
IWK	Indah Water Konsortium (Malaysia)
LLDA	Laguna Lake Development Authority (Philippines)
LWUA	Local Water Utility Authority (Philippines)
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MJP	Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran (India)
MRC	Mekong River Commission
NWS&DB	National Water Supply & Drainage Board (Sri Lanka)
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PCD	Pollution Control Department (Thailand)
PMP	Performance Management Plan
PUB	Public Utilities Board (Singapore)
PWA	Provincial Water Authority (Thailand)
RDMA	Regional Development Mission/Asia
REO	Regional Environment Office
SEAWUN	Southeast Asian Water Utilities Network
SEPA	State Environmental Protection Administration (China)
TAF	The Asia Foundation
TbEIA	Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
URENCO	Urban Environment Company (Vietnam)
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Campaigns
WBPCB	West Bengal Pollution Control Board
WHO	World Health Organization
WMA	Wastewater Management Authority (Thailand)
WOP	Water Operator Partnership
WSP	Water Safety Plans

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SUMMARY

Under USAID contract number 486-C-00-05-00010-00, AECOM International Development (AECOM) and its principal subcontractor, the Asia Foundation, implement the Environmental Cooperation-Asia (ECO-Asia) project for the base period of 2006-2009 in support of the Regional Environment Office (REO) of the USAID Regional Development Mission Asia (RDMA). The ECO-Asia contract has three components: (1) improved access to clean water and sanitation for the urban poor; (2) regional environmental governance and transboundary cooperation; and (3) overarching program support. In FY 2008, ECO-Asia met or exceeded most of its targets under the Performance Management Plan (PMP) (see Table 1). This annual report provides a summary of achievements against program targets. The annex contains ECO-Asia Success Stories in USAID's Telling Our Story format developed in FY 2008.

Water and Sanitation

Under the Water and Sanitation component, ECO-Asia continued to increase access to reliable and sustainable water and sanitation services to support regional health security and prosperity in Asia. As the principal regional initiative implementing the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act in Asia, ECO-Asia promotes achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and disseminates and replicates results through regional networks. During FY 2008, ECO-Asia implemented 13 twinning partnerships and pilot projects with cities and utilities in 8 countries, resulting in improved access to water and sanitation for over 248,000 persons, adoption of 25 improved laws, policies and plans for water and sanitation service delivery, increased capacity of over 60 water sector practitioners, and mobilized nearly \$400,000 in non-USAID sources.

Key accomplishments in FY 2008 include establishing WaterLinks, a new regional network that facilitates regional utility twinning, capacity building and knowledge sharing between Water Operator Partnerships (WOPs). WaterLinks will serve as the regional network for Asia for the Global Water Operator Partnership Alliance, led by UN-Habitat. Starting in FY 2009, ECO-Asia will "package" all water and sanitation activities as WaterLinks activities.

In FY 2008, ECO-Asia continued to partner with the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) in support of the ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities initiative by facilitating three city-to-city twinning partnerships aimed at improved sanitation services. ASEAN has emerged as a key ECO-Asia partner by supporting replication and dissemination of water and sanitation best practices.

AECOM launched ECO-Asia's Water and Sanitation activity in China in FY 2008 with a focus on demonstrating and replicating best practices for improving and expanding water and sanitation services delivery in key urban centers through open, transparent and accountable governance systems. ECO-Asia established the project office at the Asia Foundation office in Beijing, hired project staff, and implemented pilot projects and twinning initiatives with the World Health Organization (WHO) and World Bank.

In early FY 2008, RDMA organized an evaluation of the ECO-Asia Water and Sanitation program to better target resources and strengthen results. The evaluation determined that the program is on track to achieve results. Key recommendations focused on strengthening replication and dissemination of best practices, twinning and regional partnerships, regional capacity building, and enhanced engagement with civil society groups. AECOM fully implemented these recommendations in FY 2008.

Overall, ECO-Asia Water and Sanitation program performance is on track with mission goals. During the first three years on contract implementation, ECO-Asia has achieved program requirements by demonstrating best practices and developing strong collaborative linkages with regional partners and networks. In FY 2009, ECO-Asia will further expanding twinning partnerships and use WaterLinks to further disseminate results and catalyze wide-spread adoption of solutions that are best for Asia.

Environmental Governance

For the Environmental Governance component, ECO-Asia implements two main activities: (1) support for the Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (AECEN) in promoting improved environmental compliance and enforcement; and (2) support for the Mekong River Commission (MRC) in strengthening access to improved water services by managing conflict in the Mekong River basin.

Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network. ECO-Asia continued to strengthen AECEN, a regional practitioner network, by serving as the AECEN Secretariat and working with AECEN member agencies at the country and regional levels on: (1) country program assessments; (2) pilot and twinning activities on improved policies, practices and systems; (3) AECEN Annual Forum; (4) Asian Justices Forum on the Environment; (5) targeted regional studies; (6) specialized regional trainings; and (7) AECEN website (www.aecen.org).

In FY 2008, West Bengal, India joined AECEN, bringing the total number of country members to 12. Through AECEN, RDMA catalyzed the adoption of 10 policies, laws and regulations, and trained over 500 practitioners from over 40 agencies and organizations, and mobilized over \$250,000 in non-USAID sources. These results met or exceeded activity targets.

Major FY 2008 accomplishments for AECEN include the designation of 117 environmental courts in the Philippines, enactment of a new wastewater discharge fee program for the textile industry in Sri Lanka, development of new pollution inspection guidelines in Vietnam, and establishment of India's first compliance assistance center in West Bengal based on cooperation with counterparts from the Philippines and Thailand.

In FY 2008, ECO-Asia established member-to-member "twinning" partnerships as a new programming modality that facilitates replication of best practices in the region. AECEN established three twinning pairs that facilitate the sharing of best practices through significant cost share of participating mentor agencies: Singapore-Indonesia (monitoring and inspection), Japan-Thailand (natural resources damages assessment), and Philippines-Sri Lanka (wastewater pollution charges). In FY 2009, ECO-Asia will further support implementation of these twinning activities, and initiate new partnerships.

In FY 2008, ECO-Asia also initiated key studies with other development partners on issues of critical importance to AECEN members and the region – climate change and enforcement, and institutional capacity limitations. In regional climate change study, ECO-Asia is collaborating with UNEP to complete a seven-country study of policy and enforcement gaps for effective mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. As to the capacity study, ECO-Asia is collaborating with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to identify capacity limitations to effective law enforcement to provide leverage for agencies in attracting fiscal support for their programs.

Now that AECEN has grown into a recognized regional platform for promoting environmental compliance in Asia, in FY 2009 ECO-Asia will strengthen efforts to facilitate the transition of AECEN into an independent organization. In FY 2009, ECO-Asia will also continue to emphasize replication of best practices and model actions through AECEN.

Mekong River Commission. ECO-Asia continued its work with the MRC on strengthening access to improved water services by managing conflict in the Mekong River basin. In FY 2008, ECO-Asia helped develop recommendations for regional hydropower development, designed a collaborative decision-making process for addressing transboundary hotspots, supported development of a transboundary environmental impact assessment mechanism, and strengthened the capacity of over 100 practitioners from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam in conflict prevention and management.

Overarching Support

ECO-Asia continued to provide program support to REO in small grants, exchanges, communications and reporting. Notable activities and accomplishments included:

- Issued four small grants, with an average grant size of \$23,750
- Organized 36 exchanges for 136 participants, including facilitating four exchanges for other REO partners
- Developed communications materials, including success stories and outreach materials
- Developed and enhanced the ECO-Asia and AECEN websites and began development of the WaterLinks website
- Worked closely with RDMA to support the development of REO's portion of the RDMA FY2008 Operations Plan, Phase II. ECO-Asia helped identify programming strategy for tasks under contract, and assisted with text related to ongoing ECO-Asia activities, and activities of other REO contractors and cooperators
- Assisted RDMA in preparing 2008 Mid-Year Indicator Data for all REO programs

Table 1: FY2008 ECO-Asia Performance Management Plan Indicator Summary

Indicator	Description	Targets FY2008	Actual FY2008
SO: Improved Response to Environmental Challenges in Asia			
SO 1	Number of policies and model actions applied and replicated	14	21
SO 2	Number of beneficiaries with improved environmental services	221,500	247,985
IR 1: Enabling Conditions Improved			
IR 1.1	Number of improved water and sanitation policies, laws, plans or model actions strengthened, developed, adopted, and/or implemented	22	25
IR 1.2	EG:Environment:CPE – Number of improved policies, laws, regulations, agreements related to pollution and urban environment drafted with USG assistance	6	11
IR 1.3	Number of USG-supported initiatives/mechanisms designed to reduce the potential for violent conflict over the control, exploitation, trade or protection of natural resources	2	2
IR 1.4	Number of non-governmental stakeholders engaged in environmental governance	21	21
IR 1.5	Number of sustainable financing mechanisms established, strengthened or facilitated	6	2
IR 1.6	Amount of funds from non-USAID sources mobilized and applied	\$ 1,367,500	\$ 1,280,752
IR 2: Human and Institutional Capacity Strengthened			
IR 2.1	Number of environmental initiatives undertaken by civil society organizations	8	7
IR 2.2	Number of key national and local institutions with increased capacity	60	81
IR 2.3	Number of people trained in improved water and sanitation practices	525	624
IR 2.4	EG:Environment:CPE – Number of people receiving USG supported training in environmental law, enforcement, public participation, and cleaner production policies, strategies, skills and techniques	440	546
IR 2.5	Number of people trained in conflict prevention and management in transboundary waters	100	133
IR 3: Model Actions Demonstrated			
IR 3.1	IIP:Health:WSS – Number of people in target areas with access to improved drinking water supply as a result of USG assistance	85,000	76,300
IR 3.2	IIP:Health:WSS – Number of people in target areas with access to improved sanitation facilities as a result of USG assistance	136,500	171,685
IR 4: Regional Platforms Strengthened to Catalyze and Sustain Change			
IR 4.1	Number of regional environmental platforms created or strengthened	5	7
IR 4.2	Number of new members in regional environmental platforms	2	1

I. BACKGROUND

Under USAID contract number 486-C-00-05-00010-00, AECOM and its subcontractors implement the Environmental Cooperation-Asia (ECO-Asia) Water and Sanitation/Governance project in support of the Regional Environment Office (REO) of the USAID Regional Development Mission Asia (RDMA). Key program countries in FY 2008 included: Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. Under the ECO-Asia contract, AECOM implements three components:

- Component 1: Improved access to clean water and sanitation for the urban poor;
- Component 2: Cross-cutting initiatives to improve regional environmental governance and transboundary cooperation; and
- Component 3: Overarching program support.

To implement Task 1, ECO-Asia collaborates with water services providers, cities, civil society partners and regional partner organizations and networks to catalyze improved access to safe water and sanitation for the urban poor. Through pilot activities and counterpart “twinning” arrangements, and regional capacity building activities, ECO-Asia demonstrates best practices and achieves on-the-ground impacts. ECO-Asia also promotes replication and dissemination of results and best practices.

Based on the results of a water and sanitation component evaluation conducted by USAID, ECO-Asia adjusted its programming focus by incorporating the following recommendations: (1) expanding capacity building and replication; (2) strengthening regional platforms; (3) expanding twinning; (4) enhancing engagement with civil society; and (5) promoting hygiene where possible.

One key strategy for addressing these recommendations was to create WaterLinks, a regional network that supports “twinning” partnerships, also known as Water Operator Partnerships (WOPs), between counterpart Asian water and wastewater utilities and municipal agencies to help achieve the MDG targets. In FY 2008, ECO-Asia established WaterLinks as a joint initiative between USAID, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and International Water Association (IWA). USAID, IWA and ADB signed a letter of agreement to implement WaterLinks at Stockholm Water Week in August, 2008.

To accomplish Task 2, ECO-Asia works with regional partner organizations and networks to promote improved environmental governance in two areas: (1) improved enforcement of environmental laws, and (2) improved conflict prevention and management in transboundary waters. For improved enforcement, ECO-Asia has established AECEN, and serves as the network secretariat in implementing country and regional activities. To address transboundary conflict, ECO-Asia cooperates with the MRC to promote effective regional cooperation among the member countries of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam by facilitating the adoption of improved conflict management policies, plans, and mechanisms, and building the necessary human and institutional capacity at the MRC and country levels.

Under Component 3, AECOM provides program support for Component 1 and 2 activities, including performance monitoring and reporting, communications support, a small grants program, and an exchange program. In addition, AECOM provides support to REO by collecting and organizing performance monitoring information from other RDMA environmental

contractors, grantees, and other partners. AECOM also provides some communications and exchange support to REO.

In FY 2008 ECO-Asia launched the ECO-Asia China Water and Sanitation Program, which is working with selected services providers to demonstrate improved governance policies and practices that promote affordable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation. Principal activities under this two-year project include pilot projects with cities, national policy development, and replication and dissemination.

II. WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

ECO-Asia increases access to reliable and sustainable water and sanitation services to support regional health security and prosperity in Asia. Under the ECO-Asia Water and Sanitation Program, AECOM pilots and replicates innovative strategies for expanding and sustaining access to services, especially to the urban poor, through partnership with cities, water utilities and financing institutions. Key programming areas include: (1) enabling safe water access; (2) promoting sustainable sanitation; (3) strengthening water services utility performance; and (4) innovative financing.

As the principal regional initiative implementing the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act in Asia, ECO-Asia promotes achievement of the MDGs, and disseminates and replicates results through regional platforms and networks, including ASEAN, South East Asia Water Utility Network (SEAWUN), Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP), ADB, WHO, and World Bank's Water and Sanitation Program .

During FY 2008, RDMA implemented 13 twinning partnerships and pilot projects with cities and utilities in 8 countries, resulting in improved access to water and sanitation for over 248,000 persons, adoption of 25 improved laws, policies and plans for water and sanitation service delivery, increased capacity of over 60 water sector practitioners, and mobilized nearly \$400,000 in non-USAID sources. These results are in line activity targets.

In early FY 2008, RDMA organized an evaluation of the ECO-Asia Water and Sanitation Program to better target resources and strengthen results. Based on this evaluation, ECO-Asia adjusted its programming focus by incorporating the following recommendations: (1) expanding capacity building and replication; (2) strengthening regional platforms; (3) expanding twinning; (4) enhancing engagement with civil society; and (5) promoting hygiene where possible.

One key strategy for addressing these recommendations was to create WaterLinks, a regional network for supporting and developing WOPs throughout Asia. The objectives of WaterLinks are to:

- Broker and facilitate twinning partnerships;
- Strengthen utility capacity through regional training and toolkits; and
- Disseminate best practices via publications, events and the WaterLinks website (www.waterlinks.org).

Beginning in FY 2009, ECO-Asia will package its water and sanitation activities as part of the WaterLinks network.

ECO-Asia continued to partner with ASEAN in FY 2008 in support of the ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities Initiative (ASEAN ESC) by creating 3 city-to-city twinning

partnerships aimed at improved sanitation services in support of a regional action agenda on water and sanitation through consultations with 19 cities in 2007. RDMA is initiating 3 new twinning partnerships with ASEAN cities in 2009.

Through a twinning partnership between water companies in Malaysia and India, for the first time, 64,000 residents in Badlapur, India have access to continuous water supply, which represents a model for other Indian cities that suffer from intermittent water supply. In 2009, ECO-Asia will support replication of this model in other small and medium towns across the Indian state of Maharashtra.

In Marikina, Philippines, ECO-Asia worked with the local government and Manila Water Company, Inc. to improve sanitation in the city through septage management, leading to improved access to sanitation for over 170,000 residents. Manila Water Company also committed to constructing 3 wastewater inceptor systems at an estimated cost of over \$50 million and benefitting over 600,000 residents. It is expected that these systems will be operational in FY 2009.

In Negombo, Sri Lanka, ECO-Asia worked with the local stakeholders to pilot an innovative strategy for supplying piped water to a previously unserved urban poor community of 700 residents through a bulk master meter and small piped distribution network. Under this model, a community-based organization plays a central role linking the community, local government and national water supply agency to ensure effective service delivery. In FY 2009, ECO-Asia will begin efforts to replicate this model in appropriate cities and towns across Sri Lanka.

With assistance from ECO-Asia, the Philippines Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) issued its first efficiency improvement loan to Laguna Water District, which led to improved access to piped water for 10,800 residents. In FY 2009, ECO-Asia will support enhanced capitalization of this innovative loan window leading to improved utility performance and increased connections.

In Bac Ninh, Vietnam, ECO-Asia assisted the local water company in strengthening customer outreach capabilities through a twinning partnership with a Malaysian utility, leading to new connections for 1,000 residents. The Vietnam Water and Wastewater Association is replicating this model nationwide.

ECO-Asia developed an innovative toolkit for cities to develop tools and capabilities for promoting improved water and sanitation services. In applying this toolkit, ECO-Asia worked with Phnom Penh, Cambodia to organize and implement the first-ever water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) promotion campaign to raise awareness of good hygiene practices and encourage decision makers to invest in improved throughout the municipality and the country.

Overall, the ECO-Asia Water and Sanitation Program performance is on track with mission plans. Over the last three years, ECO-Asia has achieved most program requirements by demonstrating best practices and developing strong collaborative linkages with regional partners and networks. In FY 2009, ECO-Asia will use WaterLinks to facilitate utility twinning, capacity building and knowledge sharing to further disseminate results and achievements to catalyze wide-spread adoption of solutions that are best for Asia.

The annex contains Success Stories of ECO-Asia water and sanitation activities developed during FY 2008.

Summary of Accomplishments

Safe Water Access for the Urban Poor

- Assisted PDAM Surabaya apply to Global Partnership for Output Based Aid, which was approved in the amount of US\$2.5 million that will be used to subsidize piped water house connections for about 15,000 households classified as low income. ECO-Asia assisted in preparing the application and funded a survey of 10,000 households to identify qualified households.
- Facilitated installation of the first water pipes and valves to previously underserved families in Negombo, Sri Lanka. The Municipal Council of Negombo and the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWS&DB) are subsidizing the cost of the service connections, while the Meril J. Fernando Foundation provided a grant to cover some infrastructure costs. The Municipal Council and the NWS&DB, with ECO-Asia assistance, will use results of this pilot project to plan and implement replication in other locations in Negombo.
- Initiated a “twinning” arrangement between Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran (MJP) and Ranhill Utilities Berhad to assist MJP in providing continuous water supply. Through this partnership, Ranhill assisted MJP in maintaining continuous water supply and reducing non-revenue water through the application of an innovative district metering approach. MJP tested this new approach, including network modeling and applying a water audit, in Badlapur, and then replicated in other water systems throughout the State of Maharashtra. Through twinning activities to date, MJP has invested nearly \$125,000 to provide continuous water supply for 64,000 residents in Badlapur.

Sustainable Sanitation

- Supported the development and inauguration of the first wastewater treatment system for the public market in San Fernando City, located in La Union Province, Philippines, which will benefit approximately 5,700 people in the area.
- Facilitated a “twinning” arrangement on developing effective national sanitation policies and practices between senior officials from Indonesia and the Philippines. With ECO-Asia support, Indonesian delegates visited the Philippines to discuss and learn about developing sanitation policies and best practices, participated in Philippines launch of the International Year of Sanitation, and visited wastewater testing laboratory and public market hybrid treatment system in Muntinlupa City.
- Supported the government, international organizations, and other stakeholders to launch the International Year of Sanitation in the Philippines. The United Nations designated 2008 the International Year of Sanitation to promote improved hygiene practices and action to provide proper sanitation for the 2.6 billion people who lack access to this basic human right.
- Co-organized the 2nd National Sanitation Summit in the Philippines, where relevant government agencies and service providers committed to developing water safety and septage management plans. ECO-Asia supported delegates from the Government of Indonesia to attend the Summit to continue the exchange of knowledge and experiences on raising the demand for sanitation services.
- Co-organized a Regional Sanitation Solutions Workshop with World Bank’s Water and Sanitation Program in April in Bangkok, Thailand. ECO-Asia staff helped facilitate the workshop.
- Conducted research and initiated development of Information and Education Campaign (IEC) materials for a sanitation and hygiene promotion pilot initiative in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. In support of the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities,

ECO-Asia initiated a twinning partnership between Phnom Penh and Iloilo, Philippines, where Iloilo assisted their peers in developing the IEC materials. The twinning started with a visit by Phnom Penh officials to Iloilo in April and was followed by a visit by Iloilo City's environment officer to Phnom Penh in June.

- Supported the launch of the "Todo Sipsip" septic tank cleaning project at a WASH Day activity in Marikina City, Philippines, which aims to desludge all septic tanks in the city by 2010. Marikina is implementing the project in cooperation with Manila Water Company with support from ECO-Asia. During the launch event, the Vice Mayor announced the passage of a new city ordinance on mandatory septic tank desludging. ECO-Asia supported the development of the ordinance.
- Contributed to two key technical publications: "Universal Sanitation in East Asia: Mission Possible?" and "Economic Impacts of Sanitation in Southeast Asia" that were presented and distributed at the first-ever East Asia Ministerial Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene in Beppu City, Japan
- Presented ECO-Asia's sanitation activities at the USAID Sanitation Consultation, a national workshop in Sri Lanka for 25 local authorities to introduce the benefits of septage management and discuss opportunities for replication. At the workshop, Marikina City, from the Philippines, presented their best practices in septage management.

Water and Wastewater Services Utility Performance Improvements

- Launched WaterLinks, a regional partnership network for facilitating WOPs in Asia, at the Stockholm International Water Week. In Stockholm, USAID, IWA and the ADB signed a MoU to collaborate in operating WaterLinks and in coordinating, developing and implementing joint WOP support programs that will maximize their respective resources, avoid duplication of efforts and facilitate effective cooperation between water and sanitation operators.
- Promoted WaterLinks at the IWA Congress in Vienna, Austria, and explored potential partnerships with water utilities and utility networks from Australia, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and the United States.
- Facilitated the final non-revenue water management workshop by Ranhill Utilities Berhad for the Bac Ninh Water Supply and Sewerage Company (BNWSSC) to complete the "twinning" arrangement between the two service providers. As a result, BNWSSC is planning to adopt procedures to determine water losses through proper district metering area monitoring and management.
- Facilitated a utility-to-utility "twinning" arrangement between the Provincial Waterworks Authority of Thailand (PWA) and the Public Utilities Board (PUB) of Singapore to assist PWA in improving its water treatment operations and water quality management. PUB provided technical assistance and shared best practices for PWA to optimize treatment, adopt innovative treatment technologies, and develop water safety plans for water quality monitoring. PWA adapted practical solutions from the PUB linkage to enhance water supply services throughout its network of 228 waterworks throughout Thailand.
- Developed and released *The Manager's Non-Revenue Water Handbook: A Practical Guide to Understanding Water Losses* in partnership with Ranhill at the Water Loss Asia Conference 2008 in Kuala Lumpur. The handbook serves to assist senior water utility managers in addressing water losses, and also promotes WOP as an effective method to build water utility capacities, replicate best practices and enable improved services delivery in urban areas.

- Completed a twinning partnership between Urban Environment Company (URENCO) of Halong City, Vietnam and Indah Water Konsortium (IWK) in Malaysia with a training on operations and maintenance of sequencing batch reactor wastewater treatment technology at IWK. The twinning partnership between URENCO and IWK is part of ECO-Asia's support of the ASEAN ESC.
- Initiated a twinning partnership between Ranhill Utilities Berhad and PWA to improve water quality management in Nakorn Nayok.
- Initiated a twinning partnership between the Wastewater Management Authority of Thailand (WMA) with the City of Krabi (Thailand) and the King County Wastewater Treatment Division, USA. The arrangement aimed to transfer practical knowledge from King County to WMA/Krabi to optimize wastewater treatment operations and to develop standard procedures for wastewater management.
- Supported the WHO and Singapore PUB in conducting a water safety plan (WSP) training of trainers workshop in April at the PUB WaterHub in Singapore. ECO-Asia supported participation of trainees from China and Thailand and arranged additional one-day training after the above WSP workshop on PUB's customer outreach and feedback systems for the Chinese participants.
- Piloted the first ever customer satisfaction and willingness-to-connect survey in Zhengjian municipality, Jiangsu Province, China. Based on the survey results covering over 500 households, provincial authorities have optimized their investment proposal plans to better reflect actual need.
- Co-organized a workshop for water utility managers with the World Bank, in Jiangsu, China. ECO-Asia presented their recently completed demand survey results in four municipalities in Jiangsu Province. ECO-Asia also sponsored a presentation by Manila Water Company representatives who shared their experience on customer feedback systems. Encouraged by the enthusiastic response from participants, ECO-Asia and the World Bank will pilot a participatory planning approach to designing local distribution systems in a selected township in Jiangsu in FY 2009.

Innovative Finance

- Facilitated signing of first Efficiency Improvement Program (EIP) loan contract by LWUA with Laguna Water District in the Philippines. The first EIP loan is for \$245,000 and \$225,000 in equity to finance a range of efficiency improvement activities and 3,000 new house connections. The loan proceeds were released before the end of December 2007. The Government of the Philippines also released \$3 million for nationwide scaling up of the EIP loan facility.
- Facilitated a private loan for city of San Fernando, Philippines through Dutch SNS REAAL Bank. A Loan was approved for P17.5 million (US\$437,500) to fund construction of the city's slaughterhouse wastewater treatment facility, septage treatment and disposal facility, and civil works for the public market wastewater treatment plant. ECO-Asia provided technical assistance to develop these projects, assisted the city prepare documentation for loan application, and facilitated bank communication.
- Presented "Financing Sanitation in Asia" and "Proposed Asian Water Fund" at the annual regional CEO Forum of ADFIAP with whom ECO-Asia has an MOU.
- Began preparation of a Regional Water Financing Strategy with ADFIAP to develop business models for banks and other financial institutions for the water sector in Asian countries.

Other Notable Accomplishments and Activities

- Supported an International Symposium on Women, Water, and Waste held in June, in Manila, Philippines attended by over 200 participants. ECO-Asia hosted a roundtable with 20 experts from Cambodia, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka to develop a regional strategy on gender mainstreaming and promoting women's advancement in urban water services delivery.
- Highlighted the importance of sustained counterpart linkages, or "twinning" arrangements as a critical delivery mechanism in addressing water and sanitation challenges in Asia during observance of World Water Day hosted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. ECO-Asia shared experiences on how partnerships between utilities, cities, governments and financial institutions can lead to improved access to urban water supply and sanitation at a conference attended by donor agencies and decision-makers from across Asia.
- Co-organized the first-ever WASH Day in Cambodia with the Municipality of Phnom Penh which was attended by over 1,200 participants, including 500 students. Phnom Penh's Vice Governor launched the sanitation and hygiene promotion materials developed with ECO-Asia support.
- Assisted 12 Phnom Penh sub-districts in Russei Keo District prepare the Environmental Section of the Sub-District Five-Year Action Plan.
- Presented ECO-Asia's twinning program at the 6th ASEAN Working Group Session on Environmentally Sustainable Cities.

Indicator Results Summary

As detailed in Table 3 below, ECO-Asia exceeded one principal performance target for a USAID common indicator – number of people with access to improved sanitation – due to an expected intervention by the city of Marikina in the Philippines, which implemented a septage management system that impacted over 170,000 people, exceeding the overall target of 54,500 people.

ECO-Asia also exceeded other programming targets due primarily to an unexpected increase in participant interest in water and sanitation programming. These indicators included number of civil society initiatives, number of institutions with increased capacity and number of practitioners trained, which are not surprising results for a successful regional program with strong regional counterpart and development partner support in its third year of implementation.

Due to a shift in programming emphasis, ECO-Asia did not meet its target related to sustainable financing mechanisms. In particular, in implementing program evaluation recommendations, ECO-Asia adjusted program emphasis toward twinning partnerships and away from targeted pilot projects, including those related to financing. For FY 2009, ECO-Asia plans to develop one twinning partnership for financial institutions, and will adjust the target downward from 3 to 1.

Table 3: FY2008 Water and Sanitation Performance Management Plan Results

Indicator	Description	Targets	Results
		FY2008	FY2008
SO: Improved response to environmental challenges in Asia			
SO 1	Number of policies and model actions applied and replicated	10	11
SO 2	Number of beneficiaries with improved environmental services	221,500	247,985
IR 1: Enabling Conditions Improved			
IR 1.1	Number of improved water and sanitation policies, laws, plans or model actions strengthened, developed, adopted, and/or implemented	22	25
IR 1.4	Number of non-governmental stakeholders engaged in environmental governance	7	7
IR 1.5	Number of sustainable financing mechanisms established, strengthened or facilitated	6	2
IR 1.6	Amount of funds from non-USAID sources mobilized and applied	1,150,500	1,005,486
IR 2: Human and institutional capacity strengthened			
IR 2.1	Number of environmental initiatives undertaken by civil society organizations	1	2
IR 2.2	Number of key national and local institutions with increased capacity	31	37
IR 2.3.4	Number of people trained in improved water and sanitation practices	485	624
IR 3: Model actions demonstrated			
IR 3.1	IIP:Health:WSS – Number of people in target areas with access to improved drinking water supply as a result of USG assistance	85,000	76,300
IR 3.2	IIP:Health:WSS – Number of people in target areas with access to improved sanitation facilities as a result of USG assistance	136,500	171,685
IR 4: Regional platforms strengthened to catalyze and sustain change			
IR 4.1	Number of regional environmental platforms created or strengthened	5	5

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network

Under the Clean Productive Environment Policy and Governance sub-element, ECO-Asia is leading efforts to strengthen the Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (AECEN), a regional practitioner network. The AECEN mission is to: (1) promote the development and implementation of improved environmental policies, laws, regulations, and institutional arrangements; (2) strengthen practitioner capacity through specialized training and skills development; and (3) facilitate regional sharing of best practices and information on

strengthening compliance and enforcement. Network members are environmental regulatory agencies committed to improving compliance and enforcement through regional cooperation and information exchange.

Serving as the AECEN Secretariat, ECO-Asia works with AECEN members at the country and regional levels on: (1) country program assessments; (2) pilot and twinning activities on improved policies, practices and systems; (3) AECEN Annual Forum; (4) Asian Justices Forum on the Environment; (5) targeted regional studies; (6) specialized regional trainings; and (7) AECEN website (www.aecen.org). In FY 2008, ECO-Asia finalized regional principles for AECEN that reflect international best practices and established a platform for reform and regional cooperation.

With support from RDMA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a core AECEN partner, providing technical assistance and training support. The ADB, OECD, World Bank, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE) contribute direct funding resources, and technical expertise.

In FY 2008, West Bengal, India joined AECEN, bringing the total number of country members to 12. Through AECEN, RDMA catalyzed the adoption of 10 policies, laws and regulations, and trained over 500 practitioners from over 40 agencies and organizations, and mobilized over \$250,000 in non-USAID sources. These results met or exceeded activity targets.

Other major FY 2008 accomplishments for AECEN include the designation of 117 environmental courts in the Philippines, enactment of a new wastewater discharge fee program for the textile industry in Sri Lanka, development of new pollution inspection guidelines in Vietnam, and establishment of India's first compliance assistance center in West Bengal based on cooperation with counterparts from the Philippines and Thailand.

The annex contains Success Stories on ECO-Asia's environmental governance activities that were developed during FY 2008.

Summary of Accomplishments

During FY2008, AECOM continued to strengthen and expand AECEN through a range of country and regional activities. The AECEN Annual Forum in Beijing, China in December 2007 both achieved programmatic goals, and expanded the reach of the network.

Major FY08 accomplishments include:

- Conducted AECEN Regional Forum in Beijing. The theme of the forum was public participation in environmental compliance and enforcement in Asia, and speakers included Zhang Lijun, the Vice Minister of China's State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), and Granta Y. Nakayama, the Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance of the EPA. SEPA, EPA, American Bar Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Vermont Law School supported the meeting. ECO-Asia also conducted regional trainings on public disclosure, compliance assistance and dispute resolution.
- Provided legal and technical assistance to Sri Lanka's Central Environment Authority in their development of a wastewater discharge fee program.

- Finalized the Indonesia assessment of environmental compliance and enforcement program.
- Developed Best Practices Inventory (BPI), an Internet-based database of best practices information using the AECEN website. Through the BPI, AECEN Members and others can obtain information on best practices for possible adoption by their agencies. Organizing best practices by AECEN Regional Principle also enables researchers, donor agencies and others to understand and compare ongoing policy and practice in Asia, and support decision-making on new policies, programs, projects or activities. The BPI was launched at the Regional Forum in Beijing.
- Conceptualized and established a challenge grants program for AECEN Members to engage in “twinning” partnerships that strengthen Member capabilities in line with the AECEN Regional Principles. The overall objective of the twinning program is to address priority challenges via Member-to-Member dialogue and collaboration.
- Identified the first two grantees under the AECEN twinning grants program. The Japanese Ministry of Environment and Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) will partner with Thailand’s Pollution Control Department (PCD) to assist Thailand address contaminated land remediation. Singapore’s National Environment Agency will assist Indonesia’s Ministry of Environment to strengthen environmental compliance inspection.
- Established an awards program to recognize and promote excellence in both programming innovation, and outstanding commitment and service by women in environmental compliance and enforcement. The awards program was launched at the Regional Forum in Beijing and the first award will be presented at the AECEN forum in Bali in November 2008.
- Provided technical assistance and funding support to the Supreme Court of the Philippines, the Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA), and other stakeholders to formulate strategies for strengthening the newly-established 117 environmental courts.
- Co-sponsored a Philippine Judicial Training Inaugurating an Enhanced Curriculum on Environmental Law. Twenty-five judges from selected branches of the 117 designated environmental courts in the Philippines participated in an interactive training piloting a new environmental law training curriculum. Senior judges, environmental counsel and lawyers from the Philippines and EPA provided assistance during the training to strengthen capacities on adjudication of environmental cases.
- Supported consultation workshops organized by Thailand’s PCD for local pig farmers in Nakornpathom and Chachoengsao Provinces. Workshops objectives were to solicit stakeholder input on the proposed center’s model, the train-the-trainer curriculum, and outreach materials on swine farm management. Based on the stakeholder consultations, PCD will establish centers for the swine sector at Tha Chin and Bang Pa Kong river basins.
- Supported the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) and Philippines’s National Meat Inspection Service organize an orientation for regulators at the Compliance Assistance Center (CAC) for Slaughterhouses in the Laguna de Bay Region in Calauan, Philippines. Workshop involved briefing regulators on the CAC’s services and the relationship between the CAC and the implementation of environmental laws.
- Supported the launch of environmental compliance assistance centers in the Philippines. LLDA formally launched environmental compliance assistance centers in its region. The establishment of the centers is a milestone for ensuring compliance with environmental regulations geared to reducing pollution loading into the Laguna de Bay, the largest freshwater lake in the country.
- Facilitated a MOA between LLDA and the Baras Business Council (BBC) in the Philippines to establish and operate a CAC for pig farms in the Laguna de Bay Region. Under the

agreement the LLDA and the BBC will jointly implement the work of the CAC as a public-private partnership to help pig farms located in the Laguna de Bay Region comply with environmental laws and regulations.

- Supported a stakeholder meeting in Kolkata, India to establish a new center to promote improved compliance with environmental regulations. The meeting produced an action plan establishing an environmental compliance assistance center that will provide industry with information on policies, legal requirements, clean technologies and finance. AECEN members in Thailand and Philippines shared best practices on establishing and operating compliance assistance centers. The U.S. Printers' National Environmental Assistance Center shared experiences from the establishment of its center. The World Bank discussed the potential for significant funding for similar efforts in India.
- Supported a consultation workshop on the establishment of West Bengal's Environmental Compliance Assistance Center (ECAC), with the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) that brought together stakeholders from the West Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Indian Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small and Medium Industries and selected universities. WBPCB provided information on strategies and plans to establish and operate the ECAC through a range of activities, including technical training, environmental technology research and membership outreach.
- Initiated with the UNEP country studies on strengthening the rule of law in support of national climate change policy to achieve a low-carbon economy in selected Asian countries. Targeting China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, the studies will review the legal framework for addressing climate change in each country, explore how to improve each country's legislative framework, and evaluate enforcement of existing legislation to achieve a low-carbon economy/society and sustainable development.
- Launched a new initiative to survey and evaluate the institutional capacity of environment agencies in selected Asian countries. The initiative seeks to establish "benchmarks" for effective, appropriately resourced environmental compliance and enforcement programs. The survey results will support decision-makers in addressing agency capacity challenges and help influence funding policies and priorities to strengthen environment compliance and enforcement.
- Facilitated the participation of senior Asian officials in OECD's Environmental Agency Institutional Capacity workshop, where they shared experience on capacity challenges and adopted a framework and benchmarks for assessing the capacity needs. ECO-Asia will use the workshop outcomes in conducting an institutional capacity study in selected Asian countries.
- Supported the participation of environment officials from Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand in a workshop organized by the OECD on "Governance and Capacity Building for Environment and Natural Resources." The workshop adopted a framework for assessing the capacity needs of environment agencies, including indicative benchmarks to assist agencies define capacity targets over time.

Indicator Results Summary

RDMA exceeded principal performance targets for two USAID common indicators – number of improved policies and laws, and number of people receiving training – due to an increasingly strong support by AECEN members and donor partners for AECEN activities. In addition, RDMA exceeded targets related to replication of best practices and new civil society initiatives.

Taken together, these greater-than-expected results reflect the growth and increasing

importance of AECEN as a regional platform, and the ability of AECEN to catalyze and replicate positive change. In FY 2009, ECO-Asia will dedicate resources to critical studies and developing strategies for enhancing the sustainability of AECEN, and need not adjust planned targets.

Table 4: FY2008 AECEN Performance Management Plan Results

Indicator	Description	Targets FY2008	End Year FY2008
SO: Improved response to environmental challenges in Asia			
SO 1	Number of policies and model actions applied and replicated	4	10
IR 1: Enabling Conditions Improved			
IR 1.1.3	Number of improved policies, laws, regulations, agreements related to pollution and urban environment drafted with USG assistance	6	11
IR 1.4	Number of non-governmental stakeholders engaged in environmental governance	14	15
IR 1.6	Amount of funds from non-USAID sources mobilized and applied	\$ 157,000	\$262,166
IR 2: Human and institutional capacity strengthened			
IR 2.1	Number of environmental initiatives undertaken by civil society organizations	1	5
IR 2.2	Number of key national and local institutions with increased capacity	28	40
IR 2.4	EG:Environment:CPE – Number of people receiving USG supported training in environmental law, enforcement, public participation, and cleaner production policies, strategies, skills and techniques	480	546
IR 4: Regional platforms strengthened to catalyze and sustain change			
IR 4.1	Number of regional environmental platforms created or strengthened	1	1
IR 4.2	Number of new members in regional environmental platforms (All)	1	1

Transboundary Conflict Prevention and Management in the Mekong River Basin

ECO-Asia assists the Mekong River Commission (MRC) in enhancing effective regional cooperation among the member countries of Cambodia, Laos PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam through the development of conflict management mechanisms that support joint planning, cooperation, and prevention of transboundary issues.

ECO-Asia and the MRC are cooperating on a multi-year effort to support implementation of Goal 2 of the MRC Strategic Plan for 2006 – 2010 to enhance effective regional cooperation. In FY 2008, RDMA helped develop recommendations for regional hydropower development, designed a collaborative decision-making process for addressing transboundary hotspots, supported development of a transboundary environmental impact assessment mechanism, and strengthened the capacity of over 100 practitioners from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam in conflict prevention and management.

In FY 2008, ECO-Asia continued to work across the full range of MRC programs that are actively engaged in or planning activities in conflict management. As detailed in Table 5 below, ECO-Asia met or exceeded all targets.

Summary of Accomplishments

- Facilitated an intergovernmental meeting among MRC Member countries to identify priority transboundary “hotspots” (areas with the potential to cause significant cross-border impacts related to hydropower, fisheries, river bank erosion, oil spills and wetlands). MRC will select two hotspots from seven identified at the meeting to submit to the Joint Committee for approval to develop further action.
- Worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a training curriculum on transboundary waters for delivery at a regional workshop with MRC and UNESCO in May, 2008.
- Facilitated the launch of a MRC training program on Transboundary Waters Conflict Prevention and Management in May, 2008. More than 40 technical officers of the Member Countries of the MRC, representing Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam, participated in the interactive conflict management training. The two-day training covered tools of conflict prevention and management aimed at addressing challenges related to country efforts to construct dams, irrigation infrastructure, and navigation waterways that significantly impact river livelihoods.
- Organized a second training workshop on transboundary waters conflict prevention and management for 30 technical officers of the MRC and its member countries in September 2008. The two-day training covered tools of conflict management and resolution, consensus-building and engaged participants in simulations, role playing and mediation techniques, using Mekong River Basin and other transboundary waters case studies.
- Co-facilitated a hydropower program stakeholder consultation meeting with the MRC that resulted in recommended revisions to the MRC hydropower program to promote sustainable hydropower development. The consultation of more than 180 stakeholders provided guidance for addressing the regional impacts on riparian livelihoods by planned or proposed hydropower projects. Based on the recommendations, the MRC will work with its member countries to ensure effective cooperation to minimize adverse impacts in the basin.
- Convened the MRC Working Group on Conflict Management and Prevention to discuss USAID and ECO-Asia programming support to the MRC and explored future expanded opportunities for cooperation. The discussions centered on the development of a pilot conflict management program linked to an ongoing capacity building training program on transboundary waters conflict prevention and management.
- Launched, with the MRC Environment Program, a pilot project applying transboundary conflict management skills to address a critical area of the Mekong River shared by Cambodia and Lao PDR. The project will address transboundary management of shared resources along the Champasak and Strung Treng Provinces of the Mekong. The objective of the pilot project is to develop and test a process for collaborative decision-making that can be applied across the full range of transboundary issues in the Mekong River basin.
- Assisted the MRC in convening an intergovernmental meeting in Vientiane, Lao PDR among Member countries to share lessons learned on Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (TbEIA) process based on international practices that can be applied to the Mekong River Basin.
- Initiated planning for a study to be completed by the Environmental Law Institute on the MRC framework for transboundary EIA during FY 2009.
- Worked with the MRC Flood Management and Mitigation Programme to support the design of its capacity building program.

Table 5: FY2008 Transboundary Conflict Performance Management Plan Results

Indicator	Description	Targets FY2008	End Year FY2008
IR 1: Enabling Conditions Improved			
IR 1.3	Number of USG-supported initiatives/mechanisms designed to reduce the potential for violent conflict over the control, exploitation, trade or protection of natural resources	2	2
IR 1.6	Amount of funds from non-USAID sources mobilized and applied	\$10,000	\$13,100
IR 2: Human and institutional capacity strengthened			
IR 2.2	Number of key national and local institutions with increased capacity	4	4
IR 2.5	Number of people trained in conflict prevention and management in transboundary waters	100	133
IR 4: Regional platforms strengthened to catalyze and sustain change			
IR 4.1	Number of regional environmental platforms created or strengthened	1	1

V. OVERARCHING SUPPORT

Small Grants Program

ECO-Asia issued four small grants in FY 2008: (1) Association of Development Financing Institutions in the Asia-Pacific (ADFIAP) on developing a regional water financing strategy; (2) Indah Water Konsortium (IWK) on promoting sanitation management through twinning; (3) Laguna Lake Development Authority to strengthen the compliance promotion efforts for slaughterhouse and hog farm industries in the Laguna Bay region in the Philippines, and (4) Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) in Japan to support the development of national policies and institutional arrangements for preventing and rehabilitating soil contamination in Thailand

Participant Exchange Program

In FY 2008 ECO-Asia facilitated 36 exchanges for 166 participants, 27% of whom were women. Seventy two of the exchanges were for Water and Sanitation activities, 65 were for AECEN and MRC activities and 29 were exchanges for other RDMA partners. Total cost share for the exchanges was \$75,666 or 39% of total cost.

Communications

ECO-Asia continued to develop communications materials, including outreach materials, and continued populating the ECO-Asia and AECEN websites. Some notable communication products include:

- Developed communications materials for other REO contractors
- Finalized and published, with Ranhill a publication on water loss, *The Manager's Non-Revenue Water Handbook*
- Delivered five new Telling Our Story articles to RDMA
- Initiated construction of the new WaterLinks www.waterlinks.org website
- Supported major events with talking points, scene setter and news releases, including the AECEN regional forum and the WaterLinks launching workshop
- Continued gathering, editing and transmitting to REO, Weekly Report items
- Updated information on all existing REO implementing partners in anticipation of issuing a new ECO-Asia program brochure. Incorporated updated information into Fact Sheets on existing programs, placed on the ECO-Asia website and submitted to the RDMA website

Program Reporting

Principal ECO-Asia staff members met in September 2007 in Bangkok for a work planning meeting to define FY 2008 program activities and a budget, and to review FY 2007 program accomplishments.

In early FY 2008, ECO-Asia worked closely with RDMA to support the development of REO's portion of the RDMA FY 2008 Operations Plan, Phase II. ECO-Asia helped identify programming strategy for tasks under contract, and assisted with text related to ongoing ECO-Asia activities, and activities of other REO contractors and cooperators. ECO-Asia also assisted RDMA in preparing 2008 Mid-Year Indicator Data for all REO programs.

VI ANNEX: SUCCESS STORIES

- Connecting the Urban Poor to Piped Water
- Clean Hands for Cambodians' Health
- San Fernando's Sanitation Investment Pays off
- Sewage is Not a Dirty Word in Marikina
- Showing the Way to Sustainable Sanitation
- A Model for Practical Septage Management
- Keeping Halong Bay Beautiful
- Water Flows 24/7: "Badlapur has changed!"
- Water Loss Drops, Bac Ninh's Service Improves
- Reaching New Water Customers in Bac Ninh
- User Demand Drives China Water Planning
- New Loan Product Enables Utilities to Expand
- WaterLinks: Expanding Asia Water Partnerships
- USAID Joins Hands with ASEAN for Clean Cities
- Cleaning up Thailand's Rivers
- Protecting the Philippines Largest Lake
- Creating New Incentives to Reduce Pollution
- Vietnam Jump-Starts Pollution Monitoring
- Philippines Establishes "Green Courts"
- Tools for Regional Cooperation in the Mekong
- Policies for Mekong Transboundary Dialogue