

5. WAY FORWARD

Prevention and control of DSS is a long-term endeavor that requires firm commitment and massive investment. Hence, both the establishment of the DSS regional network and the investment strategy for the demonstration projects needs to be implemented in a phased manner. The phased approach for each of the two components of the *Prevention and Control of Dust and Sandstorms in Northeast Asia Project (RETA 6068)* are presented in their respective study reports. That is, Volume 2: Establishment of a Regional Monitoring and Early Warning Network for Dust and Sandstorms in Northeast Asia, and Volume 3: An Investment Strategy for DSS Prevention and Control through Demonstration Projects.

With the completion of both studies, the participating parties (i.e., PRC, Japan, ROK, Mongolia, ADB, UNCCD, UNESCAP and UNEP) discussed a possible way for proceeding with the regional effort for addressing DSS in Northeast Asia. Initially, a follow up technical assistance can be developed to:

- (a) provide continued support for the regional cooperation mechanism;
- (b) provide support for capacity building for DSS monitoring and early warning; and
- (c) provide support for DSS mitigation by undertaking project design and feasibility studies and by implementing selected components under the cross border demonstration project.

Moreover, a GEF package with counterpart funding from the governments can be developed for a sub-regional initiative on DSS. Likewise, the development of a video program (CD form) showing the importance of DSS prevention and control and related ongoing projects and efforts can be explored for educational purposes and presentation to other donors and DSS affected countries.

Specific ideas for capacity building, to be employed for both the strengthening of the DSS regional network and the demonstration projects, will be formalized to:

- (a) develop standard operational manual for DSS monitoring and data sharing;
- (b) promote exchange and sharing of DSS simulation and forecasting techniques among the partner countries;
- (c) promote establishment of regional expert network and training capacities;
- (d) provide on-site training for technicians and operational staff; and
- (e) provide support for promoting exchange and sharing of experiences and best practices in DSS mitigation techniques.

As the next step activity of each partner country, advocacy of the master plan will be carried out to other agencies within each country. This will entail the translation of the master plan to the languages of the participating countries. Moreover, all stakeholders (e.g., J-Green¹), including the private sector, are encouraged to carry out preparation researches and implementation activities related to DSS mitigation techniques in the demonstration project sites of this project .

¹ J-Green stands for Japan Green Resources Agency, an incorporated administrative agency under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.