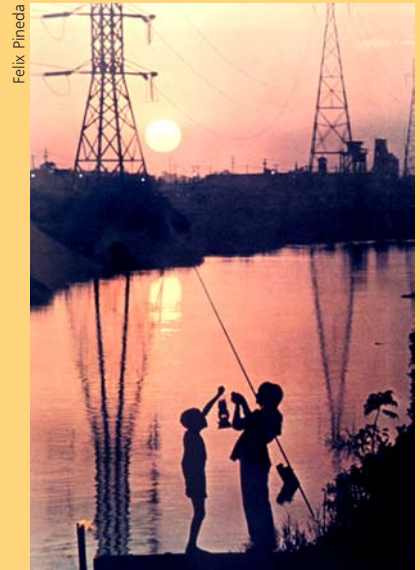


PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Over the last decade, rapid economic growth in Asia has resulted in significant environmental, social, and economic costs. While many governments have developed new environmental legal frameworks to respond to this challenge, effectively implementing and enforcing environmental laws have remained weak partly because of technical, financial, and human resource limitations.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s country environmental analyses of its developing member countries (DMCs) have concluded that while each country has a different legal and institutional framework, most face common challenges in ensuring compliance. The challenges include overlapping and fragmented authority, limited interagency coordination, incomplete decentralization, lack of standardized procedures, weak human and institutional capacity, limited public outreach and involvement, and insufficient program data and performance indicators.



AECEN, ADB, and Other Partners

ADB approved a regional technical assistance (RETA) for Regional Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network in March 2005 to support the establishment of the Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (AECEN), in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). After consulting with Asian governments, donor agencies, and related networks addressing environmental management issues, ADB and USAID, together with representatives from 13 Asian countries, launched AECEN at a regional workshop held in Manila in August 2005.

Mission and Membership

AECEN aims to promote improved compliance with environmental laws in Asia through a regional exchange of innovative policies and practices. It serves as a regional platform to:

- promote the development and implementation of improved environmental laws, regulations, and institutions;
- strengthen practitioner's capacity through specialized training and tools; and
- facilitate regional sharing of best practices and information.





Rolle del Rosario

Members are environmental agencies from throughout the region. Initial member countries include People's Republic of China (PRC), Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Judges, lawyers, officials, civil society, and business leaders also participate in AECEN activities.

Activities and Expected Outputs

Each year, AECEN will develop an annual work program that includes country- and regional-level activities to be implemented in partnership with member countries. Some of the key activities include:

- Country program assessments and country-based pilot projects
- Regional activities including specialized practitioner trainings, toolkits, and information exchange

Expected outputs of the RETA include:

- Country program assessment—Sri Lanka
- Country program indicators—Philippines
- Country pilot activity—PRC
- Designation of national coordinators
- Collaboration with development partners
- Preparation of Regional Guidelines on Best Practices on Environmental Compliance and Enforcement
- Knowledge management and outreach

To measure achievement of network mission and objectives, the AECEN Secretariat will track member countries' policies and practices, governance systems, and compliance and enforcement program improvements through in-country and regional indicators.

Contact information

Xiaoying Ma
Senior Environment Specialist
Environment and Social Safeguard
Division
Regional and Sustainable
Development Department
Asian Development Bank
Tel +63 2 632 6673
maxiaoying@adb.org

Nessim Ahmad
Director
Environment and Social Safeguard
Division
Regional and Sustainable
Development Department
Asian Development Bank
Tel +63 2 632 6683
Fax +63 2 636 2444

inece.org/aecen

Principles of Engagement

AECEN's principles of engagement include the following:

- **Strategic focus:** Network activities are designed to achieve specific results on the ground in individual countries, and address regional challenges, including transboundary pollution. Regional exchange of best practices and information is a complementary objective in activity design and implementation.
- **Country commitment:** Network member countries commit to implement new policies and practices through key agency participation and contribution of available in-kind and other resources. Network members will share experience and information, and develop and track performance indicators, as necessary.
- **Collaborative engagement:** The network promotes collaboration through in-country stakeholder participation in policy development and capacity building activities; regional counterpart exchange; and collaboration with other networks and donors.
- **Sustainability through impact:** Network sustainability is measured in its ability to produce measurable results at the country and regional levels, which will lead donor partners to participate increasingly across different sectors.

AECEN Secretariat

The Planning and Development Collaborative International, Inc. (PADCO) serves as the Secretariat of the Network, handling implementation of the RETA's activities. It is responsible for organizing annual forums in combination with regional training activities and disseminating expected outputs to all stakeholders. ■