



OPENING REMARKS

By

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Distinguished Participants and Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

As you may know, Mr Recide is unable to attend this meeting of the Regional Steering Committee. As Deputy Chair of This Committee, I would also like to welcome you to the meeting.

The RAP puts forward a plan for the implementation of the Global Strategy in the Asia-Pacific Region. Implementation of that plan has begun and we will shortly hear what progress has been made. Further progress will require the commitment of considerable time and effort by initial countries to achieve sustainable change. The RSC has the responsibility to guide and monitor that implementation.

As mentioned by Mr Konuma, this meeting of the RSC will be advised of progress made to date and plans for the remainder of 2013, and will also need to agree on the selection of additional countries for participation in the Regional Action Plan (RAP) in 2014.

I would like to welcome new members, Mr Nobunori Kuga from Japan who has replaced Mr Kenji Kamikura, Ms Chanerin Maneechansook from AAPARI who has replaced Mr. Srinivasacharyulu Attaluri and Mr Mukesh Srivastava who has replaced Mr Jairo Castano as Senior Statistician at FAO in Bangkok. For this meeting also, Mr. Aliielua Salani will take the place of Mr Laupua Fiti from Samoa. I welcome you all to this meeting of the RSC and look forward to fruitful discussions.

Going straight in into business, I would like to invite your comments on the agenda. From my side I would suggest that we begin the meeting with a “update on conclusions of the 7th meeting of the Global Steering Committee, held recently at Rio De Janero” from Mr Christophe Duhamel.

Thank You