

ASIAN SOIL PARTNERSHIP (ASP)

Function Statement (TOR)

15 May 2015

1. Secretariat

- a. Hosted by a specific institution in a member country
- b. Hosting country to be rotated
- c. Rotated in 3 years

2. Steering Committee

Steering Committee to be the highest governance body to provide strategic direction for ASP and advise the chair in connection with decision-making

- a. Appointed in **country**
- b. Committee members: 9 countries
- c. Geographical balance: East (3), Southeast (3), South (3)

Chair: Thailand

East Asia: Republic of Korea, Mongolia; (Japan-to be confirmed)

Southeast Asia: Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia

South Asia: India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

- d. Duration: 3 years
- e. Maximum terms: 2 terms
- f. The Steering Committee meets every 6 months, possibly through Skype (or other means)
- g. ASP meets once in one or two years

3. Chair

- a. Chair should be one of steering committee members : Thailand
- b. Chair should host the Secretariat: the Secretariat is hosted in Thailand
- c. Duration: 3 years
- d. Maximum terms: 2 terms

4. Working group (5 GSP pillars)

- a. Should designate chair for each WG, not country, but a person (individual)
- b. Should have working group members in each pillar (individual)

Pillar 1 - Promote sustainable management of soil resources for soil protection, conservation and sustainable productivity

Chair: Chaudhari (India)

Member: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, (China), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Thailand, Vietnam
(Afghanistan, Brunei, China, DPR Korea, Nepal, Maldives, Singapore)

Pillar 2 - Encourage investment, technical cooperation, policy, education awareness and extension in soil

Chair: Arshad (Pakistan) - 1st 3 years, (and Aulakh, India – 2nd 3 years)

Member: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, (China), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, ' Thailand, Vietnam
(Afghanistan, Brunei, China, DPR Korea, Nepal, Maldives, Singapore)

Pillar 3 - Promote targeted soil research and development focusing on identified gaps and priorities and synergies with related productive, environmental and social development actions

Chair: Yagi (Japan)

Member: Bangladesh, Cambodia, (China), India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, ' Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam
(Afghanistan, Brunei, China, DPR Korea, Nepal, Maldives, Singapore)

Pillar 4 - Enhance the quantity and quality of soil data and information: data collection (generation), analysis, validation, reporting, monitoring and integration with other disciplines

Chair: Carating (Philippines)

Member: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, (China), India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, ' Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam
(Afghanistan, Brunei, China, DPR Korea, Nepal, Maldives, Singapore)

Pillar 5 - Harmonization of methods, measurements and indicators for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources

Chair: Wongmaneroj (Thailand)

Member: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, (China), India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, ' Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam
(Afghanistan, Brunei, China, DPR Korea, Nepal, Maldives, Singapore)

5. Main functions of the ASP

- to facilitate interactive consultative processes (both within and across borders) involving a range of entities and stakeholders: e.g. national authorities and programmes in charge of soil management, related to e.g. food security, climate change and ecosystem services;
- to interact with regional soil science societies and other mechanisms established under various conventions;
- to discuss and provide guidance on regional goals and priorities as regards soils, and the required implementation soil survey institutions, scientific societies, and groups of soil scientists working on important issues mechanisms, including regular reviews of progress in reaching common objectives and targets; and
- to catalyze cooperation within the region.

Potential of advanced cooperation (desirable)

Areas in which RSPs are particularly well placed to make substantial progress include:

- technology transfer, especially in terms of sharing information on successful sustainable soil management measures where countries face similar soil conditions and issues; and
- capacity building, including the identification of opportunities for “in-kind” contributions to the organization of training events (facilities, south-south exchanges of experts, etc.)

6. Key operational and detailed tasks of the ASP

- Development of regional implementation plans, expanding on the Plans of Action under the five Pillars of the GSP, and involving other regional partners and coordinators.
- Advocacy activities in line with the principles of the World Soil Charter.
- Mobilization of resources to support the implementation of regional implementation plans.
- Implementation of activities as set out in the regional implementation plans.
- Networking of ASP members through the establishment of dedicated website and management.
- Engagement with the ITPS on knowledge management, as appropriate.

- Provision of technical and financial support to the implementation of the activities at country level, if possible
- Broadening participation of potential GSP Partners in the respective region.

In terms of monitoring and evaluation:

- Preparation of progress reports to the general organs of the GSP.
- Preparation of financial reports and annual work plans.
- Monitoring of outcomes and effectiveness of the activities in the implementation plans.