

“Tsukuba Statement” on Asian Soil Partnership

Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan

September 27, 2012

We, the soil scientists from five countries/regions in Asia, met in Tsukuba, Ibaraki, September 27, 2012 at the opportunity to participate in MARCO symposium sponsored by the National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences (NIAES) under the Chairpersonship of Dr. Masami Nanzyo, President of Japanese Society of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition, Professor, Tohoku University.

We welcomed the participation in the meeting from the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) secretariat of FAO.

In February 11, 2012 in Nanjing, Asian soil scientists under auspices of FAO-GSP and the Institute of Soil Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences (ISSCAS) adopted the Nanjing Communiqué. The Nanjing Communiqué focused on: 1. Recognizing of the Asian Soil Partnership (ASP), 2. Setting up a provisional secretariat of ASP in ISSCAS, 3. Organizing the steering committee of ASP to govern entire activity. It was suggested to build ASP by taking advantages of existing networks, such as East and Southeast Asia Federation of Soil Science Societies (ESAFFS).

To implement the Nanjing communiqué, we recommend setting up a secretariat and a steering committee of ASP to prepare an ASP-Terms of Reference (ASP-ToR) for the establishment and implementation of the ASP. The ASP-ToR should describe the vision and mission, composition and governance, action priorities of ASP.

Proposed structure of ASP and a roadmap of implementation of this statement

ASP will be composed by partners (government, institutions, national and regional soil science societies and other stakeholders) supporting GSP and other Asian regional issues.

As a consequence of this ad-hoc MARCO-FAO-ISSCAS joint meeting for ASP, we proposed the structure of the secretariat and steering committee of ASP.

- (1) The secretariat shall have a secretary-general and necessary officials.
- (2) The steering committee will consist of representatives from each country (region), the representative of ESAFFS, and GSP secretariat as an observer.

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ASP-Secretariat will be the coordinating and facilitating body in charge of the implementation of the ASP and GSP activities.

Steering committee of ASP will set regional goals, priorities and action plans. They can set up necessary technical sub-committee. They will review progress in reaching agreed objectives and targets.

We proposed to set out a roadmap for implementation of this statement as follows.

April 2013 in China (tentative): A secretariat and a steering committee will be established for preparing the Zero draft of ASP-ToR.

October 2013 in Indonesia (ESAFS11): ASP steering committee meeting will be held at ESAFS 11, will agree the ASP-ToR, and they will create an action plan of ASP and set up necessary technical sub-committee.

June 2014 in Korea (20th WCSS): Reporting ASP activities.

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