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International Advisory Board of the
International Environmental Technology Centre
Twelfth meeting
Online, 6 December 2021

Summary of the International Advisory Board of the International Environmental Technology Centre at its 12th meeting

1. Opening of the meeting

1. The twelfth meeting of the International Advisory Board (IAB) of the International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) was started at 21:00 Japan Standard Time on 6th December 2021 in a hybrid manner. The meeting was attended by the IAB members, observers and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s staff, including IETC Staff as listed in Annex. The IAB Chairperson, Ms. Yuriko Koike, unfortunately, could not participate in the meeting; however, in her video message, she enhanced roles and importance of IETC and appreciated the IAB members for their continuous supports to IETC. Pursuant to para (e) of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the IAB, Government of Japan as the host government nominated Mr. Yasuo Takahashi, Former Vice Minister for Global Environmental Affairs, as a meeting chair on behalf of Ms. Koike, and the IAB members endorsed its nomination.

2. Mr. Takahashi, the 12th IAB meeting chair, begun chairing the meeting with his opening remarks indicating his professional background working for the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, for more than 30 years as well as important roles of IETC in global waste management. The meeting chair asked all the IAB members and Ex-Officio observers who was participating in the meeting to introduce themselves.

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. The meeting considered the Provisional Agenda (UNEP/IETC/IAB.12/1) and Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP/IETC/IAB.12/1.Add.1) proposed by IETC. There was one correction in the meeting documents 12.1 and 12.4 that the documents described Programme of Work in 2022 – 2024; however, the IAB members would be supposed to discuss Programme of Work in 2022 – 2025. With this correction, the proposed agenda items were adopted.

3. Progress Report of the International Environmental Technology Centre since the Eleventh Meeting of the International Advisory Board

4. The meeting chair took the Agenda Item 3 Progress Report of the International Environmental Technology Centre since the Eleventh Meeting of the International Advisory Board (UNEP/IETC/IAB.12/3). IETC presented progress report of IETC since the 11th IAB meeting held in

May 2019. The meeting chair invited the IAB members for their comments on IETC's works in the previous years.

5. The IAB members shared their comments on the matter of staff reduction and its impact, the concerns about IETC's influence to the Member States and others, their concerns about IETC's narrow focus on waste management projects in Asia, less activities for global waste management projects, significant reduction of budget in particularly 2021 compared to budget level in 2020, the processes to finalize the Global Waste Management Outlook (GWMO2) and IETC's work on mercury waste management.

6. UNEP responded that IETC tended to focus on waste management projects in Asian because of IETC's geographical location based on the previous project activities, funding, including the earmarked funds, and the needs from countries and cities despite its mandate for environmentally sound technologies on waste at global level; however, UNEP recognized IETC's roles on waste management at global level and Executive Director decided to re-focus on IETC's work more globally in collaboration with partners and other institutions in addition national level work on waste management strategies.

7. UNEP also explained that IETC had been providing expertise and knowledge on waste management; however, UNEP recognized that UNEP needed more strategic focus on waste management in addition what IETC had done for the past 2 years. While IETC had been implementing different project activities with different found sources, UNEP would need to integrate all those efforts to make more impact on global waste management and IETC would need to implement project activities more globally subject to funding availability and mandates given from the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Member States.

8. Regarding the process to develop GWMO 2, IETC had been drafting GWMO 2 in collaboration with the partner, the International Solid Waste Association, for the past 2 years; however, UNEP took substantial changes to reflect UNEP's view on waste management in order to present it more globally and fit in to the Medium-term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2025.

9. Regarding to budget reduction, UNEP explained that IETC received two types of earmarked funds from Government of Japan in 2020 in addition to their core financial contribution. Because of two types of earmarked funds, the IETC budget in 2021 was only seen to be appearance as significant reduction compared to the total budget received in 2020.

10. The IAB members offered their services to IETC that they would be more than willing to provide input and help beyond what was done today, including reviewing IETC's works and providing new idea and strategy for IETC.

4. Programme of Work in 2022-2025 of the International Environmental Technology Centre

11. The meeting chair took the Agenda Item 4 Programme of Work in 2022-2025 of the International Environmental Technology Centre (UNEP/IETC/IAB.12/4). IETC presented their current idea and concept as draft Programme of Work as of the date when the 12th IAB meeting was held. The meeting chair invited the IAB members for their comments on IETC's idea and concept for their Programme of Work in 2022-2025.

12. The IAB members shared their comments on direction of UNEP focusing on the three planetary crises, the matters of fragmentation of waste management works among difference organizations, the needs to elaborate unique position of IETC, the needs to enhance more works on environmentally sound technologies not only for waste but also chemicals, the needs of IETC's strategies to show more impact on global waste management agenda, concerns about integrated and holistic waste management approach.

13. UNEP responded that IETC would need ambitious, refocuses on IETC's work more globally, fill specific niches, more work on technologies on waste management. The Member States would need to access, introduce and implement environmentally sound technologies of waste management; however, it would be important to identify what kinds of technologies they really need to combat waste management issues within their context and capacity of waste management. For accessing information of environmentally sound technologies, IETC would continue taking important roles to share necessary information of environmentally sound technologies as a broker as a neutral position.

14. While IETC would continue implementing project activities on individual waste stream, IETC also would apply for integrated and holistic waste management as a mechanism to reduce pollution caused by improper waste management. Also, UNEP recognised that IETC would need to access more funds to make available it for the Member States to help them to implement environmentally sound management of waste based on IETC's experience of the past 30 years. Also, IETC would need to scale up project activities based on the results of the previous project activities with those finance.

15. Regarding further development of Programme of Work for 2022 – 2025, UNEP mentioned that there were the needs of integration of various kinds of waste management works not only within the same division but also UNEP organization as a whole. In order to come up with a strategy on waste, UNEP plans to hire a waste management strategist to integrate those works and develop a Programme of Work on waste management for the next 4 years. UNEP would seek help and supports from the IAB members and the Government of Japan as the host government of IETC.

16. The meeting chair asked IETC to seek comments from the IAB members who could not participated in the meeting today.

5. Other matters

17. There was no any other matter.

6. Summary and Concluding Remarks.

18. The meeting chair asked IETC how to prepare meeting summary and confirmed that IETC would prepare meeting summary after the 12th IAB meeting and circulate its draft among the IAB members for their comments.

19. The meeting chair gave his concluding remarks on behalf of the IAB Chairperson. The meeting chair indicated some key points, including IETC's important role to support the Member States to combat waste management issues and new global challenges on waste management. The meeting chair requested the IAB members to continue their support to IETC.

20. The meeting chair closed the 12th IAB meeting at 22:40 Japan Standard time.

Annex: List of Participants

1. IAB members

Mr. Yasuo Takahasi on behalf of Ms. Yuriko Koike, Japan
Ms. Linda Godfrey, South Africa
Mr. Antonis Mavropoulos, Greek
Ms. Bettina Lorz, European Commission
Ms. Noelle Eckley Selin, United States of America

2. Ex-Officio observers

Ms. Monika G MacDevette, Chief, Chemicals & Health Branch and Principal Coordinator of IETC, UNEP
Ms. Tomoe Kotani, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
Mr. Michi Oi, Ministry of the Environment, Japan
Mr. Horii Hisashi, Osaka City

3. UNEP

Mr. Kevin Helps, Head, GEF Unit
Mr. Fuaad Alkizim, Administrative Officer, Economy Division
Mr. Shunichi Honda, Programme Officer, IETC
Ms. Misato Dilley, Associate Expert, IETC
Mr. Daniel Ternald, Associate Expert, IETC.
Ms. Junko Fujioka, Programme Assistant and IETC's Gender Focal Point, IETC
Ms. Michiko Ota, Budget Assistant, IETC
Ms. Moeka Yamaguchi, Outreach Consultant, IETC
