

REPORT ON MENGO ENVISIONING WORKSHOP

Bukit Tinggi Resort, 8-9 August 2003

1. BACKGROUND AND WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

1.1 Background

The MENGO project has demonstrated that the MENGO can work together in achieving their respective organisation's objectives. For greater synergy between the MENGO there is a need for the MENGO to develop a common vision and objectives. This envisioning workshop is supposed to facilitate the MENGO in achieving the above. It is also to facilitate the planning of 2 MENGO Collaboration "Identity Projects".

1.2 Workshop Objectives

1. To work out a common vision for all the MENDOs
2. To provide an opportunity for all MENDOs to understand the missions, objectives and roles of each MENDOs and discuss the ways they can complement each other in achieving the common vision.
3. To develop the framework and implementation plan of the two MENGO "Identity projects"

2. WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Day 1

- 10:30 - 10:40 - Background and Workshop Objectives
- 10:40 - 11:00 - Our Common Vision
- 11:00 - 11:30 - Overview of Agenda 21 Issues
- 11:30 - 13:00 - Presentation by 9 MENGO
- 13:00 - 14:00 - *LUNCH*
- 14:00 - 15:30 - Presentation by 9 MENGO
- 15:30 - 15:45 - *TEA BREAK*
- 15:45 - 16:00 - Sustainability Principles - Natural Steps 4E
- 16:00 - 16:30 - ISO 14001 EMS Framework
- 16:30 - 17:00 - Environmental Declaration/Policy Statements
- 17:00 - 18:30 - MCC Meeting
- 19:30 - 20:30 - *DINNER*
- 20:30 - 22:00 - The Way Forward - What is our niche?

Day 2

- 09:25 - 11:00 - National Conference on Environment
- 11:00 - 11:15 - *TEA BREAK*
- 11:15 - 13:00 - E-Forum for Decision-Making

4. WORKSHOP SUMMARY

The workshop started with a presentation by Dr. Lee Jin, the workshop facilitator, on the background and objectives of the workshop. It is followed by a presentation by

Dr. Lee on the common environmental vision of the MENGO and a brief overview of Agenda 21 Issues. This is then followed by presentation by the 18 MENGO on their respective organisation's Vision, Mission, Objectives and Activities. The MENGO present carried out lively discussions and clarifications after each presentation to understand better each other's role in achieving the common environmental vision.

In the later part of the afternoon, Dr. Lee gave presentations on the following topics as part of the preparation for forging a common vision among the MENGO. In the evening, further discussions were held among the MENGO to clarify each other's role in achieving the common environmental vision.

- Sustainability Principles - Natural Steps 4E
- ISO 14001 EMS Framework
- Environmental Declaration/Policy Statements

The following are brief summary of what was presented.

(a) Sustainability Principles - Natural Steps 4E

The Natural Steps (a Swedish NGO) has summarised the issue of sustainability to four basic, "non-negotiable" system conditions. They are stated as follows:

For sustainability we must systematically decrease our dependence on:

- materials from the lithosphere (e.g., fossil fuels, metals, minerals and other items extracted from the earth's crust);
- persistent unnatural substances (man-made chemicals that do not biodegrade because they are exotic to nature);
- activities which encroach on productive parts of nature (e.g., forests, rivers, wetlands, biodiversity -- in other words, that harm the ecology)
- using large amounts of resources in relation to added human value (e.g., that violate basic principles of social equity).

An easy way to remember the above four principles is to think it as the "4 E's" of Sustainability: extraction, exotics, ecology, and equity. We should avoid the first two (extraction and exotics), and protect and enhance the second two (ecology and equity).

(b) ISO 14001 EMS Framework

The ISO 14001 EMS standard is made up of 17 elements. The elements can be grouped under five functional headings - (Policy-Plan-Do-Check-Review), which describes a continuous improvement loop.

The five headings are:

- Environmental Policy
- Planning (4 elements)
- Implementation and Operation (7 elements)
- Checking and corrective action (4 elements)
- Management review

(c) Environmental Declaration/Policy Statements

- Agenda 21 - World's Environmental Agenda Rio Declaration On Environment And Development
- Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development
- Langkawi Declaration - Commonwealth Head of States Endorsement of Agenda 21

On the second day, Dr. Lee facilitated the discussion among the MENGO on 2 proposed MENGO Collaboration "Identity Projects. They are:

- National Conference on Environment
- E-Forum for Decision-Making

(a) National Conference on Environment

The overall objective of this session in the workshop is to discuss on the proposal for an inaugural National Conference on Environment. The conference is envisaged to be Malaysia's Annual Conference on Sustainable Development. It will allow all stakeholders (government, companies, NGOs and the community) in Malaysia to discuss issues pertinent to sustainable development in Malaysia, to take stock of where we are, relative to what we hope to achieve for the future. It will also allow us to plan for the necessary actions that can be taken by all stakeholders to achieve the vision of a sustainable future for Malaysia and the world.

The outputs from the discussion are as follows:

1. The MENGO accepted the proposal to organise the National Conference on the Environment.
2. The MENGO discussed and accepted the following objectives of the conference, which are as follows:
 1. To facilitate inter-sectoral dialogue between public, private and civil societies.
 2. To enable the development of better policies and practices for sustainable development and to follow-up on the recommendations of WSSD, Agenda 21 and MEAs.
 3. To provide a forum for reporting on the state of environment and sustainable development.
 4. To create an opportunity for networking and building linkages.
 5. To share and exchange environmentally-sound practices.
3. The MENGO brainstormed and produced an initial list of targeted conference participants, which are as follows:
 1. Senior policy-makers
 1. Government agencies
 2. NGOs
 3. Local communities
 4. Indigenous peoples
 5. Young environmentalists
 6. Women groups

7. Media
8. Academia
9. Private sector (industries, businesses, SMIs)
10. Development and Donor Agencies
11. UN agencies

(b) E-Forum on Decision-making

The original topic for this session is entitled, “National E-Forum on Environment”. However, after a brief presentation entitled “A Framework for "Online Discussion and Decision Making" by Ir. KK Aw of Multicentric Technology Sdn Bhd, the chosen developer for the E-Forum IT platform, the topic for the session was changed to “E-Forum on Decision-making”.

The MENGO agreed that an E-Forum should be developed to facilitate “Online Discussion and Decision Making” and the archiving of all pertinent documents related to the online discussion. The E-Forum is to be used by the MCC to facilitate its meeting and also by the MENGO in the organising of the National Conference on Environment.