

**Comments by the Republic of Korea
on the GEF-6 Programming Directions
10 SEP, 2013**

As for the proposed document on GEF-6 Programming Directions (GEF/R.6/13/Rev.1), Korea would like to make following comments:

1. Cooperation between GEF and GCF

GEF, as an important operating entity of the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC, has 20 years of experiences and valuable expertise that can be shared with the newly established Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Korea proposes that GEF, through close consultation with GCF, provide all necessary support for early and full operationalization of GCF. To this effect, GEF could further discuss how to effectively support GCF at the incoming GEF meetings and possible ways to establish a partnership with the GCF could be included in the “Corporate Programs Strategy”.

2. Supporting Regional Projects

Many environmental problems should be addressed by a regional cooperation and collaboration among countries and other stakeholders of the region in question. Korea firmly believes that GEF is in an excellent position to play an important supporting role in further strengthening regional approach to environmental problems through its scaled-up contribution to a variety of regional activities and programs

In particular, North-East Asia is a region where environmental challenges, such as yellow dust, air pollution and marine environment or ecosystem, require urgent and continuous collective response at a level of policy as well as implementation tools. However, existing regional initiatives on environmental protection have suffered from insufficient and decreasing financial support.

Add to that, countries in the North-East Asia are in a wide spectrum of socio-economic status, experiencing uneven situation of available resources to effectively address individual, bilateral or region-wide environmental problems. Therefore, substantial increase of financial support by GEF to the North-East Asia could be a stepping stone for furthering regional cooperation and implementation of regional or sub-regional environmental programs, also contributing to the co-benefit of enhanced regional security and peace. GEF’s support will also facilitate resources mobilization in the region by inducing further contribution from the countries within and outside the region in terms of finance and experiences.