



AGEE 8 Setting the Scene



8th meeting
of the Advisory Group on
Environmental Emergencies

6 - 8 May 2009
Brussels, Belgium

Role of the AGEE

- Forum to exchange ideas;
- Means to promote international cooperation;
- Opportunity to identify and examine challenges faced in providing international assistance;
- Oversee the functioning of the Joint Environment Unit.

Joint **UNEP/OCHA** Environment Unit – Secretariat to AGEE –

**Post-Disaster and
Conflict Management
Branch**

**Emergency
Preparedness Section**

**Division for
Environmental Policy
Implementation**

**Emergency Services
Branch**

UNEP

OCHA

Environment

Humanitarian

8th Meeting of the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies

3

Cooperation with the EC-MIC

- Since 2005 from *ad hoc* to close and regular cooperation;
- Monitoring and information sharing;
- Several joint missions:
 - ‘Hebei Spirit’ Oil Spill, Republic of Korea, December 2007;
 - Capsized ferry, Philippines, July 2008.
- Joint lessons learned exercises.
- EC-MIC host of AGEE 8.

8th Meeting of the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies

4

Major developments in the **humanitarian** field

- Humanitarian Reform:
 - Cluster approach: Environment as a cross-cutting issue
 - “*Humanitarian Action and the Environment*”
- Climate change adaptation
- Preparedness



8th Meeting of the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies

5

Major developments in the **environmental** field

- UNEP Medium-Term Strategy (2010-2013)
 - Six priority areas, including *Disasters and Conflicts*
 - Environmental concerns:
 - Continuing environmental degradation & loss of biodiversity;
 - Increasing air pollution & depletion of ozone layer;
 - Industrialization and urbanization
 - Climate change
- **Increase in environmental emergencies**

8th Meeting of the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies

6

AGEE 7 / Rosersberg Initiative

- Thematic area 1:
Awareness raising, engagement, training and capacity-building;
- Thematic area 2:
Improving the international legal system in environmental emergencies (governance);
- Thematic area 3:
Improving national structures and mechanisms (operational).

AGEE 8 and beyond

- Considerable progress has been made since AGEE 7 (Rosersberg Initiative);
- AGEE 8 to review the process and tackle remaining challenges, by:
 - Ensuring continued momentum for *joint efforts* on Rosersberg Initiative (2007- 2012);
 - Contributing to an improved distribution of supporting countries;
 - Strengthening frameworks on governance.



JOINT
UNEP/OCHA
ENVIRONMENT UNIT
Mobilizing and coordinating
the international response to
environmental emergencies



THANK YOU!

