On possible principles and subject areas of EiSMAP

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1. The aim of this paper

- To set a base for discussion.

- Section 2: Possible <u>principles</u> of EiSMAP
  Either as a proposal, or as alternatives to choose from.

- Section 3: An extensive list of <u>subject areas</u>

- Section 4: How we should <u>proceed</u>?

2. Possible principles and points for discussion

(1) Criterion for choosing the subject area

An emphasis will be placed on cross-boarder or sustainability issues.

Special priority will be placed on issues which are both cross-boarder <u>and</u> sustainability oriented.

In view of the possibility that some countries may not yet have relevant indicators, a new area can be taken up if there is a sufficient support among members.

2. Possible principles and points for discussion

(2) No compulsion

As countries and institutions are under different constraints, with respect to data availability, human and fiscal resources etc., EiSMAP does not assign any duty for participants.

Advanced examples supplied by members under favorable conditions are expected to be an encouraging evidence for the possibility of improvement in conditions in less developed countries/regions.

2. Possible principles and points for discussion

(2) No compulsion

Is there a need for a double truck approach, such that EiSMAP requires submission of minimum set of data from every countries/regions while leaving the rest on volunteer bases.

This may involve a time-consuming discussion as to which data should be included to the "minimum list".

2. Possible principles and points for discussion

(3) Minimum cost

EiSMAP should be managed in a way to minimize financial and bureaucratic costs for participants and countries/regions concerned.

It tries to make the most of the efforts made by volunteers.

It welcomes contributions in financial and other forms by private sector, as long as it does not undermine the neutrality of its activities and analytical results.

It need not even form an independent entity. It can be a new innovative part of incumbent international fora or organizations if that is cost reducing without losing essential functions.

2. Possible principles and points for discussion

(4) Avoidance of duplication

As for data and information which are already covered by incumbent international organizations or similar entities, the EiSMAP should ask for their cooperation and would not try to make duplicated efforts to collect them.

-simply exclude them

-create a copy of them in a more or less uniform format

-show the link to those data.

2. Possible principles and points for discussion

(5) Active use of latest technology

The EiSMAP should try to actively use the latest information technology, with most efficient and automatic data collection and dissemination process.

2. Possible principles and points for discussion

(6) Open use of the result

The result of EiSMAP will be made available on the Web site and can be accessed by the general public including from outside the covered countries/regions.

Is there a need for a different layer in the EiSMAP, such that the first layer is open to the public but the second layer is for intensive discussion among participants only?

2. Possible principles and points for discussion

(7) Priorities on non-numerical information and analyses

EiSMAP will not only be a numerical data base, but will be a pool for shared-use of qualitative information, including countries' development goals and policies, and analytical results. As such analytical results may involve subjective viewpoint, the names of authors should be shown explicitly.

2. Possible principles and points for discussion

(7) Priorities on non-numerical information and analyses

A data base of well defined quantitative data will be relatively free from assessment, but of rather limited usefulness.

If we go beyond and invite non-quantitative data and analyses, it will become much richer but can be subject to criticism by those who do not agree with the way basic data are processed.

This naturally leads to the next two points.

2. Possible principles and points for discussion

(8) Allowing and facilitating variety of views

EiSMAP is a place for sharing of formation, and does not necessarily try to form a consensus. It provides different, possibly mutually-conflicting views.

- *Somebody has to take the role of screening.*
- *Should include reference to different views.*
- *Not always tries to reach a consensus.*
- *However, for certain issues, a further joint research may be conducted, possibly trying to make a unified view.*
- *"Secretariat's view" in future.*

2. Possible principles and points for discussion

(9) Rule for citation

If EiSMAP allows different views, it has to have a rule

for citation.

- "According to Professor A in EiSMAP,…,"
- "According to EiSMAP unified view,"
- "According to EiSMAP secretariat's view…".
- an index number for each Web page.

2. Possible principles and points for discussion

(10) Quality control

The contents of EiSMAP have to have sufficient level of reliability, and a mechanism of quality control should be implemented.

Somebody has to review the draft, or ask experts to write a draft and check its quality.

Perhaps it is not the role of the governments.

Then it is likely the job of non-governmental members if possible.

2. Possible principles and points for discussion

(11) Membership

EiSMAP has to have a well defined process of determining members.

- **Certain level of commitment by governmental authorities.**

- **Possibly more important role by suitable non-governmental or semi-governmental institutions such as research institutes.**

- **They should have sufficient resources, even if EiSMAP is to be managed in a cost minimizing way.**

2. Possible principles and points for discussion

(11) Membership

- **Who should choose members?**

- **Perhaps, as a starting point, it would be practical to ask governmental authorities for suggestion.**

- **On a later stage, members can jointly make suggestions on possible new members to invite.**

- **There may be a need for a mechanism to guarantee a smooth change in membership.**

3. List of possible subject areas

Examples of Sustainabiity and Cross-country

- Diversity and foreigners
- Pollution and other environmental burden
- Biodiversity
- Competitiveness
- Intellectual property
- Technology transfer
- Disaster prevention
- Balance of payment and foreign debt
- International trade
- Foreign direct investment
- Financial market
- Foreign exchange system
- Others (proposals will be welcome)

4. How can we proceed?

(1) In this meeting

- Make comments to any of the points discussed in this paper so that we can identify;

  - points where there seems to be no objections among the participants

    and

  - points where we find considerable diversity in opinions

4. How can we proceed?

(2) Who are the right people?

- Among whom should we conduct intensive discussion on future principles of EiSMAP?

- Again this has to be a gradual convergence process.

- In order to identify who are the right persons to consult with, the image of EiSMAP has to be reasonably clear.

- Given the diversity in development stage and in political systems, the status of "right people" may not be uniform across countries and regions.

- Willingness to contribute can remain an important condition for right people.

4. How can we proceed?

(3) The time framework

- We can start a feedback process soon, in three steps.

- In the first term, possible functions and principles of EiSMAP can be discussed, among those whoever is interested in the idea.

- In the second term, based on such discussion, each country/region can establish a group of people, who would represent the view of that country/region concerning EiSMAP.

4. How can we proceed?

- It may be a delicate issue as to who should authorize such a group. One idea would be to expect the government to take that role. If this happens to be difficult, the EiSMAP secretariat may have a room to play, in suggesting a set of guidelines for organizing country/region committees.

- In the third term, views of countries/ regions are collected and after a number of feedback process, the principles and framework of EiSMAP are expected to converge.

5. Conclusion:

The potential merit of EiSMAP is quite large.

- With the help of latest informational technology, we can share vital information concerning sustainability of our development and on the interdependent nature of such issues across national boarders.

- It can play a major role in converting the diversity of Asia Pacific region, which tended to be viewed as a disadvantageous factor, to an advantageous factor.

- Our challenge is how to make an efficient scheme that would benefit all the participants who are interested in the sustainable development of our globe.

Thank you!

and
Good Luck
for us and EiSMAP!