



## – 2009 AECEN Regional Forum – ASIAN ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT NETWORK

### Background

Recognizing the need for a regional approach for strengthening compliance and enforcement in Asia, environmental agency leaders from various Asian nations established the Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (AECEN), an informal member network dedicated to promoting improved environmental compliance and enforcement in the region. AECEN serves as a regional platform for Asian countries to promote improved compliance with environmental legal requirements through exchange of best practices and information, and targeted training and skills-building initiatives. Almost four years have passed since the launching of the network in Manila and in the intervening years, the network has grown and now has members from 12 Asian countries: P.R. China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

### Program Objectives

On 12-14 October 2009, the National Environment Agency (NEA) in partnership with AECEN, will convene the AECEN 2009 Regional Forum in Singapore. In conjunction with the Forum, UNEP will co-organize the Meeting on Advancing Effective Environmental Compliance and Enforcement in Asia to prepare a joint statement on environmental compliance and enforcement.

The objectives of this three-day event are to:

- Elevate the importance of environmental compliance and enforcement through a discussion among senior officials on strengthening regional cooperation in this area;
- Develop a regional statement highlighting the need to address challenges in environmental compliance and enforcement in Asia;
- Present the AECEN Award for Outstanding Service and Commitment by a Woman;
- Share innovative approaches in Singapore and other countries on strengthening implementation of environmental laws in urban areas;
- And conduct an observational program that would showcase Singapore's current strategies in ensuring environmental compliance.

### Event Format

The annual forum will include panel discussions on emerging trends worldwide and in Asia; expert presentations on urban environmental management and observational program for AECEN members.

**Participants:** Forum participants include 60-70 senior environmental officials and policymakers, representatives from development partners and other environmental experts from across Asia, the US and Europe.

**Date:** 12-14 October 2009

**Location:** The Goodwood Park Hotel, Singapore

**Organizers:** Singapore National Environment Agency; Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network, United States Agency for International Development, United States Environmental Protection Agency, and United Nations Environment Programme