

Nanjing Communiqué on Asian Soil Partnership

Nanjing, China, February 11, 2012

We, the soil scientists from 16 Asian countries/regions along with international/national institutes and others with an interest in advancing the science and technology of soil information in Asia have assembled in Nanjing, China, from February 8th to 11th, 2012, to explore opportunities and applications of the emerging Global Soil Partnership(GSP). The meeting was hosted by the Institute of Soil Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and sponsored by FAO and Chinese governmental institutions.

We have unique and diverse knowledge of the soil and land use of Asia that we share. We recognize the benefits to be gained from further sharing our information and data on soil survey, soil mapping and capacity development. During the four days of discussions, the participants highlighted the importance of sharing soil information regionally and globally, and with succeeding generations, to achieve food security, carbon sequestration, combating land degradation and to promote climate smart agriculture – the key components of sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Across the region, there is substantial variation in information, capacity, investment and environmental challenges. By working together, individual countries and Asia as a whole will improve soil security and benefit from this new regional cooperation.

We consider the priorities of this partnership should be:

- a) sharing and transferring soil knowledge and new technology within and beyond the region.
- b) providing soil information to all those with an interest in the sustainable use of soil and land resources.
- c) building consistent and updated Asian soil information systems and starting to contribute to the global soil information system through initiatives such as GSM.
- d) training new generations of experts in soil science and land management.

To achieve these goals, the participants agreed to establish the “Asian Soil Partnership” and support the vision and mission of Global Soil Partnership (GSP).

The Asian Soil Partnership will be initially operationalised by the setting up of a provisional secretariat and a steering committee to determine the rules of governance. The provisional secretariat will be located at the Institute of Soil Science, CAS, Nanjing, China.

