

Advisory Committee Meeting 6/17

20 September 2017 15:00-16:00 SE Asia Standard Time

Venue: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/448858485>

Participants

Mark Radka	UN Environment (Co-Chair)	Bruce Tolentino	IRRI (Co-Chair)
James Lomax	UN Environment	Luc Beerens	Mars Food
Paul Nicholson	Olam International	Christ Vansteenkiste	Vredeseilanden-VECO
Hammad Naqi Khan	WWF-Pakistan	Peter Sprang	SRP Secretariat
Wyn Ellis	SRP Secretariat	Lea Las Pinas	SRP Secretariat
Sukumar Verma	IBC Asia (Agenda 3 only)		

Regrets

Matthias Bickel	GIZ BRIA	Ladda Viriyangkura	Rice Department of Thailand
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Meeting Report (Draft)

Agenda Item	Description	Resp	Annex	Decision / Info
	<u>Chairperson's remarks and adoption of agenda</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MR called the meeting to order; the meeting was declared quorate and the agenda adopted unanimously, with Agenda 5 (Conference Update) brought forward as new Agenda Item 3. 	MR		For info
1	<u>Approval of report of last meeting 5/17 (27 July)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports of meetings 4/17 and 5/17 were unanimously approved. All decisions tabled for 5/17 were deferred as the meeting was inquorate. 	MR	#1,2	For decision
2	<u>Secretariat update</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership has grown to 76 members, with Winrock-ACR as the latest new member. Sunrice has indicated its intent to develop a SRP-certified supply chain from Australia and Vietnam, while Kellogg's has informed of its intent to rejoin SRP and adopt the standard in its worldwide sourcing. In response to a question, WE clarified that membership applications are not normally submitted for AC endorsement, in keeping with the AC's strategic role, although the AC is informed of all new members. He explained that all member must undergo UN Environment's due diligence clearance under its internal Partnerships Policy. This is a stringent process that should satisfy governance requirements It was agreed that any future application flagged as controversial in this process will be referred to the AC <p>[Action: WE to circulate UN Environment Due Diligence forms (attached herewith as Annex 8)]</p>	WE	#3	For info

	<p>Working Group 1 (Communications, LLP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus in Aug-Sept has been on member communications and social media, especially in connection with the Conference • Regular email announcements to members as well as the Newsletter have been issued • The 3-minute video has been finalized and will be launched at the conference; a social media campaign has been developed for China (awaiting UN Environment approval); and a booth and conference app have been developed for the conference, with Olam's support. • A communications strategy for SRP is under development and will be presented to the Plenary. <p>Working Group 2 (Public Sector Outreach, JL):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COP23: SRP's participation will be finalized by 4 October, when event timing will be clarified and decisions can be made on SRP representation. MR/WE will attend; JL will probably not. • JL reported submission of a joint proposal with CCAC for GCF funding to prepare a large-scale project proposal (US\$45 m): "Mitigating methane for more sustainable and resilient rice production systems". JL will meet CCAC in Paris at the OCED meeting on 27 Sept. • FAO and UN Environment will co-moderate Track 6 in the conference with the aim of creating the foundation for a large collaborative project to leverage policy incentives. • PN stressed the need to coordinate participation at COP23. • In response to a question from HNK, WE clarified that ADB, IFC and World Bank will participate in the conference, offering an opportunity to explore new partnerships. <p>[Action: WE to coordinate 1-page factsheet on rice climate impacts as inserts for distribution at COP23]</p> <p>[Action: Update on COP23 plans to be provided at the Plenary]</p> <p>Working Group 3 (Standard and Assurance, PS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A workshop was held on 21-25 August to launch the process of revision of the Standard and Performance Indicators • A short-term consultant (Sandra Khananosit) has been hired to manage the Standard revision, and a new draft is already posted online for a 60-day public consultation in line with ISEAL protocol. • Progress was also made on the assurance framework. • PN asked how can we make the consultation more robust and widespread? The consultation is English-focused; if we seek wide public feedback, then language remains a barrier. • Responding to CV's inquiry as to the outcome of the assurance discussion, PS informed that the discussion focused on the 2 lower levels, focusing on data requirements and questions to be raised to the AC • Control Union plans to roll out lower levels of assurance. • All supported WE's request that PS urgently prepare a position paper on the proposed assurance framework for presentation to the Plenary. PN added that clarity was needed on continuing rules for recognition and operation of 			
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	<p>auditors for 2017-18, as we are still training auditors in the absence of a formal SRP assurance framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MR requested allocation of additional time during the Plenary for a substantive discussion on assurance additional update on assurance. <p>[Action: PS to draft Position paper on assurance by 27 Sept]</p> <p>[Action: WE to adjust Plenary agenda]</p>			
3	<p><u>Conference update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sukumar Verma (IBC Asia) provided an update (Annex 4) indicating that all arrangements are in place. We have a total of 276 participants from 30 countries and 66 speakers in 6 tracks; the programme is now almost finalized. We also have 10 sponsors and 14 paying exhibitors. Arrangements for a cocktail reception and cost-conference tour are also almost finalized. It is likely that Lotus Foods (VN) will sponsor the cocktail. Financial projections indicate that the event will at least break even. BT noted that the MOU between IRRI and UN Environment will be ready for signing at the event; WE indicated that this can be accommodated in the Opening Session. <p>[Action: WE to adjust programme for Opening Session]</p>	SV	#4	For info
4	<p><u>SRP budget and staff contracts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MR informed that issues with allocation of SRP funds had now been resolved; renewal of contracts for WE and LLP is now in process. JL presented an updated financial statement (Annex 5). PN questioned the stability of the contract-based management structure of the Secretariat, which requires that contracts need to sometimes rest with UNEP and sometimes with third parties. Will SRP at some point be able to employ permanent staff? JL responded that UN Environment was waiting for SRP to grow in order to justify creation of staff positions. MR agreed that the staffing arrangements will need to change to move to a more stable situation, and that part of the answer will emerge from the visioning exercise. He requested a discussion in Bangkok. <p>[Action: to be included in Plenary agenda]</p>	MR/JL	#5	For info
6	<p><u>Approval of Agenda for SRP 7th Plenary Meeting and General Assembly</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WE presented the draft agenda. It was agreed to allocate additional time to discuss the Standard revision and assurance framework, and that financial report will be incorporated into the SRP Annual Report. The agenda was approved with the above changes It was also agreed that AC members will meet informally on the evening of 2 October. <p>[WE to circulate revised agenda and arrangements for dinner meeting on 2 October]</p>	WE	#6	For decision
7	<p><u>Strategic visioning exercise</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WE informed that the decision to proceed with Rogers MacJohn (tabled at the last AC meeting) had been deferred to the current meeting. In the meantime two additional options have been brought to the AC's attention: a proposal 	WE	#7	For decision

	<p>from Peterson (included in Annex 6) and a second from Global Initiatives. Peterson is supported by USAID via a grant from Green Invest Asia, so would come at no cost to SRP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MR proposed to invite these proponents to make a focused 10-15 min presentation to the General Assembly (either face to face or via video link) after which a decision would be made. This was unanimously approved. <p>[Action: WE to invite Peterson Consulting, Rogers MacJohn and Global Initiatives]</p>			
8	<p><u>Winrock/American Carbon Registry</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MR informed the AC of his recent discussion with Mary Grady (Deputy Director, American Carbon Registry- a Winrock project) and Bob Zeigler (Winrock consultant). Winrock will present the new draft US Rice Sustainability Standard at the conference, and will join the Plenary on 3 October. 	BT		For info
9	<p><u>Any other business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A The meeting adjourned at 17:00 SE Asia Standard time. 			

Annexes:

1. Meeting Report 4/17 8 June 2017
2. Meeting Report 5/17 27 July 2017
3. Secretariat Update (August-September)
4. Conference Update and Programme
5. SRP Financial Statement
6. Revised Agenda – SRP 7th Annual Plenary Meeting and General Assembly
7. Strategic Visioning Exercise – Proposals by Rogers MacJohn, Peterson Consulting and Global Initiatives
8. UN Environment Due Diligence Forms for For-profit and not-for-profit partners