

## **5. INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION**

5.1. Beyond domestic efforts to combat climate change, the global nature of the climate change problem requires global solutions. A strong and effective international effort is needed to address climate change and every country must play its part.

5.2. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) arose from the Earth Summit of 1992, chaired by a Singaporean, Professor Tommy Koh. The UNFCCC sets the framework for governments to cooperate on the issue of global warming, and it adopted the Kyoto Protocol (KP) in 1997. Singapore ratified the UNFCCC in 1997 and acceded to the KP in 2006. Going forward, Singapore will continue to support and actively participate in the UNFCCC and KP negotiations.

5.3. Singapore also promotes the sharing of climate-friendly practices with the region to facilitate emission reductions beyond our borders. The Germany-Singapore Environmental Technology Agency (GSETA) has been organising seminars and conferences on environmental issues including climate-change-related issues such as renewable energy and possible efforts by the tourism sector to address climate change. These seminars and conferences are attended by participants from the Asia-Pacific region. Singapore is also an active member of the ASEAN Working Group on Multilateral Environmental Agreements, which discusses climate change issues of concern to ASEAN.

5.4. In addition, Singapore supports international, regional and national efforts to preserve and restore carbon sinks, such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) aspirational goal to increase forest cover in the APEC region by at least 20 million hectares by 2020 and the discussions under the UNFCCC on ways to encourage developing countries to reduce deforestation. Singapore also supports the APEC-wide regional aspirational goal of a reduction in energy intensity of at least 25% by 2030 from 2005 levels. In November 2007, when Singapore hosted the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and 3<sup>rd</sup> East Asia Summit (EAS), regional leaders declared their resolve to work closely with one another on a fair, flexible and comprehensive multilateral agreement in addressing climate change beyond 2012. Singapore also secured agreement among ASEAN countries and our EAS partners to work to achieve a common understanding on a long term aspirational global emissions reduction goal, to pave the way for a more effective post-2012 international arrangement, as well as reforestation targets in ASEAN and the greater EAS region.

5.5. On a bilateral basis, we have collaborated with the Jambi Government and Indonesia's State Ministry of Environment to develop a Master Plan to deal with land and forest fires, which will help reduce carbon emissions from burning peatland forests. The Master Plan was completed in April 2007. It includes the use of modern technology to improve the productivity of certain fishery and agricultural activities to create a more

sustainable alternative livelihood for the farmers, which is the key strategy to prevent land and forest fires in Jambi. The Master Plan is currently in the implementation phase by Jambi and Indonesia's State Ministry of Environment, with technical assistance from Singapore for certain programmes. If successfully implemented, the Master Plan can be used as a model for other fire-prone districts in Indonesia.

5.6. In the years ahead, there is a need for the international community to discuss and reach an agreement on a long-term global target on emissions, to give a clear signal of its seriousness to tackle climate change. The global community needs to work towards this target collectively through the UNFCCC, while taking into account national circumstances. To effectively tackle climate change, the world has to adopt differentiated approaches and pursue pragmatic and cost-effective ways to reduce GHG emissions as well as protect the world's carbon sinks.