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The 13th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Japan, China, and Korea [TEMM13]  
Towards the Enhancement of Environmental Cooperation in Northeast Asia

The 13th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Japan, China, and Korea (TEMM13) was held on April 28-29, 2011 in Busan, Korea. State Secretary for the Environment KONDO Shoichi (at that time, same in the following contents) from the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ), Minister LEE Maanee (at that time, same in the following contents) from the Ministry of Environment, the Republic of Korea, and Minister ZHOU Shengxian from the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the People’s Republic of China met at the meeting. Minister LEE Maanee chaired the meeting at which the participants (1) gave briefings and discussed the environmental policies of the three countries, (2) discussed major policies for addressing global and regional environmental issues, (3) reviewed the progress of the Tripartite Joint Action Plan, and (4) exchanged views on the Student and Business Forums at the special session. The Joint Communiqué was adopted as the result of discussion. Japan also had bilateral meetings with Korea and China. Japan and China agreed on two memorandums regarding the implementation of environmental cooperation projects.

1. At the beginning of the meeting, sincere condolences and sympathy were expressed regarding the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred in March and State Secretary KONDO Shoichi expressed his deep appreciation for the support provided by Korea and China. He then explained Japan’s countermeasures to the Earthquake and the nuclear accident which give the highest priority to ensuring safety. China and Korea showed their understanding of the Japanese efforts.

2. The strengthening of measures and cooperation among the three countries was agreed upon in the fields of transboundary pollution including marine litter, dust and sandstorms, and avian influenza carried by migratory birds, based on requests from State Secretary KONDO Shoichi.

3. In light of the disasters caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake, the three Ministers agreed that close cooperation among the three countries is highly important in preventing environmental damage originating from natural disasters. Cooperative measures including information sharing and human resource development will be considered.

4. The three Ministers reviewed the progress of the Tripartite Joint Action Plan, which was adopted at TEMM 12 last year, and they agreed to continuously work on the implementation of the Plan.

5. Discussions were exchanged on the establishment of low-carbon green campuses and future green leader training by students from the three countries. Views were exchanged on environmental information sharing to expand environmental markets and on cooperative projects in developing countries to improve the environment among business representatives from the three countries. The results of the discussions were then reported at the ministerial meeting.

6. It was decided that the next meeting will be hosted by China next year.

Bilateral Meeting between Japan and Korea

Minister LEE Maanee expressed his condolences and sympathy to those affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. He explained that the staff of the Ministry of Environment had given donations for the relief efforts and proposed that workshops should be organized to disseminate the lessons learned from the nuclear accident caused by the earthquake and tsunami to the rest of the world. State Secretary KONDO Shoichi expressed his deep appreciation for the kind support that Japan received from Korea. Minister LEE Maanee also highly praised the role that Japan played at the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP10) which was held last year.
Bilateral Meeting between Japan and China

Minister ZHOU Shengxian expressed his condolences and sympathy to those affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. State Secretary KONDO Shoichi responded by conveying his deep appreciation for the kind support provided by China. Minister ZHOU Shengxian then gave a briefing on the domestic policies included in the 12th Five-Year Plan which was established in 2011. The two memorandums on bilateral environmental cooperation projects by the two countries, including the Memorandum of understanding on the implementation of co-benefits joint studies and model projects (Phase II) which addresses the reduction of air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions, and the Memorandum of understanding on model projects of total pollutant load reduction (ammonia nitrogen) in rural China came into effect at this occasion.

Signing Ceremony for the Agreement on Mutual Recognition of the Japan Eco Mark and China Environmental Labelling

State Secretary KONDO Shoichi and Minister ZHOU Shengxian attended the signing ceremony for the Agreement on Mutual Recognition of the Japan Eco Mark and China Environmental Labelling, signed by Mr. Tang Dingding, Board Director of the China Environmental United Certification Center Co., Ltd. (CEC) and Mr. Akio Morishima, Director General of the Japan Environment Association.

TEMPM Students and Business Forums

The Students and Business Forums were held in Busan, Korea on April 28, 2011 along with TEMM13. Students and business representatives from the three countries respectively exchanged views and had discussions.

The Business Forum

The Business Forum was held with the attendance from business representatives from three countries including representatives from the Asian Urban Development Consulting Consortium, the Shimizu Corporation, Teijin Limited., Dowa Eco-System Co., Ltd. and Panasonic Corporation from Japan. Discussions took place under two themes of “information sharing to expand environmental markets” which is important for developing environmental industries and “cooperative projects in developing countries for the improvement of the environment.” The results of the discussions and the opinions expressed at the Forum were summarized and the President of Dowa Eco-System Co., Ltd. Mr. Kenichi Sasaki reported the results to the three Ministers at the ministerial meeting on April 29 and answered questions as the representative of participating corporations from the three countries.

The Student Forum

The Students from three countries including the representatives from Iwate University, Osaka Prefecture University, Sophia University, Tokyo Institute of Technology, and Yokohama City University from Japan attended the Student Forum. Under two themes of “the establishment of low-carbon green campuses” and “future green leader training,” student representatives made presentations which were followed by active and frank discussions facilitated by moderators. The discussions and opinions presented at the Forum were summarized and Mr. LU Yufei from Peking University reported the results to the three Ministers at TEMM 13 on April 29 and answered questions as the representative of students from the three countries.
Activities of the “Overseas Development Based on Japanese Model of Environmental Technologies” Project
Japan’s Bilateral Cooperation with Vietnam and Indonesia

In fiscal year 2009 The Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) launched the “Overseas Development Based on Japanese Model of Environmental Technologies” project. In the project, development of laws and human resources are compiled into a package and measures to disseminate environmental technologies to corporate pollutant emitters in Asian countries are considered. In addition, bilateral cooperation projects are conducted in order to implement the policy package in China, Vietnam and Indonesia. As part of the project, the 6th Meeting of Japan-Vietnam Joint Policy Study Group and the Workshop on Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) program in Vietnam was held in Vietnam on June 28-29, 2011. The 3rd Japan-Indonesia Experts Meeting and a Joint Workshop on Enlargement Functions of Environmental Management Center was also held in Indonesia on June 16, 2011.

The 6th Meeting of Japan-Vietnam Joint Policy Study Group and the Workshop on the ETV program in Vietnam

As part of the “Overseas Development Based on Japanese Model of Environmental Technologies” project, MOEJ conducts cooperation projects mainly in the field of industrial effluent control since July 2009, with the Institute of Science for Environmental Management (ISEM), the Vietnam Environment Administration (VEA), the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) of Vietnam as a counterpart.

MOEJ has been conducting cooperation projects with Vietnam since FY 2009. As the first bilateral meeting in this fiscal year, the 6th Meeting of Japan-Vietnam Joint Policy Study Group was held on June 28, and the Workshop on ETV program in Vietnam was held on June 29 in Hanoi. Japanese participants included MOEJ and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as well as experts from the Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan (OECC). The Vietnamese participants included MONRE as well as experts from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment of Thai Nguyen Province. The main results of the meeting and workshop are shown below.

The 6th Meeting of Japan-Vietnam Joint Policy Study Group

- Discussions were held on the concrete contents of bilateral cooperation projects for this fiscal year such as Japan-Vietnam joint policy research.
- Vietnam will conduct research on institutional improvement of the Vietnam Environmental Protection Fund so that the fund can help small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to take environmental measures.
- With the cooperation of Vietnam, Japan will continue to conduct the field study targeting Thai Nguyen Province (Provincial Government and the main medium-sized pollutant emitting companies in the Province). This aims to improve pollution control measures by introducing environmental technologies which includes development of laws and human resources as a package to companies, and to create good practices for effective pollution control measures as well as to disseminate its framework in Vietnam. In this fiscal year, Japanese experts will obtain detailed information about the current situation and consider coordination among various policy tools as well as measures to develop relevant human resources.
- Japan-Vietnam joint workshop for this fiscal year will be held in November in Hanoi to share the achievements of the joint policy research and the relevant JICA projects as well as to have details discussions on environmental management in the central and local governments of Vietnam.

The Workshop on the ETV program in Vietnam

- Views were exchanged on the notification of contents and the operational issues regarding the framework of an ETV program for effluent treatment technologies, which is currently being formulated by the VEA.
- The participants recognized that importance of verification testing plans and capacity development at verification organizations for the appropriate evaluation of the technologies, in light of the Japanese experience in environmental technology verification programs.
- Japan and Vietnam will continue exchanging opinions and Japan will give advice to Vietnam on the formulation of notification.
The 3rd Japan-Indonesia Expert Meeting and the Joint Workshop on the Enlargement Functions of Environmental Management Center

As part of the “Overseas Development Based on Japanese Model of Environmental Technologies” project, MOEJ has been conducting cooperation projects in the field of industrial effluent control in Indonesia since February 2011. A director general meeting between the Environmental Management Bureau, MOEJ and the Deputy for Infrastructure Building & Environmental Technology and Capacity Development (Deputy VII) of the Ministry of Environment, Indonesia (KLH) was held in Japan on March 4. The minutes of the meeting stipulating the future cooperation projects were produced and the two heads of bureaus signed the minutes.

As the first dialogue between MOEJ and KLH in this fiscal year based on the minutes of the meeting, the 3rd Japan-Indonesia expert meeting was held in the suburbs of Jakarta on June 16. The joint workshop was also held and participants discussed the future role of the Environmental Management Center (EMC) in the Deputy VII of KLH. The EMC was established in 1993 through Japanese Grant Aid. Japan also supported its capacity development through Project-Type Technical Cooperation until 2000. The Indonesian participants included officials from KLH and the Environmental Protection Bureau of North Sumatra Provincial Government, as well as experts from the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), the Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT) and the West Java Provincial Government, and the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB). The Japanese participants included MOEJ and JICA as well as experts from the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). The main results of the 3rd Japan-Indonesia expert meeting and the joint workshop are shown below.

The 3rd Japan-Indonesia Expert Meeting

- Japan proposed; 1) KLH-MOEJ joint field studies targeting specific areas and industries in order to propose measures which promote a policy package which includes the maintenance of systems and development of human resources in government and private corporations when introducing appropriate environmental technologies in corporations; 2) Comprehensive reviews on appropriate technologies, improvements in maintenance, evaluation of technologies, provision of information and guidance as well as support for introducing technologies in order to streamline and improve the production process as a whole as well as reducing the emission of pollutants the following points were made.

- Indonesia proposed; 1) dissemination of corporate environmental management systems to SMEs in particular; 2) the establishment of criteria for eco labeling, the creation of a database for eco-products and its PR activities; 3) expansion of the Pollution Control Manager System from water pollution control field to the air pollution control field and the dissemination of the system to areas outside Java; 4) increasing the number of occupations subject to guidance for cleaner production technologies.

- Based on the discussions, it was agreed that a field study will be conducted at a palm oil mill in North Sumatra and that a working group will be established by KLH, MOEJ, relevant ministries and agencies, the North Sumatra Provincial Government, the palm oil industry and consultants, who will then work on the development of specific plans. It was pointed out that the package approach of systems, human resources, and technologies was effective to disseminate environmental technologies. Human resource development at the on-site level in corporations and local governments is particularly important. It was also pointed out that it is necessary to consider the systems to disseminate the results of the field study horizontally.

Joint Workshop on the Enlargement Functions of Environmental Management Center

Japan and the Indonesia made presentations and views were exchanged as below.

- Specific challenges concerning the enlargement functions of the EMC should be clarified based on EMC data and its human resources.
- The mission of the EMC may be too ambitious considering the current condition of the organization and the personnel. Local governments and universities should be utilized further.
- The EMC should be improved so that it can establish more practical environmental standards, emissions standards and analysis methods based on data, in light of the current situation and the characteristics of the environment and industry in provincial areas.

Future consideration between KLH and MOEJ will be discussed in order to improve the function of the EMC so that it can support the environmental policy planning of KLH and local governments which have unique situations, using the EMC scientific data.

Relevant URLs


Since 2007, Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) has promoted Japan-Mongolia Environmental Policy Dialogue with the Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism of Mongolia (MNET) for the purpose of exchanging information and discussing the direction of cooperation in the field of environment.

Last January, two countries agreed that Japan would dispatch a mission to Mongolia to discuss future environmental cooperation between the countries. Based on the agreement, MOEJ dispatched the mission from July 25th to 30th, 2011. The mission comprises of officials of MOEJ and experts in Air, Waste, Water and Eco-Tourism.

The status quo of environment in Mongolia and the possible area for the future cooperation were surveyed through site visits to the power plant, waste disposal site, national parks and meetings with relevant authorities.

Major Achievements of the Mission

On the final day, the mission had a meeting with MNET. MNET proposed for some items to be considered for the future environmental cooperation with MOEJ. The mission explained the new project for Bilateral Offset Credit Mechanism which Japan has been promoting and the cooperation on adaptation, and the possible contents of the next eco-tourism cooperation. The Japanese experts of air, waste and water reported their views on the Environment in Mongolia and proposed possible solutions for improvement.

Both sides agreed that the two countries would make necessary examinations and arrangements for the 6th Japan-Mongolia Environmental Policy Dialogue and strengthen mutual cooperation.

Participants of the Meeting

Meeting between MNET and the mission
Specific Activities during the Mission

1 Site visits to Eco-Tourism site and National Parks

The mission visited two National Parks, Terelj and Khustai. Terelj National Park is one of the most famous destinations for tourists and selected as a model area in the Eco Tourism Promotion Project from 2008 to 2010. The Project supported the establishment of Eco-Tourism in the area.

In this mission, the current situation of the Eco-Tours was reported. Eco-Tours with the participation of local people as the operator have been implemented and some problems in attracting customers are found out. Khustai National Park is managed by an entitled NGO. The NGO runs the conservation of wild horse “Takhi” and other wild fauna and flora, ecological research, support for local communities, fund-raising activities and so on.

Eco-Tour at Terelj National Park

Wild horse “Takhi”

2 Site visit to the 4th Thermal Power Plant, Narangiin enger Waste Disposal Site, Central Laboratory of Environment and Metrology and Ger Areas

In order to know the actual situation on site, the members of the mission visited the 4th Thermal Power Plant, Narangiin enger waste disposal site and the Central Laboratory of Environment and Metrology. The 4th Thermal Power Plant is the largest coal-fired power plant in Mongolia and it generates 70% of the electricity for Mongolia’s central energy system and 70% of Ulaanbaatar city steam heating. The mission conducted a survey on operation management and others at the station. One of the Feasibility Studies for the Bilateral Offset Credit Mechanism will be implemented by targeting this plant from this fiscal year.

Narangiin enger waste disposal site is equipped with track scale, embankment, leachate treatment pond and an incinerator for medical waste is also installed on site. The mission confirmed that the hygienic way of landfill work has been conducted. With regard to the waste disposal, assistance through JICA has been made and some equipment of this disposal site was provided through Grant Aid by JICA.

At the Central Laboratory of Environment and Metrology, the mission members were explained about the equipment used for the measurement and analysis of water and air samples with the results of analysis.

At Ger Areas, the life of the local people, air pollution by coal-fired stoves, problems of human-waste treatment were the main topics.

3 Visit to Japanese Embassy, JICA, Water Agency and Mongolia Tourism Association

The mission members visited Japanese Embassy, JICA, the Water Agency and the Mongolian Tourism Association and exchanged opinions on Environment and Tourism.

At the Water Agency, water source and water use are the main topics. The members of the Mongolian Tourism Association raised some problems and challenges about the Eco-Tourism in Mongolia.
Establishment of the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative [COMDEKS]

Towards the Establishment of Societies in Harmony with Nature

On June 24, 2011, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) signed an agreement to implement the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS). COMDEKS is implemented by the UNDP and supported by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ), the SCBD and the United Nations University (UNU). It is intended to support local communities’ activities to maintain and restore socio-ecological production landscapes (human-influenced natural environments) and also to collect and disseminate knowledge and experience obtained by on-the-ground activities, towards the realization of “Societies in harmony with nature” which is defined as a vision of the Satoyama Initiative.

The Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) and the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) have jointly initiated the Satoyama Initiative to promote the conservation of biodiversity in human-influenced natural environments and sustainable utilization of these natural resources. The policy to support the Satoyama Initiative was adopted at the CBD-COP10 which took place in Nagoya City, Aichi, Japan in October 2010. At the COP10, IPSI was also launched as a global effort by various parties to push the initiative and 51 organizations have signed up for membership (as of October 2011, 91 organizations including government agencies from 14 countries have become the members of the IPSI).


Mechanisms of COMDEKS

COMDEKS supports on-site pilot projects conducted under the concept of the Satoyama Initiative by directly providing grassroots non-profit organizations and community-based civic organizations with small grants, in an effective and prompt manner, through the collaborative contribution of US$2 million from the Japan Biodiversity Fund, which is established under the SCBD, and UNDP-implemented schemes including the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme.

As one of the flagship collaborative activities under the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI), COMDEKS will implement and evaluate on-the-ground activities, share good practices and facilitate capacity building. The IPSI was launched at the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP10) and the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) serves as its Secretariat.

Countries to be Supported and the Program Schedule

The program will support 11 countries in its initial phase: Cambodia, India, Nepal, Fiji, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Slovakia, Turkey, Brazil, and Grenada. A total of around 25 countries will be supported by the estimated five-year program.

Effect of the Program

COMDEKS is the first global program which supports on-the-ground activities conducted under the concept of the Satoyama Initiative. The implementation of COMDEKS is expected to help in conserving biodiversity and improving human well-being, through the maintenance and restoration of human-influenced natural environments that are found in every corner of the globe and at stake.
The First Global Conference of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative

The First Global Conference of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI) was held in Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture, Japan on March 10-11, 2011. The conference consisted of the Assembly of the IPSI which was launched at the CBD-COP10 and the Public Forum for information sharing. The results of the conference are shown below.

Main Results of the Conference

- The amended IPSI Operational Framework was adopted and 18 Steering Committee members were appointed from among IPSI members. The IPSI Secretariat was designated.
- The Steering Committee was held separately and it approved all 23 new IPSI membership applicants.
- UNU-IAS was designated as the IPSI Secretariat based on the previous contribution as a temporary secretariat.

Main Results of the Public Forum

- Keynote Speeches were given by Jeff McNeely, Senior Science Advisor of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Kalemani Jo Mulongoy, Director of the Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters Division, SCBD.
- After the Public Forum presentations and interactive discussions, a panel discussion was held to share each session’s conclusions and to exchange views on the relationships between different activity themes, relationships between biodiversity and the improvement of local people’s livelihoods, the role and importance of traditional knowledge in the conservation of biodiversity.

Relevant URLs

Adoption of Co-benefits Support Project Utilizing the CDM [Co-benefits CDM Project]
Towards the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Environmental Pollution

Since fiscal year 2008, the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) has been implementing Co-benefits CDM Model Projects as a part of its efforts to promote the co-benefits approach which aims to simultaneously reduce environmental pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Asian countries. (The projects were renamed the Co-benefits Support Projects Utilizing the CDM (Co-benefits CDM Projects) in fiscal year 2011). A public invitation from Tuesday, April 26 to Tuesday, May 31 attracted two proposals, of which the Environmental Improvements and Reduced GHG Emissions from Closed Landfill Site Project in Malaysia was selected as a Co-benefits CDM Project on Monday, July 25. Co-benefits CDM Projects also support projects in Thailand and China.

Objectives of the Co-benefits CDM Projects

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is one of the flexibility mechanisms for achieving GHG emissions reduction targets defined in the Kyoto Protocol. Its objective is to provide sustainable development benefits in addition to GHG emissions reduction in developing countries. There are strong expectations among developing countries to carry out CDM projects which contribute to pollution control as well as GHG emissions reduction, so-called co-benefits projects.

In light of the current situation, the Co-benefits CDM Projects are implemented as both climate change measures and pollution control measures, in order to meet the needs of Asian countries which are facing increasing water and air pollution problems.

Outline of the Co-benefits CDM Projects

50% of the initial investment cost for a Co-benefits CDM project will be subsidized on the condition that at least 50% or above of the credits generated by the project will be transferred to the Government of Japan.

1. Entities Eligible for Subsidies - Private corporations, etc.
2. Projects Eligible for Subsidies - Co-benefits CDM projects which contribute to both reducing GHG emissions and solving water pollution, air pollution or waste related environmental problems
3. Subsidy Rate - 50% of the initial investment cost
4. Possible Areas of Co-benefits Approach (See the chart on the right)

Key Criteria for Selection

✓ The CDM project must be conducted in a country which has ratified the Kyoto Protocol, and the project must contribute to the Japan’s emissions reduction target.
✓ The project must contribute to solving water pollution, air pollution or waste related environmental problems.
✓ The project must have ways to evaluate the results of the project including the amount of GHG emissions reduced and the effects of pollution control measures.

Relevant URLs

Japan-China Environment Student Meeting
Towards the Enhancement of Human Resources Development and Environmental Cooperation between Japan and China

The Japan-China Environment Student Meeting was held in Beijing, China on March 14-17, 2011. Five students from Japan and 17 students from China participated in the meeting. Information was shared on environmental activities in the two countries and ideas were exchanged on future activities, and relationships among participants were deepened through the meeting.

Objectives of the Japan-China Environment Student Meeting

The main objectives of the Japan-China Environment Student Meeting were to: (1) develop human resources who will contribute to Japan-China relations and global efforts to establish sustainable societies; (2) facilitate students’ understanding of global issues and encourage further actions towards solution; and (3) help students, who are expected to build future cooperation between Japan and China, and deepen their mutual understanding as well as build relationships between them.

Activities at the Japan-China Environment Student Meeting

At the meeting, information on current environmental issues and environmental activities in each country was shared among participants, keynote speeches was conducted by experts and eco maps were produced as a way of visualizing and learning about current environmental issues. The participants were divided into three groups (climate change, water quality conservation and resources) in order to discuss action plans which participants should implement in the future. They also went on field trips to learn about the current situation in China and participated in afforestation activities.

Despite the limited time, views and ideas which will help in their future environmental activities were shared. The action plans will be carried out and their activities will be continuously shared through a mailing list.
Survey Results on the Current Status on the International Environmental Initiatives by the Japanese Companies
Towards Increased Corporate Environmental Efforts

The Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) conducted a survey called “The current status on the international environmental initiatives by the Japanese companies” on February 11-25, 2011. The objective of the survey was to clarify the current situation of the various environmental efforts that Japanese companies are conducting overseas.

● Survey Method
A questionnaire was sent by mail to 2,279 companies listed on the First Section, Second Section and Mothers section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange. The number of valid responses was 577 (with a response rate of 25.3%).

● Survey Results: 43% of the companies conduct international environmental activities.

The results show that 43.0% of the respondent companies are conducting international environmental activities and 10.2% are currently considering international environmental activities, as shown in Fig. 1.

● Survey Results: Many companies are conducting environmental activities in China.
The most popular field for environmental activities is energy conservation.

When looking at countries and regions, 191 companies out of the 248 are conducting environmental activities in China. The other main countries where companies actively make environmental efforts are developed countries including the US, the UK and Germany as well as Asian countries such as the ASEAN countries and the Republic of Korea.

Regarding environmental efforts in business operations, 207 companies out of the 248 (83.5%) said that they are “promoting and encouraging energy conservation”. 171 companies out of the 248 (69.0%) selected “efforts to reduce waste”. With regard to social contribution, the most popular activities were afforestation activities, sustainable forest management, and forest conservation” which were selected by 114 companies. Other popular activities included “environmental training and education for overseas employees” (102 companies) and “cleaning activities for town areas, the sea, rivers, lakes and marshes” (90 companies).

The survey also covered the following topics: organizations which companies collaborate with when conducting their international environmental activities; PR activities in countries where environmental activities take place; support measures that the companies expect from government; and methods for collecting information about environmental CSR (corporate social responsibility) in general. For detailed information about the survey, please visit the website of ECO-CSR JAPAN (http://www.eco-csrjapan.go.jp/en/) explained below.

Launch of the Website “ECO-CSR JAPAN: Japan’s International Cooperation in Eco-CSR”
For the Promotion of International Environmental CSR Activities by Japanese Companies

MOEJ launched the website called ECO-CSR JAPAN: Japan’s International Cooperation in Eco-CSR on April 1, 2011 with the aim of promoting international cooperation in the environmental field by Japanese companies through introducing current situation and practical examples. The website provides a variety of information including practices by Japanese companies, basic country information regarding environmental activities, the introduction of relevant organizations, the results of surveys on CSR (corporate social responsibility) and related materials, and articles on updates of CSR and activities by Japanese companies written by overseas NGO workers and experts.