

CAI Newsletter

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The 10th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting and the 5th ASEAN-Japan Dialogue on Environmental Cooperation

Towards the Promotion of Environmental Cooperation in Asia

... The 10th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting

The 10th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on October 19, 2011. Participants at the meeting included delegates from the ASEAN member countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), China, Korea, Japan and the ASEAN Secretariat. At the meeting, ministers discussed on promotion of environmental cooperation between the plus three countries (China, Korea and Japan) and ASEAN. The three countries also reported on cooperation with ASEAN.



Summary of the 10th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting

Addresses

Following the opening remark from H.E Dr. Yin Kim Sean, Secretary of State of Ministry of Environment, Cambodia, Japan, China and Korea gave addresses. Japan gave a briefing on domestic efforts including post-earthquake measures, biodiversity conservation and environmental cooperation with ASEAN such as the environmental city programme. Japan also explained ongoing environmental cooperation efforts in Asia including the Regional 3R Forum in Asia, the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) and the bilateral offset credit mechanism.

Joint Cooperation by ASEAN Plus Three Countries

Regarding the cooperation programs joined by ASEAN Plus Three countries, Japan enthusiastically supports many of the programs, including the Taxonomic Capacity Building and Governance for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and the ASEAN Eco Model Cities Programme. At the meeting, the progress on the projects was confirmed and the direction for future cooperation was discussed. In the discussion about new cooperation projects between ASEAN and the three countries, Brunei proposed convening the 2nd ASEAN+3 Youth Environment Forum; and Japan proposed the establishment of Asia Research Network for Low Carbon Development (ARNLCD). The participants at the meeting agreed on continued cooperation among the ASEAN Plus Three countries.

... The 5th ASEAN-Japan Dialogue on Environmental Cooperation

The 5th ASEAN-Japan Dialogue on Environmental Cooperation was held in Brunei on September 14, 2011. Delegates from ASEAN Member States, Japan and the ASEAN Secretariat attended the meeting. Indonesia and Japan co-chaired the meeting. The participating countries evaluated completed and ongoing projects on environmental cooperation which utilize the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). Discussions were also held on new projects. The ASEAN-Japan Dialogue on Environmental Cooperation was proposed by the Japanese government at the 11th ASEAN-Japan

Summit in November 2007 with the aim of promoting environmental cooperation between Japan and ASEAN. The ASEAN Member States agreed to the proposal and the 1st ASEAN-Japan Dialogue on Environmental Cooperation was held in Hanoi, Vietnam in March 2008.

In the 5th Dialogue, the participants evaluated projects including the Workshop on Water Demand Management Learning Forum for Irrigation which was held in Bangkok, Thailand on July 26-28, 2011. Views were also exchanged on ongoing projects such as

The ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting



A Review of Cooperation between Japan and ASEAN, China and ASEAN, and Korea and ASEAN

- Japan reported on the results of the ASEAN-Japan Dialogue on Environmental Cooperation held in September this year. Thailand and Indonesia, as the respective implementing countries, reported on the Workshop on Water Demand Management Learning Forum for Irrigation, and on the ASEAN Eco Model Cities Programme, which utilized the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).
- China reported on the establishment of the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Centre as well as reporting on the ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Action Plan and the China-ASEAN Cooperation on Capacity Building.
- Korea reported on the Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystem in the Southeast Asian Tropical Regions, the Asia-ROK Green Business Partnership, the ASEAN-ROK Climate Change Adaptation Partnership and the ASEAN-ROK NGV (Natural Gas Vehicle) Forum.

Responses by ASEAN

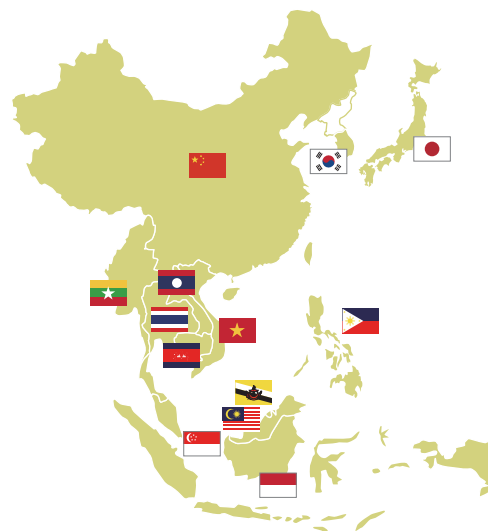
ASEAN Member States expressed their gratitude for the cooperation of China, Japan and Korea. They also expressed their expectation for future cooperation from the three countries.

The Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the 11th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting will be held in Thailand in 2012.

Preparation for Rio+20

Together with this meeting, another meeting was hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for exchanging views on Rio+20 (United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) to be held in June 2012. At the meeting, the participating countries exchanged opinions about the main themes of Rio+20, "a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication" and "the institutional framework for sustainable development."



the ASEAN Eco Model Cities Programme. Discussions also took place on the expansion of the Taxonomic Capacity Building and Governance for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and continued support for the ASEAN Eco Model Cities Programme utilizing the JAIF.



The ASEAN-Japan Dialogue on Environmental Cooperation



The 3rd Annual Meeting of the International Research Network for Low-Carbon Societies [LCS-RNet]

Challenges for a Paradigm Shift towards the Establishment of Low-Carbon Societies

The 3rd Annual Meeting of the International Research Network for Low-Carbon Societies* (LCS-RNet) was held in Paris, France on October 13-14 2011. A total of 68 people from 34 research institutes in 13 countries and six international organizations participated in the meeting. Participants from Japan included the Ministry of the Environment as the contact point for the Japanese government of LCS-RNet, the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) as the Japanese representative for research institutes, and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES, the secretariat of LCS-RNet).

At the meeting, based on past study results on low-carbon societies, the participants looked at the challenges for a paradigm shift towards the establishment of low-carbon societies, and discussions were exchanged on policy designs for innovative changes to social systems, behavior patterns and technical systems, as well as what is needed to increase social and financial support. The outcome of the meeting was announced on 29th November, 2011 at a side event of the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The outcome will also be reported at the G8 Environment Ministers Meeting next year.

In the meanwhile, in light of the great importance that Asia has had in various areas within global climate policies, LCS-RNet Secretariat proposed the establishment of a network called the "Asia Research Network for Low Carbon Development (ARNLCD)" which aims to help the Asian region strengthen its fundamental and sustained capacity in formulating science based policies for low-carbon development. The proposal was made at the ASEAN+3 Environmental Ministers Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, held on 19 October 2011, immediately after the annual meeting in Paris.

*The agreement on LCS-RNet foundation was based on a Japanese proposal at the G8 Environment Ministers Meeting in Kobe, Japan held from May 24-26, 2008. In April 2009, LCS-RNet was officially launched by research institutions representing their countries. These research institutions engage in research on how to accomplish low-carbon societies in their country. At the same time, LCS-RNet was asked to report its activities periodically by the G8 Environment Ministers Meeting held in April 2009. The first annual meeting was held in Bologna Italy, in October 2009 and the second Annual Meeting was held in Berlin, Germany in September 2010. Currently, 16 research institutes from seven countries are participating in the network including: Japan (NIES and IGES); France (International Research Center on Environment and Development (CIRED) and other 3 institutes); Italy (Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA) and the other one institute); Korea (National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER)); the UK (UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC)); Germany (Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy (WI)); and India (Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA) and other 4 institutes).

Outline of the LCS-RNet 3rd Annual Meeting

At the meeting, three sessions took place on the following topics: (1) climatic challenge and 'green growth': what <<paradigm shift>>?; (2) institutional and technical conditions for decoupling carbon emissions from economic growth; and (3) urban energy efficiency and low carbon development patterns and lifestyles. The participants also exchanged their views on low-carbon societies. The following explains the main content and the outcome of the discussions.

Ten Key Findings

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The LCS-RNet workshop addressed the many facets of the "paradigm shift" in climate policies demanded by the Cancun agreement. In spite of the untimely context in which international negotiations are taking place, the "paradigm shift" offers substantial opportunities to reconcile long-term challenges with the concerns of the current generation. We must avoid the temptation to postpone decisions needed to tackle a very long term problem.

1 Nature of the desirable paradigm shift

Instead of being framed in terms of burden sharing, the climate policies necessary to launch a long run transition towards a low carbon society must be designed so as to respond the short term demands for poverty alleviation, jobs and protection of welfare benefits. They can contribute to an economic recovery driven by "green growth" with a view to securing sustainable development involving changes in consumption patterns, technological and lifestyles

2 The risks of lock-in

Without active climate policies, humanity will be locked-in to carbon intensive development paths; industrialized countries will slow down the turnover of their capital stock while emerging economies will build the bulk of infrastructures in ways that will be hard to re-shift at a later date. As well as accelerating climate change, this could exacerbate future pressures on energy resources.

3 Supply-side responses: decision-making against a background of controversy

Feasible transition pathways compatible with desirable climate objectives, environmental concerns and social requirements

are available. Controversies about the performance, economic viability and environmental soundness of major technical options need to be managed through public debate so that the application of a precautionary approach leads to better targeted innovation rather than a freeze on low-carbon development.

4 Demand-side response: Energy efficiency and beyond

Technological change will not be sufficient by itself for the low-carbon transition. In addition to energy efficiency, key parameters include the dematerialization of productive processes through, for example, recycling or product obsolescence, and changes in lifestyle, behavior and household consumption patterns.

5 Energy policies and beyond

Energy policies need to be placed in a broader context encompassing urban policies, transportation policies and agricultural policies. Urban dynamics affect mobility needs and gasoline consumption. There is a need for low-carbon mass transportation systems, energy efficiency projects for public buildings and integrated waste management. Land-use policies have to make the provision of biomass energy compatible with food production.

6 Innovation and beyond

Technical change will not come as manna from heaven and depends on the development of knowledge and human capital along the chain from fundamental research, R&D and pilot projects through to industrial diffusion. Well-designed policy packages comprising a wide range of policy instruments (carbon taxes, carbon markets, standards, R&D, reforms of electricity markets, urban and land-use policies) are needed both to trigger long-term transformation, mobilize the best available technologies and mitigate short term transition difficulties such as underemployment, debt and distributional issues.

7 “Green growth” and sustainable development in different contexts

Transforming “green growth” from a slogan to an operational concept means using the low carbon objective to define the frontier for technical and structural changes in view of more sustainable development patterns and lifestyles. In the developed countries the challenge is to trigger the transformation of existing infrastructures. In developing countries, the main issue is the form of new energy, transportation and building infrastructure under development. Pricing environmental goods and services is essential, but is not a “magic bullet”. Pricing has to be embedded in broader reforms of fiscal systems, institutions and capital markets.

8 Tailoring low-carbon policy packages for sectors and countries

National level packages that set the framework for the low-carbon transition are essential. However, these must be reinforced by policy packages which are country and sector specific. Many programs may be most effectively - and innovatively - delivered at the municipal level. Together with the emergence of a carbon price there is a need for a differentiated set of financial instruments that lower risk for industry and local authorities (e.g. renewable energy finance or energy efficiency finance).

9 The need for international arrangements

Policies will not be fully effective without international arrangements that complement and leverage domestic climate and development initiatives. These are needed to provide the necessary financial, technological and capacity building support to developing countries and to mitigate concerns about distortions in international competition. Such international arrangements can be reached on a regional scale. However, these do not obviate the need for a comprehensive global architecture.

10 Upgrading climate finance in the context of the financial crisis

Carbon finance must be upgraded if the paradigm shift implied by the Cancun agreement demands is to occur. The emergence of a recognized carbon value is needed to ground this upgrading. Innovative financial products are needed to mobilize global capital market players such as institutional investors. In addition to triggering a wave of climate friendly infrastructure investments climate finance could make a positive contribution to discussions on the evolution of the international financial system.



Participants at the 3rd Annual Meeting

● Relevant Websites LCS-RNet: <http://lcs-rnet.org>

The Director General Level Meeting between the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Indonesia concerning the Bilateral Cooperation on the Co-benefits Approach

Promotion of further cooperation between the two countries

A meeting on the bilateral cooperation on the co-benefits approach was held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 26 September 2011 between Mr. Sagisaka, the Director General of the Environmental Management Bureau of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) and Mr. Karliansyah, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environment of Indonesia. At the meeting, Minutes of Meeting was signed to enter into the Phase II cooperation of the co-benefits approach.



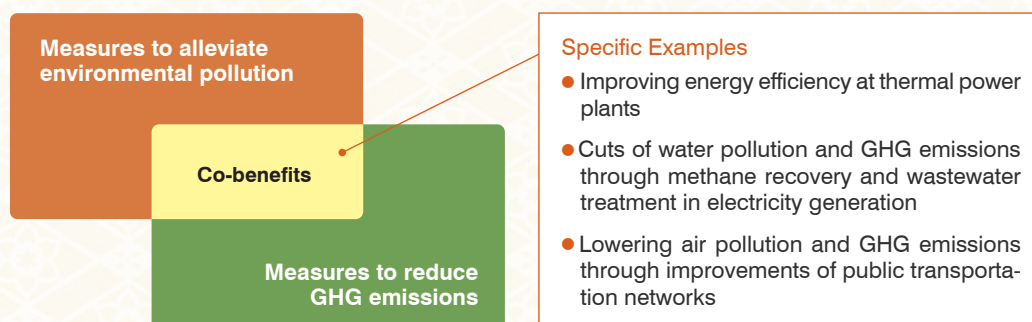
Director General Level Meeting in Jakarta

Background

Many developing countries in Asia face a rapid economic growth but such growth has brought some negative impact to the local environment as a consequence. Therefore, there is an urgent need in these countries to take measures against environmental pollution, climate change and other related problems. In light of the situation, the Ministers of the two countries agreed on a "Joint Statement on Environmental Protection through Co-benefits Approach" (Phase I) in December 2007. The cooperation was aimed to promote co-benefits approach in the environment related policy-making in Indonesia by means of capacity building of government officials and feasibility studies to carry out some model projects. The cooperation lasted three years until 2010. The results of the three-year cooperation were presented at a workshop held in Jakarta in March 2011.

What is a Co-benefits Approach?

The "co-benefits approach" generally refers to initiatives that can simultaneously achieve two goals: alleviation of environmental pollution, which is a challenge for developing countries, and reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which is a global concern. In many cases, the co-benefits approach works as very efficient measures to address these issues. Japan is promoting the co-benefits approach as a valuable policy tool for sustainable environment and hopes that the approach will see broader application at the global level.



Results of the Meeting and the Commissioning of Phase II Cooperation

During the meeting, the outcome of the three-year cooperation was evaluated and it was agreed to continue the cooperation into the Phase II with an effective use of the knowledge and experience of the two countries. The cooperation will focus on, but not limited to the agro-industry sector that has a large potential of achieving co-benefits in Indonesia. Some expert level meetings and surveys have already carried out since the signing.

● Relevant Websites Co-benefits Approach: <http://www.kyomecha.org/cobene/e/index.html>

The 3rd International Workshop and the 7th Annual Meeting of the Water Environment Partnership in Asia [WEPA]

Towards the Conservation of Public Water Quality

Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA), an initiative proposed by the Japanese Ministry of the Environment, aims to strengthen water environment governance in Asia through developing an information platform on water environment management and capacity building activities in an integrated manner. From September 21 to 23, the 3rd International Workshop and the 7th Annual Meeting was held in Manila, the Philippines. The main objective of the workshop was to share information on measures and efforts on public water quality management in each country, in particular on WEPA's priority topic of domestic wastewater management. The workshop also aimed at discussing current issues and possible future solutions. At the Annual Meeting, the participants exchanged their views on the WEPA activities. The details and the results of the workshop and the meeting are set out below.

The 3rd International Workshop

● Session 1 (Current Policy Responses to Attain National Water Quality Target and Future Challenges)

Following a keynote speech by the representative of the Environmental Management Bureau of Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines, delegates from Malaysia, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Sri Lanka and Japan introduced their respective country's national water quality targets and the measures to attain those goals. In the discussion, it was highlighted that, although institutional arrangements and implementation differ among the countries, most countries have set clear water quality targets with specific measures to improve the water environment. Participants also emphasised the importance of learning from the experiences of other countries.

● Session 2 (Water Quality Management in the context of basin management)

The session was jointly chaired with NARBO (Network of Asian River Basin Organizations). Following the keynote speech given by the representative of the River Basin Control Office of Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines, efforts that take into account pollution control in dam reservoirs and overall lake basin management by basin management organisations were introduced by representatives from the Japan Water Agency (which serves as the secretariat of NARBO), the Philippine Laguna Lake Development Authority, and the Jasa Tirta 2 (Indonesian Water Resource Public Corporation II) (which are both the NARBO members). There were additional presentations on the state of water quality management at the river basin level in the three WEPA partner countries namely Myanmar, Lao PDR and Nepal.

● Session 3 (Domestic wastewater management)

Domestic wastewater treatment is one of the priority topics of the second phase of WEPA (FY2009 onwards). In this session, based on the result of the survey conducted on past WEPA activities, the secretariat (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies: IGES) gave an outline of

the state of domestic wastewater treatment and existing challenges in each WEPA partner country. It was followed by an exchange of views among the participants on the challenges in promoting domestic wastewater treatment namely (i) household connection and treatment fee collection systems, and (ii) alternative options to large scale sewerage treatment plants.

Regarding (i) household connection and treatment fee collection systems, the current situation and examples from Thailand, Cambodia, Republic of Korea, the Philippines, and Malaysia were presented by the participants from each country. The presentations highlighted the fact that despite the differences in operational methods (e.g. central and local government subsidy systems, degree of outsourcing), there is a common challenge among the WEPA partner countries. In general, there is not much public awareness on wastewater treatment projects. This makes it difficult to increase the number of households connected to wastewater treatment facilities and to collect the treatment fees. There was also a presentation on a case where fees are collected together with water supply fees as a way to ensure sustainable operation of wastewater treatment. Some countries expressed their hopes for healthy finance through profits gained from recycling water or utilising biogas.

With regard to (ii) alternative options to large scale sewerage treatment plants, successful cases of small-scale domestic wastewater treatment systems, community participatory treatment systems, and on-site treatment systems were presented by the participants from Indonesia, the Philippines, Viet Nam, Thailand, China and Japan. During the open discussion, the participants agreed that each country should strive to introduce financially sustainable wastewater treatment systems of an appropriate size reflecting the local conditions.



Participants at the 3rd workshop

The 7th Annual Meeting

At the 7th Annual Meeting, discussions were focused on WEPA activities towards the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Forum (to be held in Thailand in 2012) and the 6th World Water Forum (to be held in France in March 2012).

Comparison of Water Environment Management Systems among the WEPA partner countries

As a way to evaluate and examine water environment management in WEPA partner countries with different conditions, the secretariat proposed the analysis of frameworks in four different policy stages: planning, implementation, monitoring and action. Partner countries supported the proposal, but it was decided that they should continue discussions on the details of the evaluations.

WEPA Outlook of Water Environmental Management Strategies in Asia

WEPA publishes the Outlook of Water Environmental Management Strategies in Asia every three years, on the occasion of the World Water Forum. The outlook summarises water environmental management in WEPA partner countries. At the meeting, an outline for the second volume of the outlook was discussed and the opinions were exchanged on what messages should be sent by WEPA to the 6th World Water Forum. The WEPA Outlook will be made public at the World Water Forum.



Participants at the 7th Annual Meeting

The 3rd Meeting of the Regional 3R Forum in Asia

Technology Transfer for Promoting the 3Rs

The 3rd Meeting of the Regional 3R Forum in Asia was held in Singapore on October 5-7, 2011. The meeting was held with the theme of "Technology Transfer for promoting the 3Rs – Adapting, implementing, and scaling up appropriate technologies." 150 people participated in the meeting, including representatives of 23 Asia-Pacific countries, international organizations, donor organizations, the private sector, research institutes, and NGOs.

Parliamentary Secretary of the Environment, Japan, Mr. Takayama attended the meeting representing the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ). The Chair's Summary and its annex, the "Recommendations of the Singapore Forum on the 3Rs in Achieving a Resource Efficient Society in Asia" were adopted as the outcome documents for the meeting. The outcome documents were submitted by the Government of Singapore to the secretariat of Rio+20 (United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) as official inputs to Rio+20. The 4th Meeting will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam.

[R] H.E. Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources giving a speech at the Opening Session

[L] Mr. Takayama, Parliamentary Secretary of the Environment, Japan giving opening remarks



The 3rd Meeting of the Regional 3R Forum in Asia

What is the Regional 3R Forum in Asia?

The Inaugural Meeting of the Regional 3R Forum in Asia was jointly organized by the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) and the MOEJ in Tokyo in November 2009, marking the official launch of the Forum. The forum provides a platform for coop-

eration between a wide variety of stakeholders for the implementation of the 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle) in Asian countries, including the governments, international organizations, donor organizations, the private sector, research institutes, NGOs, etc.

MOEJ has been holding the Forum meetings together with the UNCRD and hosting government agencies. The 3rd Meeting was held in Singapore.

The Results of the 3rd Meeting

Under the theme of "Technology Transfer for promoting the 3Rs – Adapting, implementing, and scaling up appropriate technologies," the following topics were discussed: (1) best practices and available technologies in the 3Rs; (2) policy and institutional framework for promoting the transfer of 3R technologies; (3) market demand as the driving force for 3R technology transfer and the role of the private sector; (4) international cooperation in promoting the transfer of 3R technologies; and (5) a message for Rio+20. The results of the discussions were summarized in the Chair's Summary, and was adopted under the

leadership of the chairperson, Mr. Andrew Tan (the CEO of the National Environment Agency (NEA), Singapore), along with the annex "Recommendations of the Singapore Forum". These documents were submitted by the Government of Singapore to Rio+20 as official inputs.

In the Chair's Summary, future directions were provided including the expansion of the International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA), the need for a dedicated international fund mechanism for the promotion of the 3Rs and the introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems.

Below are the essential points of the Recommendations of the Singapore Forum (please see the "Relevant Websites" below for the full texts).

1 3Rs in Municipal Solid Waste

The introduction of economic instruments that provide incentives to reduce waste (e.g., volume-based collection fee systems, landfill taxes, and deposit-refund schemes); the utilization of organic waste as a valuable resource; the expansion of recycling markets; etc.

2 3Rs in the Industrial Sector

Developing policies and providing the necessary support and incentives to encourage the private sector to implement resource efficiency measures; the establishment of eco-towns; the need for research and development, knowledge sharing, and technology transfer; developing local capacity in implementing resource efficient technologies in industry sector; etc.

3 New and Emerging Wastes

Addressing plastic waste issues in coastal zones; the establishment of appropriate regulatory procedures to control illegal export of e-waste and to ensure their environmentally sound management; the introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems for e-waste; etc.

4 3Rs in the Agricultural Sector

Reducing losses in the entire food supply chain (from production to distribution); promoting the reuse and recycling of agriculture biomass; the introduction of 3R principles into agricultural policies through coordination between various ministries and agencies; etc.

5 Partnerships for Moving towards Zero Waste

Promoting partnerships for sustainable waste management; sharing responsibilities and roles for waste management between the public and private sectors; the effective utilization of international partnerships such as the International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA); etc.

6 Enhance the Knowledge Base and Research Networks

Facilitating linkages between government, the private sector and the scientific community to enhance the knowledge base and research networks; setting up mechanisms whereby government can receive constructive feedback from citizens, the private sector and the scientific community for developing and improving policies; strengthening local and national networks by effectively linking them with existing international networks; etc.

7 Public Awareness

Improving public awareness on the 3Rs in collaboration with NGOs and local governments; introducing the concepts of the 3Rs, sustainable production and consumption, and resource efficiency as part of environmental education programs; introducing economic instruments, etc. in order to support 3R actions by citizens; etc.


8 Institutional Arrangement

Integration of the 3R concept in the relevant policies and programs of key ministries and agencies; strengthening inter-ministerial coordination; promoting green procurement; working towards a gradual phasing out of subsidies that favor the unsustainable use of resources and energy; etc.

● Relevant Websites

Regional 3R Forum in Asia: http://www.uncrd.or.jp/env/spc/3rd_3r_forum_f.htm

Outcome documents from the meeting: http://www.uncrd.or.jp/env/spc/docs/3rd_3r/111014_C_Summary_3rd3R.pdf
(Please click the link above to see the full text of the Chair's Summary and the full text of the Recommendations of the Singapore Forum.)

 International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA):
http://www.uncrd.or.jp/env/ipla/index_form.htm

The 7th International Coral Reef Initiative [ICRI] East Asia Regional Workshop

Towards Harmony between People and Nature in Asia

The 7th International Coral Reef Initiative*1 (ICRI) East Asia Regional Workshop was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on October 9-13, 2011. Delegates from seven Asian countries as well as coral reef conservation organizations and researchers attended the workshop. In the workshop, discussions were held on the progress on the implementation of the “ICRI East Asia Regional Strategy on MPA Networks 2010” *2 (hereinafter referred to as the “Regional Strategy”) which was adopted at the previous workshop.



*1 The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) is a unique public-private partnership in which governments, international organizations, research institutes and non-government organizations are gathered together. It strives to stop the degradation of coral reefs and related ecosystems (such as mangroves and marine plants) worldwide and to promote the conservation and sustainable utilization of resources for future generations.

*2 MPA is an abbreviation of “Marine Protected Area”.



The 7th Regional Workshop

Background to the 7th Regional Workshop

The Regional Strategy was adopted in the 6th Regional Workshop held in 2010. The Regional Strategy sets forth the following three objectives: (1) formalize an appropriate regional mechanism for cooperation, information sharing and coordination in East Asia to support and enhance ICRI's objectives in the region; (2) conduct tangible follow-up on the ongoing activities under Provisional Plan 2009-2010 and realize effective use and dissemination of each activity and deliverable; and (3) reflect identified priority recommendations on MPA networks for East Asia in regional and national policies. In the 6th Regional Workshop, the participants proposed continuous discussions on short- and medium-term action. This led to the decision that the workshop will continue until 2012 in order to follow up on the implementation of the Regional Strategy. The 7th workshop was held in accordance with this decision.

Results of the 7th Workshop

The main purposes of the 7th workshop were to check progress on the implementation of the Regional Strategy, to share the experiences and issues of East Asian countries and to explore the possibilities for the strategies and collaborations needed to achieve the “2012 target” for MPA networks. During this 4-day workshop, the progress of implementation of the Regional Strategy was reported, and discussions were exchanged on priority actions and the way forward towards promotion of the Regional Strategy and the regional mechanism for ICRI in East Asia as well as its future role and direction.

● Relevant Websites

The official website of the ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop: http://earw.icriforum.org/earw_mpa.html
ICRI website: <http://www.icriforum.org/>

Preliminary Asia Parks Congress

Towards the Establishment of Partnerships for Protected Areas in Asia

The Ministry of the Environment, Japan, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Commission on Protected Areas - Japan (WCPA-J) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) co-hosted the Preliminary Asia Parks Congress on November 3-7, 2011. The 70 participants, representing 18 countries/territories and including experts from IUCN and academia, etc., discussed the current situation and issues concerning partnerships in Asia (international cooperation, cooperation with local residents, NGOs, and companies). As a result of the discussion, participants expressed unanimous support for the concept of staging the first Asia Parks Congress in 2013. In addition, participants called on the Government of Japan (Ministry of the Environment) to strongly consider hosting the first Asia Parks Congress. The congress recognizes the opportunity for Japan to illustrate the role of protected areas (PAs) in post disaster reconstruction as in “Sanriku *Fukko* (reconstruction) National Park” as well as effective management in collaboration with local communities, etc.



Preliminary Asia Parks Congress

Objectives of the Preliminary Congress

This preliminary congress aimed to exchange thoughts on the current situation and issues regarding partnerships in Asia (international cooperation, cooperation with local residents, and cooperation with NGOs and companies) and discuss ways to strengthen partnerships for PAs in Asia where there are many commonalities for cultural and natural conditions.

Summary and outcomes of the congress

Participants from the congress were invited from government, NGOs, academia, donors and IUCN/WCPA. Throughout the Congress they provided perspectives on PAs across the region which revealed the diversity but also the commonality of their challenges and approaches. Participants reached common understanding that in Asian countries people connect cultural and spiritual values to nature. Participants recognized that in many countries governance of PAs falls under a number of models including those under the responsibility of several government agencies consequently requiring coordination amongst them. Decisions and requests from the congress are as below.:

- 1 Participants expressed unanimous support for the concept of staging the first Asia Parks Congress in 2013.
- 2 Participants called on the Government of Japan (Ministry of the Environment) to strongly consider hosting the first Asia Parks Congress. The congress recognizes the opportunity for Japan to illustrate the role of PAs in post disaster reconstruction as in “Sanriku *Fukko* (reconstruction) National Park” as well as effective management in collaboration with local communities, etc. (Many participants also expressed the opinion that the “Sanriku *Fukko* (reconstruction) National Park” will be a useful example for other Asian countries.)
- 3 Participants agreed to present Asian perspectives and opinions drawn from the Asia Parks Congress at the 6th World Parks Congress which will be held in 2014 (the venue is expected to be in Australia).

● Relevant Websites

Chair's Summary: http://www.env.go.jp/press/file_view.php?serial=18557&hou_id=14422

The 6th Japan-Mongolia Environmental Policy Dialogue

Continuous and Constructive Dialogue between Japan and Mongolia



The 6th Japan-Mongolia Environmental Policy Dialogue was held between the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism of Mongolia in Dalanzadgad, Mongolia on September 14, 2011. In the dialogue, the two ministries exchanged opinions about environmental cooperation including climate change measures and biodiversity conservation. It was agreed that the Ministers will sign a memorandum on environmental cooperation in order to promote further cooperation between the two ministries. This memorandum was signed by the Ministers at the bilateral meeting held during the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention to Climate Change (UNFCCC) in the City of Durban, South Africa.



The Japan-Mongolia Environmental Policy Dialogue

Background of the Japan-Mongolia Environmental Policy Dialogue

At the Japan-Mongolia Summit Meeting in 2006, it was agreed that the two countries would exchange environmental information and explore future cooperation opportunities. The Japan-Mongolia Environmental Policy Dialogue started in 2007 and the 6th dialogue was held this year.

Main Content of the Discussions

1 Climate Change

The two ministries agreed to cooperate on implementing climate change-related projects in Mongolia (such as assistance for human resource development and feasibility studies related to the bilateral offset credit mechanism, and the early detection network project towards recommendation on vulnerabilities). Japan explained their views on the international negotiations to Mongolia.

2 Eco-Tourism

Mongolia proposed the continuation and expansion of existing eco-tourism cooperation. It was agreed that the two ministries will formulate the details of the project and implement the project.

3 Nature Conservation

● Protected Area Management

It was agreed that the two ministries will exchange information about the management of protected areas.

● Exchange of Information about Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

It was agreed that the two countries will exchange information about the current situation and measures against HPAI in migratory birds and will continue their efforts to allow prompt information sharing.

● Combatting Desertification

It was agreed that the two ministries will continue to work together on implementing the existing counter-desertification project in Mongolia and on holding a side event which was held at COP10 of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in October this year.

● Follow-ups on COP10 of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity

Mongolia explained progress made on preparations within the country for the Nagoya Protocol and progress in the formulation of a plan to achieve the Aichi Target. Japan then provided information about frameworks for assistance which Mongolia can utilize. Japan also asked Mongolia to attend the Preliminary Asia Parks Congress to which Mongolia agreed.

4 Waste water treatment

Mongolia asked for cooperation on household effluent control measures. It was agreed to explore possible future cooperation opportunities.

5 Air Pollution Control in particular Asbestos

Japan explained the potential problems caused by asbestos and it was agreed to consider the possibility of cooperating on asbestos control measures in Mongolia.

6 Mercury

Japan asked Mongolia to participate in international negotiations on strengthening global mercury control measures. Mongolia expressed its intention to participate in future negotiations wherever possible.

7 Memorandum of Cooperation

In order to promote environmental cooperation between Japan and Mongolia based on a more permanent framework, it was agreed that the Ministers of both countries will sign a memorandum which covers the cooperation fields agreed in the policy dialogue. The agreed cooperation fields include: climate change (mitigation and adaptation); eco-tourism; nature conservation (protected area management, migrant birds and avian flu, combatting desertification); waste water treatment; and air pollution control in particular asbestos.

● Relevant Websites

Japan-Mongolia Environmental Policy Dialogue: http://www.env.go.jp/earth/coop/coop/english/dialogue/japan_mongolia.html

The 12th Tripartite Environmental Education Network [TEEN] — Symposium and Workshop

Collaboration for the Environmental Education of Future Generations in East Asia



The Symposium and Workshop

The 12th Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN)* Symposium and Workshop were held in Gyeongju, Korea on October 25-26, 2011. Participants shared information about related activities in each country and discussed future cooperation with a focus on the future of environmental education.

Overview of the Symposium and Workshop

● Symposium under the Theme of “Environmental Education for the Future – Action” (Presentation from government officials)

- 1 Korea introduced a briefing on mutually supplementary cooperation between schools and local communities concerning environmental education given through the “Low Carbon, Green Growth” policy and the Environmental Education Promotion Act.
- 2 China explained the four levels of environmental education: Basic, Higher, Adult and Public. They also introduced activities from the 1000 Environment-Friendly Youth Ambassadors Action in which young volunteers participate and they also explained the “China BELL (Business, Environment, Learning and Leadership) Project” where environmental education and sustainable development are integrated into Master of Business Administration (MBA) programs.
- 3 Japan shared lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake concerning environmental problems, details on the revised Advanced Law for Enhancing Motivation on Environmental Conservation and Promoting of Environmental Education and the direction of environmental education in Japan.

● Workshop under the Theme of “Activating Green-Growth Environmental Education for Training Green Leaders”, “Outstanding Portfolio of Environmental Education”, “Evaluation and Future Direction of the TEEN” and “Building Green Campus and Acting Green Life”

1 Briefings on Efforts by Each Country (Presentation from experts)

- a. Korea reported its efforts to train “green leaders” (e.g. human resources who can identify problems and propose solutions) by integrating environmental and green-growth issues in school curriculums. They also gave a briefing on environmental education activities by environmental clubs which target children.
- b. China explained in detail the activities of the 1000 Environment-Friendly Youth Ambassadors Action. In addition, they reported on environmental protection activities which focus on biological diversity in Yunnan Province.
- c. Japan gave a briefing on the Environmental Consortium for Leadership Development (EcoLeaD) which is a platform for co-operation between government, academia, industry and civil society. In particular, they explained the “T-shaped” environmental leadership development program which aims to develop human resources who have professional knowledge and experience (such as law and engineering) as the vertical axis, and cross sectoral knowledge of environmental conservation and sustainability as the horizontal axis. They also gave a briefing on the ‘Green’ MOT (Management of Technology) Education Programme at Shinshu University and the “Wakamusha (Young Samurai) Edu-

cational Seminar” which is an environmental education program targeting senior high school students hosted by Asahi Breweries, Ltd. and the Japan Environmental Education Forum.

2 Evaluation and the Future Direction of the TEEN

An expert from Korea proposed the creation of an activity plan for TEEN for the next three years and reporting the results to TEMM (Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among China, Japan and Korea) in order to review TEEN’s activities, as well as establishing a system to improve the sustainability of TEEN’s activities.

3 Student Session

Students from the three countries reported on good practices in universities in their countries. Korean students gave a presentation about a campaign to increase vegetation on campuses and a program to compete to come up with the best ideas for eco-campuses. Chinese students gave a presentation about campuses equipped with water and power saving facilities. Japanese students reported on the campaign to reduce plastic checkout bags conducted at universities in Japan as well as the “eco-campus rankings” and the “university eco-report” conducted by the Campus Climate Change (CCC) executive committee where students interested in environmental improvement activities participate.

* TEEN is a network established with the aim of raising environmental community awareness in the three countries based on the decision at the 2nd Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among China, Japan and Korea (TEMM) which was held in Beijing in February, 2000. A workshop and a symposium have been held every fiscal year since November 2000 where experts and teachers on environmental education and the representatives of NGOs from the three countries have active discussions and exchange views.

● Relevant Websites

Tripartite Environmental Education Network: <http://www.temm.org/sub02/01.jsp?projectid=TEEN>
Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among China, Japan and Korea: <http://www.temm.org/>

Clean Asia Initiative Newsletter vol6, Edited/Published by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies in December 2011
[Cover: Narcissus] Narcissus is known as a winter flower in Japan. Blooming of Narcissus is also recognized as the first sign of spring.
Because of that, Narcissus is called an auspicious flower and very popular.



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