

CAI Newsletter

Contents

- 02 **Special 1** **The 6th Meeting of the Regional EST Forum in Asia Held**
- 04 **Special 2** **Activities of “Overseas Development Based on Japanese Model of Environmental Technologies”**
- 06 A Policy Research Workshop on Climate Change between Japan and China
- 07 4th Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network (AP-BON) Workshop and AP-BON Science Symposium
- 08 Workshop 2011 of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes
- 09 Follow up of the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM)!
- Holding of the 11th Korea/China/Japan Tripartite Joint Environmental Training Program
- The 11th Tripartite Roundtable Meeting on Environmental Industry
- 4th Tripartite Workshop on Scientific Research of Photochemical Oxidant
- 12 The Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)

The 6th Meeting of the Regional EST Forum in Asia Held

Towards Environmentally Sustainable Transport in Asia

The 6th Meeting of the Regional EST (Environmentally Sustainable Transport) Forum in Asia was held on December 4-6, 2011 in New Delhi, India. The Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ), United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), Ministry of Urban Development of India and World Health Organization South-East Asia Regional Office (WHO/SEARO) jointly organized the Meeting with Urban Mobility India 2011 (UMI-2011). At the meeting, there were about 160 participants, including senior officials of ministries of the environment and transport from 21 Asian countries (9 ASEAN countries, 8 countries of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), China, Japan, Korea and Mongolia), experts on transport and environment, and members of international organizations.

MOEJ is continuing to make active efforts to realize environmentally sustainable transport, especially in Asia, in cooperation with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and other institutions concerned.



The 6th Meeting of the Regional EST Forum in Asia

Regional EST Forum in Asia

As a result of the progress of motorization due to rapid economic development and increasing urbanization, various traffic and environmental issues have arisen such that immediate implementation of effective policies is crucial. MOEJ, together with the UNCRD, established the "Regional EST (Environmentally Sustainable Transport) Forum in Asia" in 2005. While taking into account the specific characteristics of the Asian region, MOEJ has been actively contributing to realize environmentally sustainable transport in the Asian region through policy dialogues among participating countries.

The major objectives of the Regional EST Forum in Asia are as follows:

- 1 Facilitate policy dialogue and provide a strategy for sharing best practices, policy instruments, tools, and technologies in relation to various aspects of EST among Asian countries.
- 2 In consultation with the subsidiary expert groups, facilitate and provide necessary advisory support for the formulation of national EST strategies and action plans on EST for selected countries.
- 3 Support the implementation of action plans into practice through the participation of international organizations and international development and donor agencies.
- 4 Help establish linkages with other ongoing regional and international activities/initiatives in promoting EST.



Efforts toward EST in Asia

Mar. 2003	International Conference on Environmentally Sustainable Transport in the Asian Region (Nagoya, Japan)
Jan. 2004	Manila Policy Dialogue on Environment and Transport in the Asian Region (Manila, the Philippines) Adopted <i>Manila Statement</i>
Aug. 2005	First Meeting of the Regional EST Forum in Asia (Nagoya, Japan) Adopted <i>Aichi Statement</i>
Dec. 2006	Second Meeting of the Regional EST Forum in Asia (Yogyakarta, Indonesia)
Apr. 2007	Asian Mayors' Policy Dialogue for the Promotion of Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) in Cities (Kyoto, Japan) Adopted <i>Kyoto Declaration</i>
Mar. 2008	Third Meeting of the Regional EST Forum in Asia (Singapore)
Nov. 2008	Special Event of Asian Mayors for the Signing of the Kyoto Declaration for the Promotion of Environmentally Sustainable Transport (Bangkok, Thailand)
Feb. 2009	Fourth Meeting of the Regional EST Forum in Asia (Seoul, Republic of Korea) Adopted <i>Seoul Statement</i>
Mar. 2010	Special Event of Asian Mayors for the Signing of the Kyoto Declaration for the Promotion of Environmentally Sustainable Transport (Seoul, Republic of Korea)
Aug. 2010	Fifth Meeting of the Regional EST Forum in Asia (Bangkok, Thailand) Adopted <i>Bangkok Declaration for 2020</i>
Dec. 2011	Sixth Meeting of the Regional EST Forum in Asia (New Delhi, India)

Progress of the Regional EST Forum in Asia

	Inaugural Forum	Second Forum	Third Forum	Forth Forum	Fifth Forum	Sixth Forum
Number of Participating Countries	13 countries	14 countries	22 countries	22 countries	22 countries	21 countries
Number of Participants	approx. 80 participants	approx. 100 participants	approx. 120 participants	approx. 150 participants	approx. 200 participants	approx. 160 participants
Number of Participants over Deputy Ministers Level	3	5	8	18	22	16
Number of Supporting Organization	3	5	7	17	14	16
Number of Participating Organization	32	27	35	42	49	45
Venue	Nagoya, Japan	Yogyakarta, Indonesia	Singapore	Seoul, Korea	Bangkok, Thailand	New Delhi, India

Major outcomes of the 6th Meeting of the Regional EST Forum in Asia

- 1 **Representatives from 21 Asian countries (9 ASEAN countries, 8 SACEP countries, China, Japan, Korea and Mongolia) participated in the Meeting to share policies and advanced efforts regarding EST.**
- 2 **Discussions were exchanged on the role and efforts of EST towards the realization of a green economy and confirmed its importance.**
- 3 **Based on these discussions, further promotion of EST in Asia was agreed in order to achieve the goals under the Bangkok 2020 Declaration.**

● Relevant Websites

The Ministry of the Environment of Japan EST related Website: <http://www.env.go.jp/en/air/est/index.html>
 United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD): <http://www.uncrd.or.jp/env/est/>

Activities of “Overseas Development Based on Japanese Model of Environmental Technologies”

Activities in Indonesia and Vietnam

In fiscal year 2009 the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) launched a project entitled “Overseas Development Based on Japanese Model of Environmental Technologies”. In the project, development of laws and human resources are compiled into a package with 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 7th Meeting of Japan-Vietnam Joint Policy Study Group” and the “Joint Workshop on Enhancement of Environmental Management Capacity in Vietnam” were held in Vietnam on November 22 and 23, 2011. In addition, panel discussion was conducted at the “10th Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRSCP)” (hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Indonesia (KLH) etc.) on November 10, 2011. The results of meeting, workshop and panel discussion are as follows:

The 7th Meeting of the Vietnam-Japan Joint Policy Study Group for Cooperation Activities on Environmental Management and the Joint Workshop on Enhancement of Environmental Management Capacity in Vietnam



7th Meeting of the Vietnam-Japan Joint Policy Study Group

The 7th Meeting of the Vietnam-Japan Joint Policy Study Group for Cooperation Activities on Environmental Management

In the Joint Policy Study Group, the following were reported and discussed:

1 Situation of the review process within the government concerning the evaluation of environmental technologies in Vietnam

Vietnam reported the following points;

- Based on the discussions between the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), it is clarified that MONRE should take charge of the evaluation of environmental technologies. In the future, the scope of the jurisdiction will be specified by law.
- In 2011, Prime Minister’s Decisions Nos. 125 and 132 were revised to make it clear that the Vietnam Environment Administration (VEA) should take charge of environmental management. It was also decided that VEA should take charge of evaluation, examination, authorization, dissemination, etc. under the Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) system.
- Vietnam is planning to promulgate the guidelines for the ETV system in the first to second quarter of 2012.
- To promote the ETV system, Vietnam is planning to introduce an ETV mark, prepare a list of environmental technologies that MONRE has recommended introducing, and carry out other measures.

2 Interim report on joint policy research in FY2011

- Vietnam made an interim report on the results of research on the improvement of the accessibility of the Vietnam Environment Protection Fund (VEPF) and current issues were indicated. Japan proposed the introduction of proper technologies, recommendation on the use of related funds, and the usefulness of the provision of a consulting service that plays a supporting role in procedures for filing applications.
- Japan made an interim report on the understanding of the current situation of environmental management in the paper mill and the dairy products factory that serve as model factories for the construction of package measures, and on the remedial measures for the results. Responding to this, the Vietnam expressed the expectation that comprehensive remedial measures would be suggested in the future.

3 Plan to visit Japan in March 2012

- It was decided that Japan will accept a visiting group from Vietnam, hold the 8th Meeting of the Joint Policy Study Group and conduct a site visit to related facilities in March 2012.
- It was decided that, at the 8th Meeting of the Joint Policy Study Group, the results of joint policy research should be examined and a consultation should be held to disseminate and develop a policy package feasible in Vietnam as an achievement of the bilateral cooperative projects so far.
- It was also decided that the visiting group from Vietnam should make a tour to Kawasaki municipal government, the Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency, the paper mill, and the dairy products factory.

4 The latest trends in the legal system for environmental management and the environmental organizations in Vietnam

Vietnam reported following points;

- An amendment to the Environment Protection Law will be introduced in the National Assembly in 2013.
- The laws under the jurisdiction of MONRE will be arranged so that the Environment Protection Law to be amended will become the superior law, while the Land Law, the Water Sources Management Law and other laws will become subordinate laws.

Joint Workshop on Enhancement of Environmental Management Capacity in Vietnam

In the workshop, discussions were held and results were compiled under the title of “Strengthening mechanisms for Effective Environment Management by Central, Local Governments and Agencies of Vietnam.” The main contents are as follows:



Workshop on Building Capacity for Environmental Management in Vietnam

- As examples of cases where each of the tools constitute the package measures, the Japan Society of Industrial Machinery Manufacturers mentioned the transfer and localization of Japan’s effluent treatment technology; the Japan Environmental Management Association for Industry mentioned the introduction of a pollution control manager system; and the Japan Environmental Technology Association mentioned the importance of measuring technology in environmental management. In addition, efforts on promoting an environmental protection project by establishing a project execution committee under the People’s Committee in Quang Ninh province were introduced by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment of Quang Ninh Province.
- Based on participants’ opinions and discussions, it was concluded that the strengthening of human resource development, such as the development of related stakeholders’ awareness and capacity, and the utilization of tools, such as the ETV system and the pollution control manager system, are useful for improving environmental management capacity in Vietnam. At the end of the workshop, Vietnam stated that it would make efforts so that the package measures, which consist of “improvement of legal systems,” “development of human resources” and “dissemination of technologies,” could function well.

Participation in the “10th Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production”

In the “10th Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRSCP)” held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia (hosted by Indonesia’s State Ministry of Environment and others), as a part of the project entitled “Overseas Development Based on Japanese Model of Environmental Technologies”, a panel discussion was held about the promotion of the package measures related to environmental technologies.

In the panel discussion, report from panelists and discussions were conducted. The results were compiled as follows:

- Although issues on environmental conservation differ among the ASEAN countries, it is more effective to treat “improvement of legal systems,” “development of human resources” and “dissemination of technologies” comprehensively than to treat them separately. Such a package approach is applicable to each of the ASEAN countries.
- Participation of residents is essential for the promotion of environmental management, it is necessary to promote residents’ foresighted ideas and activities. Then this leads to the promotion of the package policy.
- Economic activities in each country are interconnected and environmental viewpoints are vital in such economic activities to survive the global market. Effectively adopting the package approach is considered beneficial.



Scene from the panel discussion

● Relevant Website

Overseas Development Based on Japanese Model of Environmental Technologies (Japanese):
<http://www.env.go.jp/air/tech/ine/index.html>

A Policy Research Workshop on Climate Change between Japan and China

On 6th January, a policy research workshop on climate change between Japan and China was held in Beijing, China. Reflecting on the result of COP17, policy makers and researchers of both countries exchanged their opinions on the current status and future prospects of climate change policies in Japan and China, and the future picture of cooperation in policy research.



Policy Research Workshop

What is the Policy Research Workshop on Climate Change between Japan and China?

A policy research workshop on climate change between Japan and China is a meeting between policy makers and researchers from both countries with the aim of exchanging opinions on the research aspect of climate change issues. From Japan, officials from the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and researchers from the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) attended the meeting. From China, researchers from the Energy Research Institute (ERI), the National Renewable Energy Centre, Beijing University of Technology, Tsinghua University, and the World Resource Institute (WRI) participated. MOE will continue to exchange opinions on climate change issues with China.

Main outcomes from the Workshop

Researchers from ERI (China) made presentation on review of the 11th Five-Year Plan (FYP), low carbon development in the 12th FYP, the implementation plan of GHG emission reduction target, and evaluation and capacity development of basic statistical accounting systems under the 12th FYP, pilot projects of emission trading system at the local government level, prospects for low carbon policy with a 2 degree target in mind, and the current status of renewable energy development. Officials from MOE and researchers from IGES introduced updates on Japan' climate change policies, such as the status of target achievement on the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period, consideration and implementation of climate change policies such as "Carbon Dioxide Tax of Global Warming Countermeasures", and monitoring and evaluation methods of support for developing countries' climate change measures.

Following on each presentation, participants had active and intensive discussion. At the last session of the meeting, based on the result of COP17, participants discussed (a) the expected role of researchers for a promotion of future international negotiation, and (b) the future picture of cooperation in policy research between Japan and China. As a result, participants confirmed that positive and concrete input from researchers would be essential to promote negotiation, and especially such input would be expected regarding questions on (1) how to realize a low carbon society to achieve the 2 degree goal, and (2) how to set ambitious GHG emission reduction target for the future framework. The workshop participants agreed to continue discussions to identify concrete topics for further research cooperation.

* This article was written by the Office of International Strategy on Climate Change, Global Environment Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan

* For more details please see the website below.

IGES: <http://www.iges.or.jp/en/cp/activity20120106.html>

4th Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network (AP-BON) Workshop and AP-BON Science Symposium

For the conservation of Asia-Pacific Biodiversity

On December 2-4, 2011, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) held the fourth Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network: AP-BON* Workshop and AP-BON Science Symposium in Tokyo. The Workshop and Symposium were joined by 39 specialists from Japan and abroad. The roles and future of biodiversity observation in the Asia Pacific region were presented and discussed, including an assessment of the achievements towards the “Aichi Biodiversity Targets”.

* BON: Biodiversity Observation Network which aims to contribute to biodiversity protection on a global scale by promoting data collection and analysis, and sharing the results.

Major results of 4th AP-BON Workshop

Discussions were separated into four working groups (species/gene, forest, fresh water and marine), and the results from each working group were shared in the plenary session afterward, where it was agreed that the Implementation Plan will be revised after further review by those involved.

It was also agreed that the major activities after 2012 will include research funded by grants, such as the Environment Research and Technology Development Fund (ERTDF), and the AP-BON side-event at the 5th IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC5) in September 2012.



Workshop



Major outcomes of AP-BON Science Symposium

AP-BON Co-Chair, Professor Tetsukazu Yahara, Kyushu University, introduced the results of the 4th AP-BON Workshop. Trends in international frameworks related to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Intergovernmental Science and Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the Group on Earth Observation Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO-BON) and Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) were introduced. Later, a panel discussion was held on such themes as the Observation on Ecosystem Services and the Information Map on Biodiversity.



Symposium

Workshop 2011 of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes

Environmentally Sound Management and Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes

Workshop 2011 of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes was held during November 29-December 1, 2011, in Shenzhen, China.

The Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, proposed by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) in 2003, aims at the capacity building of countries for the implementation of the Basel Convention and development of an information exchange system (network). Through organization of workshops (this is the eighth time) and establishment of the website, information on regulation of participating countries is provided and information on such as illegal transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and practices for the environmentally sound management (ESM) are shared.

In the workshop, followed by welcome addresses from the Ministry of Environmental Protection, China, the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Asia and the Pacific (Beijing) and MOEJ, efforts on prevention of illegal transboundary movements were shared, and discussions were actively exchanged on the outcomes of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its 10th session (COP10), ESM of hazardous wastes, and possible collaboration with other regional networks on transboundary movement of hazardous wastes.



Participants of the workshop

Major outcomes of the workshop

1 Updates of activities under the Basel Convention

Relevant policies of participating countries to the Basel Convention, national regulations regarding transboundary movements of waste, and statistical information were reported and the discussions were held on such as the implementation of Basel Convention in the Asian region. Also, Shenzhen Customs gave a presentation of their border control activities in China.

2 Outcomes of COP10

Opinions were exchanged regarding major decisions (new strategic framework, the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative (CLI) to improve effectiveness of the Basel Convention, technical guidelines, etc.) adopted at COP10 held in October 2011. The participants discussed the importance of the formulation of the ESM guidelines referred to in the CLI decisions, and the role of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for various projects. Based on the outcomes of COP10, a consensus was reached that ESM of hazardous wastes should be promoted in Asia.

3 ESM of hazardous wastes

Regarding ESM, that COP decided to develop guidelines, opinions were exchanged regarding the applicable concept to Asian countries, definition of ESM in the context of national law, and the current status of development of ESM facilities. In addition to sharing information on the latest trends of ESM in Europe and Canada, ESM investigation report by research institutions, and implementation of ESM by private companies, discussion were held on the promotion of ESM in Asia. While ESM facilities for hazardous wastes are being developed in Asia, participants recognized the importance of sharing information on these facilities by public and private sectors, and implementation of the ESM in throughout the whole of Asia. It was also pointed out that contribution to the development of the ESM guidelines was required.

4 Collaboration between networks for the prevention of illegal transboundary movements

Recent activities of networks such as IMPEL (The European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law) were shared and participants discussed common issues between networks and regions (take-back of hazardous wastes, etc.). Further strengthening of illegal transboundary movements of hazardous wastes was encouraged by sharing information on take-back cases.

● Relevant Website

The Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes: http://www.env.go.jp/en/recycle/asian_net/index.html

Follow up of the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM)!

Japan, China and Korea are closely linked both geographically and historically. Therefore, the three countries share environmental problems in the air and ocean. To exchange straightforward views and to strengthen cooperation on environmental issues not only for the region but the entire globe, the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM) has been held every year since 1999. The three countries implement specific projects within a framework of TEMM, and some of the projects are introduced here.

Holding of the 11th Korea/China/Japan Tripartite Joint Environmental Training Program

To establish an international environmental network between Korea, China and Japan

The 11th Korea/China/Japan Tripartite Joint Environmental Training Program was held in Korea (Seoul, Incheon, Jeju) from November 21 to 25, 2011. The training program was carried out on the themes of low carbon and green growth and was composed of lectures, field trips, group discussions on these themes.



The 11th Korea/China/Japan Tripartite Joint Environmental Training Program

What is the Korea/China/Japan Tripartite Joint Environmental Training Program?

The Tripartite Joint Environmental Training Program, which is held annually in rotation by Korea, China and Japan, intends to raise the awareness of what it is to be a member of the "environmental community" and to share information on current environmental issues and policies among the three countries. The 1st training program was held in Japan in 2001. Since then, the training program has been held every year.

Achievements of the 11th Korea/China/Japan Tripartite Joint Environmental Training Program

The 11th training program was held on the themes of low carbon and green growth. In the 11th training program, lecturers from the three countries for each of the two sub-themes conducted lectures on effective explanation and better understanding regarding each country's environmental problems and measures to resolve them. Moreover, field trips were made for better understanding of Korea's environmental management which is related to the training themes. In addition, to promote information sharing and mutual understanding among the training participants, small group discussions were held and later presentations were given concerning the sub-themes (green growth education and green life practice strategies; green technology development and green industry promotion plans).

Follow up of the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM)!

The 11th Tripartite Roundtable Meeting on Environmental Industry

Promotion of Further Cooperation in Environment and Industry in China, Korea and Japan

The 11th Tripartite Roundtable Meeting on Environmental Industry was held on November 9-10, 2011 in Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture, Japan. Officers of environmental ministries, researchers, and specialists of certification bodies in China, Korea and Japan participated in the Meeting. The Meeting adopted Resolutions and agreed to continually promote further cooperation in green procurement, environmental management, ecolabeling, and environmental industry and environmental technology communication. The 12th meeting is to be held in China.



The 11th Tripartite Roundtable Meeting

Summary of Resolutions of the 11th Tripartite Roundtable Meeting on Environmental Industry

1	Green procurement	The three countries reached a common understanding that green procurement is an effective means to build a sustainable society through greening of the market. They agreed to continue to discuss how to make use of green procurement and its ripple effects in the private sector.
2	Environmental management	A common understanding was reached that building a virtuous cycle of information disclosure, appropriate evaluation, and environmental finance are important to achieve both environment and management objectives.
3	Ecolabeling	In regards to ecolabeling, there was a consensus on the importance of enhancing items under the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) on ecolabeling in China, Korea and Japan. The three countries agreed to consider TV as the next item to be discussed under the MRA framework, following on from DVD equipment.
4	Environmental industry and environmental technology communication	A consensus was reached on the necessity to continue to exchange information in this field further in the years to come.
5	Next meeting	The three countries confirmed that the next meeting was to be held in China in the next fiscal year (2012), and decided to continue to discuss how the three countries will proceed from here.

● Relevant Websites

Tripartite Roundtable Meeting on the Environmental Industry: <http://www.temm.org/sub02/01.jsp?projectId=EIC>

Resolutions: http://www.env.go.jp/press/file_view.php?serial=18752&hou_id=14542

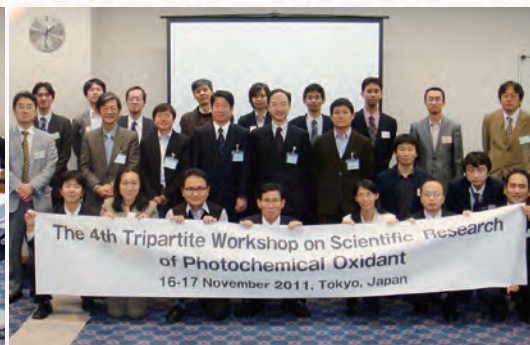
4th Tripartite Workshop on Scientific Research of Photochemical Oxidant

Towards improvement of the air quality

The Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) held the 4th Tripartite Workshop on Scientific Research of Photochemical Oxidant on November 16-17, 2011 in Tokyo. The Workshop aims to exchange information on studies concerning photochemical oxidants and discuss joint research proposals for further cooperation on this issue.



The 4th Workshop



Background of the Workshop

The high concentration of photochemical oxidants around cities and their surrounding areas is of concern for the Northeast Asian region. In addition, it is reported that the average concentration of oxidants recently has been gradually increasing throughout the Northern Hemisphere even in remote areas. Although it is important to understand the mechanism of ozone pollution for the design of air pollution control policies, it is not well understood yet.

At the 9th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM9) held in Toyama, Japan on December 4-6, 2007, the three Environment Ministers of Japan, China and Korea agreed to cooperate in scientific research on the issue of photochemical oxidants, e.g. sharing existing findings as appropriate, which could help analyze the mechanism of ozone pollution and facilitate the formation of common understandings.

This agreement was further strengthened by the Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation, agreed by the three Environment Ministers at the TEMM12 held on May 23, 2010. The three countries are now at the stage of discussing the implementation of concrete research cooperation.

Outcomes of the 4th Workshop

Officers of MOEJ, and researchers from China, Korea and Japan participated in the 4th Workshop, where they discussed recent administrative countermeasures against photochemical air pollution, recent scientific research studies and technical approaches for photochemical air pollution, proposals for cooperative research studies and future schedule. Discussions were held on more concrete implementation plans of 3 joint research themes agreed at the 3rd workshop, namely "joint field campaign", "quality control and quality assurance of ozone monitoring" and "trend analysis of photochemical oxidants", and the future schedule was confirmed.

The Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)

The Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) was held in Hanoi, Vietnam on November 30 and December 1, 2011. Participants included representatives of 13 EANET participating countries (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam), and experts from the United Nations Environmental Programme Regional Office for Asia Pacific (UNEP/ROAP), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Discussions were held on the nature of involvement of the participating countries that are unable to sign the Instrument for Strengthening EANET and the Second Periodic Report on the State of Acid Deposition in East Asia.



The Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting

Major Outcomes of the Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting

1 Consideration of the Nature of Involvement of the Participating Countries that are Unable to Sign the “Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia”

Of all EANET participating countries, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia and Russia didn't sign the Instrument for Strengthening EANET (hereinafter referred to as “Instrument”). Discussion was made about the nature of involvement of these countries when the Instrument was operationalized in January 2012. Considering these countries expressed their willingness to continue their EANET activities the Session decided to issue a resolution to encourage the countries not yet able to sign the Instrument to do so as soon as possible, and invited these countries to continue participating in the EANET activities before they could sign.

2 Endorsement of the Second Periodic Report on the State of Acid Deposition in East Asia

The Scientific Advisory Committee, mainly the Drafting Committee, reviewed a report of analysis and assessment of the state of acid deposition in East Asia based on the acid deposition data accumulated during the 2005-2009 period. This Session officially endorsed the report made and adopted by the Scientific Advisory Committee after making necessary revisions.

3 Consideration on the Expansion of the Scope of EANET

The Session took note that the Task Force on Research Coordination established under the Scientific Advisory Committee was to review the status of air pollution in East Asia. The Session decided to examine a possible way of making use of the review to be conducted by the Task Force when an issue on expansion of the EANET scope is discussed by the Working Group on Future Development of EANET.

● Relevant Website

EANET: <http://www.eanet.cc/index.html>

Clean Asia Initiative Newsletter vol7, Edited/Published by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies in February 2012
[Cover: Camellia] Camellias bloom in early spring and are recognized as a symbolic flower which signifies the end of winter and the arrival of spring.
Because of this, since ancient times Camellias have been very familiar to Japanese.



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