

# CAI Newsletter

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# The 3rd High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities

Towards Environmentally Sustainable Cities in the East Asian Region

Under the framework of East Asian Summit Environment Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM), the 3rd High Level Seminar (HLS) on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 6 – 8 March 2012. The seminar was jointly organised by Japan, Cambodia, Australia and Thailand. Around 230 participants, including from 14 national governments (10 ASEAN member countries, Japan, China, Republic of Korea and Australia), 39 local governments and 27 supporting organisations, joined the meeting. Mr. Tatsushi Terada, Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs, Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) delivered remarks at the Opening Session and Prof. Shuzo Nishioka, Secretary-General, International Research Network for Low Carbon Societies (LCS-RNet), made a keynote presentation.



Mr. Tatsushi Terada, Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs, MOEJ



Opening Session



Participants of the 3rd HLS ESC

## Background of the HLS ESC

At the 1st EAS EMM, held in Hanoi, Viet Nam in October 2008, Environment Ministers agreed that “environmentally sustainable cities should be an immediate priority area an initial step of EAS environmental cooperation”. Following this agreement, the 1st HLS ESC was jointly organised by Japan, Indonesia, Australia and Singapore in Jakarta, Indonesia in March 2010, where five practical activities were recommended for promoting ESC. Subsequently, in March 2011, the 2nd HLS ESC was jointly organised by Japan, Australia, Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand in Kitakyushu, Japan. At the 2nd HLS ESC, participants supported implementing an ESC Model Cities Programme in ASEAN countries to realise one of the five activities recommended by the 1st HLS ESC.

## Results of the 3rd HLS ESC

### Day 1

On Day 1, the progress and outputs of the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme were reported. The programme implemented since April 2011 with funding support from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). Eight ASEAN countries presented their past achievements and plans for future. Among them, Cambodia and Viet Nam reported progress made on developing new national ESC frameworks, while Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand explained the programme's synergies with relevant national initiatives. Countries expressed their anticipation for continuing implementation of the programme.

In the afternoon, three thematic sessions on 1) Solid Waste Management, 2) Water and Sanitation and 3) Sustainable, Low-Carbon and Green Cities were held in parallel, where 14 selected cities of the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme, other Asian cities and organisations presented their activities and achievements. These sessions affirmed the importance of capacity building for local governments for environmentally sustainable development in cities, as well as the supporting roles played by central governments and other organisations in local initiatives.

### Day 2

On Day 2, supporting organisations and research institutions presented their initiatives relevant to ESC and practical linkages with the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme. Participants noted that the High Level Seminar and ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme provided a platform for countries, cities and organisations to promote collaboration and strengthen synergies.

Another set of parallel thematic sessions on 1) Public-Private Partnership for ESC, 2) Adaptation for Cities and 3) Sustainable, Low-Carbon Scenario Development were held on 2nd day, where practical approaches for developing ESC were discussed. The main messages heard include: Private sector resources and enabling regulatory frameworks are essential for enhancing urban infrastructure, many cities are vulnerable to climate change impacts and require adaptation plans including disaster prevention and mitigation measures; and the importance of training local governments to use appropriate modelling tools for developing low-carbon sustainable development plans.

At the 3rd HLS ESC participants shared good practices and policies which implemented each country and city. Also participants reaffirmed the importance of ESC for the region's future growth and enhanced networking and partnership among stakeholder. The Chairs' Summary was adopted as outcomes of the 3rd HLS ESC and will be posted on the HLS ESC homepage (<http://www.hls-esc.org>).



Thematic Sessions

#### ● Relevant Websites

High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities Web Site: <http://www.hls-esc.org/>  
ASEAN Eco Model Cities Website: <http://modelcities.hls-esc.org/>

## Public Symposium on “Sustainable Resource Use – Issues and Policies with Special Reference to Asia – ”

Aimed at striking a balance between a sustainable environment and the economy

The Ministry of the Environment, Japan and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) co-organized the “International Symposium: Sustainable Resource Use - Issues and Policies with Special Reference to Asia -” on January 13, 2012, in Tokyo.

The Ministry of the Environment has conducted a research project, “Research into Environmental-Economic Policies that Contribute to the World” over the three years starting from FY2009. The purpose of the project is to investigate and analyse how efforts to preserve the environment can also develop the economy, what impact economic trends have on the environment, etc., thereby presenting a future vision of a new economic society that will be able to coexist in harmony with the environment and strategically implement environmental policies. Under the project, IGES has carried out a research component entitled “Research on Environmental, Economic and Social Impacts of Resource Circulation Systems in Asia”, and the symposium was held as a part of this research. With approximately 130 participants attending, the achievements thus far were reported on and a panel discussion took place. The main outcomes of the symposium are summarized as follows.

### Sustainable Resource Use – Issues and Policies with Special Reference to Asia –

At the symposium, Dr. Heinz Schandl, Senior Research Leader, Social and Economic Sciences Research Program, CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) gave the keynote address and demonstrated the deteriorating trend of resource efficiency in the Asia-Pacific region, its causes and the necessity of policies for its improvement. After his address, researchers from “Research on Environmental, Economic and Social Impacts of Resource Circulation Systems in Asia” presented research outcomes on the following themes: categorization of resource circulation and resource use reduction policies, assessment of the impact of such policies, and the economic and physical appraisal of resource constraints. Based on the keynote address and presentations, an in-depth panel discussion took place on policies and systems for sustainable resource use in the Asia-Pacific region.



At the symposium



## Outline of the Research

In Asia, resource consumption is surging at a faster speed than economic growth. Resource and environmental constraints are expected to be more severe unless a decoupling of economic growth and resource use is realized. Resource constraints mean the growing scarcity of nonrenewable resources such as fossil fuels and mineral resources, while it also means a substantial rise in resource prices due to short-term supply shortage. As for environmental constraints, ecoscarcity becomes obvious due to the shortage of capacity for environmental load through a life cycle, for example, shortage of landfill sites and climate-change issues.

Objectives of this research are to contribute to policies which address resource constraints due to resource consumption, and environmental constraints in Asia. In the research, the economic impact due to resource constraints is to be assessed and analysis tools are to be developed for a case where a resource circulation and resource use restriction policy package is implemented under the resource constraints. Four priority issues are covered in order to address the high-priority policy needs by using these tools:



- 1 Economic impact assessment on resource constraints as the basis in examining effective resource circulation and resource use restriction policies**
- 2 Impact assessment on raising resource circulation rate in all Asian countries, as an index of 3R policies**
- 3 Comparison of tools such as natural resource tax and waste disposal tax relevant to the “Reduce” component of the 3Rs**
- 4 Comparison between domestic recycling and international resource circulation relevant to “Recycle” and “Reuse” of the 3Rs**

### ● Relevant Websites

Research into Environmental-economic policies that Contribute to the World (Japanese):  
[http://www.env.go.jp/policy/keizai\\_portal/F\\_research/index.html](http://www.env.go.jp/policy/keizai_portal/F_research/index.html)

Sustainable Resource Use - Issues and Policies with Special Reference to Asia - :  
<http://www.iges.or.jp/en/ea/activity20120113.html>



# Sino-Japan International Seminar on Total Discharge Control of Water Pollutants in Beijing, China



On February 28, 2012, the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) and the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China (MEP) co-hosted the Sino-Japan International Seminar on Total Discharge Control of Water Pollutants at the Sino-Japan Friendship Center for Environmental Protection in Beijing, China. Approximately 250 stakeholders from both Japan and China participated in the seminar and active discussions took place. The television program NHK World covered the seminar and the achievements of the related cooperation projects were broadcast on NHK World TV on March 23 ([http://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/english/movie/findex\\_asia.html](http://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/english/movie/findex_asia.html)).



International Seminar

## Background of the Seminar

- (1) The improvement of water quality has become one of the top priorities of China. In order to address the serious water contaminants, the "Eleventh Five-Year Program on National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China" which was adopted in March 2006 set the goal of reducing the total emissions of major pollutants, including chemical oxygen demand (COD), by 10%. The "Twelfth Five-Year Program on National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China" adopted in March 2011, meanwhile, has set the goal of reducing total emissions of COD by another 8% and an additional goal of reducing ammonium nitrogen by 10%.
- (2) With the aim of helping China resolve this crucial problem, the Ministers of the Environment of the two countries concluded the "Memorandum of understanding on model projects for decentralized wastewater treatment system in rural China" in May 2008. "Memorandum of understanding on model projects of total pollutant load reduction (ammonia nitrogen) in rural China" was also concluded in April 2011, thus bilateral cooperation has been enhanced since FY2008 in the field of total load control of water contaminants. As the Japanese agency promoting this bilateral cooperation, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) has carried out projects jointly with its Chinese counterparts.

## Outline of the Seminar

The research outcomes of the bilateral cooperation project on the total load control of water contaminants were shared among the participants. In addition, technologies to reduce ammonium nitrogen, etc. were presented, focusing on the following three subjects in concrete terms:

- (1) Decentralized wastewater treatment model projects in rural areas, etc.;
- (2) Japan-China joint research on the reduction in total emissions of nitrogen phosphorus; and
- (3) Model projects aimed at the reduction in total emissions of ammonium nitrogen, etc., in rural areas, etc.

### 13th Director General-level Dialogue on Japan-China Environmental Pollution Countermeasures

Prior to the Seminar, the 13th Director General-level Dialogue on Japan-China Environmental Pollution Countermeasures was held on February 27 between Mr. Osami Sagisaka, Director General, Environmental Management Bureau, MOEJ and Mr. Liu Binjiang, Director General, Department of Total Pollutants Control, MEP. Opinions were exchanged on the future cooperation in the field of water environment and heavy metal pollution treatment.

#### ● Relevant Website

IGES Beijing Office: <http://www.iges.or.jp/en/beijing/index.html>



# The 4th Japan-Indonesia Expert Meeting and Joint Seminar under the Project, “Overseas Development Based on Japanese Model of Environmental Technologies”

Packaged environmental cooperation between Japan and Indonesia



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 legal systems and human resources are compiled into a package with measures to disseminate environmental technologies to corporate pollutant emitters in Asia. In addition, bilateral cooperation projects are conducted in order to realize more viable environment management through policy packages in China, Indonesia and Vietnam. As a part of the project, the 4th Japan-Indonesia Expert Meeting and Joint Seminar on Environmental Management of Wastewater from Palm Oil manufacturing Factory were held at the Environment Management Center (EMC) of the State Ministry of Environment, Indonesia (KLH) on December 7, 2011. The main outcomes of the meeting and seminar are given below.



The Joint Seminar

## The 4th Japan-Indonesia Expert Meeting

At the meeting, reports were made and discussions took place as follows:

- 1 KLH proposed that future bilateral cooperation should focus on the three areas specified below and the proposal was agreed. It was also proposed that the concept of sustainable consumption and production should be incorporated into bilateral cooperation.
  - a. Improvement of environmental technologies and environmental management capacity at palm oil plants in North Sumatra Province and their horizontal development;
  - b. Improvement of the environmental management capacity of local governments, including environmental laboratories; and
  - c. Contribution to the improvement of the data analysis capacity of the EMC and environmental monitoring capacity of local governments required for policy development through the enhancement of the EMC of the KLH.
- 2 MOEJ presented an overall roadmap for the bilateral cooperation project up to March 2013 and the two countries agreed as follows:
  - a. Centering on the implementation of joint policy research to propose appropriate environmental technologies in accordance with current conditions in Indonesia and build up a viable environmental management framework, the following actions shall be taken: holding of an expert meeting and a working group meeting on a regular basis, holding of a joint seminar to share research achievements among the stakeholders, study tour and training sessions in Japan, and participation in the exhibition, “Indonesia Environment Week 2012”.
  - b. An interim report shall be made on the bilateral cooperation project at an expert meeting scheduled in November 2012.
- 3 Reports made by Japanese side covered the results of a field survey conducted at a crude palm oil plant (PTPN II Sawit Hulu) designated as a model plant and located in the Langkat Regency of North Sumatra Province together with measures designed based on the results to step up environmental technologies, internal environmental management by the plant, and guidance and supervision provided by the local government in relation to the plant.
- 4 North Sumatra Province reported on the projects that the provincial government had thus far carried out to preserve the environment and the direction of its environmental conservation policy from 2010 to 2014. In connection with the establishment of packaged measures, the subject of the joint policy research, improving technologies and enhancing the capacity of the staff in charge of environmental management were pointed out as the challenges for the model plant. Also, developing human resources and strengthening the capacity of its environmental monitoring laboratory were indicated as the challenges for the regency governments. In addition, the provincial government revealed its intention to give guidance to the regency and city laboratories as well as to compile manuals and set standards for them. Expectation on cooperation from EMC was also expressed regarding development of human resources for regency laboratories.

## Joint Seminar on Environmental Management of Wastewater from Palm Oil manufacturing Factory

The presentation was made mainly on the achievements of the joint policy research conducted at a crude palm oil plant in the Langkat Regency of North Sumatra Province that has been designated as a model plant to establish a good example for the “Package Approach” consisting of the introduction of environmental technologies and the development of legal systems and human resources. Then, information was shared with stakeholders involved in environmental management and active question-and-answer session was conducted with participants. The key points of the presentations and question-and-answer session are as follows:

- 1 Based on the two field surveys conducted by Japanese experts at the model plant, Japanese side proposed a “Plan to Improve Wastewater Treatment at Crude Palm Oil Plant”, under which it demonstrated the following options were available at each stage of the plan:
  - First stage: Measurement of the basic items related to water disposal;
  - Second stage: Reduction of pressures on downstream wastewater treatment facilities through changes in the water discharge channels and pre-treatment of the discharged water; and
  - Third stage: Introduction of more advanced wastewater treatment facilities than the current ones.
- 2 The model plant gave an outline of the organization, production and water disposal at the plant under the theme of “Cooperation Projects to Improve the Environmental Management Capacity at Crude Palm Oil Plants”. It was also reported that in accordance with advice by Japanese experts, the plant had created an environmental management team and constructed a simple flow meter that was then being adjusted for practical use.
- 3 Japanese side explained the cooperation projects carried out by JICA since the 1990s to improve the environmental management capacity in Indonesia under the theme of “Importance of Environmental Monitoring in Crude Palm Oil Plants under the Leadership of EMC”. The presentation demonstrated that environmental monitoring formed the basis of environmental management and it was essential for local governments to acquire reliable monitoring skills consisting of the collection, processing and assessment of data. It also recommended that the EMC give support and technical guidance to local governments to help them implement appropriate monitoring.

### ● Relevant Website

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



# First Workshop to Facilitate the Improvement of Chemical Substances Management Capacities in Asia (Vietnam)

Aimed at improving chemical substances management capacities in Asia

The First Workshop to Facilitate the Improvement of Chemical Substances Management Capacities in Asia was held on February 16, 2012, in Hanoi, Vietnam. In the workshop, Japanese officials gave an outline of the history of and the legislative framework for chemical substances management in Japan, and Japanese experts presented concrete testing techniques such as the ecotoxicity test methods set forth in the Act on the Evaluation of Chemical Substances and Regulation of Their Manufacture, etc. (hereinafter referred to as the “Chemical Substances Evaluation Act”). Vietnamese officials explained the current status of chemical substances management in Vietnam and the related challenges for the country. In addition, an active exchange of opinions and information on matters such as future bilateral cooperation took place in which Vietnam expressed the hope that a similar workshop would be held some time in the foreseeable future.



The Workshop

## Background to the First Workshop

With the chemical industry having grown rapidly in recent years in Vietnam, the country has had an early start in tackling the issue of chemical substances management as seen in the enactment of the Chemical Law, a comprehensive law on chemical substances, in 2007 and the establishment of an agency for chemical substances control. However, it still faces some challenges with respect to the handling of chemical substances such as unsatisfactory risk assessment techniques and underdeveloped organizations in charge of hazard assessment and/or exposure assessment. Given these circumstances and with a view to facilitating the improvement of the capacities needed for chemical substances management and the introduction of appropriate measures to deal with such substances in Asia, a workshop for officials concerned with hazard assessment techniques, etc., as measures for chemical substances control was arranged for the first time in Vietnam.

## Major Outcomes of the Workshop

The workshop targeted fifty officials in charge of environmental management in Vietnam, mainly from departments and agencies of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), the Chemical Substances Management Agency of the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT), and the departments of natural resources and environment as well as departments and agencies of industry and trade of local governments. The Japanese participants were officials from the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) and other Japanese experts. During the workshop, presentations on chemical substances management were made and active opinions and information exchange were held on future bilateral cooperation, etc.

### Major contents of the presentations

- MONRE gave an explanation of its policy on chemical substances management and the treatment of residual agricultural chemicals focusing on measures to deal with environmental pollution. MIT, meanwhile, outlined the legal systems under the Chemical Law enacted in 2007. The current status of chemical substances management in Vietnam and the related challenges for the country were explained.
- MOEJ explored the history of and the legislative framework for chemical substances management in Japan, covering chemical substances management under the Third Basic Environment Plan, environmental monitoring, the structure and fundamental principles of the Chemical Substances Evaluation Act, the PRTR (Pollutant Release and Transfer Register), the disposal of agricultural chemicals containing POPs and Japan's approaches to the issue at the international level.
- Japanese experts gave a detailed explanation about ecotoxicity tests under the Chemical Substances Evaluation Act, the GLP (Good Laboratory Practice) system, etc.

By conveying through the workshop Japan's experience in implementing chemical substances management policies, it is expected that the available chemical substances management systems will be introduced and effective measures for the handling of such substances will be implemented in Vietnam. Moreover, as the question-and-answer interactions at the workshop were active not only between the two countries but also among Vietnamese officials, the workshop provided a useful opportunity for them to share information about Vietnamese policies on chemical substances management. The next workshop will be arranged with the aim of holding it some time in the latter half of the next fiscal year.



# 9th Workshop on Environmental Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in East Asian Countries

## Promotion of POPs Management in East Asia

The 9th Workshop on Environmental Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants in East Asian Countries was held over three days from January 30 through February 1, 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand. Government officials and experts from 11 countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Japan) gathered with experts from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) for the workshop with the aim of further promoting Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) management in the region. Among those representing Japan were Professor Koji Shimada, Department of Economics at Ritsumeikan University (Chairman); Dr. Yasuyuki Shibata, Principal Senior Researcher, National Institute for Environmental Studies (Co-chairman); and Mr. Kunihiko Yamazaki, Senior Coordinator, Environmental Health Department, the Ministry of the Environment, Japan.



Participants in the 9th Workshop

### Background and Objectives of the Workshop

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (hereinafter referred to as the "POPs Convention") was adopted in 2001 and entered into force in May 2004 with a view to protecting human health and the environment from the adverse effects of POPs, including Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB), at the global level.

Under the Convention, the contracting parties are required to restrict the production, etc., of POPs as well as to conduct national and international environmental monitoring to identify the presence of POPs in humans and the environment (Article 11) and evaluate the effectiveness of this Convention as a preventive measure based on monitoring data (Article 16).

For the purpose of establishing a monitoring framework in East Asia through international cooperation and implementing effective and continuous data collection that contributes to the Effectiveness Evaluation of the POPs Convention, the Ministry of the Environment has held workshops since FY2002.

### Achievements of the Workshop

The discussions in the 9th Workshop covered the FY2011 POPs monitoring program in East Asia; the FY2012 and FY2013 POPs monitoring programs in East Asia; the future direction of this project from FY2014 onward; reports, etc., on the results of the monitoring conducted in FY2010 at frequent monitoring sites in East Asia (such as Cape Hedo in Okinawa Prefecture and Jeju Island in Korea) and the Philippines; the plan for the next workshop and so on.

The major outcomes of the workshop are as follows:

- 1 It was confirmed that the 2nd round monitoring on POPs in East Asian countries in FY2011 would be carried out in Lao PDR.
- 2 With regard to future plans for this project from FY2012 onward, opinions about the monitoring programs, the roles to be expected by each country in conducting monitoring and boosting monitoring capacity, etc., were exchanged, taking into account the circumstances after the last workshop. As a result, it was approved that monitoring would be implemented in Indonesia and Mongolia in FY2012 and FY2013, respectively, to contribute to the next Effectiveness Evaluation of the POPs Convention. In addition, it was commonly recognized what role each country would be expected to play from FY2014 onward according to the degree of improvement in its monitoring capacity and concrete plans for monitoring, etc., were decided to be developed in the next workshop.
- 3 Results of the monitoring conducted in FY2010 at frequent monitoring sites in East Asia (Cape Hedo in Okinawa Prefecture, Jeju Island in Korea, etc.) and the Philippines were reported on. Excluding some figures, they were approved as data provided by this project, which is likely to contribute to the next Effectiveness Evaluation of the POPs Convention.
- 4 The participants shared information on the global monitoring programs under review, approaches adopted on monitoring of new POPs, etc., in Japan, the results of the monitoring conducted in the Arctic, etc.
- 5 It was approved that the next workshop will be held some time between October and December 2013.



# Workshop on Capacity-Building Cooperation for the Development of NAMAs in Vietnam

Bilateral Cooperation for Action on the Climate Change Mitigation



Co-organized by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam (MONRE), the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) and the Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan (OECC), the Vietnam-Japan Workshop on Capacity-Building Cooperation for the Development of “Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)” in a MRV manner in Vietnam was held on February 20, 2012, in Hanoi, Vietnam. Participants of the workshop included officials and experts from Vietnam and Japan. Opinions were exchanged on the overview of NAMAs in developing countries and the potential for action on the mitigation of climate change towards sustainable development in Vietnam. The major outcomes of the workshop are as follows.



Workshop

## Major outcomes of the Workshop

### Session 1 Overview of NAMAs by developing countries

OECC reported on the background and progress of NAMAs under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiation. Subsequently the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) introduced the preparatory status of NAMAs in developing countries other than Vietnam, a feasibility study conducted in Vietnam and mitigation actions related to waste management in developing countries. At the end of the session, an exchange of opinions took place between the participants from Vietnam and Japan on the possibility for collaboration in the promotion of NAMAs in Vietnam.

### Session 2 Potential as climate mitigation actions to contribute to sustainable development in Vietnam

MONRE gave an explanation about the 2010-2011 results of the Support Program to Respond to Climate Change (SP-RCC) carried out by JICA, the National Climate Change Strategy, and the potential of NAMAs for Vietnam. In addition, the Ministry of Planning and Investment, Vietnam (MPI), reported on the draft of a strategic framework for Vietnam’s Green Growth Strategy for 2011-2020 and the vision for the year 2050. The Ministry of Transport, Vietnam, introduced policies and activities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector in Vietnam. At last, the Standing Office of the National Science and Technology Program on Climate Change explained the mitigation potential of solid waste management in Vietnam. Subsequently, an exchange of opinions took place among the participants on the development process of NAMA policies in Vietnam as well as technology transfer.



## Japan-China Joint Workshop under the Japan-China Joint Research on a Low-Carbon Society

Cooperation between Japan and China towards promotion of a low-carbon society



The Japan-China Joint Workshop under the Japan-China Joint Research Project on a Low-Carbon Society was held on February 24, 2012, in the City of Kitakyushu, Japan. Japanese participants included representatives from the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) and the City of Kitakyushu, experts from research institutes and persons concerned from private-sector corporations, while their Chinese counterparts were experts from research institutes and universities. An active exchange of opinions took place to promote the movement towards the realization of a low-carbon society in the two countries. The major outcomes of the workshop are described below.



Joint workshop



Site visit



### Major outcomes of the workshop

At the workshop, MOEJ made a presentation on the Great East Japan Earthquake and environmental administration which was followed by a presentation on progress of analysis towards sustainable (low-carbon) society given by the National Institute for Environmental Studies. In addition, the City of Kitakyushu introduced its efforts on promoting a low-carbon society. Subsequently Chinese participants proposed methods of compiling the research project results and future activities.

Site visit to the Kitakyushu Eco-Town Creation Project and Kitakyushu Smart Community Project, implemented by the City of Kitakyushu, were also conducted. In so doing, they shared information about efforts to create a low-carbon society and actively exchanged opinions during the workshop.



Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on environmental cooperation was signed in December 8, 2011 between the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) and the Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism of Mongolia (MNET) in Durban, South Africa. In response, MOEJ is now striving to establish a detailed cooperation programme with MNET.

## Survey mission for the environmental cooperation in Mongolia

The newly signed MOC between MOE and MNET indicates areas of cooperation such as eco-tourism, air pollution control (asbestos in particular), and environmental issues related to mining. In order to develop the environmental cooperation strategy in these areas, MOEJ dispatched a survey mission during 24 January and 2 February 2012, focusing on Mongolia's initiatives, local conditions and stakeholders. The mission conducted interviews with MNET and related institutions (such as international organizations, universities, and NGOs), moreover, confirmed the potentiality of concerned options and prospective stakeholders in the nominated sites for pilot eco-tourism projects.



Survey at the eco-tourism project site (Khar Yamaat)



Hearing inside the yurt

## Major achievements from local site interviews

**[Eco-tourism]** MOEJ has provided assistance to promote eco-tourism in Mongolia for the three years from 2008 to 2010. Based on this achievement, inquiring surveys were conducted with the Mongolian side (governmental organizations, local public authorities, experts, and travel industry associations) regarding the implementation of eco-tourism pilot projects in Khar Yamaat and Bugat (see map), as per requests from MNET.

In the target sites for pilot projects, the mission carried out field surveys and hearing for residents of the two sites, local government officials, and people involved in the project. Despite the severely cold weather where most sites were covered with snow and ice, the mission endeavored to examine the features of Khar Yamaat and Bugat. The mission verified that Khar Yamaat is undeveloped area with a grass ecosystem where is designated as a natural reserve. In addition, it was confirmed that community-based nature conservation activities are actively taking place in Bugat, which is a mixture of forest, rivers, and grasslands. Based on the above fact findings, Japan and Mongolia will consider the detail of activities for the ecotourism model led by the local communities.

## Other concerns

**[Asbestos]** During the meeting, a lively discussion was held among various participants from MNET, Ministry of Health, Academy of Sciences, and WHO. The asbestos has been widely banned in Mongolia since 2010. However, since having no measures in place for using or disposing of the substance and becoming more aware of the potential problems associated with asbestos, Mongolia requested that Japan share its experiences for proactive countermeasures.

**[Environmental issues related to mining]** Environmental issues related to mine development were proposed by the Mongolian party. The importance of problem analyses and solution findings through field surveys was reconfirmed.



Interview with MNET (Asbestos issue)

## Future activities

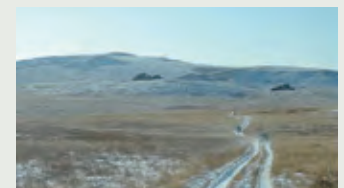
Both parties reached an agreement to formulate an action plan for eco-tourism assistance and to carry out cooperation projects through field surveys.

[2 eco-tourism project sites]



### [Khar Yamaat]

Khar Yamaat is a natural reserve located about 500 km east of Ulaanbaatar City. The area is an undeveloped prairie with diverse species. Rich wildlife has made the area well known as a superior biological research spot for gazelles and other animals. MNET plays a central role in managing the Khar Yamaat natural reserve, and takes extensive steps to conserve nature in the area. An arterial highway that will connect the area to Ulaanbaatar is planned for construction in June 2012.



Khar Yamaat

### [Bugat]

Bugat is a forest area covered with larch and other needle-leaved trees. It is located near Mongolia's third biggest city, Erdenet. Local communities have been developed and forest conservation activities are taking place by forest associations. The area is known as fishing site with Hucho perryi and sturgeon, which only live in clear water.



Bugat

Clean Asia Initiative Newsletter vol8, Edited/Published by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies in March 2012  
[Cover: Sakura (Cherry Blossoms)] Sakura are the Japanese national flower and are one of the most popular flowers in Japan. They briefly bloom once a year before beautifully falling to the ground.