

## **Keynote Speeches**

## **Environmental Protection in China in 2000**

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State Environmental Protection Administration, China

**Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am very glad to have the chance to discuss the issue of environmental protection in the Northeast Asia region. On behalf of Chinese delegation, I would like to brief you the targets and tasks of environmental protection in the coming two years and five years in China.

### I. Environmental Protection in China in 2000

#### A. Environmental Protection in China in 1999

While the national economy kept on developing in a stable way in 1999, the environmental protection in China was further enhanced, with great achievements made. The environmental quality in some cities and areas was improved to certain extent, which provided important guarantee to promote the reform and modern construction in China.

--- The total pollutant discharge load control and industrial pollution sources attainment have been significantly promoted. By the end of 1999, the total discharge of the eleven pollutants was lower than the stipulated indicators. The attainment of the industrial pollution enterprises in the whole is 74% and the attainment of the important enterprises is 56%. The basic capacity of environmental monitoring has been further promoted. There are over one hundred cities in the whole country, which have conducted weekly air quality report. In ten cities such as Shanghai, daily report has been conducted and in some cities such as Tianjin, forecast of air quality has been carried out.

--- Stage achievements have been made in the pollution prevention in cities, river basins, regions and marine regions. The ambient air quality in Beijing has been significantly improved. In Tai Lake, Dianchi Lake and Cao Lake basins, the attainment discharge of industrial pollution sources has been completed on time. Achievements have been made in the pollution treatment of the important enterprises in Hai River and Liao River basins. The SO<sub>2</sub> discharge amount has been reduced by almost 800,000 tons in the "Acid Rain and SO<sub>2</sub> Control Districts". The pollution prevention in Bohai Sea has been further enhanced and the land-based pollution has been controlled. The eleven coastal provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly governed by the Central Government of the whole country spent ten years in formulating the environmental functional zones in the offshore marine area.

--- Natural ecological protection has been developed. According to the latest statistics, there were 1146 nature reserves in the whole country by the end of 1999, the total area being 88.128 million hectares, accounting for about 8.8% of the total territory. We have established a network system of the nature reserves with comprehensive types, reasonable location and perfect functions. In 1999, China published the Country Report on Bio-Diversity and kicked off the legislation on bio-safety management.

--- The input for the ecological construction has been further strengthened. According to the National Ecological Environmental Construction Plan published and put to implementation in 1998, China has kicked the construction of a series of key ecological construction projects of natural forest protection, comprehensive ecological environmental treatment, shelter belt construction, desertification prevention and water and soil preservation. In 1998 and 1999, China increased the investment for the ecological construction by over 18 billion yuan (RMB).

## 2. Present Environmental Protection Situation in China

For the time being, the overall environmental situation in China is as follows: the total pollutant discharge amount is still quite large; the pollution remains at high level; in some areas, the pollution is rather serious; the degradation of the ecological destruction has not yet been effectively controlled and the environmental situation is rather tough.

The problems of environmental protection in China are: firstly, there are new changes as to the pollution structure - the industrial pollution tends to be stable and reduced while the domestic and agriculture pollution is increasing; secondly, the investment of environment protection is not enough according to the plans and the practical demands and the construction of the urban sewage and garbage treatment facilities are far lagging behind; thirdly, the legislation of environmental protection is not so perfect; the enforcement is not strict enough and the capacity of environmental monitoring, science and technology and information service capacity is rather weak.

At present, two great transits are taking place as to the policies of environmental protection in China:

Firstly, while focusing on the pollution prevention and treatment in different regions, river basins and sectors, we are actively promoting the transit of economic growth, especially to achieve the adjustment of economic structure and production structure through the policies, to promote the improvement of production mode and production process through the improvement of standards and the promotion of cleaner production and to achieve the targets of pollution prevention by enhancing the environmental infra-structure construction in urban and rural areas.

Secondly, environmental protection is transiting from pollution prevention to pollution prevention and ecological protection, especially that the limitation of the ecological degradation on the regional sustainable development and the improvement of river basin environment, as well as the improvement of the daily lives and the demand for safe and healthy food and ecologically beautiful entertainment places have become important drives for the development of ecological protection.

## 3. Tasks of Environmental Protection in China in 2000

The important tasks of environmental protection in China in 2000 are to devote efforts to basically control the degradation of environmental pollution and ecological destruction, and to improve the environmental quality in some cities and areas so as to lay good foundation for the environmental

protection in the new century.

--- To enhance the inspection and supervision of enforcement so as to "prevent the enterprises with excessive pollution to enter the new century." and ensure the discharge attainment of the industrial enterprises with pollution by the end of this year. The water in Huai River and Tai Lake should turn clean; the annual COD discharge in Hai River and Liao River basins is controlled within the planned quotas; the water quality target should be achieved in Dianchi Lake and Caohu Lake basins; and the formulation and implementation of Action Plan of Blue Bohai Sea should be accelerated.

--- To follow the principle of paying attention to both pollution prevention and ecological protection and to actively develop ecological protection. By the year 2000, the area of nature reserve in the whole country will account for 9%, if included the scenic spots, forest parks, the area will account for 10% of the national territory. In the meantime, new projects of ecological construction such as restoring the cultivation land into forest and grassland, the protection and construction of natural grassland and the ecological belt surrounding Beijing will be kicked off.

## II. Environmental Protection in China in Recent 5 Years

According to the new domestic and international situation and the development of environmental protection in the new century, and focusing on the sustainable development and the requirements of improving the environmental quality, the environmental protection in recent five years will be mainly focusing on the following key issues:

### 1. Pollution Control

Firstly, to enhance the environmental protection at the source of social economic development, to integrate environmental protection into various levels of social economic development and to integrate environmental protection with social economic development at the beginning of the planning;

Secondly, to promote the local governments and sectors to actively enhance environmental protection. While further enhancing the treatment in river basins, cities and marine areas, we should also focusing on the important sectors of chemical industry, paper production, ferrous metal smelt, power generation and cement so as to reduce pollution load and promote regional treatment by treatment in sectors.

Thirdly, to reform and perfect environmental protection management systems, make exploration on the EIA of important economic and technical policies, to establish and improve region EIA system and enhance the macro-management system. Active efforts should be made to promote the total pollution load control and permit system and to conduct pollution permit trade step by step. The public participation system and environmental supervision system will set up and improved.

### 2. Ecological Protection

Firstly, to carry out urgent protection of the important ecological function zones, including the head source areas of the rivers, important water source preservation and water and soil protection zones, natural flood adjustment and storage zones, as well as the shelter belts and sand fixing areas which are quite important to the ecological balance of the river basins and regions and to ensure the national ecological and environmental safety. In the important ecological function zones with ecological degradation, important ecological function zones will be set up and protective recovery measures will be carried out.

Secondly, to conduct compulsory protection on the ecological environment in the important resource development zones. The ecological functions of the natural elements such as water, soil, grassland, forest, marine, biology and mineral resources should be further clarified. Enforcement and supervision management should be enhanced so as to prevent the destruction to the ecological environment in the development of the above-mentioned natural resources and new degradation of the ecological functions.

Thirdly, to implement active protection in the areas with good ecology; to conduct demonstration of ecological economic construction and set up a series of demonstration models with healthy regional social economy, sustainable development and benign cycle of ecological environment. Efforts will be made to set up 4-6 ecological demonstration provinces and to achieve ecologically benign cycle in 6% counties and municipalities. In the meantime, a series of new nature reserves will be set up in the untouched areas with typical natural ecological systems.

China will mainly implement comprehensive environmental treatment projects of the Yangtze and the Yellow River. Based on the principles to combine the pollution prevention with ecological protection, the adjustment of economic structure with environmental treatment, industrial pollution prevention with domestic pollution prevention and pollution treatment and cleaner production, overall treatment will be conducted on the environmental pollution and ecological destruction of the Yangtze and the Yellow River. In addition, China will further enhance the ecological environmental construction according to the arrangements of the Ecological Environmental Construction Plan.

### III. Environmental Protection in the Western Development in China

China is now organizing the implementation of the development strategy in the western part. The western part has a unique ecological position, with extreme natural conditions. The environmental protection and ecological construction is not only related with the successful implementation of the development strategy in the western part, but also has great significance in ensuring the national ecological safety and global environmental protection.

1. To improve the capacity of comprehensive environmental decision-making in the western part and enhance the environmental supervision management

A survey will be conducted on the present situation of the ecological environment in the western

part. Based on the survey, the ecological environmental function zones and the ecological environmental protection plan of the western part will be formulated, which will serve as a scientific basis for the national decision-making.

To carry out strict enforcement. Efforts will be made to enhance the environmental supervision management of the infra-structure construction projects, such as the industrial construction projects of various kinds, resources development projects and transportation, water resources, energy, as well as some key ecological construction projects so as to prevent the passive situation that destruction is made while conducting construction.

The capacity building of environmental protection will be enhanced in the western part. The ecological monitoring networks and ecological disaster warning systems will be set up. Training courses will be organized so as to improve the capacity of the administration of the environmental supervision and management staff according to law.

2. To enhance the protection of the important ecological function areas and natural ecological systems and to set up the demonstration models of coordinated regional economic and ecological development.

Important ecological function protection areas will be set up in the head source areas of the Yangtze and the Yellow River, as well as some important shelter belt and sand fixing areas. The development construction activities of various kinds that cause destruction to ecological environment will be forbidden in the protection areas. Necessary ecological migration will be organized. Appropriate development and utilization will be conducted with strict protection. The ecological recovery measures will be implemented by combining the artificial measures and nature so as to recover the ecological environment in the protection areas as soon as possible.

There are 486 nature reserves in the western part for the time being, among which there are 69 national level ones. A series of nature reserves will be set up urgently in the middle and upper reaches of the Yangtze and Yellow River. The wild life and animal resources of various kinds will be protected.

Projects of restoring cultivated land into forest and grassland will be carried out in a planned way. The combination of environmental protection and improvement, economic development and poverty alleviation, as well as the development of environmentally sound products and eco-tourism in the western part should be encouraged.

3. To enhance pollution prevention and to improve the environmental quality in key regions, river basins and cities

In connection with the projects of "transmitting the natural gas of the western part to the eastern part" and "transmitting the electricity in the western part to the eastern part", efforts should be made to promote the restructuring of the urban energy and infra-structure renovation along the transmission lines so as to improve the urban air quality. The treatment of industrial and urban

sewage will be accelerated. A series of domestic sewage treatment plants will be constructed with the support of the central government to the construction of the infrastructure in the western part. In the meantime, we will promote the construction of other urban environmental infrastructures and guide the construction in the small towns in a reasonable way.

Cleaner production will be promoted together with the adjustment of the industrial structure in the western part and the environmental industry and the products with environmental labels will be developed. The existing technical capacity will be fully utilized to guide the development of environmental industry.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are resided in northeast Asia and have the common responsibilities and obligation to protect the environment in northeast Asia. China is willing to make all efforts to strengthen the relation and cooperation with relevant countries and areas so as to promote the environmental protection and social economic development in the northeast Asia region.

Thank you all.

## KEYNOTE SPEECH

*The Northeast Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation  
Ulaanbator, Mongolia, 26-28 August 2000*

Presented by Chong Chun KIM,  
Director General of the International Cooperation Bureau,  
Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea

Excellency, state secretary, Mr. Banzragch, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to share Korea's environmental experiences and policy development with you and to learn about success stories in Northeast Asia. I am honored to participate in this meaningful conference, and to work together towards ever-closer environmental cooperation. Allow me to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to the Mongolian Ministry of Environment and Nature for hosting this event and the Environment Agency of Japan for their assistance.

I would like to talk to you about two topics. I will first propose a suggestion for formalizing NEAC's structure and offer a definition its main objective and role. This is crucial for building NEAC's capacity for success in the region. Following that, I will bring you up-to-date on Korea's current environmental policy regime.

(1)

As you know, at the 8th NEAC in Kyoto in November 1999, participants discussed four main issues: (1) Environmental Conservation Administration Measures by Local Authorities, (2) Environmental Cooperation Initiatives of Local Authorities, (3) Climate Change Problems, and (4) Practical Use of the Internet in Environmental Cooperation. They agreed that a partnership, which includes governments, businesses, experts, and the public, is very important. They also viewed the NEAC as an important forum for the exchange of information and ideas on environmental protection measures, and that the NEAC should be strengthened.



Korea has been active in adopting the outcomes and agreements of the previous NEAC meetings. In this context, the Korean Ministry of Environment is making every endeavor to enhance local government and private sector awareness of environmental cooperation in Northeast Asia, in part by organizing the National Expert Network on Northeast Asian Environmental Cooperation. This network includes environmental experts, local and central governmental officials, and members of environmental NGOs. Through this mechanism, we intend to promote public awareness and understanding and facilitate the exchange of transparent information—essential keys to progress.

Additionally, the TEMM internet website has been established by the National Institute of Environmental Research of the MOE. The Northeast Asian Center for Environmental Data and Training is also creating a website to help analyze and effectively use environmental data. In this regard, I would like to emphasize that review process and mechanism is very important for NEAC's progress.

(2)

I would like to note that NEAC has been contributing to environmental awareness and the development of other programs in Northeast Asia over the last 9 years (since 1992

However, it is also understandable that we did not further develop and upgrade the NEAC's role and functions beyond the initial stage. A number of experts and officials mentioned the lack of linkages and effectiveness, and identified redundancy as a major problem for environmental cooperation in Northeast Asia.

At this point, I would like to emphasize that each program and conference has specific roles and important functions. Therefore, in Annex 1, I would like to offer suggestions on the roles and structure of NEAC, including defined objectives and direction.

In short, NEAC would serve as a policy forum enabling increased access to advice and knowledge on environmental issues, within the existing environmental cooperation mechanisms in Northeast Asia. It would enhance public awareness and policy makers' understanding, and encourage closer environmental cooperation between local and national governments and the private sector, as well as environment ministry.

I hope for your full consideration and discussion on this suggestion as presented in Annex1, which will be presented in Session 4.

(3)

This year saw substantial progress on environmental cooperation within Northeast Asia. As most of you I'm sure are aware, the environment ministers of Japan, China and the Republic of Korea agreed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting to implement 9 concrete projects.

At the 6<sup>th</sup> NEASPEC in Seoul last March, the Vision Statement for Environmental Cooperation in Northeast Asia was adopted. In addition, member countries gave a mandate to the Northeast Asian Center of Environment Data and Training, and agreed to establish a core fund. These achievements and those to follow will strengthen environmental cooperation in the region.

I would like to emphasize that Northeast Asia will play a leading role in setting the environmental agenda not only in our region but also in the world. Many of the world's fastest growing economies are found in Northeast Asia, and as a result some of the fastest deteriorating ecosystems may also be found here. This has both positive and negative aspects. One positive is that if we are successful in meeting our shared environmental challenges and cooperate closely on the issues, we could then offer the world not only roadmaps of pathways from the economic periphery, as they say, but also pathways from environmental crisis.

I therefore believe closer cooperation between us is strongly needed in preparation process for of Rio+10 and the 4th ESCAP Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Development.

(4)

I'd now like to change gears and introduce the Republic of Korea's environmental policies and measures. 1999 was a period of consolidation of the decade's accomplishments and of identifying directions for environmental policies for the new century. We decided to focus on measurable improvements in the ambient environment—air, water, and soil—to raise the quality of everyday life in Korea.

After successfully establishing comprehensive measures for water quality in the Han River watershed, the lifeblood of the capital region, we established similar measures to manage the Nakdong River watershed by involving residents in the process. By doing this, we successfully resolved water conflicts between upstream and downstream communities. Furthermore the Ministry of Environment is going to establish similar measures for the Kuem and Youngsan River Watersheds.

Preparing for Korea's anticipated water shortage this decade, we have established nationwide water conservation measures, including the installation of conservation devices and the expansion of public campaigns.

The Ministry has started replacing some diesel buses with CNG buses. The government is investing 33.4 billion won (US\$290 million) to introduce 1,500 CNG buses in Seoul, Pusan, and other large cities this year.

We aim to establish a comprehensive waste recycling system. We plan to implement additional waste management measures, such as strengthening regulations on disposable goods and packaging materials. The minimization and recycling of food

waste will also continue to be promoted. We will expand current measures in this area by introducing a recycling fee on the discharge of food waste. We will continue to increase recycling capacity and introduce efficiencies for collecting food waste.

The Ministry is in the process of systemizing and integrating wildlife regulations, which will help strengthen the overall conservation system. Specifically, we are planning to officially protect areas with exceptionally healthy or biologically diverse ecosystems. Meanwhile, the Wetlands Preservation Act was newly enacted to protect these sensitive and ecologically important lands, often referred to as treasure troves of biodiversity.

Another important goal is the creation of a mandatory system to institutionalize the environmental impact assessment process. We believe we can both simplify and increase the effectiveness of impact assessments by integrating the various impact assessment systems. These include transportation, disaster, population as well as environmental impact assessments.

To set the tone for these approaches, on World Environment Day the Ministry released its National Vision for Environmental Policies in the 21st Century. It contains guidelines for environmental ethics and values in the new millennium, environmentally friendly development, and the construction of what we call an "ecological community" on the Korean peninsula.

As we move into the new millennium, we will promote environmental policies that focus on managing demand and increasing efficiency, rather than merely trying to limit production directly. Policies based on partnerships across social sectors will be emphasized. Environmental policy should reinforce economic incentives for environmental management, and help build a sound environment and economy simultaneously.

I hope this overview of our environmental policy focus and vision helps you understand our perspective on where we've been and where we hope to go. If you would like more details on our activities, I'd be happy to talk with you further about it later, or to introduce you to the appropriate people or resources.

(5)

I am very pleased to attend 9th NEAC meeting held in this historic city as a representative of the Republic of Korea. I am quite honored to be participating in this meeting with the famous Korean environmental activist Kim Jae Ok, the CACPK, experts, and local governmental officials. The diverse collection of participants reflects our expectation that NEAC will be a truly open forum in which to share environmental knowledge, approaches and ideas at all levels.

To conclude, I would like to express our sincere hope for D.P.R. Korea's participation in NEAC conference since next meeting. As all of you may be aware, last month a historic summit meeting between south and north Korea held in the Korean peninsula. I believe that this peaceful climate will helpful in promoting environmental cooperation in Northeast Asia. So, North Korea's joining in NEAC will contribute to develop this framework. I wish for your concern and cooperation in this matter.

I would once again like to give my thanks to the Mongolian Ministry of Environment and Nature and the Japanese Environment Agency. I would like to close by saying that I eagerly hope that the NEAC will contribute to solving environmental problems in this region through the active participation and cooperation of each country, and the commitment shown by individuals such as yourself.

Thank you.

Annex1.

## Objective and Roles of NEAC

### **1. Objective**

(1) As environmental degradation accelerates throughout the region, and as it becomes clear that lasting solutions require increased involvement from NGOs, the private sector and the public, the main objective of NEAC should be to promote free discussion and policy exchange, and to enable access to useful, accurate information at all levels.

(2) Through these activities, NEAC is aimed at contributing to effectively cope with domestic and regional environmental problems, such as transboundary environmental pollution, conservation, and water and waste management, and to ultimately lower pollution throughout North-east Asia.

### **2. Roles**

(3) The NEAC should play several roles. Through the NEAC Mechanism the participation of various stakeholders can be enhanced. These include environmental experts, institutions, local governments, and NGOs as well as relevant national government ministries and agencies.

(4) Since it is largely a forum for maintaining an open policy dialogue, it serves as a basic foundation for other environmental programs. Its ties to other conferences and programs such as TEMM and NEASPEC should therefore be strengthened. To this end, host countries will present information and results generated through NEAC at the following TEMM and NEASPEC meetings. The host country will take measures to share NEAC's outcomes, such as publishing and reporting the presentation documents and agreed results.

(5) Considering the timing of conferences of similar programs, it is possible to promote various measures for providing TEMM and NEASPEC chances for holding interim reviews and expert meetings in specific areas, such as transboundary air pollution, nature conservation and bio-diversity.

### **3. Participating and Hosting Countries**

(6) Six Northeast Asian Countries--China, D.P.R. of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, and Russia--will join this conference as member countries.

(7) Member countries would host NEAC meetings in turns. However, in case of special circumstances the venue can be changed by the conference participants.

(8) The host country would cover the expenses of two participants from each member country.

### **4. Structure and Agenda**

(9) The conference consists of four sessions. The first and second sessions will be organized at the national government level, while the third session is at the local government level. The fourth session is for the private sector.

(10) Each session's agenda will include various environmental issues in Northeast Asia, and would be adopted in the previous meeting. In order to provide a policy basis for other environmental programs, approval items and ongoing projects of other environmental mechanisms can be considered in the process of selecting the agenda of NFAC meetings.

(11) In collaboration with local governments and private organizations, host countries can organize special activities, such as public symposia and exhibitions.

**Keynote Speech**  
**Wednesday, July 26, 2000**

**Hiroyuki Taguchi,**

Director, Office of Overseas Environmental Cooperation  
Environment Agency, Global Environment Department

## **1. Introduction**

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Japanese delegation, it is a great honor for me to deliver a keynote speech at the very first stage of this conference, and I would like to express my profound gratitude to the government of Mongolia.

I recognize that this year's conference has its noteworthy significance. It is because this is the first time for Mongolia to host the conference. This is also the ninth conference when it is a good time to review the past decade of NEAC and discuss the next decade of NEAC. I believe that NEAC has made continued progresses in promoting policy dialog since the first NEAC in 1992. It is our responsibility to make sure that the progresses will be extended and developed further to tackle with such environmental challenges as global warming, air pollution, and other environmental problems.

## **2. Japanese Environmental Policies**

First of all, I would like to introduce Japanese environmental policies. We are now reviewing the Basic Environment Plan, which was developed five years ago, to make the plan suitable for the early 21st century. The followings are the Environment Agency's priority policies in line with reviewing the Basic Plan.



### <Global Environmental Issues>

The first is to take initiatives to deal with global warming and other global environmental problems. As for global warming, We will make every effort to ensure the success of COP6 (the Sixth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) this November, and to have the Kyoto Protocol come into force in 2002 at the latest. At the same time, we will promote domestic comprehensive programs to achieve our GHGs six percent reduction target. We will also address global environmental problems through such ministerial-level international frameworks as the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Japan, China, and the Republic of Korea, the G8 Environment Ministers' Meeting, the ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, Eco Asia and "Rio plus 10."

### <Environmentally Sound Resource Cycling>

The second is to establish a social and economic system to realize "environmentally sound resource cycling." This system means extracting the minimum necessary amount of resources from the ecosystem; utilizing them at maximum efficiency; and returning them with minimum burden to the environment. The last Diet session has passed the basic law to expedite the formation of a system of "environmentally sound resource cycling" and the Law on "Promoting the Purchase of Green Products by the National Government and Other Entities" for promoting a shift in demand to recycled and recyclable products. We are also pursuing the development and dissemination of eco-friendly products and technologies, providing necessary supports for grassroots activities and promoting environmental education and learning.

### <Dioxins and Chemical Substances>

The third is to control dioxins and other chemical substances. Our government will control dioxins through maintaining and attaining environmental quality standards for air, water, and soil, based on the Special Measures Law on Dioxin Control that has been in effect since this January. We are also preparing for overseeing and publicizing the amounts released on chemical substances towards the enforcement of the Japan's Pollutant Release and Transfer Register law. At the same time, we are promoting the researches and studies for scientific findings on endocrine disruptors.

### <Air Pollution>

The fourth is to strengthen motor vehicle-related environmental measures in major urban areas. Next year's Diet session will revise the Motor Vehicle NOx Law to alleviate air pollution in major cities caused by nitrogen oxides and particulates, through getting the recommendation from Central Environment Council within this year. As for the regulation on emissions by diesel-powered vehicles, the Central Environment Council is now considering its reinforcement earlier than planned previously. As for the airborne particulates, we are promoting the studies on measurement and assessment methods, as well as the health impacts, of even finer particulates. The last Diet session has passed the Law to Partially Revise the Offensive Odor Control Law for reinforcing measures on odors that arise in conjunction with accidents and enhancing the system for measuring odors.

### <Bio-Diversity>

The fifth is to pursue the strategic conservation of bio-diversity in accordance with each type of area such as forest and wetland. We are promoting the scientific and planned protection and management of wildlife

in accordance with the Wildlife Preservation and Game Act, which was revised last year. We are also providing for those facilities that promote the symbiosis with nature and learning on eco-system in natural parks, and opportunities of experiential learning from nature.

#### <Environment Ministry>

The last is to prepare for our becoming the Environment Ministry next January. Since the upcoming Ministry unifies the administrative functions of controlling wastes and chemical substances, and enhances initiatives on global environmental issues, We strengthen organization and system by increasing and enhancing personnel, reorganizing departments.

### **3. Recent Trends of Environmental Policies: Policy Mixture**

Next let me discuss the recent trends of environmental policies in domestic and international fields. I think that the issues on environmental policies can be focused on three types of policy mixtures.

#### <Integration of Environment and Development>

The first type is a mixture in policy areas. That is to say, the integration of environment and development. Sustainable development is not achieved only through what we call "environmental policy." It is necessary to pursue environmentally sound policies in every sector of economy. For example, the policies on forest, water and energy should be reformed in environmentally sound manners like improving efficiency of their resource production and usage. Development plans should go through "Strategic Environment Assessment" to make development consistent with environment. International organizations like UNDP and UNEP have already facilitated a strategy of

mainstreaming environment throughout all sectors. OECD-DAC has promoted new development strategy through the guidance of policy integration to developing countries. World Bank is now preparing a new environment strategy aimed at integrating environmental concerns into its mainstream poverty alleviation and economic development efforts towards December this year.

#### <Mixture of Regulation and Economic Instruments>

The second type is a mixture in policy methods. There are two kinds of policy methods in general. One is a rigid command-and-control approach, typically establishing and enforcing such regulatory standards as emission and effluent standards to control air and water pollution. The other is economic incentive instruments, typically such market-based instruments as emission and effluent charges and emission trading. There have recently been the moves toward introducing economic instruments for their efficiency and effectiveness in several countries, especially since such frameworks as emission trading were formulated as one of the Kyoto Mechanisms. However, the command-and control regulations are still appropriate in cases where even small quantities of pollutants can cause significant damage, such as toxic or hazardous waste. Therefore, environmental management should be based on a mixture of regulation and economic instruments.

#### <Partnership between public and private sectors>

The third type is a mixture in policy players. There are many players to tackle with environmental problems; central and local governments, private companies, research institutes, NGOs, etc. Each player has its own role and comparative advantage in its activity. For instance, central government is responsible for such basic policies as national planning, guideline, standards

and so forth. Local governments have much experience in such resident-oriented measures as spatial planning and monitoring. NGOs are engaged in such grass-root activities as afforestation and environmental education. To cope with big environmental challenges, it has become essential for all players' activities to be mobilized and integrated in both domestic environment conservation and international cooperation. Therefore it is expected that players take partnership in their activities. I think that NEAC is one of the opportunities for supporting the partnership, which will be discussed later on.

In this way, the crucial issues are to find and pursue a best mixture in policy areas, policy method and policy players, in other words to integrate environment with development, to combine regulation with economic instruments, and take partnership among players.

#### **4. Ending Remarks**

Participating countries vary in their histories, cultures, social systems, the sizes of their economies and their natural resources. Despite these differences, I believe that we all share the will to address global and regional environmental problems. Needless to say, this conference is of great significance because it allows us to exchange information among ourselves and to further reinforce our cooperative ties. I hope that this conference will yield common fruits and be a success for everyone in attendance.

Lastly, as you can see from the materials at hand, I am pleased to inform you that we have received from Kyoto Prefecture Governor Mr. Teiichi Aramaki and Maizuru City Mayor Mr. Mitsuoki Emori, the messages that the previous conference yielded significant results, and congratulatory notes on this year's conference.

# Remarks to the 9th Northeast Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation

July 26, 2000

Teiichi Aramaki  
Governor  
Kyoto Prefecture

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Participants of the 9th Northeast Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation, I would like to extend my warmest greetings on the opening of the 9th Conference on behalf of the people of Kyoto Prefecture who hosted the 8th Conference.

The 8th Conference was held in November 1999 in Maizuru-City of Kyoto Prefecture, one of the chief Japanese trading ports. I understand that the 8th Conference resulted in great success in recognizing the importance of forming partnerships and collaboration among local governments, through the active discussion of local government initiatives in promoting international environmental cooperation.

At the 9th Conference, the results of past conferences will come under review, while the participants are expected to discuss the future initiatives in environmental cooperation among the parties involved. I sincerely hope that this conference will bring about constructive achievements.

Kyoto Prefecture, as a responsible local government, intends to devote its committed efforts to promoting environmental cooperation in the Northeast Asia region, on the basis of our achievements at this Conference.

I am full of expectation that the 9th Conference will contribute to the definite progress of environmental cooperation in the Northeast Asia region. In closing, I would like to extend my best wishes for the health and prosperity of all the participants.

Dear Sir,

On the occasion of the Ninth Northeast Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to you. I hope the conference has great success in Ulan Bator, Mongolia where boasts of its tradition and beautiful vast plain.

We discussed about environmental policies and exchanged information in the city of Maizuru, the former host city of the conference last year. We contended energetically for four days, including symposium. Last conference was very significant for both our citizen and government to cooperate and implement environmental policy and it was also meaningful for us to cooperate and exchange with the people of Northeast Asia.

Now there are many environmental problems and we need to try hard to solve environmental problems in every level of society. I anticipate the conference in Ulan Bator achieves splendid result and makes great success. I hope mutual understandings and cooperation that was raised in Maizuru strengthen more.

Finally I hope the Ninth Northeast Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation has fruitful result and extend my best wishes for participants from abroad and all of you.

Mitsuoki Emori

Mayor of Maizuru

July 26, 2000.



All-Russian Research Institute for Nature Protection

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9<sup>th</sup> Northeast Asian Conference on Environmental  
Cooperation  
July 26-28, 2000  
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

## Keynote Speech

Dr. Peshkov

Councillor of Minister,  
Director of All-Russian Research Institute for Nature Protection

On the threshold of the 10<sup>th</sup> jubilee of the Conference –  
time to sum up and make new prospects.

Dear National delegates, distinguished participants,

First of all, please allow me, to extend warm congratulations on the opening 9<sup>th</sup> Northeast Asian Conference and sincere thanks Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Mongolia, ESCAP Secretariat and organizations-sponsors for organizing this important event. We are very pleased that we have the opportunity to exchange our views and concerned for environment conditions in the region. This is our 9<sup>th</sup> Conference and we stay in a nopore the 10<sup>th</sup> jubilee. I supposed it is a good time to say some words about our overall results and future.

I believe I express not only my own point of view saying that for this period we possessed a very good basis for work - we found the fundament for understanding and work together very well. This



Conference becomes a very considerable tool for support of encouraging environmentally sound politics in this region and provide the unity of the efforts of all its countries at different fields. It is seems, that the concentrations in several key points in every meeting is a good and fruitful way to deal with enormous and complicated environmental problems. But, if we work in this manner for some consequences years - we decide all our questions very soon. I suppose, that we also need to summarize the results in some fields of our cooperation, which we agreed upon, see first results and give new aims in some studying issues. This would be especially helpful as at the field, which grow in a good rate, where we need to increase our activity in a higher level and also in a direction, which would be not so promising. Although, we could not raise all the questions in one Conference - we may start from the positions, which request the greatest attention due to opinion of distinguish delegates. It would be very useful, if we choose the positions beforehand. Now I would like to say several words about changing in administrative structure for management of environmental protecting in Russia. Now is the last days when the State Committee of the Russian Federation on Environmental Protection work, since 7<sup>th</sup> of August the all its functions will be given to Russian Ministry for Natural Resources. This Ministry was established 3 years ago and comprised several Ministries specialized on exploitation of resources - geology and . Possibly, it is very early to say defensively about our future, but to be realists, we need to point that the situation with control for environmental protection and especially for bio - resources conservation is not very promising. The nowadays structure determines the situation, when within one Ministry both exploitation of natural resources and control of their utilization activity exist. This is also not so good for the nature resources' conservation because the new-formed Minister is a geologist. He just expressed his

intentions of changing the situation when a minerals' fields exploitations will be in favor in compare with establishing of protected areas This position difficult to be called "environmental friendly". But we hope, that this is a temporarily situation - and the pendulum of interest for nature conservation after turning against the conservation concerns returns again in the nearest future. Indeed, sociological polls have shown that for majority of people environmental problem for now less important than others, as example, economic instability, growing prices and criminalization of society. Possibly, that is why we lost our positions in the society in a whole and as a reflection to it in the governmental structure. But I would like to say that "every cloud has a silver lining". The present situation encourages us to find new ways for working with Governmental Authorities, to draw attention and including public participation more actively, to use modern technology, to be operative, scientifically proved and so on. Also, we are in a right position for increasing out international contacts and to use the support of our foreign colleagues and organizations to pursue our Government for environment oriented politics.

Let me now briefly take the opportunity to present some general positions about the latest actions and priorities in the field of our main.

Starting with the forest conservation I would like to say following. The Russian forest fund occupies 69 % of the total lands. Almost 78 % of all dense forests are located in Asian Russia, this is the greatest part and it outlines our special concern of this territory.

To say about modern forestry practice, it is important to say, that in 1997, since the introduction of the Russian Federation Forest Code, the structure of ownership for the forest fund has radically changed. The Code made for a transfer of a part of the ownership of Federation subjects and enacted other forms of its possession, disposal and use. Forests, their

biodiversity and biological resources determine the life of population and economic structure on almost a half of the country's territory. In addition to the supply of timber that is harvested annual on about 10 000 sq km, forests have notable environmental, resource and recreation functions. Due to support the exploitation forests for their ecosystem, environmental functions it will be important to incorporate the values of forests for people survival in terms of economy. For this purpose could serve the program of increasing the non-ligneous forest production, which just have been elaborated in some territories. We are in a process of elaborating and funding a way for including the forest management into the process of sustainable development.

Among the main problems in the conservation of forests in Russia for today, I would like to point that it is a paradoxical situation that the forestry authorities define the volume of exploitation, use forest resources free of charge and at the same time inspect themselves. The modern situation, when forestry authority is included to the new formed Ministry of Natural Resources do not imply the change of the situation. There are several measures to improving the situation. We need to change our existing forest legislation to ensuring environmental security of forest preservation and prevention of their degradation. Also, we need to establish status of forestry and stop merging of the forestry and the forest industry. The results of this merging in the recent past can be still traced as vast areas non-restored slashes, open woodlands and marshes that emerged in places where forest used to be. The function of Forest management must be taken by special authority, which could provide proper forest management and remediation. The important part of forest conservation could be done with help of non-governmental organizations and international organizations in Russia. Some of them as example IUCN, WWF and Greenpeace are very active at the promotion of forest

conservation. As example, IUCN in 1995-1998 developed a program "Conservation and use of primary and secondary forests in Central and Eastern Europe". There are several forest program developed by other organizations. Unfortunately, their gaining results sometimes could not be used in practice; the conclusions are very ambitious, but very subjective. Still scientific authority, governmental environmental institutes and governmental organizations are elaborating more adequate program.

As concerned protected area I would like to outline, that Russia possesses the high-developed and unique system of protective territories which comprises state nature reserves - zapovedniks (the strongest protected areas - the highest type of protection by IUCN categorization), national park, prirodniy park (nature park), natural monument, state game reserve territories and so on. The System of state nature reserves, the leader of protected areas in Russia, has been formed for as much as 80 years. The zapovedniks have been carried out active scientific studying of nature conditions – "Chronicles of Nature" and monitoring of rare and endangered flora and fauna species. In recent years the system of national parks, nature monuments and natural parks has been developing rapidly. The aims of the development of protected areas are the support network of protected areas, which provide survival of rare and endangered species, ecosystems, landscapes and ensure sustainability in ecological conditions for all territory. Today the active work on the Concept of the Russian special protected territory is in progress. We are beginning to develop eco-tourism in protected areas and need to accumulate world's protected areas experience in this activity. We should make an attempt to learn from other people experience and mistakes rather when do it ourselves.

As our system of National Parks has just started to be formed, we are in a process of development a Strategy for managing of Russian National Parks. Today there are 35 national parks representing valuable and state-

important territories. However, they are acutely short of laws and definitive prospects for their development. The problem of interrelationship between national park and the human population living within its territory is a problem of special emphasis in the Strategy. The most important components of the Strategy for managing is one associated with sustainable survival which include

- involving of the local population in protecting valuable natural and cultural sites;
- creating conditions for the participation of the local community in managing the economic development of the national park and so on.

An important element of sustainable development of nature reserves management coupled with a reliable public support. Now we are in the process of elaborating of mechanisms to achieve mutual understanding with society using international experience and trying a new form.

And finally, I would like to stress the necessity for solving the environmental problems more effective and properly we need to strengthen building capacity for active exchange of the information between countries. It will be very useful to have a special connection to raise a system of awareness helpful for organizing of ecological security for the Notheastern region.

In assumption, I need to outline that participation of Russian Federation in Northeast Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation is very efficient to encouragement for Environmental Protection in the region in Russia. The practical examples of the implementation of the decisions of the Conference will be demonstrated in the session reports.

# 9<sup>th</sup> Northeast Asian Conference on Environment Cooperation

## Keynote Speech

July 26 , 2000

Dr. N. Sarantuya, Director of Policy  
Coordination Department, Ministry of Nature  
and Environment, MONGOLIA.

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honour to deliver a keynote speech to 9<sup>th</sup> Northeast Asian Conference on Environment Cooperation. As a representative of host country I would like to extend to you my wholehearted welcome and thank all of you for coming such a long way to Ulaanbaatar.

On the threshold of new millennium, the deepening of global environmental problems and increased damages to diversity of nature, have resulted in deterioration of surrounding nature, reduction of natural resources, and a negative impact on national development progress. Critical environmental issues such as greenhouse gases, ozone depletion, global warming, drought, desertification, a loss of biological diversity, acid rain, and natural disasters have become worldwide threats.

As the owner of the nature, the human race has rejected the development path of too-rapid leaping forward that cause natural resource depletion and damage to the nature. Instead, the sustainable development strategy that address the issues of living sustainable and compatible with the nature has been considered as the best option. Environmental pollution and degradation know no frontiers and environmental problems are becoming ever more international in scale.

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished participants,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the present Mongolian environmental challenges and state policy in this field.

Mongolia is a land-locked country which occupies an ecological transition zone where Central Asia and Siberian Taiga meet and it has an extreme continental climate and its ecosystems are rather fragile and sensitive.

The worthwhile traditions of the Mongolian people, who since ancient times have aimed at conserving the environment and proper use of natural resources , now are enriched by

the new concept of sustainable development. However, increased population, industrialization and development in mid of this century have had considerable impacts on Mongolian traditional lifestyle and nomadic civilization.

During the last 20 years , the degree of exploitation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources has grown rapidly, leading to adverse impacts on the environment. Mining products account for over two thirds of the nation's total exports. Also the cooperative movement involving husbandry and establishment of a new sector for cultivated land made significant changes in the traditional life style. Through the cooperative policy, a large number of livestock of the same kind was concentrated in on place exceeding carrying capacity, which caused decrease of soil productivity and water supply. The total forested area has decreased by 1.4 million hectares, and the total pastureland declined by 6.9 million hectares. Privatization of public enterprises and the emergence of thousands of private enterprises in recent years with little oversight of their activities by monitoring agencies have led to the irrational exploitation of natural resources in a chase for short term profits, inadequate and polluting waste management practices, and failure to rehabilitate natural resources damaged by the economic activity.

The most urgent environmental and natural resource issues facing Mongolia are environmental challenges due to urbanization and socio- economic development, such as degradation and overexploitation of natural resources, air pollution, overexploitation and pollution of limited water resources, solid and hazardous waste disposal, land use conflicts between pasture and biodiversity conservation, non-sustainable utilization of land and forest resources, expansion of deserts by natural and human impacts, and recurrent natural disasters.

In the 1990's, when democratic and market oriented policies started, able conditions for environmental reform were created. During 1994-2000, the Parliament of Mongolia enacted a package of laws and programs regarding nature conservation and rational use of nature resources. Laws decentralize authority to local governments concerning protection, restoration and rational use of natural resources i.e. to increase the role of local governments and communities in this matters.

Since 1995, numerous initiatives and programs have responded to Mongolia's environmental challenges. Among other achievements can be mentioned;

- Significant progress has been made in drafting specific environmental legislation e.g. for natural resource management, air emissions, waste discharge, environmental taxes, and royalties form the exploitation of natural resources
- An impressive number of strategies and action plans have been approved over the last 5 years, and it is now an important challenge to implement all these plans: State Policy on Ecology, Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan, National Action Program to Combat Desertification (NAPCD), National Plan for Protected Areas, National Water Policy Program, Forestry Program, Program on Wastes: Program on Air Protection, National Program for Environmental Education and Public Investment Program (PIP) 1999-2002.

- Mongolian Action Program For 21 century (MAP-21) was elaborated in accordance with the Earth sustainable development methodology and principles. This program is a document that can serve as a national guideline which embraces and defines the whole complexity of the requirements, policy goals, working directions and methods for developing all the spheres of our country's life while maintaining environmental checks and balances.
- NGO and public participation in environmental protection has increased
- 14 percent of territory has been included in the protected area network
- EIA knowledge, procedures and implementation ability has been strengthening
- National environmental monitoring system, including environmental Information system with ecological database has developed
- Many projects have been focusing on environment and natural resource management and protection at local level.
- In February 2000 the Mongolian Parliament approved the Law on 'The ratio of the income from the natural resources use payments to be spent for environmental protection and natural resource restoration'. It is very important law for mobilizing financial mechanisms and finding sources to develop enhanced environmental protection and natural resource management.

Since 1993, Mongolia has joined 9 Conventions that regulate the critical global environmental issues such as biodiversity conservation, climate change, combatting desertification, reduction of ozone layer depletion, the trade in rare and endangered species of flora and fauna, transboundary transmission of hazardous wastes and its disposal, protection of wetlands, production, storage and disposal of chemical weapons, and protection of migratory animals. Besides, Mongolia is cooperating effectively with foreign countries and international organizations. As Mongolia joined international conventions, there opens a door for us to have an opportunity to make a contribution to the prevention of the world ecosystem from ecological threats and to increase its reputation on the international arena. To date, there are 7 intergovernmental agreements established between 1990-1999 out of 20 bilateral environmental agreement of great importance for the protection of the whole country's territory, particularly the nature around state border. It is worth to be noted that the agreement established with the Russian and Chinese governments in environmental field in 1994 forms a basis for the development of multilateral transboundary cooperation with the neighboring countries. In addition, according to the intergovernmental agreement established with the neighboring countries on protection and use of water around border areas, it has become possible for the participants to implement activities such as prevention of water from drying up and reduction of water contamination, to control water quality, carrying out investigation, and exchange of information during natural disasters. Several meetings were held by representatives of proper authorities.

The underlying and critical factors for the achievement of environmentally sustainable development in Mongolia are sound environmental legislation, a capable institutional framework, proper information and knowledge basis, public understanding and participation and targeted investment programs to mitigate environmental deterioration



and to create work and development opportunities for the local societies. We have been confronted with a task, duty and a need to start implementation as well as to bring about legal environment, personnel, financial and technological resources and conditions in order to materialize all mentioned before policy and programs. There is shortage of financial sources for funding of nature protection and restoration at national and local level. In order to achieve successful implementation of these programs it will be important to ensure nationwide participation of key players including state institutions, NGOs, business sector.

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished participants,

Since the first meeting of the North-East Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation in 1992 the participating countries have continued their efforts to seek the effective measures for regional cooperation. I think this 9th Conference is an extremely important opportunity to discuss all of our achievements and cooperation tackling problems and to reinforce regional cooperation channels.

In closing, I would like to emphasize the role that NEAC could play in addressing global and regional environment issues like global warming, combatting desertification, biodiversity conservation. We believe that advanced countries of region will participate actively in the various field of cooperation, particularly in technology transfer and financial assistance for developing countries.

I wish every success to all of you.

Thank you for your attention.

Ninth North-East Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation  
26 - 28 July 2000  
Ulaanbaatar  
Mongolia

## **SUBREGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION IN NORTH-EAST ASIA - Perspective 2000 -**

**Masakazu Ichimura**  
**Expert on Environmental Policies**  
**Environment and Natural Resources Development Division**  
**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

This region-wide ministerial conference on environment and development has been held every five years since 1985, and has broadened the environmental awareness and strengthened alliances among countries and stakeholders seeking to address the environment and sustainable development issues of the region. In particular, the last Ministerial Conference held at Bangkok in November 1995 made an intensive deliberation on how to promote implementation of Agenda 21 in the region, and adopted the Ministerial Declaration and the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development 1996-2000 addressing the regional environmental priorities.

Based on this achievement, the fourth Ministerial Conference is planned to be held from 31 August to 5 September this year, in Kitakyushu, Japan, with primary objective of assessing the state of the regional environment and developing a consensus for further strengthening implementation of the Agenda 21. The Conference is expected to adopt a new Regional Action Programme for national and regional follow-up for the beginning of the new millennium. The expected outcome also includes Kitakyushu Initiative for Clean Environment, which is proposed to be a priority mechanism for RAP Implementation, with special focus on urban environment, a new declaration to reaffirm commitment of decision-makers to implement priority policies and measures, and a collective message from the Asian and Pacific region for "Rio + 10" review of the global implementation of Agenda 21.

I would like to highlight that importance of subregional cooperation have been consistently emphasized in deliberations of the past Ministerial Conferences, in particular in the Regional Action Programme for 1996-2000, adopted in 1995. To assess the progress since 1995, an issue paper "REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21, INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS, THE REGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, 1996-2000" has been prepared for submission to and deliberation of the forthcoming Ministerial Conference in Kitakyushu, and in this paper, development of subregional activities have been recognized as one of the major indicators of implementation. Having reviewed the remarkable progress in the subregional activities, the "REGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2001 - 2005", another issue paper to be submitted to the Ministerial Conference for adoption, calls for further promotion of the subregional activities, in particular though development of effective subregional mechanism for cooperation.

Among numbers of ongoing activities assessed in the "REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION" issue paper, major development in subregional programmes have been reported from South East Asia, such as the haze action plan, ASEAN Regional Centre for

Biodiversity Conservation and Greater Mekong programme, and also from South Asia with particular reference to the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects. Also reported are initiatives to combat marine pollution at the subregional level through the Regional Seas Programme of UNEP, which included the formulation of action plans and implementation of projects for the East Asian Seas, South Asian Seas, North-West Pacific, and the Black Sea. Many more subregional environmental cooperation programmes have been emerging in Caspian Sea and Aral Sea basin.

The development of the subregional cooperation in the North East Asia has also been impressive for last few years. This Conference, North-East Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation, has been held on annual basis as a result of valuable and continuous efforts of the five participating countries. A variety of issues have been taken up and discussed at this Conference, reflecting priority concerns of environmental administrations and practitioners of the subregion. The review of the environmental issues and exchange of information have resulted in in-depth understanding on the environmental situation in the participating countries that provided the sound basis for environmental cooperation projects formalized in different shapes in the subregion.

But perhaps in this subregion, the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, has been showing a most impressive development in the past two years. Through the past two meetings held last year and this year, the Ministers of three countries reaffirmed the usefulness of setting a regular forum at the ministerial level for further fostering regional environmental cooperation and sustainable development, and agreed to take steps to develop more concrete project-type cooperation among three countries in their six priority areas.

Another admirable initiative originating from this subregion should be the effort towards the establishment of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia, EANET. After two years of preparatory phase activities, it is now reaching the final phase to conclude the institutional and financial arrangement towards the formal establishment of the Network, which is to include North-East Asia and South-East Asian countries.

I am now very excited to report on the recent development of the North-East Asia Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation, NEASPEC in short. I trust that you are mostly well aware of the NEASPEC development and its activities, as it is a unique intergovernmental mechanism for comprehensive environmental co-operation in this subregion.

But, for those who are not familiar with the programme, let me provide very quick overview on the background, past development and ongoing activities of the NEASPEC.

The efforts at promoting subregional environmental cooperation in North-East Asia were first undertaken by ESCAP in cooperation with UNDP, UNEP, ADB and the World Bank, immediately following the Rio Conference in 1992. The First Meeting of Senior Officials was held in Seoul in February 1993, as the first attempt of such kind in this subregion at the official level.

Since then, through the consultation process in a series of Meetings of Senior Officials, NEASPEC has continuously developed its function primary as policy dialogue forum to deal with environmental issues with common concern of the countries in the subregion, in parallel with pursuing environmental co-operation projects in the relevant fields, with participation of six North-East Asian countries, i.e. China, Mongolia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Throughout this inaugural process, the primary highlight should be placed on the adoption of the Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation at the Third Meeting of the Senior Officials, held at Ulaanbaatar in September 1996. The Framework elaborated, among other things, the geographical coverage, Programme

objectives, decision-making functions of Senior Officials Meetings, and coordination, management and financial mechanism of NEASPEC, which have constituted a firm basis for the subsequent cooperation activities.

Having such cooperative Framework in place, NEASPEC has also been progressive in the project formulation and implementation. As the Second Meeting of Senior Officials held in Beijing in November 1994 endorsed five priority areas for project identification, including air pollution control in energy sector, biodiversity management and environmental data, three subprojects were identified and implemented with funding support by the Asian Development Bank and ESCAP.

Starting with the first Demonstration and On-site Workshop on Clean Coal Technology in China, the NEASPEC projects were implemented through sixteen activities, which included six technology demonstration and on-site workshops, four expert meetings, and two project review meetings. Additionally, four project profiles for follow-up activities have been developed for the second-phase funding by the Asian Development Bank and ESCAP to be provided shortly. In the meantime, inter-phase activities are going on under the initiatives of the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Government of Japan, in particular, for the establishment of two NEASPEC Training Centres in the Republic of Korea, one on the environmental data and one on the pollution control of coal-fired power plants.

On top of the past progress I have described so far, the Sixth Meeting of the Senior Officials, held in Seoul in March this year, can be termed as a significant milestone for the beginning of new era of NEASPEC as it adopted a very momentous Vision Statement. This Vision Statement, which *inter alia* committed NEASPEC to develop the present Framework for NEASPEC into a comprehensive Programme for environmental cooperation in North-East Asia, preferably by the Eighth Meeting of Senior Officials, to be held most probably here in Ulaanbaatar in two years time.

Another important decision in Seoul Meeting was the establishment of "Core fund for North-East Asian Environmental Cooperation" aiming at enhancing subregional environmental cooperation and implementation of approved projects. We are gratified to note that the Republic of Korea has made a pledge to contribute US\$ 100,000. I am, no doubt, that other countries would follow suit and make voluntary contribution to the core fund.

The Seoul Meeting was also unique as it invited for the first time, the presentation of the activities of a number of environmental cooperation initiatives and projects in North-East Asia, namely, Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific (ECO ASIA), Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), North-East Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation (NEAC), and Tumen River Area Development Project (TRADP). The Meeting also welcomed the outcome of the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among China, Japan and Republic of Korea. The Meeting recommended that sharing of information and experience of the ongoing initiatives was very valuable and should be continued with a view to fostering a better understanding of their contribution, which would help in improving synergies and avoiding redundancies among those initiatives. I believe that NEASPEC countries are now determined to forge an enhanced partnership, which, over longer time frame, would help in taking a proactive stance towards effective cooperation among the various initiatives.

We at ESCAP are very happy to work with NEASPEC countries to further promote the subregional environmental cooperation in the North-East Asia as we ESCAP Secretariat have been entrusted by the countries of this subregion to provide secretariat, professional and technical support to NEASPEC in collaboration with UNDP, UNEP, ADB, the World Bank and other relevant institutions. However, the most fundamental driving force for evolution of

subregional cooperation should no doubt come from initiatives of the participating countries. In this regard, we would like to congratulate this Conference and participating countries for including in its Agenda - Session 4, Review and Future of the Northeast Asian Environmental Cooperation.

I trust you will have a very stimulating and rewarding deliberation, and I look forward to the outcome of this Conference, which should provide fresh insights and new aspects for further development of the Northeast Asian Environmental Cooperation.

## Annex

### VISION STATEMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION IN NORTH-EAST ASIA

Adopted by

**THE SIXTH MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION IN NORTH-EAST ASIA  
Seoul, 8-10 March 2000**

#### Background

The countries of the North-East Asia are varied in size and diverse in their economies and environmental problems. This diversity creates vast potential for extensive subregional cooperation as the North-East Asian countries can complement and supplement their efforts according to the strengths and weaknesses of their respective economies. It was recognized that the concept of North-East Asia as a subregional unit was relatively new and evolving and the problems were not easy to unravel.

Environmental challenges of the North-East Asian subregion were serious and daunting. The air pollution in many of the cities is among the highest ever recorded while the efforts at the use of cleaner fuels and many policy measures are positive signs. Water quality was also getting increasingly degraded in industrial and urban centres. The coastal and marine environment were experiencing serious problems of pollution and depletion of resources. Some areas were suffering from deforestation and desertification and loss of biodiversity. Waste disposal needed greater attention as some of the big cities recorded as low as 5 per cent treatment of household wastes. Most of these environmental problems required strong national commitment for their redressal and capacity-building through exchange of experiences as well as active cooperation and collaboration among the countries. All the North-East Asian countries are likely to benefit from information sharing and exchange, technology development and transfer, capacity-building and collaborative financing.

In view of multi-faceted environmental problems and potentialities, the countries of North-

East Asia launched environmental cooperation in 1993 as a follow-up of the Earth Summit in 1992. It aimed at promoting environmentally sound and sustainable development of the subregion by undertaking collaborative environmental programmes in the subregion based on the following principles.

1. Step by step and practical approach towards subregional cooperation with the emphasis on priority environmental concerns of the countries of the subregion;
2. Decision making by consensus;
3. Programme thrust on capacity building, information sharing and technology transfer.

The principal vehicle for evolution and carrying forward this programme was the Meetings of the Senior Officials' on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia (SOM).

### Achievements

As the first step in forging cooperation, the Framework of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) was established in 1996 through a dialogue among the senior officials of China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Japan, Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. Three priority areas for environmental cooperation namely, energy and environment, ecosystems management, in particular deforestation and desertification and capacity building remained the focus of their cooperation. Several projects in the field of energy and air pollution and capacity-building have been implemented to address the issues of common concern and further strengthen cooperation at expert level. The national and subregional centres are planned to be established for the training and capacity building of power plant managers and engineers, and for environmental monitoring.

The agreed Framework of NEASPEC institutionalized the Meeting of Senior Officials as the Governing Body of the Programme and the driving force for further strengthening subregional cooperation. The ESCAP secretariat in collaboration with UNDP, UNEP, Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and other relevant institutions was to provide secretariat, technical and financial support pending a final decision on the future institutional and financial arrangements of the Programme. The Programme is being managed through project-based funding support.

## Strategic Vision

With the dawn of the new millennium and faced with deteriorating environmental situation in the North-East Asian subregion, in accordance with Agenda 21 and as elaborated at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly held in June 1997 (UNGASS), the Meeting of Senior Officials at its Sixth Meeting agrees to:

1. Periodically review the environmental conditions and trends as well as the implementation of priority projects in the North-East Asian subregion with a view to identifying additional priority areas for cooperation;
2. Promote common policy dialogue on approaches and views and coordinated actions on subregional environmental issues;
3. Develop the present Framework for North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) into a comprehensive Programme for environmental cooperation in North-East Asia, preferably by the Eighth Meeting of Senior Officials on NEASPEC, bearing in mind that the development of institutional and financial arrangements should proceed in a realistic way, taking into consideration the diversity of the participating countries.
4. Request the ESCAP secretariat to administer a “Core Fund for North-East Asian Environmental Cooperation” should one or more participating countries make voluntary contribution for promoting subregional environmental cooperation. The fund could be utilized for projects adopted by the meeting of senior officials and aimed at enhancing subregional environmental cooperation;
5. Request the ESCAP secretariat to continue to provide secretariat support to NEASPEC, in collaboration with UNDP, UNEP, ADB, the World Bank, and other relevant institutions. The Meeting of Senior Officials will keep under review the institutional mechanism. The participating countries shall extend support, as appropriate, to ESCAP secretariat for its efficient operation, which also shall enhance the ownership of participating countries of NEASPEC.
6. Provide appropriate assistance for “North-East Asian Centre for Environmental Data and Training” and “North-East Asian Training Centre for Pollution Reduction in Coal-fired Power Plant,” both of which are expected to make a great contribution to the goal of NEASPEC. To forge a mutually beneficial partnership with ongoing environmental



cooperation initiatives and projects in Northeast Asia such as Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific (ECO ASIA), North-East Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation (NEAC), Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), and the Tumen River Area Development Project (TRADP) with a view to enhancing synergies and avoiding duplication and overlapping in their activities.

7. Develop Websites for wider dissemination of information in order to raise public awareness of NEASPEC's activities. The Websites shall be developed by each of the participating countries and the ESCAP secretariat in languages of participating countries as well as, if possible, in English. The Senior Officials shall also consider other means to strengthen the public awareness of NEASPEC activities.
8. Make an input by providing information on achievements of NEASPEC to the fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific in 2000.
9. Make further efforts to increase the involvement of major groups particularly the local governments, civil societies, the private sectors and other interested groups to contribute to NEASPEC.

## **KEYNOTE SPEECH**

**Mr. Yoshihiro Natori  
Deputy Regional Director,  
United Nations Environment Programme  
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
(UNEP/ROAP)**

### **Global Ministerial Environment Forum (6<sup>th</sup> Special Session of UNEP Governing Council)**

**29 – 31 May 2000, Malmo, Sweden**

- **Established by UN General Assembly**
- **Over 100 World's Environment Ministers attended  
(over 600 delegates)**
- **Discussed:**
  - **Important and emerging environmental issues**
  - **Major environmental challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup>  
century**
  - **The role of private sector**
  - **The role and responsibility of civil society**

## **Malmo Declaration**

### **Since Stockholm**

- Made great progress
  - Framework of international environmental law and national law
- But not enough
- Growing trends of environmental degradation  
**UNEP's GEO 2000**  
(Global Environment Outlook 2000)

- Accelerating trends of urbanization
- Development of megacities
- Climate change
- Freshwater crisis
- Unsustainable exploitation of biological resources
- Drought and desertification
- Uncontrolled deforestation
- Hazardous chemicals
- Land-based sources of pollution

### **Two Main Global Environmental Threats**

- Unsustainable production and consumption patterns in developed countries
- +
- Poverty on the developing world

## Full participation of all actors in society

### Role of Private Sector

- Technological Innovation
  - new resource-efficient technologies
  - clean technologies
- Transfer of environmentally sound technologies
- Life-cycle approach (economy)

### Role of Civil Society

- Bringing emerging environmental issues to the attention of policy makers
- Raising public awareness
- Promoting transparencies

## Rio+10 (Decisions of CSD8)

### 55<sup>th</sup> Session of UNGA

- Agenda and possible main themes
- Timing and venue of the 2002 event
- Other organizational and procedural matters

### Preparatory Activities

- UNEP's role (involvement)
- National and regional level

### Establishment of trust fund

### From Malmo Declaration

- At the summit level
- Not to renegotiate the Agenda 21
- Inject a new spirit of cooperation and urgency

**Ministerial Conference on Environment and  
Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000  
(MCED4)**

**Date: 31 August – 5 September 2000**

**Venue: Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan**

- **Review the state of the environment and sustainable development policy**
- **Review of the implementation of Agenda 21, multilateral environmental agreements, and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States**

- **Review of the Implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development (RAP), 1996-2000**
- **Critical environment and sustainable development issues of the region and measures for promoting sustainable development**

**Expected Outcomes:**

- **RAP, 2001-2005**
- **Ministerial declaration on environmentally sound and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000**
- **Regional message for Rio+10**
- **Kitakyushu initiative for a clean environment**

## **Northeast Asian Regional Workshop on Environmental Law and Policy**

**3-4 July 2000, Seoul**

- **UNEP's contribution to NEASPEC**
- **Focused on two priority areas of NEASPEC:**
  - (1) **Air Pollution with special refer to energy**
  - (2) **Biodiversity conservation**

### **Air Pollution and Energy**

- **Develop a structured and organized information dissemination system (UNEP and ESCAP)**
  - **Compendium of issues**
  - **Directory of national/regional/global sources of information**

### **Cooperation in the field of Biodiversity**

- **Organize a regional Workshop on Biodiversity**
- **Develop a GEF Project on regional cooperation for the conservation of biodiversity**
  - **Adequate national participation in its design**
  - **Based on needs and capabilities of the countries in the region**

**National/Subregional Workshops  
on the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol  
with special reference to the Cooperative Mechanisms  
28-29 August 2000, Seoul**

**Objectives**

- Inform national stakeholders of the current status of negotiations, scientific and economic implications of these issues
- Enhance their understanding of these issues (potential developmental advantages, challenges)

**Expected Participants (from Korea and Mongolia)**

- Government Agencies (environment, energy, transport, etc.)
- Private sector (energy, industry)
- NGOs, Academia, etc.

**Projects under NOWPAP**

- ❖ **NOWPAP/1: Establishment of a comprehensive database and information management system**
- ❖ **NOWPAP/2: Survey of national environmental legislation, objectives, strategies and policies**
- ❖ **NOWPAP/3: Establishment of a collaborative, regional monitoring programme**
- ❖ **NOWPAP/4: Development of effective measures for regional cooperation in marine pollution preparedness and response**
- ❖ **NOWPAP/5: Commence the establishment of regional activity centres and their network**
- ❖ **NOWPAP/6: Public awareness raising on the marine, coastal and associated freshwater environment**

## **Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)**

### **1994 (1<sup>st</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting)**

- The Action Plan for the protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific Region was adopted

### **1996 (2<sup>nd</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting)**

- Approved Workplan and Budget for 1997/98

### **1998 (3<sup>rd</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting)**

- Revised Workplan and Budget for 1997/98
- Establishment of Regional Activity Centres

### **1999 (4<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting)**

- Need to establish Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU)

## **The Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting (29 – 30 March 2000, Incheon, Republic of Korea)**

- Approved the proposed procedure for the establishment of RCU
  - Japan
  - Republic of Korea
  - China

**(Final Decision will be taken at the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting to be held in Tokyo at the end of this year.)**

- Reviewed and Adopted the Programme of Work for 2000/2001