

Meeting Summary of Business Forum

The 14th Tripartite Environmental Ministers Meeting

among China, Japan and Korea

Beijing, China

May 3-4, 2012

Background

Hosted by Ministry of Environmental Protection of P. R. China, the 14th Tripartite Environmental Ministers Meeting among China, Japan and Korea – Business Forum was held in Beijing during May 3-4, 2012. The Forum is held to promote the environmental industrial communication and cooperation among China, Japan and Korea. As an innovation of the Environmental Ministers Meeting mechanism, the ministers of the three countries all agreed to strengthen the cooperation in environmental protection industry by holding the Forum. 40 people from the delegates of China, Korea and Japan participated the Meeting, representatives are from government administration, industry and institutions. The Business Forum focuses on “Developing Environmental Service” with two themes this year, one is Establish and Improve Market Schemes to Develop Environmental Service Industry and another is Promote Environmental Service Industry by Enhancing International Cooperation. (List of companies who participated the Forum)

Theme 1 Establish and Improve Market Schemes to Develop Environmental Service Industry

Two Japanese firms, one Korean enterprise and two Chinese companies made presentations in this section. In their presentations, Korean representative introduced their advanced technologies in dust control and some cooperative projects in China, and expressed wishes for more business opportunities in Chinese market; Japanese representatives presented their achievement in environmental services, especially in consulting, namely technologies, treatment methodologies and some activities to promote low carbon economy, and they attaches importance to introduce market mechanism and standard sharing; and Chinese representative explained the emergence of contractual environmental service based on some case demonstrations and suggested some solution for small-and-medium-sized cities as well as some recommendations for Japanese and Korean investment in China.

Theme 2 Promote Environmental Service Industry by Enhancing International Cooperation

In this theme, three Japanese firms, two Korean enterprise and three Chinese companies made presentations. The eight enterprises presented in this theme are all implementing cooperative projects among the three countries and shared good understanding on international industrial collaboration. Japanese representatives shared their knowledge in recycling, solid waste treatment and environmental measurement from their cooperative projects in China, they thought that there was no border to environmental issues, however international cooperation is a necessity to address these problems in a global context, and they also mentioned the standardization of environmental measurement and information sharing; Korean delegates prospected the vision of the cooperation within the region, defined the modern concept of environmental service industry, suggested closer industry collaboration from different aspects among the three countries; and Chinese entrepreneurs explained their business in sewage waste water treatment, solid waste recycling, scrapped autos and electronics and technical innovation, they were looking forward to establishing long-term, stable, mutual beneficial and sustainable cooperation with Japan and Korea within the industry with more active attitudes.

Discussion

During the discussion, participants talked about some difficulties met in the communication that partially caused by cultural differences and different regulation systems among the three countries, some suggested that better understanding of local situation could be good solution for the problem to smooth international industrial coordination. Exchanging their understanding on some technical specifications, representatives showed good will for further contact on some detailed technological coordination based on some processing cooperative projects as they explored the possibilities for some detailed collaboration during the discussion on the Forum, e.g. expanding market in solid waste treatment and soil remediation and seek for more business opportunities in the area.

Summary

As a common wish of the three countries, tasks including better exchange and collaboration in regional environmental service, boosting environmental industrial development, and helping the transition to green economy, need pragmatic action and joint efforts of both government and industry among the three countries. The Forum has great significance as a platform to boost knowledge communication and cooperation of environmental protection industry among China, Korea and Japan. During the Forum, participants made wonderful presentations and shared their insights on the development of environmental service industry and international cooperation on account of their abundant experiences in the area and expressed good will for opportunities for some specific cooperative projects. At last, representatives highly appreciated the Ministry of Environmental Protection of P. R. China for hosting the Forum and they were grateful for the arrangement made by China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center as implementer.