

Youth Forum of TEMM18

Youth Proposal to the Environment Ministers of China, Japan and Korea

We, the youth representatives from China, Japan, and Korea, gathered for the Youth Forum of the 18th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM 18). During the Youth Forum, we exchanged our views on "nature's benefits to people." On behalf of the youth, I would like to present the Youth Proposal to the respective Environment Ministers of China, Japan, and Korea.

First, we visited Tokai University Natural History Museum and Marine Science Museum, after which we experienced tea picking and tasting at Nihondaira Tea Hall. Through these experiences, we learned some examples of the conservation and sustainable use of "nature's benefits to people" in Japan. Second, we received a keynote speech titled "Nature's Benefits to People: How Ecosystem Services Support Our Life" from Mr. Wataru Suzuki, the head of the Technical Support Unit for the Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment, IPBES. Third, as youth representatives from China, Japan, and Korea, we introduced the activities related to the conservation and sustainable use of "nature's benefits to people" conducted in our respective countries.

Youth representatives from Japan presented the various benefits of nature in Satoyama as well as "Fuyumizutambo," a wildlife-friendly agriculture method practiced in Kabukuri-numa, as an example in which humans live in harmony with nature. The representatives then introduced the use of Social Network Services (SNS) and cooperation between universities and local communities in order to highlight the unique role youth can play in the conservation and sustainable use of nature's benefits. The representatives concluded their presentation by proposing ways to maximize the potential of youth for establishing a sustainable society.

Youth representatives from Korea presented inspiring examples of the youth's contribution to conservation and appreciation of nature's benefits, such as amphibian monitoring and water use investigation. Based on meaningful experiences within nature, Korean youths have expanded their

activities from the individual level to the public level, resulting in tangible outcomes in recognizing the value of traditional knowledge and raising public awareness of nature's benefits to people. Reflecting on Korean youths' activities, they concluded that youths can not only be the beneficiary of nature's benefits, but also active and qualified partners of the public and private sectors and civil society in promoting conservation and wise use of nature's benefits.

Youth representatives from China first presented their understanding on nature's benefits. Then they presented youth's efforts on utilizing nature's benefits including the preservation in Qinling Mountain, the facilitation of the tea industry and tourism in Fenggang and the creation of moss bus stops in urban areas. Following that, four suggestions were proposed which are using nature's benefits for poverty alleviation, enhancing the environmental education and publicity, supporting green entrepreneurship, and providing more cooperation among China, Japan, and Korea. The Chinese youth believed that youth can wisely use nature's benefits.

At the group discussion held after these presentations, we exchanged our similar and different views, and the activities and the challenges in the three countries and agreed on the following as important perspectives for the conservation and sustainable use of "nature's benefits to people":

- Recognizing the importance of appreciating nature's benefits to people;
- Recognizing the knowledge gap between the old and young generations, and the importance of sharing both traditional and current wisdom;
- Recognizing the importance of keeping the balance between economic development and ecological conservation, such as in recognizing the geographical and developmental gap between rural and urban areas by creating more green jobs that support economic development and contribute to ecological conservation;
- Recognizing the lack of communication and collaboration between the different sectors for example, a lack of scientific support in youth activities, and a lack of public engagement; and
- Recognizing the importance of sustainable long-term projects;

Hereafter, we would like to commit to playing a role in the following points for the conservation and sustainable use of "nature's benefits to people":

- Leading to a better direction which can influence more people to cooperate both globally and locally with passion;
- Bridging the gaps between different generations, knowledge systems, stages of development, and sectors;
- Creating new values and inspiring ideas by accelerating scientific research and activities and promoting new values through the internet;
- Focusing on our society through considering poverty alleviation; and
- Acting as green entrepreneurs

Finally, all of the youth representatives from the three countries came up with suggestions and requests to the three Environment Ministers, which were as follows:

- Recognizing that youths can be active and qualified partners in promoting conservation and sustainable use of nature's benefits to people;
- Building platforms and mechanisms, such as online forums and offline exchanges, both domestically and internationally to increase communication between the Governments and young people, and among youths, and with other sectors;
- Providing more financial support and mobilizing further private sector support for the conservation and sustainable use of nature's benefits to people (for example, scholarships, research funds, and seed funding for entrepreneurship); and
- Building up and sharing a database which can contribute to solving regional environmental issues

We, the youth representatives, would like to extend our appreciation to the TEMM 18 for providing such a great opportunity for us to share our experiences and learn from each other.