

Joint Communiqué(draft)
The Eighth Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting
among China, Japan and Korea

December 2—3, 2006, Beijing, People's Republic of China

1. At the invitation of Minister ZHOU Shengxian of the State Environmental Protection Administration of the People's Republic of China, Minister Masatoshi WAKABAYASHI of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and Minister LEE Chi-Beom of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea visited Beijing, where the three Ministers met for the Eighth Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM) on December 2-3, 2006. H. E. ZENG Peiyan, Vice Premier of the State Council of People's Republic of China, sent a congratulation letter to the meeting.
2. The Ministers shared their views on the recent progress in each country regarding environmental management after TEMM 7. They welcomed the “Three Transformations for China's Environmental Protection under the New Situation” put forward by China, “Integrated Improvement of the Environment, Economy and Society” by Japan and “the Comprehensive National Environmental Plan” by Korea that clearly express the intention to integrate environmental protection into economic and social development. The Ministers recognized the role TEMM played as an important constituent of the Trilateral Meeting of the Leaders of China, Japan and Korea and reached consensus that TEMM was of vital importance in promoting regional environmental cooperation and achieving sustainable development in Northeast Asia. They agreed that TEMM should play more important roles in the future.
3. The Ministers exchanged their views on global and regional issues of common concern and reached consensus on some important issues.
4. The Ministers reaffirmed that building a sound material-cycle society including 3R(reduce, reuse, recycle) is essential in achieving sustainable development in Northeast Asia and recognized that the three countries are taking various measures to build an environment-friendly and resource-saving society respectively.
5. The three Ministers reaffirmed that the global community should take joint efforts to address climate change. They expressed their appreciation towards the outcomes of the

twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties(COP 12) to the UNFCCC, and the second session of the Meeting of the Parties(COP/MOP2) to the Kyoto Protocol, including the decision on the second review of the Kyoto Protocol in 2008 and the decision on the AWG's work on the further commitments for Annex 1 parties, and recognized the need for further global efforts to tackle climate change. The Ministers reiterated that the three countries should enhance domestic efforts as well as international cooperation especially in the fields of public awareness raising and clean technology development, deployment and transfer based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. They also expressed the willingness to support the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP), which will complement but not replace the Kyoto Protocol.

6. The Ministers recognized that dust and sandstorm in Northeast Asia was posing common concerns for countries in this region and agreed to work together to reduce the damage caused to possible human health and the environment in this region. They recognized the necessity of capacity building and monitoring data sharing in order to promote a monitoring network in North East Asia region. In this regard, they welcomed the efforts to develop the outputs of the ADB-GEF DSS regional technical assistance (RETA) project. Also, they concurred in holding a director general meeting before the next TEMM to discuss concrete measures including the establishment of a joint research group.
7. Regarding air pollution, the Ministers noted that acid deposition is still a serious problem in the region and reaffirmed their commitment to promoting the activities of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia(EANET) and joint research on Long-range Trans-boundary Air Pollutants in Northeast Asia(LTP). The Ministers stressed the importance of information exchange, capacity building and joint research and showed great expectation for the future development of EANET and LTP.
8. Concerning water management, the Ministers recognized the importance of cooperation among the three countries in conserving and managing water environment in the region. In this regards, the three Ministers acknowledged the information provided through Water Environmental Partnership in Asia(WEPA), which aims to strengthen governance and capacity building in water environmental management by providing an information platform on water environment conservation.

9. In the area of marine pollution, the Ministers appreciated the successful holding of the Second Intergovernmental Review of the Global Program of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) by the Chinese government. The Ministers appreciated the joint efforts made by the three sides within the framework of Northwest Pacific Action Plan(NOWPAP) and shared the recognition of the discussion made on financial status and further collaboration on marine litter, marine and coastal environment preservation of the Northwest Pacific.
10. The three Ministers also recognized that illegal trans-boundary movement of toxic and hazardous waste has become a regional as well as an international issue which involves economic and environmental factors. The Ministers agreed to take joint efforts to fight against the illegal action.
11. The Ministers acknowledged the importance of the three countries' cooperation toward the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target. In this regard, they confirmed that the three countries will continue to take concrete actions to preserve biodiversity. The Ministers also recognized the necessity of sharing the information on the protected area, the invasive alien species of concern and the damage caused by them.
12. The Ministers recognized that it is important to cooperate with the requirement for Stockholm Convention, whose objective is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants(POPs). The Ministers noted the usefulness of information sharing on POPs under the framework of Stockholm Convention. The Ministers also concurred that three countries will make full use of the existent TEMM source such as TEMM website to help promote information exchange on policies and regulations on chemicals management in order to ensure the protection of human health and the environment in an efficient way. To this end, the Ministers suggested taking chance of international meetings to start information exchange at working level.
13. The Ministers also exchanged their views on the progress of the environment actions identified as priority of TEMM made in the 3 countries and in the Northeast Asia Subregion.

14. The Ministers recognized the need for the promotion of collaborative research in Northeast Asia to help address regional environmental problems. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the progress of collaborative research promoted by the Tripartite Presidents Meeting (TPM) among the National Institute of Environmental Research in Korea, the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences and the National Institute for Environmental Studies in Japan.
15. The Ministers recognized that TEMM projects had been outcome-oriented and are being implemented effectively and efficiently. Therefore, they praised the latest activities to promote the exposition of “green purchase” as well as to strengthen the work of building common criteria of “eco-labeling” and the communication for Environmental Management for Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs). As for the Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN), they expressed their expectation for further progress of diverse activities which include active use of environmental education materials for children. The three Ministers also noted the Trade & Environment Project and the Northeast Asia Environmental Management Project.
16. The Ministers recognized the importance of sharing successful experiences in environmental management among the three countries. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the idea of briefing on latest progress of institutional arrangement, personnel training and environmental performance review by the three countries and foresaw its positive effect.
17. The three Ministers consented to make a financial support by inviting existing sources to better promote TEMM activities especially those are in great need such as DSS.
18. The Ministers shared the view that the outcome of TEMM should be reflected in other regional and global environmental meetings such as the ASEAN+3 Environmental Ministers Meeting.
19. The Ministers concurred that the next TEMM will be held in Japan. The date and venue will be suggested by the host country and subsequently confirmed by China and Korea.
20. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the fruitful results of this year’s

meeting. Minister WAKABAYASHI and Minister LEE extended their gratitude to Minister ZHOU and the host country of China for the hospitality.

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