

Joint Communiqué
The Tenth Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting
among China, Japan and Korea
December 1-3, 2008, Jeju, Korea

1. At the invitation of Minister LEE MAANEE of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, Minister ZHOU Shengxian of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China and Minister Tetsuo SAITO of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan visited Jeju, where the three Ministers met for the Tenth Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM10) on December 1-3, 2008.
2. The Ministers shared their views on the recent progress in each country regarding environmental management after TEMM 9. They welcomed the "Environmental Policy Directions & Tasks for Green Growth & Higher Quality of life" by Korea, the efforts of "pollution abatement" and "rehabilitating the ecologically vulnerable rivers and lakes" guided by the "Scientific Outlook on Development" by China, and the "Clean Asia Initiative" and the "Action Plan for Low-Carbon Society" put forward by Japan, all three of which clearly express the intention to integrate environmental protection into economic and social development.
3. The Ministers exchanged their views on global and regional issues of common concern and shared the views on some important issue.
4. The Ministers welcomed the progress of information exchange on chemicals management and the outcome of the Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemicals Management among China, Japan and Korea held in Seoul in September 2008. They recommended making continuous efforts for further co-operation in chemicals management through this dialogue, including responses to the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) among the three nations and cooperating in the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR). The Ministers welcomed the first PRTR workshop which would be held in December, in China. They also agreed to consider the need for information-sharing among the three countries on utilizing the Quantitative Structure Activity Relationship (QSAR) and implementing the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).
5. Three Ministers applauded the very success of Beijing Olympics and appreciated that China honored its commitment to "Green Olympics." As host countries of Olympic Games in East Asia, tripartite countries will learn from each other, make good use of the legacy for urban environmental management and work together to promote the sustainable development of urban area in this region.

6. The three Ministers concurred that the three countries will enhance their collaboration to implement the Basel Convention to meet the objectives set out therein. In addition, the Ministers welcomed the tripartite workshop on e-waste management policy held in Beijing in November 2008. Ministers agreed to continue their efforts against the illegal transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, especially e-waste, through the continued dialogue among the three countries as well as the concerted efforts in Asia on the Environmentally Sound Management of E-waste under the Basel Convention. The ministers agreed that the three countries should enhance cooperation of E-Waste management on exchange information and capacity building.
7. Regarding regional air pollution, the Ministers reaffirmed the needs of promoting the activities of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) and joint research on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollutants in Northeast Asia (LTP). The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on EANET held in Thailand on November 20-21 this year, and noted the importance of cooperative efforts in the region to cope with air pollution. In addition, the Ministers welcomed the success of "Tripartite Workshop on Scientific Research of Photochemical Oxidant", which was held in September 2008 in Japan and agreed on further cooperation in scientific research, which could help analyze the mechanism of ozone pollution and facilitate the formation of common understandings. The Ministers exchanged their view of co-benefits approaches and their potential to reduce pollutants.
8. In the area of marine litter, the Ministers appreciated the joint efforts made by the three countries within the framework of Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) including the progress of Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI). They also recognized the importance of further collaboration on marine litter activities, in an effective and practical manner, and agreed to share measures and experiences in each country and make joint efforts to prevent marine litter through public awareness raising activities on this issue. The Ministers highlighted the importance of efforts on protecting marine environment and noted related activities such as developing Marine Protected Area Network in the region.
9. Concerning water management, the Ministers recognized the importance of cooperation among the three countries in conserving and managing water environment in the region. The Ministers appreciated the activities of the Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA) for providing an information platform and capacity building on water environment conservation, with the aim of strengthening governance in water environmental management through international WEPA forums and WEPA workshop.

10. Welcoming the enactment of the Circular Economy Promotion Law in China and the development of the fundamental plans for promoting sound material-cycle / resource recirculation in Japan and Korea, the Ministers reaffirmed their commitments to pursuing resource efficient society through sound waste management and the 3Rs. They appreciated the 4th Tripartite Seminar on Sound Material Cycle Society / 3Rs / Circular Economy, held in Qingdao, China on October 30th this year. The Ministers welcomed the important roles of member countries in pursuing such society in Asia. They agreed to strengthen the tripartite cooperation in this field, and appreciated the launch of 'Asia 3R Promotion Forum.'
11. The Ministers exchanged their views on the establishment of low carbon society to cope with the common challenge of climate change. The three Ministers expressed concerns on the negative impacts of climate change on sustainable development, ecosystem and the environment, and recognized that the three countries need to make joint efforts to promote green growth / low carbon society / low carbon economy through transferring environmentally-friendly technologies and conducting joint research on low carbon economy and carbon market in Northeast Asia. The three Ministers exchanged their view of co-benefits approaches and their potential toward low-carbon society, which can contribute to environmental pollution control, waste management and environmentally sustainable transport. In order to achieve low carbon society, the three Ministers noted the importance of reaching agreement on a shared vision of long-term global goal for emission reductions under the UNFCCC, in consideration of principles of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, particularly the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. They underlined the need to act with resolve and urgency during the Climate Change Conference in Poznan, Poland, in 2008 and work towards an ambitious, effective and comprehensive agreed outcome for long-term cooperative action now, up to and beyond 2012 at the Climate Change Conference to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark at the end of 2009.
12. The Ministers confirmed that three countries will continue to make utmost efforts for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target, given the importance of biodiversity as an indispensable basis for the provision of vital ecosystem services and the long-term provision of natural resources. In this regard, Minister Tetsuo SAITO asked supports from China and Korea for Japan's successful hosting of the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010 at Nagoya, Aichi, and the Ministers reaffirmed that they will cooperate for the success of the meeting. The three Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands in line with "the Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands," and also the activities based on the resolution on "Enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems" adopted at the Ramsar COP 10 held in 2008 at Changwon, Korea.

13. The Ministers recognized that TEMM projects had been outcome-oriented and are being implemented effectively and efficiently. They welcomed the implementation of 2008 joint research plan of the Joint Research on Dust and Sandstorm (DSS) among Korea, China and Japan and shared the view that the three countries should make more efforts for addressing DSS in Northeast Asia. They reaffirmed the importance of the "Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN)" and noted the Asian universities network titled "ProSPER.NET" in order to find a cooperative way of Environmental Education for low carbon growth. And Minister Tetsuo SAITO proposed to hold a meeting in Japan for networking environmental youth groups next year and other ministers expressed their sympathy for it. They applauded the outcome of the 8th Tripartite Environmental Industry Roundtable held in Shiga, Japan on November 4-5 this year, such as considering the Tripartite Eco-Products Exhibition, building common criteria on eco-labeling, and undertaking communication in the area of corporate environmental management and environmental industry and technology.

14. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the progress on "Joint Research on Environmental Management in Northeast Asia" among the Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China, the Institute for Global Environment Strategies of Japan and Korea Environment Institute, and recognized the preliminary conclusions of the joint research such as "Northeast Asian Environment Week." The Ministers reaffirmed that TEMM has played an important role over the past decade in promoting regional environmental cooperation and achieving sustainable development in Northeast Asia.

15. The Ministers decided that the next TEMM will be held in China. The date and venue will be suggested by the host country and subsequently confirmed by Japan and Korea.

16. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the fruitful results of this year's meeting. Minister ZHOU Shengxian and Minister Tetsuo SAITO extended their gratitude to Minister LEE MAANEE, the Korean government and Jeju Province for the hospitality.

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