

Joint Communiqué
The 13th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting
among Korea, China and Japan

28-29 April 2011, Busan, Korea

Preamble

1. At the invitation of Minister LEE Maanee of 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 State Secretary for the Environment KONDO Shoichi of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan visited Busan, Korea, where the three Ministers met for the Thirteenth Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM13) on 28-29 April 2011.

Environmental policies of the three countries

2. The three Ministers shared views on the recent progress in each country regarding environmental policies after TEMM12. They welcomed the statements by each country on “Towards a Green Korea: Major Environmental Policies in 2011” by Korea, major progress during the 11th Five-Year-Plan period (2006-2010) and main goals for the 12th Five-Year-Plan period (2011-2015) by China, and “Japan’s Recent Domestic Environmental Policies” by Japan.

Major policies for addressing global and regional environmental issues

3. The three Ministers agreed on the urgency of such global environmental issues as climate change and biodiversity loss and of

such regional environmental issues as Dust and Sandstorms(DSS), acid deposition and illegal transboundary movement of solid waste, in particular e-waste. In addition, they fully agreed that tripartite cooperation is greatly important in addressing the global and regional environmental issues.

Review on the Tripartite Joint Action Plan for environmental cooperation

4. The three Ministers reviewed the progress of the Tripartite Joint Action Plan, which was adopted in May 2010 in Hokkaido, Japan, for the past one year. They confirmed that the three countries have cooperated in the ten priority cooperative fields in accordance with the vision and implementation plan contained in the Joint Action Plan and agreed to continuously promote cooperation among the three countries.

Climate Change

5. The three countries reaffirmed their commitment to the objectives and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol, in particular, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and will work together to promote the full and effective and sustained implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol.
6. The three Ministers welcomed the outcome of COP16/CMP6 and agreed to work constructively together towards a positive outcome at COP17/CMP7 in Durban, Republic of South Africa at the end of 2011. Besides, they agreed on the importance of the 18th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change (COP18) and both Japanese and Chinese Ministers took note of the Korean government's willingness to host COP18.

7. The three Ministers recognized the importance of climate change adaptation measures to minimize climate change-caused damage along with greenhouse gas emissions reduction. In addition, in order to strengthen cooperation for climate change adaptation, they recognized the importance of promoting the exchange of information, knowledge and best practices in regard to the three countries' policies and experiences and facilitating joint research among experts.

Green economy, green growth and low-carbon development

8. The three Ministers expressed concern over the negative impact of climate change on sustainable development, ecosystems and the environment. They recognized the need for joint efforts to bring green economy, green growth and low-carbon development through the transfer of advanced low-carbon technology and joint research on low-carbon economy and carbon market in North East Asia. Furthermore, they confirmed that Korea, China and Japan should make their efforts to push forward green economy, green growth and low-carbon development considering their own circumstances. While appreciating the outcome of the Tripartite Seminar on Green Economic Policy held in Beijing, China on December 2-3, 2010, they agreed on the necessity of continuing cooperation on green economy, green growth and low-carbon development by joint research, workshops or other forms.

Pollution control

9. The three Ministers recognized the importance of cooperation in the field of tackling transboundary air pollution and agreed to facilitate the exchange of information and experts. In this regard, they appreciated existing cooperation mechanisms such as Long-range Trans-boundary Air Pollutants in Northeast Asia (LTP) and Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) and noted the successful outcomes of the Workshop on Photochemical Oxidants held in February 23-25, 2011 in Beijing, China and the 13th Expert Meeting for LTP in Northeast Asia in November 9-12, 2010 in Zhuhai, China and the 12th Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia in November 23-24, Niigata, Japan.

10. The three Ministers appreciated the joint efforts made by the three countries within the framework of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) including the progress of Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) containing the coastal clean-up activities and agreed to cooperate closely, with the involvement of the rest of the concerned countries, to enhance RAP MALI activities. They also recognized the need to enhance such joint efforts with a view to enhance concrete measures in each country to prevent outflow of marine litter including appropriate management of wastes and relevant materials.

Environmental industry

11. The three Ministers highly recognized the outcome of the 10th Korea, China and Japan Roundtable held in Seoul, Korea from 1st to 2nd December 2010 regarding the exchange of environmental industry and technology, sharing of environmental information for

environmental management and so forth. They agreed to continuously move forward the Roundtable for the development of environmental industries among the three countries.

Chemicals management

12. The three Ministers encouraged promoting the dialogue and cooperation on chemicals management. Considering the fact that chemicals management acts of the three countries are in the process of amendment and that the chemicals management system holds significant meaning for the chemicals trade among the three countries, they recommended making continuous efforts for further cooperation on chemicals management, policy information exchange and comprehensive research on testing methodology.

Water environment management

13. Recognizing the importance of water management for climate change adaptation, the Chinese and Japanese Ministers noted the Korean Minister's proposal to facilitate the sharing of information of policies and actions related to water saving through water re-use, securing of alternative water resources, prevention of urban floods, etc, and to take cooperative actions to share knowledge and best practices and promote joint development and transfer of technology. In addition, they noted that the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project in Korea is its flagship green growth project, which is expected to secure abundant water resources, establishing flood control system, improving water quality, restoring ecosystems, revitalizing local economies and so forth in Korea and hoped for a successful implementation of the Project.

14. The three Ministers recognized the importance of cooperation among the three countries in conserving and managing water environment in the region. They appreciated the activities of the Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA) for information sharing on specific topics (“domestic wastewater” and “climate change impacts to the water environment”), and for providing an information platform and capacity building on water environment conservation, with the aim of strengthening governance in water environmental management.

Biodiversity

15. The three Ministers confirmed that the three countries shall cooperate actively with each other for a successful holding of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress (WCC) to be held in Jeju, Korea in September 2012. They agreed that it is important to utilize scientific information on the current status and future trends of biodiversity in order to support the policy making on biodiversity and biological resources. Besides, they decided to participate proactively in the global discussion on the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in accordance with Busan Outcome where consensus was reached on the establishment of IPBES as an independent intergovernmental body. The Japanese and Chinese Ministers took note of the Korean government’s willingness to host the Secretariat of the IPBES. Furthermore, the three Ministers agreed to make such joint efforts as basic research and joint research on the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of, access to biological resources and its benefit sharing.

16. The Chinese and Korean Ministers expressed gratitude to Japan for the successful holding of the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/COP10) held in Nagoya City, Aichi, Japan in October 2010. The three countries welcomed the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity as a useful tool for achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets toward the vision of strategic plan as “Living in harmony with nature” adopted at CBD-COP10. When having discussion to promote the Nagoya Protocol on Access to the Genetic resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS) to take effect through an intergovernmental committee, the three countries agreed to cooperate closely. The three Ministers reaffirmed the COP10 decision X/32 on sustainable use and agreed to promote the Satoyama Initiative related activities.

17. The three Ministers recognized the importance of exchanging information and holding expert-level workshops on migratory birds and avian influenza among the countries on the common migratory flyway.

Dust and Sandstorms (DSS)

18. The three Ministers shared the understanding that DSS is one of the common challenges in the region and confirmed the need to strengthen joint cooperation for DSS prevention and response measures among the three countries. Furthermore, they decided to continue to boost cooperation on DSS monitoring, including data sharing, early warning network, restoration of ecosystems where DSS occur and DSS preventive measures. In this regard, they appreciated progress activities of DSS Working Group I and II. Furthermore, they welcomed the holding of the Working Group I

in China and the Working Group II in Japan both in 2011 and, in particular, the efforts toward collaboration between Working Groups I and II.

Environmental Education, Environmental Awareness and Public Participation

19. The three Ministers confirmed progress of environmental education, awareness and public participation including the outcome of the 11th Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN) Workshop held on March 15-16, 2011 in Beijing, China. They shared the importance of environmental education and reaffirmed that there were visible outcome such as facilitated exchange of environmental education information, dissemination of best practices and holding of joint workshop/symposium through the TEEN projects.

Transboundary Movement of E-Waste

20. The three Ministers voiced their concern over the environmental pollution and health risks caused by the environmentally unsound management of e-waste, a lot of which are illegally moving within the region, and reaffirmed their eagerness to cooperate on e-waste management. They noted the successful establishment of cooperative mechanism between China and Japan on combating illegal transboundary movement of wastes including e-waste and committed to set up similar mechanism among the three countries in order to prevent illegal transboundary movement of wastes including e-waste and implementation the environmentally sound management of those wastes to protect the natural environment and human health in the region.

Cooperation for the countermeasures against disasters

21. The Korean and Chinese Ministers conveyed their sincere condolence to Japan, which had been hit hard by massive earthquake and tsunami in the northeastern part of Japan in March 2011 and expressed their willingness to provide every possible support to help Japan recover from the consequences of the disasters. In this regard, the three Ministers agreed that close cooperation among the three countries is highly important in preventing and overcoming the environmental damage originating from earthquake, tsunami, storm, landslide, flood, volcano eruption and other disasters and decided to come up with specific cooperative measures including information sharing and capacity building.

Student and Business Forums

22. The three Ministers agreed to invite student and business representatives to the next TEMM at TEMM12 held in May 2010 in Hokkaido Japan. Accordingly, Students and Business Forums were held in April 28, 2011 in Busan, Korea. They recognized that the discussions among tripartite student and business representatives on the establishment of low-carbon green campus, future green leader training, environmental information sharing to expand the environmental market and enhancement of cooperative projects in developing countries to improve the environment were very meaningful.

TEMM 14

23. The three Ministers decided that TEMM14 will be held in 2012 in China. The date and venue will be suggested by the host country and subsequently confirmed by Japan and Korea.

Closing

24. The three Ministers recognized the productive outcome of TEMM13 and Minister ZHOU Shengxian and State Secretary for the Environment, KONDO Shoichi conveyed their gratitude for the hospitality extended by the Korean government, Ministry of Environment of Korea and Busan Metropolitan City.

Busan, 29 April, 2011.

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