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The Outcome Environment



The year 2015 saw significant progress in environmental policies including the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and the Paris Agreement on climate change. The year 2016 is “the first year for implementation and action” to ensure implementation of these important instruments. G7 Toyama Environment Ministers’ Meeting, which is the first in seven years, was held in Toyama, a widely known area of outstanding natural beauty and implements innovative environmental measures like compact city strategy, including Light Rail Transit (LRT).

Seven themes were discussed, namely the 2030 Agenda, Resource Efficiency and the 3Rs (“Reduce”, “Reuse” and “Recycle”), Biodiversity, Climate Change and Related Measures, Chemicals Management, the Role of Cities, and Marine Litter. In the meeting, strong

intention of G7 members to find solutions to address these challenges we face and need for empowering international joint action was emphasized.

Because of the characteristics of environmental policies and the changing role of ministries responsible for the environment in G7 members, the need for integration of policies with other sectors was emphasized. In particular, the need for economic valuation system for environmental protection effort was agreed.

It is important for each country to promote domestic implementation of environmental policies according to the outcome of this meeting. For example, the 2030 Agenda applies universally to all countries regardless of their level of development and aims to implement concrete policies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It was agreed that G7 members will

of G7 Toyama Ministers' Meeting



collaborate each other to implement the environmental dimension of SDGs.

Japan will promote environmental cooperation including support by city-to-city collaboration to help developing countries to implement such policies. Prior to G7 Ise-Shima Summit, Japan launched the SDGs Promotion Headquarters headed by Prime Minister Abe with all cabinet ministers on board to promote implementation of SDGs. In addition, for implementing the environmental dimension, which is one of the three dimensions that SDGs integrates, Ministry of the Environment of Japan will establish a stakeholders' meeting as a mechanism to exchange information and acknowledge actions by its first movers, such as private businesses, civil society, academia and ministries, to involve observers into the effort. We promote implementation of environmental dimension of SDGs by those activities.

We are delighted with the successful conclusion of this meeting for the first time in seven years. We intend to go beyond the success of this meeting and continue to pursue necessary efforts for building the low-carbon, resilient and sustainable society based on this significant achievement. The next G7 summit will be hosted by Italy next year, and we are looking forward to next Environment Ministers' Meeting to be held there.

MORE INFORMATION

G7 Toyama Environment Ministers' Meeting

http://www.env.go.jp/earth/g7toyama_emm/english/meeting_overview.html#secE



Hiroki Kitaiue

Officer

International Cooperation Office, International Strategy Division
Global Environment Bureau (as of May 2016)



Excursion

Blessed with good weather on both days, the excursions offered a great opportunity for the participants to fully enjoy the abundant nature and culture of Toyama



Visit to Tateyama "Yuki-no-Otani"

At the time of G7 Toyama Environment Ministers' Meeting, excursions were hosted by Toyama local committee (formed by Toyama prefecture, Toyama city and local businesses) on May 14, and by Ministry of the Environment of Japan on May 16. Blessed with good weather on both days, participants fully enjoyed abundant nature and culture of Toyama.

1. Excursion hosted by Toyama local committee on May 14

Toyama Prefecture features a remarkably dynamic landscape. Over just 40 kilometers in diameter, the Toyama Plain connects the 3,000 meter-high peaks of beautiful Tateyama Mountain Ranges to the 1,000-meter-deep Toyama Bay. The elevation difference is some 4,000 meters.

About 50 people including G7 meeting participants joined the excursion hosted by Toyama local committee (full-day tour). They first visited Tateyama Caldera Sabo Museum, where they listened to a lecture about co-existence with nature and effort to overcome flood damages. Then they experienced "Yuki-no-Otani" Snow Wall Walk and the national park



Tea Ceremony at a wealthy farmer's residence (Uchiyama Tei)

in Tateyama, known for receiving heaviest snowfall in Japan. Half-day Tour participants visited Zuiryu-ji Temple (National Treasure), Kanaya-machi (Takaoka city) and Kaiomaru Park (Imizu city) and learned various historic and cultural legacies.

2. Excursion hosted by Ministry of the Environment of Japan on May 16

About 50 people including G7 meeting participants (accompanied by Ms. Tamayo Marukawa, the former Minister of the Environment of Japan) visited Uchiyama Residence, registered tangible cultural property and enjoyed the tea ceremony performed by Toyama Prefectural Tea Ceremony Association, Japanese cultural experience and interaction with the local residents.

After that, they visited the Itai-itai Disease Museum and were taken on a guided tour.

At reception parties held on May 14 and 15, the guests were served with delicious food, fresh from the sea and mountains, to their hearts' content.



Visit to the Itai-itai Disease Museum

MORE INFORMATION

G7 Toyama Environment Ministers' Meeting
http://www.env.go.jp/earth/g7toyama_emm/english/



Yoichi Washimoto

Section Chief









The Secretariat for the G7 Environment Ministers Meeting 2016, International Strategy Division as of May 2016
 Global Environment Bureau, Ministry of the Environment
 (at that time on loan from Toyama Prefectural Government)



The Outcomes of Parallel Session on “the Role of Cities”



Press Conference Regarding the Parallel Session (Session Attendees)

	Mr. George Ferguson	Mayor 2012-2016, Bristol City, United Kingdom
	Mr. Dario Nardella	Mayor, City of Firenze, Italy
	Mr. Peter Feldmann	Mayor, City of Frankfurt am Main, Germany
	Mr. Hideo Abe	Mayor, Higashimatsushima City, Japan
	Mr. Kenji Kitahashi	Mayor, City of Kitakyushu, Japan
	Mr. Masashi Mori	Mayor, Toyama City, Japan
	Mr. Gregor Robertson	Mayor, City of Vancouver, Canada
	Mr. Jean-Pierre Bouquet	Mayor, City of Vitry-le-François, France

Parallel Session Attendees by Countries

Urbanization has been rapidly developing worldwide in recent years. Cities face various challenges including environmental issues and they are increasingly expected to play a leading role in solving such problems through prompt and cross-sectoral decision making and efforts utilizing each of their own unique features. Against such backdrop, Parallel Session on “the Role of Cities” was held on May 15, 2016 in conjunction with the G7 Toyama Environment Ministers’ Meeting.

Mayors of Toyama, Kitakyushu, Higashimatsushima, Bristol, Firenze, Frankfurt am Main, Vancouver and Vitry-le-François attended the session and had active discussions on the following three themes based on case examples introduced by those cities:

- Compact and resilient cities and modernization of transport network;
- Low-carbon and resilient energy supply systems using regional/local resources;
- Sharing of innovative approaches by selected leading city governments and promotion of city-to-city cooperation, roles of international organizations.

In the end, Co-Chairs wrapped up the discussion and integrated into Co-Chairs’ Summary the following points as messages for the future:

- Recognizing, supporting and showcasing the advanced efforts by leading cities making the transition to sustainable societies;
- Promoting networks of leading cities and encouraging successive cities to be involved;
- Mainstreaming the role of cities.

Outline of the Summary was shared at the breakfast meeting among G7 Ministers the next day.

Masashi Taketani

Deputy Director

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Environment Policy Bureau



MORE INFORMATION

G7 Toyama Environment Ministers’ Meeting Parallel Session
The Role of Cities
<http://www.iges.or.jp/en/pmo/20160515.html>



Results of the 18th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting Among Korea, China and Japan (TEMM18)

The 18th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Korea, China and Japan (TEMM18) was held in Shizuoka city in April 2016.

The outcome of the meeting is as follows.

- The Ministers reviewed the progress of the Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation 2015-2019 adopted at TEMM17 last year. They confirmed the progress of the tripartite cooperative projects under the nine priority areas contained in the Plan, and committed to continue the cooperative efforts among the three countries.
- The Ministers welcomed the adoption of the two important international frameworks, “the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and “the Paris Agreement,” which were finalized in the relevant meetings of the United Nations last year, and recognized that the implementation of policies and measures from this year is important to achieve their goals and targets.
- The Ministers agreed to share experiences and policies on measures for waste generated by disasters such as major earthquakes.

As one of the major developments in individual areas, the Ministers recently launched “Tripartite Cooperation Network for Environmental Pollution Prevention and Control Technologies” among the three countries to promote matching needs for environmental technologies such as in China with environmental technologies possessed by countries like Japan.

The Network could be utilized as a possible platform for technical assistance in various environmental fields to



A view from Nihondaira Hotel: Lighting candles at the public event of CO2 reduction

diffuse advanced environmental technologies.

The three countries reaffirmed the importance of sustainable development, and will make concerted efforts to realize sustainable development and transform our world by balancing economic development, social integration and environmental protection, based on global solidarity and shared responsibility.

MORE INFORMATION

The Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting Among Korea, China and Japan
<http://www.temm.org/>



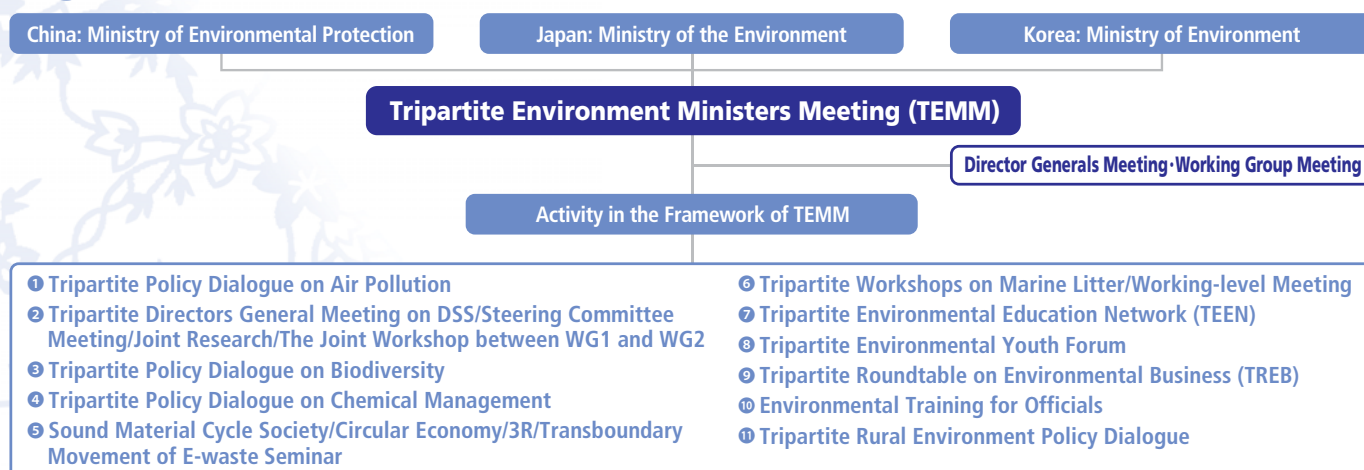
Yuichiro Takahashi

Deputy Director

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Organization



Towards the spread of the Waste-to-Energy (WtE)

Waste incineration power plant, recently called Waste-to-Energy (WtE), uses the process of generating energy in the form of electricity and/or heat in conjunction with the primary hygienic treatment of waste.

Hitachi Zosen Corporation has constructed over 840 WtE plants around the world so far since 1959, when the group's first one was constructed in Germany. In 1965 we constructed the first waste incineration power plant in Japan and 76 plants up to now, which enables to generate about 0.42 million kilowatts per year



Osaka City Maishima WtE Plant constructed by our corporation

and to reduce about 1.92 million tons of CO₂ per year.

We aim to disseminate the WtE plant, which treats waste hygienically and generates energy, particularly to the areas where waste is disposed of to landfill site. Especially in Southeast Asia, waste is not disposed of hygienically and the environmental pollution to the surroundings is sometimes serious. Therefore realization of waste treatment business is desired. We not only provide the technologies, but also develop a business model through a dialogue on the basis of local culture and sense of value.

MORE INFORMATION

Hitachi Zosen Corporation
<http://www.hitachizosen.co.jp/english/index.html>



Hitz
Hitachi Zosen

Mamoru Kondo

General Manager

Environment Business Headquarters
 Global Environment Business Promotion Department
 Hitachi Zosen Corporation



Construct a sustainable society from local communities

The Citizens Environmental Foundation (CEF) was established in Kyoto in 1992. We are engaged in activities for realization of sustainable rich society and life as a vision.

By conducting practical activities in a local community, with a view to global scale environmental problems, we are supporting local governments, citizens and companies trying to create a sustainable local community. Under the partnership with such groups we are developing activities as an environmental NGO that can propose a strategic action plan.

After we organized 'The Eco-Capital Contest in Japan' with NGOs/NPOs throughout the country for a decade, we built 'The National Eco-City Contest Network'. It was attended by auton-



The Green-consumer shopping game gaining popularity

omous communities, environmental NGOs/NPOs and research institutions. We carry out cooperative activities, implementations, sustainable and specific studies.

We addressed the green consumer movement for the first time in Japan and we are engaging them through their shopping habits to influence companies, to change the environment, the economy, to promote a sustainable society. We further developed our activities. In January 2016 we established 'The citizen's sustainable consumer network' with 33 NGOs and organizations that have various expertise and experiences throughout the country. We are working to realize one of the goal of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that is 'Enabling of the sustainable Consumers'. We intend to provide research and company ranking. We also provide useful information to allow citizens to make informed decisions when purchasing goods.

Education for sustainable development (ESD) and environmental education are also important activities.



Shizuko Shimomura

Board member

Citizens Environmental Foundation



Sagaribana (Common Putat), the flower said to lead people to happiness: Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park

Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park has attracted attention because the whole area of Iriomote-Island was designated as a national park in spring this year. There is also a remarkable thing on Ishigaki-Island. Hirakubo Peninsula in the north of Ishigaki-Island has been designated as a national park to protect the Common Putat plant which grows wild in this area. Common Putat is a mysterious plant. The flowers bloom at night in early summer and they fall off in the morning. Common Putat is found only in two areas in Japan, on Iriomote-Island and Ishigaki-Island, but in these places it grows in



Fallen flowers floating on the water surface of the Hirakubo Common Putat Colony

great abundance. The decision to designate the area as a national park is the culmination of the discovery ten years ago of an old Common Putat. After this discovery more plants were found around the original tree. The local volunteer groups undertook conservation activities for them. The public and private sectors worked cooperatively and this eventually led to official designation as a national park. In the language of flower of Common Putat is 'It will bring you luck.' We work together with local community. Common Putat will bring Ishigaki-Island luck as a symbol of conservation and economic development in the area.



Common Putat (*Barringtonia racemosa*)

Common Putat is a tropical flower or a sub-tropical flower and it is found in coastal swamp forests such as Mangrove River in Japan. The flowers give off a sweet fragrance. The best time to view Common Putat is from the end of June to late July in Japan.

Toru Wakamatsu

Senior Ranger

Ishigaki Ranger Office Naha Nature Conservation Office
Kyusyu Regional Environment Office
Ministry of the Environment



Voice of MOE Family in the World

Environment community in Geneva

It is thought that Geneva is one of the most important cities for the Environment. Several multilateral environmental agreements such as CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) and Conventions on chemicals and waste management have established their secretariats here, and many major meetings on the environment are held in Geneva all year around.

In Geneva, there is an environment community called the Geneva Environment Network (GEN), which was established in 1999. Led by



World Environment Day 2016 event organized by GEN

UNEP and supported by the Swiss government, it actively promotes increased cooperation and networking between its members. Not only the permanent missions in Geneva but also many IGOs and NGOs participate in the GEN, and it organizes and hosts meetings on the environment and sustainable development, including briefings to the permanent missions and workshops. The GEN's briefings to the permanent missions give us timely and quality information on the recent environmental meetings around the world and enable us to exchange various views.

I hope that the GEN strengthens the environment network in Geneva more and more, and makes the world more sustainable.

MORE INFORMATION

Geneva Environment Network (GEN)
<http://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.ch/>



Masato Ohkawa

First Secretary

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva

