

Results of the 8th Japan-China Joint Committee on Environmental Protection
(Announcement)

Friday, October 20, 2008

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The 8th Japan-China Joint Committee on Environmental Protection convened on Friday,
October 17 in Beijing, China.

1. About the Japan-China Joint Committee on Environmental Protection

This Committee is an intergovernmental conference based on the Japan-China Cooperation Agreement on Environmental Protection signed in 1994, fostering exchanges of views on the two countries' respective environmental policies and on bilateral/multilateral environmental cooperation. The last conference was held in September 2007 in Tokyo.

2. Date: Friday, October 17, 2008 from 9:00 to 17:40

3. Venue: Beijing, China

4. Leading Participants:

Japan: Masahiro Kohara, Councillor for Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Masaaki Kobayashi, Councillor, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of the Environment; Yoshiaki Nakamura, Director, Environmental Protection Guidance Office, Industrial Science and Technology Policy and Environment Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry; relevant officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Environment; relevant persons from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES).

China: Vice-Environmental Warden, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Environmental Protection; relevant officials from the Ministries of National Development and Reform Commission, of Commerce, and of Environmental Protection; relevant persons from the Sino-Japan Friendship Centre for Environmental Protection

5. Outline of results

Japan and China exchanged views based on the Joint Statement by Japan and the People's Republic of China on the further enhancement of cooperation for environmental protection announced at the time of Prime Minister Wen Jiabao's visit to Japan in April 2008 and subsequent progress. The key results are as follows:

(1) Opening address; introduction of state of environmental protection in both countries

- China expressed its appreciation for Japanese reconstruction assistance after the major earthquake struck Sichuan province, especially for providing data related to environmental conservation. China introduced progress in domestic environmental conservation measures, including pollutant reduction efforts being implemented based on the 11th Five Year Plan.
- Japan underlined the importance of promotion of Japan-China environmental cooperation at both the government and the private level. Japan also introduced a Clean Asia Initiative and an action plan for creating a low-carbon society. In addition, Japan called for cooperation towards the success of the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to be held in Japan in 2010.

(2) Model projects on diversified drainage treatment in rural and other areas

- Confirmed the smooth progress of the project under the memorandum, signed by ministers of the environment of both countries in May 2008, on implementation of cooperation for the model projects for diversified drainage treatment in rural and other areas.

(3) Climate change

- Exchanged opinions on a long-term greenhouse gas emissions reduction target, the creation of an effective framework beyond 2012 including application of a sectoral approach, and promotion of the clean development mechanism (CDM).

(4) Model co-benefits projects

- Confirmed smooth progress of the projects under the Letter of Intent signed by environment ministers of both countries in December 2007 on implementing cooperation in research on co-benefits and in model projects.

(5) Circular Economy projects

- Confirmed smooth progress in JICA circular economy technical cooperation projects and in circular economy collaboration between the municipal governments of Kawasaki and Shenyang, and of Kitakyushu and Qingdao/Tianjin, and between the prefectural/provincial governments of Hyogo and Guangdong.

(6) Regional cooperation on air pollution, including dust and sand storms

- China reported the status of the formulation of a domestic network for dust and sand storm observation.
- Opinions were exchanged on the promotion of data sharing and joint research on dust and sand storms, acid rain, photochemical oxidants, and other issues.

(7) Promotion of a project for corporate environment supervisory system

- China reported its efforts towards the establishment of a corporate environment supervisory system.
- Japan expressed its intention to continue conducting necessary cooperation through JICA technical cooperation projects.

(8) Implementation of environmental education projects at institutions of higher education

- Japan reported on the promotion of cooperation through the Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network (ProSPER.NET) and the Tripartite

Environmental Education Network (TEEN) among Japan, China, and the Republic of Korea.

- China posted a proposal on enhancement of bilateral cooperation. Both parties agreed to continue working-level discussions.

(9) Cooperation in the field of waste management

- Reached a shared agreement on the further enhancement of policy dialogues at the director-general level of their waste management bureaus, which began in 2007. They also exchanged views about the topics and the timing of the next dialogue.
- Agreed to continue to promote collaboration in managing the export and import of wastes.

(10) Cooperation in the field of preventing marine litter

- Introduced respective efforts and exchanged views.
- Toward the resolution of this issue, agreed to continue exchanging information and promoting the dissemination of their activities and related education.

(11) Cooperation on management policy for chemical substances

- Japan asked China for participation in the East Asia POPs Monitoring Workshop.
- Both parties agreed on the expectations for the Third Tripartite Chemical Substance Policy Dialogue, which will be held next year in China. China expressed its intention to enhance cooperation in the fields of PRTR and GHS.

(12) The role of the Sino-Japan Friendship Centre for Environmental Protection in Japan-China cooperation for environmental protection

- China expressed its strong enthusiasm toward further utilization of the Sino-Japan Friendship Centre for Environmental Protection.
- Regarding future directions to be pursued, both parties agreed to deepen discussions hereafter through the Japanese embassy in China and JICA.

(13) Environmental management for promoting environmental cooperation on a private sector basis

- Both parties agreed to promote environmental cooperation on a private sector basis, particularly at the business level, and reached a shared understanding of the importance of environmental management in that regard.

(14) Other business

- The next conference will be coordinated to be held in Japan in 2009.