

Joint Announcement
Tripartite Director General Meeting on Dust and
Sandstorms among Korea, China, and Japan
March 12-13, 2007
Ulsan, Republic of Korea

- 1 . At the invitation of Director General Boonam Shin of the Ministry of Environment of Republic of Korea, Director General Xu Qinghua of the State Environmental Protection Administration of the People's Republic of China and Director General Minamikawa Hideki of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan visited Ulsan, Korea, where the three Directors General met for the Tripartite Director General Meeting (TDGM) on Dust and Sandstorms (DSS) on March 12-13, 2007. H. E. Mr. Chi-Beom Lee, Minister of Environment of Republic of Korea, welcomed delegations from China and Japan in his opening remarks at the meeting.
- 2 . The Directors General shared the view that DSS is one of the most critical environmental issues in Northeast Asia and Korea, China, and Japan agreed to actively cooperate in addressing DSS issue.
- 3 . The Directors General made keynote speeches, and introduced each country's DSS response policy and reached a consensus on the need of sharing information, experiences, and policies for reducing DSS damage.
- 4 . Participants from international organizations made presentations about the current status of multilateral-donor-financed DSS projects: ADB's

support for establishing a regional monitoring and early warning network for DSS in Northeast Asia, UNEP's establishment of a regional monitoring and early warning network, UNESCAP's proposed follow-up project for the prevention and control of DSS in Northeast Asia, and GEF's partnerships with nations to provide financing for sustainable land management. The international organization representatives shared their views on the need of full-fledged and speedy implementation and their organization's continuous concerns about DSS in Northeast Asia. Through the discussions, Directors General and participants from international organizations recognized the importance of immediate implementation of the "Establishing a Regional Monitoring and Early Warning Network for Dust and Sandstorms in Northeast Asia" project (proposed ADB-GEF Project Phase II) including securing project funds. Also three countries request GEF to provide necessary financing for the regional monitoring and early warning network on DSS. The Directors General also agreed to send a letter jointly signed by the three Ministers to GEF and ADB to request an immediate approval of the ADB-GEF Project.

5. The Directors General agreed on the establishment of a Steering Committee and two Working Groups for joint research on DSS in Northeast Asia. The functions of the Steering Committee will include determination of the two working group activities, coordination of relevant departments and agencies at national and regional levels, exchange of information, and exploring financial resources. According to the decision made by the

Steering Committee, they will conduct joint research on a regional network for DSS monitoring and early warning system (Working Group 1) and prevention and control of DSS (Working Group 2).

6. It was proposed that the activities for Working Group I would include the establishment of DSS monitoring networks and research on DSS modeling, study of meteorological conditions and characteristics of DSS occurrence in DSS source areas, estimation of DSS transfer path through remote sensing, defining characteristics of DSS through analysis of ion and heavy metal of DSS aerosol, examination of particle size distribution of DSS aerosol. Similarly, proposed activities for Working Group II would include examination of ecological environment in DSS source areas, analysis of impact on ecosystems, health impact assessment, minimization of DSS negative impact, and policy analysis, etc.
7. The Steering Committee will include governmental officials and experts from each country. The two working groups will include officials from the research institutes from the three countries, as designated by each country. Officials could be drawn from relevant agencies (meteorological administration, forest service, etc.) and DSS experts (meteorology, forestry, ecology, and etc.). The Steering Committee shall prepare the terms of reference for the two working groups. Representatives from international organizations shall be invited to participate in the Working Groups.
8. The Directors General agreed to hold a second TDGM in Japan in the second half of 2007 to inaugurate the

Steering Committee. The meeting will include the members of steering committee.

- 9 . The Directors General concurred in holding a TDGM once a year to monitor the Joint Research Group's activities on DSS and agreed that the next TEMM holding country host TDGM as well for the year.
- 10 . The Directors General shared the view that it is necessary for the three countries to positively consider having Mongolia join the TDGM in the future, recognizing the importance of Mongolia's involvement in the international cooperation based on the fact that Mongolia is a major DSS source area.
- 11 . The Directors General agreed to propose to TEMM that there be a special session for DSS discussion.
- 12 . The Directors General expressed their satisfaction with the fruitful results of this year's meeting. Director General Xu Qinghua and Director General Hideki Minamikawa extended their gratitude to Director General Boonam Shin and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea for the hospitality.

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