



Joint Communiqué

The 24th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting

among Japan, Korea and China

3-4 November 2023, Nagoya, Aichi, Japan

Preamble

1. Minister ITO Shintaro of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Minister HAN Wha-jin of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea and Minister HUANG Runqiu of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China met in Nagoya, Aichi, Japan on 3-4 November 2023, for the 24th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM24).

Recent Progress in Environmental Policies in Japan, Korea and China

2. The Ministers shared recent progress in environmental policies in each country since TEMM23. Minister ITO presented “Review and Outlook of Major Environmental Policies in Japan”, Minister HAN presented “Korea’s Environmental Policies towards Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth”, and Minister HUANG presented “Strengthen Green as the Base Color of Development, Promote Harmonious Coexistence between Human and Nature”. They shared the view that such efforts of the three countries will contribute to achieving sustainable development in Northeast Asia as well as to solving national, regional, and global environmental problems.
3. Alongside TEMM24, the TEMM Youth Forum was held with the participation of youths from the three countries, and the results of the discussions of the forum were reported to the Ministers. They welcomed the outcomes of the TEMM Youth Forum which discussed “Towards the Harmonious Coexistence with Nature: Inspiring Education for the Future”.
4. The Ministers congratulated and commended Dr. SHIMIZU Atsushi from Japan, Dr. MUN Saeromi from Korea and Mr. LIU Zunwen from China, who won the TEMM Environment Awards for their contributions to the tripartite environmental cooperation.

Recent Progress on Environmental Cooperation related to the Implementation of the Tripartite Joint Action Plan 2021-2025

5. The Ministers reviewed the progress in implementing the Tripartite Joint Action Plan 2021-2025 (TJAP 2021-2025) adopted at TEMM22 in December 2021. They expressed satisfaction with the progress of cooperation projects under the eight priority areas of the TJAP 2021-2025 and are committed to continuing efforts to promote trilateral cooperation.
6. The Ministers welcomed the continued sharing of policy and technology information on the prevention and control of atmospheric pollutants including PM_{2.5} and O₃ by policymakers and experts of the three countries at the 10th Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution (TPDAP) hosted by China in September 2023. They appreciated the progress achieved in the TPDAP and other joint activities in line with the implementation of the Action Plan of the Second Phase of TPDAP among China, Japan and Korea (2021-2025). They also welcomed that the TPDAP discussed further promotion of sharing information and exchanging knowledge and experience on issues that are common to the three countries, such as photochemical oxidants. They shared the recognition that such joint efforts through the TPDAP have substantially contributed to the improvements in air quality trends in the three countries in recent years.
7. The Ministers welcomed the progress in the cooperation of the Dust and Sand Storms (DSS) Working Groups (WGs) in implementing the Mid-Term Action Plans of Working Group I & II for Joint Research on DSS (2020-2024), and noted the 16th meeting of DSS WG I to be hosted by China in December 2023, and the 16th meeting of DSS WG II to be hosted by Japan in November 2023.
8. The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the 15th Tripartite 3R/Circular Economy/Zero Waste City Seminar hosted by Korea in December 2022, where the policies, practices, and progress on plastic waste management and the circular economy were shared and discussed. They noted the 16th seminar to be hosted by China in December 2023.
9. The Ministers noted the 18th Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA) Annual Meeting held in February 2023, which discussed the current status and challenges of industrial wastewater management.
10. The Ministers welcomed the 8th Forum of Carbon Pricing Mechanism in China, Japan, and Korea hosted by the Greenhouse Gas Inventory & Research Center of Korea in Busan, in November 2023 and the Japan-Korea-China Carbon Neutral Cities Forum

hosted by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Korea Environment Institute (KEI), and National Center for Climate Change Strategy International Cooperation (NCSC) in October 2023. They noted the Seminar on Promoting the ASEAN Plus Three Low-carbon Cooperation Partnership held in China in July 2023. They expressed their willingness to promote cooperation in the field of climate change, including synergy between pollution control and carbon emissions reduction.

11. The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the 9th Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Biodiversity (TPDBD) hosted by China in July 2023, which discussed the progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and its monitoring framework as well as planning, reporting and review mechanisms, digital sequence information of genetic resources; invasive alien species; and the 10th session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-10).
12. The Ministers noted the 17th Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemical Management (TPDCM) and the Tripartite Expert Seminar on Chemical Management (TESCM) to be hosted by Korea in November 2023 with the expectation of progress of the joint research of the TESCM and an exchange of information on the latest regulations and best practices on chemicals management among the three countries.
13. The Ministers welcomed the results of the 7th Tripartite Roundtable on Environmental Businesses (TREB7) on the theme “Synergistic Treatment of Pollution Reduction and Carbon Reduction in Emissions Intensive Industries and Green Sustainable Recovery”, which was hosted by China in February 2023. They recognized that TREB7 discussed the situation and the initiatives in each country under the theme. They also welcomed the results of the Tripartite Working-level Meeting on Eco-Labeling hosted by Korea in September 2023. They recognized the progress made by the three countries in developing the common criteria of “wood plastic composites products”.
14. The Ministers noted the 24th Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN) Symposium to be hosted by Korea in November 2023, acknowledging the importance of environmental education, awareness raising and public participation including youth participation in promoting environmental protection. They welcomed the results of the TEEN joint project named “Case Study Report on Nature-based Environmental Education among China, Japan and Korea” which was completed in February 2023 and led by China. They noted the 21st Tripartite Joint Environmental Training Program to be hosted by China in December 2023.

15. The Ministers noted the fruitful discussions on strengthening multilateral cooperation for addressing climate change and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at major regional and global environmental conferences that all the three countries actively participated in, including the UN SDG Summit 2023, the UN Climate Ambition Summit 2023 and G20 Environment and Climate Ministers' Meeting.
16. The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the 2nd Forum on Carbon Neutrality Goals of China, Japan, and Korea held by the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) in February 2023, and the Trilateral Environmental Teachers' Exchange Program of Public Awareness (TTEP) held by the TCS in August 2023 in collaboration with the ministries and TEEN, which promoted trilateral environmental cooperation and education for educators and the general public. They acknowledged the contribution of TCS under the framework of TEMM and welcomed continued collaboration with TCS under the TJAP 2021-2025.
17. The Ministers welcomed that the 20th Tripartite Presidents Meeting (TPM) among the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES) of China, the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) of Japan, and the National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER) of Korea was held in Tokyo from October 31 to November 1, 2023 and encouraged further strengthening the tripartite research cooperation, which will provide a scientific reference for policy cooperation within the TEMM framework.

Promoting Cooperation in Major Regional and Global Environmental Issues

Response to the Environmental Crisis and Challenges

18. The Ministers recognized that our planet is facing unprecedented challenges including the global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
19. The Ministers also recognized that the world is jointly making efforts to recover from multiple challenges, including the economic slowdown, high and excessively volatile commodity prices such as those of food and energy, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, while trying to achieve the SDGs.
20. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitments to strengthen measures to address climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental pollution in light of their respective national circumstances; accelerate the transformation towards green and low-carbon development / the net-zero economy and society / the carbon-free society; promote harmony between humanity and nature; and pursue efforts to improve global environmental governance, so as to facilitate green recovery and sustainable, inclusive development.

Biodiversity

21. The Ministers strongly welcomed the adoption of the historic KMGBF at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/COP15) in December 2022.
22. The Ministers committed to swiftly, fully and effectively implementing all of the goals and targets of the KMGBF and to taking urgent actions, in order to achieve its 2030 mission to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, and its 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature.
23. The Ministers also committed to revising, updating and submitting their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in alignment with the KMGBF and its goals and targets.
24. The Ministers welcomed the key findings of the summary for policymakers of the Thematic Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control of IPBES. They committed to strengthening collaboration to address the negative impacts of invasive alien species, including those listed as examples in the report, on nature, nature's contributions to people, and a good quality of life in line with the KMGBF.

Climate Change

25. The Ministers reaffirmed their steadfast commitments, in pursuit of the objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to tackle climate change by strengthening the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and its temperature goal to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. They welcomed the contributions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).
26. The Ministers underscored the importance of international cooperation to accelerate action on both mitigation and adaptation and committed to enhancing cooperation to address climate change. The Ministers called for implementation actions, faithfully translating climate goals and visions into concrete policies, measures and actions, and engaging in relevant dialogues and exchanges.
27. The Ministers acknowledged the importance of providing and mobilizing financial resources, technology transfer, and capacity building support to accelerate global climate action.

28. The Ministers expressed their full support to the upcoming UNFCCC-COP28 Presidency. They will contribute to a successful outcome at COP28 in Dubai, including the conclusion of the first global stocktake (GST) and adoption of the framework of the global goal on adaptation. They stressed the critical importance of the upcoming GST, to assess collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals and to drive enhanced climate action across mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation and support. The Ministers were encouraged to submit their next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2025 in accordance with relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement.
29. The Ministers committed to making the necessary preparations for the timely submission of their first biennial transparency report at the latest by 31 December 2024.

Plastic Pollution

30. The Ministers committed to playing a constructive role in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024. They expected successful completion of the work of the INC on plastic pollution at its fifth session which will be hosted by Korea in 2024.
31. They acknowledged the significance of strengthening the full lifecycle management of plastics and welcomed the existing measures to combat plastic pollution adopted by the three countries.
32. The Ministers also expressed willingness to strengthen these measures based on their respective national circumstances and strengthen exchanges and cooperation to promote regional and global actions to combat plastic pollution.
33. The Ministers encouraged continuation and strengthening of policy and information exchanges on marine litter among the three countries through seminars and other activities. They acknowledged the significance of strengthening scientific, technical and technological knowledge with regard to plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, inter alia, on methodologies for monitoring, and sharing available scientific and other relevant data and information.

Air Quality in the Region

34. The Ministers took note of the progress of the cooperative activities of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) and the North East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP) which are contributing to improving air quality in the region.



They encouraged the three countries to strengthen cooperation with Mongolian agencies to address DSS.

Tripartite Cooperation

35. The Ministers noted the outcomes of “Trilateral+X” cooperation with appreciation. They were willing to continue to explore possible “Trilateral+X” cooperation in such areas as climate change and marine environmental protection to support accelerated implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They reaffirmed their commitment to multilateralism and were willing to encourage close cooperation among the three countries at upcoming major regional and global environmental conferences, including the UNFCCC COP28 and relevant G20 meetings in 2024.

TEMM25 and Future Event

36. The Ministers decided that TEMM25 will be held by Korea in 2024. The date and venue will be proposed by the host country and confirmed by China and Japan.

Closing

37. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the fruitful outcomes of TEMM24. Minister HAN Wha-jin and Minister HUANG Runqiu expressed their deep appreciation to Minister ITO Shintaro, the Government of Japan as well as Nagoya city and Aichi prefecture for hosting the meeting and extending great hospitality to all participants.



4 November 2023, Nagoya, Japan

ITO Shintaro
Minister
Ministry of the Environment
Japan

HAN Wha-jin
Minister
Ministry of Environment
Republic of Korea

HUANG Runqiu
Minister
Ministry of Ecology and Environment
People's Republic of China