



**Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation
2026-2030**

28 September 2025

I. Introduction

1. Background

1.1 The Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among China, Japan, and Korea (TEMM) has established itself as one of the most successful and long-standing cooperation mechanisms under the framework of the Trilateral Summit among the three countries. Since TEMM was created in 1999, the three countries have continued to build trust and deepen cooperation towards environmental improvement and green development, playing an important role in promoting regional and global sustainable development.

1.2 Through well-established systems and comprehensive mechanisms, TEMM has effectively facilitated cooperative activities at various levels in key areas of common interests among the three countries and has contributed to the progressive enhancement of regional environmental quality. As global environmental governance enters a new historical phase, trilateral environmental cooperation under TEMM will play an increasingly vital role in promoting collective efforts globally.

1.3 In order to strengthen practical cooperation and jointly advance regional sustainable development, the 12th, 17th and 22nd sessions of the TEMM respectively convened in 2010, 2015, and 2021, adopted the First, Second and Third Tripartite Joint Action Plan (TJAP) accordingly.

2. Overall Review of the Third Tripartite Joint Action Plan

2.1 The Third TJAP set out eight Priority Areas: (1) Air Quality Improvement; (2) 3R/Circular Economy/Zero Waste City; (3) Marine and Water Environment Management; (4) Climate Change; (5) Biodiversity;

(6) Chemical Management and Environmental Emergency Response; (7) Transition to Green Economy; and (8) Environmental Education, Public Awareness and Engagement.

2.2 The three countries have consistently carried out a range of activities on a regular basis in the eight Priority Areas, including policy dialogues, seminars, joint research, information sharing, and technical cooperation. Through these activities, they have effectively exchanged information, experiences, and best practices; strengthened their capacity for environmental conservation; enhanced public awareness; and improved coordination and communication mechanisms. Even under the constraints of in-person activities, they have utilized online meeting modalities and have maintained the momentum of cooperation.

2.3 In many areas, activities were carried out in the context of major international process including multilateral environmental agreements such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and several activities were conducted through 3+X cooperation or in connection with other regional environmental programs including the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) and the Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA).

2.4 The implementation of the Third TJAP enabled the three countries to jointly address regional and global environmental challenges with notable effectiveness. As a result, TEMM has played an increasingly significant role in advancing regional and global environmental cooperation.

2.5 To build on and further strengthen the successful outcomes of the Third TJAP, the three countries have formulated this TJAP focusing on the

eight Priority Areas adopted at the 25th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among China, Japan, and Korea (TEMM25) in 2024.

II. Vision, Principles, and Objective

1. Vision

1.1 The Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to individually as a "Side" and collectively as "the Three Sides") acknowledge the importance of sustainable development and strive to synergize economic growth and environmental conservation.

1.2 In view of the respective efforts of the three countries towards Ecological Civilization, Carbon-Neutral Green Civilization, and Promoting Synergies Across Environmental Initiatives, the Three Sides promote cooperation to tackle environmental issues of common interests, in light of the commitments made at the Trilateral Summits and stated in the *Joint Statement on Environmental Cooperation* in 2015, the *Joint Declaration of the 7th Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit* in 2018, the *Trilateral Cooperation Vision for the Next Decade* in 2019, and the *Joint Declaration of the 9th ROK-Japan-China Trilateral Summit* in 2024.

1.3 As a common environmental community, the Three Sides reaffirm their commitment to mutually supporting and encouraging each other's efforts to address common environmental challenges and promote sustainable development at the national, regional, and global levels. They

are also ready to further promote collaboration among stakeholders including local governments, academia, and business entities under TEMM.

2. Principles

2.1 The Three Sides will continue to promote the actions that have achieved outcomes, sustained progress, and been proven to be positive and successful under this TJAP. Based on efficient use of resources and the common interests of the Three Sides, the actions in this TJAP will be streamlined and reorganized.

2.2 The Three Sides will take major domestic and international environmental policies and processes into consideration, and accommodate the continuously increasing needs for new cooperation.

2.3 The activities set out in this TJAP are to be developed on the basis of mutual respect, mutual benefits, each country's available resources, and respect for one another's difference in the stage of development.

2.4 Joint activities under the Fourth TJAP will be promoted in consideration of the inter-linkages among the eight Priority Areas as well as the interdependence across the goals and targets of the SDGs and will be conducted in a way to maximize the synergies.

2.5 In the fields where three countries have experience and know-how, and the willingness to share with other countries, TEMM will further explore possible "3+X" cooperation to promote sustainable development in the region and beyond, while utilizing multilateral frameworks such as G20, ASEAN+3, and APEC and seeking partnerships with other countries and international organizations with consensus of the three countries.

3. Objective

3.1 The Three Sides will endeavor to further enhance their joint

actions to meet the visions in paragraph II.1 in accordance with the principles in paragraph II.2. The objective of the Fourth TJAP is to present such actions to be promoted under TEMM for the period from 2026 to 2030.

III. Priority Areas, Activities, and Actions

1. Priority Areas

1.1 TEMM25 adopted the eight Priority Areas of TEMM cooperation from 2026 to 2030 as follows:

Improving Environmental Qualities

- (1) Air Pollution & Dust and Sandstorms (DSS)
- (2) Biodiversity
- (3) 3R/Circular Economy/ Zero Waste City & Plastic Pollution

Promoting Carbon Neutrality and Green Economy

- (4) Climate Change
- (5) Transition to Green Economy

Enhancing Environmental Welfare

- (6) Environmental Education & Awareness
- (7) Environmental Management of Chemicals
- (8) Living Environment

2. Activities

2.1 An Activity is a tripartite gathering in the form of policy dialogue, seminar, or forum through which Actions may be planned, conducted,

coordinated, facilitated, or supported. The Activities which have been established or will be newly launched under the eight Priority Areas are as follows:

(1) Air Pollution and DSS

- Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution (TPDAP);
- Working Group I & II on DSS (DSS WG I & II);

(2) Biodiversity

- Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Biodiversity (TPDB);

(3) 3R/Circular Economy/ Zero Waste City & Plastic Pollution

- 3R/Circular Economy/Zero Waste City Seminar;
- Tripartite policy dialogue on Plastic Pollution Control;

(4) Climate Change

- Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Climate Change and Expert Workshop;
- Tripartite Forum on Carbon Pricing Mechanism
- Tripartite Carbon Neutral Cities Symposium

(5) Transition to Green Economy

- Tripartite Roundtable on Environmental Business (TREB);
- Tripartite Working-level Meeting on Eco-Labeling, Carbon Labeling, and Environmental Product Declaration;

(6) Environmental Education and Awareness

- Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN);

- Environmental Training for Officials;
- TEMM Youth Forum;

(7) Environmental Management of Chemicals

- Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemical Management & Expert Seminar (TPDCM & TESCM)

(8) Living Environment

- Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Living Environment

3. Actions

3.1 An Action is a basic component of cooperation under the framework of this TJAP, with a specific topic, purpose, and modality of implementation. An Action may be planned, conducted, and/or supported by an Activity under a Priority Area either individually or in connection with other Actions.

3.2 The list of Actions and their descriptions are set forth in the Annex. The Actions may be modified or updated through consultation among the three countries, taking changing circumstances and cooperation interests during the implementation period of this TJAP into consideration.

IV. Implementation Arrangement

1. Implementation Mechanism

1.1 For every Action under paragraph III.3, at least one focal point will be appointed from each Side. The three focal points of an Action will communicate with each other for any matter concerning the

implementation of the Action. They will discuss, plan, and implement the Action, summarize the result, and report it to pre-TEMM or post-TEMM Working Level Meetings. They may update or improve the topics and modalities of the Action, responding to emerging issues and new demands for cooperation.

1.2 The individual Actions may be conducted through or supported by the Activities under paragraph III.2.

1.3 The pre-TEMM and post-TEMM Working Level Meetings (WLMs) are responsible for coordinating overall TEMM cooperation. They will identify problems arising from the implementation of actions and coordinate problem solving, and facilitate communication among focal points of each Action. On an annual basis, the WLMs will review the progress in the Actions under the eight Priority Areas and prepare a TJAP progress report to be reviewed by TEMM Directors General Meeting (DGM).

1.4 The DGM will review the TJAP progress report submitted by pre-TEMM, provide its considerations and recommendations for improvement, and adopt the report to be presented to TEMM. DGMs will also be reported with and confirm the progress of the tripartite joint research on DSS.

1.5 The Ministers Meeting (TEMM) oversees the general progress and achievements of the Activities and provides guidance.

2. Implementing entities

2.1. This TJAP will be implemented jointly by the Three Sides and/or implementing organizations nominated by each Side based on their specific national circumstances.

2.2 Based on consensus of the three countries, cooperation under this

TJAP may be promoted in collaboration with or with the support from other organizations, including the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS).

3. Resources

3.1 Resources necessary for the implementation of this TJAP will be jointly contributed by the Three Sides based on their specific national circumstances.

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