

Joint Ministerial Statement

6th Viet Nam - Japan Environmental Policy Dialogue

The 6th Viet Nam - Japan Environmental Policy Dialogue between the Ministry of Natural Resources of Viet Nam and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan was organized virtually on 24th and 25th August 2020. Following is the summary of discussions of the meeting:

Session 1: Review on Progress of the Cooperation

1. Both sides welcomed the outcome of the cooperation between the two Ministries since the 5th Policy Dialogue and shared the progress of the cooperation in various areas within the framework of the dialogue, including in the Joint Credit Mechanism (JCM), Partnership to Strengthen Transparency for co-innovation (PaSTI), supporting climate adaptation plans for three provinces in Viet Nam, revision of Environmental Protection Law 2014, amongst others.

Session 2: Climate Change

2. Both sides shared the review of climate change measures after the adoption of Paris Agreement and confirmed commitment for continuous and enhanced cooperation in the areas of mitigation, transparency, and adaptation.
3. Regarding mitigation, both sides agreed on comprehensive cooperation for advancing transition towards decarbonization in Viet Nam through introducing and/or updating policies, instruments, capacity building and diffusion of low-carbon and decarbonized technologies, including developing the long-term strategy and mainstreaming renewable energy by for instance utilizing AIM model.
4. Both sides welcomed the progress of renewing the bilateral document on the JCM and confirmed that the JCM continues to be an important mechanism in contributing to mitigation activities. Both sides also recognized the potential in utilizing the JCM for the achievement of SDGs and facilitating multilateral partnerships among the JCM partner countries and relevant stakeholders through the JCM Global Partnership.
5. Regarding transparency, both sides agreed to promote identification of specific activities in the Partnership to Strengthen Transparency for co-Innovation (PaSTI) and to cooperate in Long-term Strategy towards reducing emissions, and confirmed to discuss detailed activities.
6. Both sides also agreed on accelerating efforts to advance lifecycle management of fluorocarbon including continued engagement to global actions, such as the Initiative on Fluorocarbons Life Cycle Management, amongst others.
7. Recognizing the strategic importance of engaging cities in advancing decarbonization, both

sides also agreed to enhance support to decarbonization efforts at the local level through for instance city-to-city cooperation.

8. Regarding adaptation, both sides agreed on further technical cooperation for adaptation mainstreaming in pilot sites, and on contribution for implementing National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process by monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and Capacity Development through various activities at both of central and local levels in Viet Nam.

Session3: Waste Management and Marine Plastic Litter

9. Both sides agreed on the continued cooperation in the field of waste management and 3R, especially implementing activities towards Waste-to-Energy project development including related information sharing, facilitation for technology transfer, and the participation of the private sector and local provinces in both countries, based on the broad direction agreed by the Joint Committee on waste management and 3R.
10. Regarding marine plastic litter, both sides welcomed the National Action Plan on the Management of Marine Plastic Debris of Viet Nam, and agreed to promote cooperation to implement regional initiatives to deal with marine plastic litter, including Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund project.
11. Both sides reaffirmed the "Osaka Blue Ocean Vision" aiming to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050 through a comprehensive life-cycle approach. Both side agreed to cooperate in international activities including information sharing based on G20 Implementation Framework and further discussion towards UNEA5.
12. Both side shared the Letter of Intent (LoI) on the bilateral cooperation in the area of monitoring marine plastic litter signed in July 2020. Both sides agreed to steady implementation in line with the LoI, and discussion on further cooperation in monitoring of marine litter. Both sides also agreed to cooperate on promoting Viet Nam's initiatives in dealing with marine plastic litter including the International Center for Marine Plastic Litter.
13. Both sides agree to discuss further cooperation with private sector such as clean-up activities.

Session 4: Air Pollution, Wastewater Treatment, and International Cooperation on Water Environment

14. Regarding air quality management, both sides agreed on proactive engagement to, and continuous cooperation through, international platform for accelerating actions against air pollution, including working towards expansion of scope of activities by Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET).
15. Regarding sustainable transportation, both sides agreed to sustain engagement to Asia EST Forum.
16. Both sides reaffirmed the importance of wastewater treatment in attaining Goal 6.3. of

Sustainable Development Goals, acknowledged the role Johkasou plays with satisfying the wastewater regulation, and agreed on further cooperation towards expansion of decentralized wastewater treatment in rural areas in Viet Nam for clean and safe water. The cooperation can cover technology transfer of installation and operation, development of supporting legal system, and demonstration of good practice cases of Johkasou. Both sides also agreed on the needs for strengthening technical and institutional capacity towards protection of water environment through model projects and WEPA.

Session 5: Institutions for Environmental Management

17. Regarding pollution control, both sides agreed to enhance cooperation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan, towards establishment of Pollution Control Managers (PCM) system in Viet Nam, including instituting a working group on this subject aiming to provide inputs to ongoing discussions on Law of Environmental Protection (LEP).
18. Regarding Environmental Technology Verification, both sides agreed to cooperate in developing and implementing capacity development program for ASEAN Member States.

Future Direction

19. Apart from the agreed proposed cooperation in each focus area stated in related sessions above, both sides agreed to further explore potentials for cooperation in areas of mutual interests and priorities within available resources.
20. Both sides agreed on holding the 7th Japan - Viet Nam Environmental Policy Dialogue in Viet Nam in 2021, with considerations given to the state of COVID-19 in determining the mode of such meeting.