



Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation

2015-2019

April 2015

I. Introduction

1.1 Background

1. Since the Inaugural Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Korea, China and Japan (TEMM) was held in 1999, tripartite cooperation on environment has been developed significantly among the three countries. TEMM has played a key role as a regional high-level cooperation mechanism on the environment in North-East Asia.
2. Sharing the understanding that North-East Asia is one Environmental Community, TEMM has achieved great progress and established a good foundation for cooperation among the three countries. Nevertheless, continued and strengthened cooperation is necessary to address a range of common environmental problems in various priority areas using appropriate approaches.
3. To systematically and strategically manage a variety of environmental cooperation activities, TEMM12 adopted a Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation (TJAP) (2010-2014) which was endorsed by the 3rd Trilateral Summit Meeting in 2010.

1.2 Overall Review of the Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation (2010-2014)

1. The first TJAP (2010-2014) contained ten Priority Areas: Environmental Education, Environmental Awareness and Public Participation; Climate Change; Biodiversity Conservation; Dust and Sand Storms (DSS); Pollution Control; Environment-Friendly Society/3R/Sound Resource Recycle Society; Transboundary Movement of E-Waste; Sound Management of Chemicals; Environmental Governance in Northeast Asia; and Environmental Industries and Technologies.
2. As a result of joint efforts of the three countries, including necessary inputs of financial, technical and human resources, as well as participation of various stakeholders including governments, research institutes, businesses and experts of the three countries, the implementation of the first TJAP (2010-2014) contributed to strengthening cooperation under TEMM, enhancing common understanding and increasing awareness, and ultimately promoting the sustainable and green development of the region.
3. After the successful completion of the first TJAP (2010-2014), this second TJAP (2015-2019) was developed based on the nine Priority Areas for tripartite environmental cooperation from 2015 to 2019 adopted at TEMM16 in 2014. Cooperation in these Priority Areas will be implemented using various approaches, i.e., policy dialogues, information sharing, and research-oriented and action-oriented approaches.

II. Vision, Objective and Priority Areas

2.1 Vision

The vision of this Action Plan is as follows:

1. Acknowledge the global, regional and national environmental challenges and opportunities, and the necessity to address these challenges and take these opportunities through cooperation among the three countries.
2. Share the common understanding of the great importance of Ecological Civilization, Sustainable Development, Green Development, etc., and consider how TEMM can contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Post 2015 Development Agenda.
3. Make efforts to ensure that environmental protection will be mainstreamed into measures for economic and social development of the three countries.
4. Emphasize the necessity of environmental cooperation among the three countries in light of the commitments made in the Joint Declaration on the Enhancement of Trilateral Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership at the Fifth Trilateral Summit Meeting in 2012.
5. Understand the importance of further enhancement of the tripartite environment cooperation contributing to environmental improvement and sustainable development of North-East Asia.
6. Share the common concept that cooperation by the three countries on the environment is a key to address environmental issues in North-East Asia, complement wider regional and global cooperation frameworks, and enhance the synergies among these frameworks and promote further progress.
7. Reiterate to approach the tripartite environment cooperation from a strategic point of view, on the basis of mutual respect, equity, common interests, openness and transparency.

2.2 Objective

1. The objective of this Action Plan is to present activities of tripartite environmental cooperation for jointly addressing problems and challenges stated in the vision in 2015-2019, and is to be drawn up every five years by the three countries.

2.3 Priority Areas

1. The Action Plan will focus on the following nine Priority Areas, adopted at TEMM16, for the period of 2015-2019:
 - (1) Air Quality Improvement
 - (2) Biodiversity
 - (3) Chemical Management and Environmental Emergency Response
 - (4) Circulative Management of Resources/3R/Transboundary Movement of E-Waste

- (5) Climate Change Response
 - (6) Conservation of Water and Marine Environment
 - (7) Environmental Education, Public Awareness and Corporate Social Responsibility
 - (8) Rural Environmental Management
 - (9) Transition to Green Economy
2. The action plan activities in the aforementioned nine Priority Areas are described in Part III and listed in detail in the Annex.

III. Action Plan

3.1 Air Quality Improvement

A. Air Pollution

- ✧ **Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution**
- ✧ **Working Group I (Scientific Research on Prevention and Control)**
- ✧ **Working Group II (Technology/Policy on Air Quality Monitoring and Prediction)**

B. DSS

- ✧ **DSS Directors General Meeting**
- ✧ **DSS Steering Committee Meeting**
- ✧ **DSS WGI & WGII and Related Meetings**
- ✧ **Tripartite Joint Workshop between WGI and WGII**

3.2 Biodiversity

A. Biodiversity Conservation

- ✧ **Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Biodiversity**
- ✧ **Tripartite Cooperation on AP-BON, ESABII and Bio-Bridge Initiative**
- ✧ **Information Exchange, Best Practice and Experience Exchange**

B. ABS (Access and Benefit Sharing)

- ✧ **Information Sharing to Prepare for Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol**

3.3 Chemical Management and Environmental Emergency Response

A. Chemical Management

- ✧ **Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemical Management**
- ✧ **Tripartite Expert Seminar on Chemical Management**

B. Environmental Emergency Response

- ✧ **Tripartite Joint Research on Risk Assessment of Environmental Disaster(Accident)**

3.4 Circulative Management of Resources/3R/Transboundary Movement of E-Waste

A. Circulative Management of Resources/3R

- ✧ **Tripartite 3R and Transboundary Movement of E-Waste Seminar**

B. Transboundary Movement of E-waste

- ✧ **Tripartite Information Sharing Channel on E-Waste Transboundary Movement Management**
- ✧ **Information Sharing on E-Waste Transboundary Movement Flow among the Three Countries**

3.5 Climate Change Response

- ✧ **Climate Change Mitigation Technology Research and Demonstration Experience Exchange**
- ✧ **Information Sharing on Co-Control Technology**
- ✧ **Climate Change Adaptation Experience Exchange**
- ✧ **Research on Low Carbon and Environment-Friendly Cities Construction**

3.6 Conservation of Water and Marine Environment

A. Water Environment

- ✧ **Tripartite Information Sharing on Water Environment Management**
- ✧ **Underground Water Technology Cooperation**

B. Marine Environment

- ✧ **Tripartite Workshops on Marine Litter**
- ✧ **Cooperation under the Framework of NOWPAP**

3.7 Environmental Education, Public Awareness and Corporate Social Responsibility

A. Environmental Education, Public Awareness

- ✧ **Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN)**
- ✧ **Youth Forum**
- ✧ **Environmental Training for Officials**
- ✧ **General Public Awareness Improvement Project**

B. Corporate Social Responsibility

- ✧ **Cooperation on CSR on the Environment for Business Sector**

3.8 Rural Environmental Management

- ✧ **Tripartite Rural Environment Policy Dialogue**

3.9 Transition to Green Economy

A. Green Economy

- ✧ **Information Exchange on Green Development/Economy**
- ✧ **Tripartite Joint Research on Green Economy and Low Carbon Society**

B. Environmental and Green Industry

- ✧ **Tripartite Roundtable on Environmental Business (TREB)**
- ✧ **Information Exchange on Tripartite Pollution Prevention and Control Technology**
- ✧ **Information Exchange on Evaluation, Certification and Verification of Environmental and Green Industry**

C. Green Supply Chain

- ✧ **Cooperation on Regional Green Supply Chain**

IV. Implementation Arrangement

4.1 Management Mechanism

1. The TEMM will oversee the general progress and achievements of the activities of this Action Plan and provide guidance.
2. The Directors General Meeting will review the state of progress and achievements of the activities and report to the TEMM for its consideration and decision.
3. The Working Level Meeting with members of each division of each Ministry of the Environment/Ministry of Environment/Ministry of Environmental Protection responsible for TEMM cooperation shall discuss the progress and future actions, solve problems and maintain routine communications concerning cooperation among the implementation agencies in the three countries.

4.2 Implementation Agencies

1. The Action Plan will be implemented jointly by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the Ministry of Environment of Republic of Korea, and the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China, and/or implementing organizations nominated by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the Ministry of Environment of Republic of Korea, and the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China, taking into consideration their specific national circumstances.

4.3 Review and Update

1. The Action Plan will be reviewed and updated as necessary according to the progress of future cooperation.
2. This document could be publicized on the TEMM website.

4.4 Resources

1. Resources necessary for the implementation of the Action Plan will be jointly contributed by the three countries taking into account their specific national circumstances.

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