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Feature 1

The 2nd High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities

- Towards Environmentally Sustainable Cities in the East Asian Region -

From March 15th to 16th, 2011, the 2nd High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (HLS ESC) under the framework of East Asian Summit Environment Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM) was held in Kitakyushu, Japan. The Second High Level Seminar was jointly organized by Japan, Australia, Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand. About 140 participants include high level government officials from East Asian countries, major cities, international organizations, aid agencies, inter-city networks, NGOs, research institutes and other bodies promoting ESC in these countries joined in the meeting. Mr. Hikaru Kobayashi, Senior Counsellor (Former Vice Minister), Ministry of the Environment, Japan and Mr. Kenji Kitahashi, Mayor, City of Kitakyushu were also participants. In the seminar, wide-range of information and opinions such as efforts on ESC and promotion of country-based ESC Model Cities Programs were exchanged. The outcomes of the seminar were compiled into the chair's summary.



Participants of the 2nd HLS ESC

Background of HLS ESC

At the 1st EAS EMM, held in Hanoi, Vietnam in October 2008, it was agreed that “Environmentally Sustainable Cities” will be the priority area for the environmental cooperation in East Asian Region. Following this agreement, the 1st HLS ESC was jointly organized by Japan, Indonesia, Australia and Singapore in Jakarta, Indonesia in March 2010.

Japan reported the result of the 1st HLS ESC at the 2nd EAS EMM in Brunei in October 2010 and proposed to hold the 2nd HLS ESC. Other countries showed strong interest, which led to opening of this 2nd HLS ESC.

Results of the 2nd HLS ESC

At the 2nd HLS ESC, progress on development of “Country-Based ESC Model Cities Programs” was introduced, environmental commitments by the local governments, proposals of the support of ESC by relevant organizations and four thematic sessions were held, including 1) Urban Solid Waste Management, 2) Urban Air Quality Management, 3) Sustainable Planning towards a Liveable City, 4) Adapting Cities to Changing Climates. Through the discussions at the 2nd HLS ESC, network and partnership among stakeholders was enhanced. Additionally, knowledge and common understanding among stakeholders, including on good practices and model city programs were enriched.

The followings are the main points of the Chair’s Summary.

- Noted the main messages of the keynote presentation of Mr. Kobayashi,
 - Welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Strategic Environmental Partnership between City of Kitakyushu, Japan and City of Surabaya, Indonesia,
 - Acknowledged and commended the notable progress achieved so far by stakeholders since the 1st HLS ESC,
 - Noted the best practices and initiatives presented in the Thematic Sessions and agreed to explore the possibility of replicating and scaling up these practices with support from all relevant stakeholders,
 - Requested the Secretariat to report the outcomes of the 2nd HLS ESC to the upcoming Annual Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on ESC which is planned to be held from May 4th to 5th 2011 in Yangon, Myanmar, as well as the 3rd East Asia Summit Environment Ministers Meeting (the venue and dates are under consideration),
 - Noted the wishes of Indonesia, as Chair of ASEAN and host of the East Asia Summit in November 2011, to report the progress of ESC to, and ask for further directions from, the Leaders on ESC implementation,
 - Reaffirmed the benefits provided by an occasion like the HLS ESC as a broad platform for knowledge sharing, networking and mutual learning among all relevant stakeholders, with the anticipation of the organising of the 3rd HLS ESC in 2012, and noted the offer of Cambodia to host the 3rd HLS ESC, subject to national clearance.
- **High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities Website:** <http://www.hls-esc.org/>



The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Strategic Environmental Partnership between City of Kitakyushu, Japan and City of Surabaya, Indonesia



Keynote presentation of Mr. Kobayashi, Senior Counsellor (Former Vice Minister), Ministry of the Environment, Japan



Participants of the 2nd HLS ESC





Feature 2

The 5th Japan-Mongolia Environmental Policy Dialogue and the Ecotourism Promotion Project in Mongolia

- To Promote Environmental Cooperation between Mongolia and Japan -

The 5th Japan-Mongolia Environmental Policy Dialogue was held in Tokyo, Japan on January 20th, 2011. Two countries exchanged their views on environmental policy, such as climate change and biodiversity conservation. In order to discuss future cooperation between the countries, both countries agreed that Japan will dispatch a research mission to Mongolia.

Major Achievements of the 5th Policy Dialogue

Climate change

Japan explained their views on the international framework after 2013 regime. Also they introduced their approaches toward adaptation measures to address negative impacts caused by the climate change and the importance of scientific knowledge. From the Mongolia side, they presented the research results on adaptation measures in Mongolia and expressed their recognition of promoting adaptation measures. It was also confirmed that the cooperation between both countries should be further strengthened in terms of climate change countermeasures, and especially in adaptation measures and a bilateral mechanism utilizing new market mechanisms. In addition, the two countries shared the view that a fair and effective framework with the participation of all major countries is needed for an international framework after 2013.



The 5th Policy dialogue

Nature conservation measures

[1] Biodiversity conservatio

Japan explained the Aichi Target, Nagoya Protocol, and *Satoyama* Initiatives as the achievements of the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10), which was held in Nagoya, Japan in 2010. Japan also introduced its approach in accordance with the outcomes of COP10. Mongolia presented the current status of biodiversity in Mongolia, and possible cooperation for the future biodiversity conservation. As a result, a shared view was obtained regards to natural environment conservation, and particularly through the *Satoyama* initiatives should be actively promoted.

[2] Ecotourism utilizing natural resources

Japan presented the achievements of the ecotourism

cooperation program in Mongolia, and indicated they expect to see utilization of these achievements towards future ecotourism in Mongolia. Mongolia expressed their appreciation for the cooperation that Japan has given, but also raised concerns in the future direction of the ecotourism in Mongolia as how to promote information, prepare regulations, and to develop necessary human resources. Based on these issues, the two countries discussed approaches to forward ecotourism in Mongolia.

[3] Exchange of information on highly pathogenic avian influenza

Japan gave a presentation on the current status of and countermeasures against highly pathogenic avian influenza of migratory birds in Japan. It was confirmed that the two countries will exchange information on this issue.

Dispatching of a research mission

In order to strengthen bilateral relations, both countries agreed that Japan will dispatch a research mission to discuss further cooperation to Mongolia as early as possible.

Introduction to the Ecotourism Promotion Project in Mongolia

Based on the request from the Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism, Mongolia (MNET), in the Japan-Mongolia Environmental Policy Dialogue, the Ministry of the Environment, Japan has been conducting a three-year cooperation program, Mongolia-Japan Environmental Cooperation Program for Eco-tourism Promotion in Mongolia, starting from the fiscal year 2008. This program has designated Terelj, Ugii Nuur, and Hovsgol regions as the three model areas of ecotourism, and has provided support to practice ecotourism in these areas. These areas were chosen based on the field survey and exchange of opinions by MNET and Japanese experts. By utilizing the ecotourism experience of the three model regions, a seminar was held in Mongolia and an ecotourism promotion manual was published during the fiscal year 2010.

Overview of the three model regions

	Terelj	Ugii Nuur	Hovsgol
Distance from the capital	70 km (suburb resort)	400 km (transit point to Kharakhorum)	1,000 km (one of the most popular resorts in Mongolia)
Landscape	Grasslands, rivers, forests	Grasslands, lakes	Lakes, lakeside woodlands, mountains
Tourism facility status	Golf courses, hotels, ger camps, rental bungalows, others	Ger camps (summer only), Training and resource center (JICA, grant aid)	Ger camps (summer only), excursion ship, visitor center
Major natural resources for tourism	Nomadic culture, temples, herbs, trees	Nomadic culture, Lake Ugii, birds	Nomadic culture, Lake Hovsgol, Mt. Ikul, lakeside woodlands



Through this ecotourism program, the following four points were conducted: (1) establishing an ecotourism promotion group, (2) examining regional resources, (3) developing eco-tours, and (4) discussing rules to be observed in the regions.

Through the project, there are some progress including

- 1) Trial to join guide to the existing horseback riding tour in Terelj region,
- 2) Establishment of an ecotourism promotion group in Ugii Nuur region,
- 3) Development of rules for the excursion ship tour in Hovsgol region.



Horse riding tour in Terelj Region

Visitors enjoy horse riding and visiting gers of nomads, while guide explains about animals and plants along the trail. They can also experience nomadic culture including rope work leashing a horse and local ger manners.



Discussion by ecotourism promotion group in Ugii Nuur Region

Almost all the stakeholders, including local people, tourist camp managers, and the government officials participated the promotion group. They discussed local issues, local tourism resources, and rules for sustainable utilization of resources.



Excursion ship tour in Hovsgol Region

The excursion ship tour used to dock at the island where seagulls and cormorants breed. A new rule has been established prohibiting to land on the island during the breeding period which helps to avoid stress on the birds.



The 4th Workshop on Reduction of Unintentional POPs in East Asian Countries

- For reducing unintentional POPs in the East Asian countries -

On December 14th – 15th 2010, the 4th Workshop on Reduction of Unintentional POPs* (U-POPs) in East Asian Countries was held in Tokyo. The workshop was attended by officials and experts from 11 East Asian countries (Japan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, South Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam), the United States, Germany, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the United Nations University (UNU). Opinions were exchanged on measures for reducing unintentional POPs in the East Asian countries. The outcome of the workshop was summarized as a chair's summary.



Participants in the workshop

Workshop on Reduction of Unintentional POPs in East Asian Countries

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) states that each country should implement measures to reduce emissions of unintentionally generated POPs, such as dioxins. The purpose of this workshop is to reduce POPs emissions in the East Asian countries, and officials and experts from the East Asian countries and relevant organizations have joined since 2006. At the workshop, opinions are exchanged on the sources of unintentional POPs and reduction measures.

Major achievements of the 4th Workshop

The agenda of the 4th Workshop includes “Improvement of the unintentional POPs inventories in East Asian countries,” “The spread of monitoring technology of Dioxins and POPs,” “The present situation of application of BAT/BEP (Best Available Techniques/ Best Environmental Practices) for the reduction measures in each country and development of technologies against U-POPs” and “The latest international information regarding Stockholm Convention, and current topics on new POPs.” After exchanging information of these agendas, the chair's summary was adopted. The followings are the main points of the chair's summary.

1. Through this workshop, the participants exchanged information on the current status, problems, and countermeasures relating to unintentional POPs in the East Asian countries, and knowledge has been shared among them.
2. The international circumstances surrounding POPs are changing significantly. At the Fourth Conference of Parties to the Stockholm Convention (COP4) in 2009, pentachlorobenzene was added to the list of specified unintentional POPs. While each of the East Asian countries has been working on the analysis and measurement of unintentional POPs, recently the risks caused by brominated flame retardants (BFRs) contained in electronic wastes (E-wastes) have also raised concerns.
3. In this workshop, it was reported that upgrading of the dioxins emission inventory in the East Asian countries and implementation of emissions reduction measures have been progressing smoothly, and it was agreed that these efforts should be continued. However, it was also pointed out that some countries have difficulties to conduct analysis on POPs which requires expensive instruments and highly advanced analytical techniques due to limited budgets and human resources. Simplified monitoring techniques should be further developed and encouraged to be utilized, especially in the field of screening. Also in order to properly address newly recognized POPs (new POPs), such as pentachlorobenzene (PCB) and brominated flame retardants (BFRs), knowledge should be continuously accumulated and shared in the East Asian countries.
4. Participants expressed their view that this workshop has been playing an important role in supporting East Asian countries for reducing unintentional POPs, upgrading the emission inventory, promote introduction of the suitable techniques, and share information on analytical and monitoring techniques. It was also pointed out that these achievements should be reflected in discussions at the Fifth Conference of Parties to the Stockholm Convention (COP5).

* POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants) are substances characterized by toxicity, poor degradability, bioaccumulation, and long-distance mobility. Unintentional POPs among these are POPs unintentionally generated during combustion processes, etc. which include dioxins.



Workshop 2010 of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes

– For preventing illegal transboundary movements of hazardous wastes in the Asian region –

From November 30th to December 2nd, 2010, Workshop 2010 of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes (The Asian Network Workshop (FY2010)) was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Participants included officers in charge of the Basel Convention from 11 Asian countries as well as relevant international agencies and experts. Participants discussed the repatriation of cargo in the event of illegal transboundary movements (TBM), also efforts and good practices by countries on criteria of environmentally sound management (ESM) for hazardous waste. Opinions were also exchanged on the future direction of the Asian Network.



Participants in the Asian Network Workshop (FY 2010)

The Asian Network Workshop

The Ministry of the Environment, Japan proposed the establishment of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes at the First Session of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention in 2003. The Asian Network aims to prevent illegal TBM of hazardous wastes, and implement ESM of those.

The purpose of Asian Network Workshop is to prevent illegal TBM of hazardous wastes by building capacity to implement the Basel Convention and to develop information exchange system (network) among relevant Asian countries in order to prevent any adverse effects to human health and the environment due to the environmentally unsound management.

The Asian Network Workshop has been held annually since 2004 mainly organized by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan. Each workshop is attended by officers in charge of the Basel Convention in the Asian region, and participants discuss the issues on TBM and ESM of hazardous wastes with strengthening cooperation in the whole region. As one of the outcomes of the past workshops, the participating countries have enhanced their capacity to implement ESM and appropriately enforce TBM of hazardous wastes since the first workshop in 2004.

Major achievements of the Asian Network Workshop (FY 2010)

(1) Reports on activities based on the Basel Convention

Reports were given on implementation of the Basel Convention in some participating countries regarding their domestic regulations for hazardous waste management, and statistical information. Issues on the implementation of the Basel Convention in the Asian region were also discussed.

(2) Countries' efforts on repatriation of hazardous wastes

Reports were given on the countries' efforts and issues of repatriation of illegally imported/exported hazardous waste cargo, and the reports revealed that the countries have common procedural and arrangement issues. In addition, the EU, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the USA introduced their efforts on repatriation of hazardous wastes, and proposed direction to appropriately conduct such procedures which were shared among the Asian countries.

(3) Issues on the Ban Amendment, and ESM of hazardous wastes in the Asian countries

For the information on the Ban Amendment, the result summarized under the country-led initiative launched by the government of Indonesian and Switzerland were reported, and opinions were also exchanged among the participating countries on ESM of hazardous wastes. In addition, in order to implement ESM of hazardous wastes, it was recommended that the information on facilities conducting ESM should be shared among the Asian countries.

(4) Future direction of the Asian Network

Action plan on the Asian Network and other related programmes were proposed by the Basel Convention Regional/Coordinating Centres located in Indonesia and China, and the options on the future direction of the Asian Network were discussed. It was agreed that the activities of the Asian Network should be continued under the cooperation of each Asian countries.

● Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes:

http://www.env.go.jp/en/recycle/asian_net/

● Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Asia and the Pacific: <http://www.bcrc.cn/>

● Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia: <http://www.bcrc-sea.org/>

● International approaches towards prevention of illegal transboundary movements of hazardous wastes (website of Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan): <http://www.env.go.jp/recycle/yugai/index4.html>



Lake Furen-ko and Sandbank Shunkuni-tai Join the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Site Network !

- For migratory waterbird conservation in the East Asian-Australasian region -

On October 4th 2010, Lake Furen-ko and Sandbank Shunkuni-tai (Nemuro City, Hokkaido, Japan), which the Ministry of the Environment Japan, had nominated to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Site Network under the PARTNERSHIP for the EAST ASIAN-AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY (EAAF Partnership*), were approved to join the network. Joining of this network means that the subject areas are recognized as an important wetland along the flyway of migratory waterbirds in the East Asian-Australasian region, and conservation efforts within the network will be conducted. The registration certificate was awarded to Nemuro City, Hokkaido, on November 7th 2010.



Lake Furen-ko is a blackish water lake connected to Nemuro Bay, and *Zostera* beds and mud flats are developing in the area. Shunkuni-tai is a sandbank formed between Lake Furen-ko and Nemuro Bay, and habitats of Sakhalin spruce (*Picea glehnii*) and large communities of sweetbrier (*Rugosa rose*) are developing in the area. These woodlands, grass lands, salt marshes, and mud flats provide a good environmental habitat for birds. Thus the area is considered important as a migration site and an intermediate resting site for migratory birds. The joined wetland area (about 6,139 ha) is designated as the Lake Furen-ko National Wildlife Protection Area, Special Protection Area, and has been inscribed as a registered wetland under the Ramsar Convention since November 2005.

The East Asian-Australasian Flyway Site Network

The East Asian-Australasian Flyway Site Network, established under the EAAF Partnership, is an international network of important habitats of migratory waterbirds living in the East Asian-Australasian region. This network aims to enhance migratory waterbird protection by creating a network of important habitats along the migratory waterbird flyway and conducting protection activities.

● Partnership for the East Asian Australasian Flyway:

<http://www.sizenken.biodic.go.jp/flyway/> (Japanese)

<http://www.eaaflyway.net/>

* This is an international framework which was launched in November 2006 under the initiative of the Government of Japan and Australia. EAAF Partnership aims at providing a framework for the international cooperation of various parties involved in migratory bird protection in the East Asian-Australasian region. Its major activities include establishing an international network of important habitats for migratory birds, developing its popularization and awareness, and promoting protection activities. As of February 2011, 25 parties have participated in this partnership, including the governments, international agencies, and international NGOs, and the joined wetlands consist of 94 sites (29 sites in Japan).

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