Keynote Speech

Keynote Speech, 11th NEAC

Progress and Prospective for Environmental Protection in China

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Dear Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

The 11th Northeast Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation as hosted by State Environmental Protection Administration opens today in Bo'ao, a beautiful seaside city in Hainan Province. First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to extend, on behalf of SEPA, my warm welcome to every attending delegate and sincere congratulation to the opening of the conference.

As a result of joint efforts from all member countries, NEAC has become an important mechanism for maintaining dialogue among governmental departments for environmental protection in China, Japan, Korea, Russia and Mongolia. In the 11 years since its establishment, understanding of the other member countries is enhanced through exchange of experiences and extensive dialogues and cooperation in environmental protection related areas.

Now, I would like to take this opportunity to give a brief review of environmental protection in China and our future planning.

China was formally admitted to WTO last year. China, as a

as environmental implications. The Chinese government, while concentrating on the trade and economic development, has included the concept of sustainable development as the basic national strategy and environmental protection as the basic national policy that should be adhered to for long term.

In light of the above, key indicators for sustainable development are included in the tenth five-year plan for national economic and social development. Capacity building of national environmental protection authorities is enhanced, and a number of eco-projects have been initiated. Enforcement of environmental protection is highlighted in the strategic reform of economic structure, and mitigation of environmental pollution is regarded as an important task in the optimization of the energy structure. As a result that ecological protection is greatly emphasized, planning in the development of the western area and the Three-Gorges Project are made by taking into full account of compliance with ecological rules.

Practice through the years has showed greater investment on ecological construction and environmental protection and leading role of the government over environmental protection and sustainable development. As indicated by statistics, a total sum of 580 billion RMB has been invested on environmental protection and ecological construction from 1998 to May of 2002.

As the world largest developing country, China has taken effective measures in realization of the double objectives

for poverty eradication and improvement of the environment. During the year 1998 to 2001, 42.7 billion RMB has been invested by the central government in vegetation protection, subsidy to the local farmers and encouraging measures to restore over-cultivated lands to forests and grasslands. By the end of 2001, great achievements have been made in ecological improvements with 1.18 million hectares of cultivated land restored as forests and grasslands and 1.1 million hectares of afforestation. In addition, great investment has also been made in pollution prevention and treatment, ecological construction, consumption of water resource, promotion of environmental protection related technology and capacity building in environmental monitoring.

In spite of the marked achievements in economic growth and environmental protection, China is now faced with the double challenge from domestic issues over sustainable development and counteractions against the globalization of world economy brought by China's entry into WTO. Urgent solutions to a number of issues need to be reached so as to maintain high economic growth and sustainable development in China. The issues are mainly the strategic reform of the current economic structure, radical change of economic growth model, population explosion, contradiction between rapid urbanization and weakness of urban infrastructures, ineffective control over ecological degradation and ecological destruction in some areas.

Taking into consideration of the above, China has adopted

objectives for environmental protection and development consistent with economic development.

The objectives are:

By the year 2005, reduce the total pollutant discharge by 10% and discharge of sulfur dioxide in dual-control regions by 20%, mitigate environmental pollution, bring ecological and environmental degradation under primary control, improve the quality of the environment in urban and rural areas especially in big and medium-sized cities.

Three major tasks for environmental protection are identified in the tenth five-year plan for environmental protection. Control the total pollutant discharge and mitigate environmental pollution. During the period in which the tenth five-year plan is implemented, the estimated annual growth of national economy is 7%, provided that 10% reduction, as compared with the figures in 2000, of total pollutant discharge be achieved by 2005. This should be realized through strategic reform of economic structure and measures to achieve win-win situation between economy and environment in industry, agriculture, and rural and urban areas.

Preventive measures over industrial pollution: strengthen environmental impact assessment for new projects, close down factories with heavy pollution based on legal requirements, encourage the overall compliance of discharge of industries and companies, promote cleaner production and actively establish eco-friendly industrial zones.

Preventive measures over agricultural and rural pollution: develop ecological and organic farming, promote organic production, strengthen environmental monitoring and supervision over food production base, enhance food safety and combine centralized pollution control over township enterprises with overall planning of local environmental protection.

Environmental protection measures in cities: enhance the construction of environmental infrastructure in cities, set up model cities for environmental protection and gradually cover the middle and western part of China.

Conduct treatment of environmental pollutions in key areas to maintain substantial improvement in the quality of the environment. Efforts in prevention and treatment of water pollution in key river valleys such as Huaihe River, Haihe River, Liaohe River, Taihu Lake, Chaohu Lake and Dianchi shall continue and treatment of air pollution shall be conducted in key areas with high sulfur dioxide discharge and high control requirements of acid rain. Integrated treatment of urban environment shall be conducted with special focus on the Green Olympic Games to be held in Beijing. Treatment of marine environment shall be conduct with special attention to Bohai Sea, and prevention and treatment of water pollution in the Three-Gorges water reservation areas and water transmission system throughout the north and south part of China shall be given great importance.

Ecological and environmental protection shall be emphasized so as to bring ecological and environmental degradation over control. Ecological and environmental investigation over the middle and eastern part of China shall be conducted and used as the basis for planning ecological functional areas in provinces and regions. Several areas for ecological protection have been set up in the head source of Yangzi River and Yellow River, Dongting Lake, Boyang Lake, Talimu River and north wing of Yinshan Mountain, etc. Efforts on the establishment of ecological provinces and model ecological regions shall continue. Construction and management of natural reserves shall be strengthened and wetland protection shall be emphasized and enhanced. Ecological protection shall be strengthened in developing the western part of China, with special regard to ecological protection measures in key projects such as gas and power transmission throughout the western and eastern part and construction of Qinghai-Tibet Railways.

To achieve the above, a combination of legal, economical and technical measures as well as necessary administrative measures shall be adopted. Economic policies and market-oriented mechanism shall also play an important role. The investment over pollution treatment as identified in the tenth five-year plan is 700 billion RMB, which accounts for 1.3% of the GDP during the same period. The Chinese government will develop and further improve favorable environmental

protection policies and probe the way to establish market-oriented mechanism that will direct more public investments to environmental protection. Cooperation with international organizations and multi-lateral developing institutions in ecological and environmental related areas shall be strengthened so as to attract more international funds, technology and talents to environmental protection projects. The Chinese government shall strengthen its commitments to environmental protection, develop economic and tax policies that facilitate environmental protection, improve preference measures over integrated resource consumption, expand financing of the capital market, reform the fee schedule on sewage discharge, and raise funds for environmental protection in various ways.

The market-oriented mechanism provides one of the effective solutions for environmental issues. Market orientation, enterprise focus and expertise shall be embedded in the pollution treatment mechanism in China. Disposal Fees for urban sewage garbage and solid waste shall be charged to attract foreign and domestic public investment on the construction of urban infrastructure for environmental protection. The fee schedule shall gradually be raised so as to ensure the normal functioning of the equipment installed. As we have estimated that the environmental protection industry in China will be growing at the rate of 15-20% in the coming 5 to 10 years. China has now entered into a new era of building a well-of

society in an all-round way and speeding up reforms and opening-up so as to achieve socialist modernization. Under the circumstance of globalization of the world economy and elaboration of labor division among countries, it has been recognized that economic growth as facilitated by technical progress based on interactions between information development and industrialization will form the trend for future development. Obsolete production methods with high resource consumption and heavy pollution would gradually be eliminated. This would require opening up and active cooperation. Environmental cooperation and exchange among countries would contribute to the solution of environmental issues in the global context. There is solid base for cooperation in the sub-region of Northeast Asia, especially among the five attending countries of individual strength and expertise. I believe that the NEAC will play an important and active role in facilitating environmental cooperation among all the member countries. At last, I would like to wish everyone a successful and fruitful meeting.

Thank you!

Keynote Speech

Northeast Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation
5 - 6 December 2002, Qionghai, Hainan Province, China

Noriyasu YAMADA
Councillor, Minister's Secretariat
Ministry of the Environment, Japan

Mr./Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor to have this opportunity to present my views on recent progress in international and domestic environmental management. My speech highlights, at first, some important international environmental issues, and then major focuses in Japanese environmental polices.

Global and Regional Issues

(1) Climate Change

I would like to start my speech with the issue of "climate change". Climate change could endanger our earth and therefore tackling with the issue calls for global participation. The Kyoto Protocol is the first and significant step to address the issue. Because the framework to implement the Protocol were finalized by Marrakech Accords at COP7 in November 2001, the current focus of the world is on the entry into force of the Protocol. The WSSD Plan of Implementation provides, States that have ratified the Protocol should strongly urge States that have not already done so to ratify the Protocol in a timely manner for the early into force. As of 13 November, 97 States ratified or acceded to the Protocol amounting 37.4% of the total carbon dioxide emissions for 1990 of these states.

The Japanese government ratified the Protocol on June 4, 2002. In order to achieve its six percent reduction target under the Protocol, the Japanese government adopted the New Guidelines of Measures to Prevent Global Warming in this March and amended the Climate Change Policy Law in this May. Under the Guidelines, the Japanese government adopts a "step-by-step" approach. In 2004 and 2007, the Government shall conduct a comprehensive review of the emission trends and the effectiveness of measures, and following the review additional measures will be conducted where necessary.

The government adopted the New Climate Change Program in March which compiles more than 100 packages of policies and measures.

With the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, we need to explore the ways to achieve the ultimate objective of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which is to stabilize the concentration of green house gasses to a safe level. The IPCC Third Assessment Report confirms that significant cuts in global emissions will be necessary to achieve the objective and therefore we need to take further steps following the Kyoto Protocol.

The COP8 of the UNFCCC in this November discussed issues concerning participation of developing countries in the efforts to address global warming. It is important that the mitigation actions already taken in both in Annex I and non-Annex I countries were noted in the Delhi Ministerial Declaration. The Declaration requires Parties to promote informal exchange of information on actions relating to mitigation and adaptation to address climate change. Informal information exchange is a small window of opportunity which has opened up for developing common rules enabling all countries to participate in carbon dioxide emission reduction. It is crucial whether we can take advantage of this window or not. In this regard, the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol and the effective voluntary actions to reduce per capita greenhouse gas emissions by China is highly appreciated in the international community.

(2) World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in this year was the crucial occasion to renew worldwide commitment and to accelerate the effort toward sustainable development. The Summit adopted the Plan of Implementation and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development.

Japan had worked actively to contribute to the success of the Summit all through the preparatory process including at sub-regional and regional levels. From the standpoint of environmental conservation, Japan highlighted two points. First point is the recognition that conservation of the global environment is an indispensable condition to achieve sustainable development. The second point is the importance of reformation of unsustainable production and consumption patterns both in developed and developing countries through improving efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and production processes, and reducing resource degradation, pollution and waste. Now, the follow-up of the Summit at the multilateral fora is important to make the Summit real success.

Type 2 partnership/initiatives are a unique and important component of the Summit outcome. They are unique because they are not negotiated agreements

but voluntarily declared commitments. They are programs and activities for sustainable development to be carried out in partnership of different countries or groups. Participants may include central and local governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. Japan submitted thirty initiatives in many areas including water, forest, biodiversity, energy, education and sanitation.

Water was one of the major issues at the Summit. Japan will host the Third World Water Forum (WWF) in March 2003 to continue the discussion on water issues in broad-range. The Forum will provide an opportunity for participants to share their experience with proven actions and best practice supported by sound research, science, and theory, that have facilitated sustainable solutions to water problems.

(3) Regional efforts

I would like to introduce some regional programs which are important for cooperation in northeast Asia sub-region.

<*Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among China, Korea and Japan*>

The Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among China, Korea and Japan (TEMM) continues to work to strengthen environmental cooperation among the three countries and also contributes to environmental conservation in Northeast Asia including Mongolia and east Russia. The fourth meeting was held in Seoul this April.

At this meeting, special attention was paid to dust and sand storm in this region. The three countries recognized the need to strengthen monitoring capacity to combat sandstorms. They also stressed the necessity to strengthen linkages with other environmental administration in this region and international organizations.

TEMM is also promoting project-style cooperation. Ongoing projects include an environmental education network, joint training of environmental officials, an environmental industry roundtable and website. The three countries share the responsibility and cost of the projects. Projects are managed with the participation of many stakeholders including researchers, NGOs and the business community.

<Asia Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED)>

The Asia Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED) was formally launched last October. In order to explore a model for sustainable development, which is fair and suitable for Asia Pacific region. APFED consists of 23 members and is expected to compile a final report by the end of 2004. The first meeting was held in Thailand in January of this year and the second one was held in Indonesia in May.

The Indonesia meeting focused on the APFED message to WSSD which consists of recommendations and commitments. The recommendations deal with specific topics including fresh water resources, renewable energy, trade, finance and urbanization as well as cross cutting issues such as good governance and capacity building. The third substantive meeting is scheduled to be held in Guilin, China in January 2003.

<Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) >

It is concerned that acid deposition would give serious impact in North-east Asian region as industry in this region grows in the future. Substance causing acid deposition is transported for very long distance across the border so that international cooperation is necessary to combat with this problem. Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia started its activities on a regular basis in January 2001. Currently twelve countries are participating, which are China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Forth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting and Second Scientific Advisory Committee on EANET were convened in November 2002 in Bangkok, Thailand. In the Intergovernmental Meeting, delegates from participating countries discussed important issues to future development of EANET, such as the Work Program and budget for 2003, future financial arrangement. And Lao PDR was approved to be a new participating country.

<ASEAN+3 Environment Ministers Meeting>

Representatives from China, Japan and Korea met with ASEAN environment ministers on 21 November in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic. It was the first ministerial meeting between ASEAN and three countries. The meeting discussed the potential areas for future environmental cooperation among ASEAN and three countries and agreed to send a consultative mission to these countries.

Progress in Domestic Environment Policies

(1) Establishment of a Recycling-based Society

Japan faces some serious problems related to waste, including shortage of landfill capacity, illegal dumping and dioxin emissions. More fundamentally, waste reduction and recycling are necessary in order to achieve sustainable production and consumption patterns.

The Basic Law for Establishing a Recycling-based Society was enacted in May 2000. The "Extended Producer Responsibility" principle was adopted in the law. The government has been developing a basic plan to implement the law. Recycling regulations for containers and packaging, some household appliances, construction and demolition waste, and food waste have been added to the regulatory framework for waste management.

Proper management of scrapped automobiles is an important area of recycling as five million of cars and trucks are disposed of in Japan every year. The government promulgated a new law for the promotion of end-of-life vehicles recycling in July this year.

(2) Biodiversity and Natural Environment

Japan is endowed with rich biodiversity. It is a big challenge to conserve it under the strong pressure of the large population and economic activities in such a small country.

The first National Strategy on Biological Diversity was adopted in 1995 according to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The government revised the Strategy in March 2002. The revised Strategy was given more important status as the mid- and long-term plan for the whole government.

The government launched the Nature Restoration Project last fiscal year. The Project aims to restore or rehabilitate once impaired areas for development to their own healthy ecosystems. The government started a wetland restoration project which restores the natural course of a river which has been straightened for flood control. The Diet adopted a nature restoration bill yesterday. It could provide solid base to pursue this type of projects with participation of multi-stakeholders.

(3) Environmental Pollution

Japan has been strengthening measures for environmental pollution especially in

newly emerged areas and more difficult areas.

Soil contamination in urban areas poses serious concern to human health and the environment. It also becomes a grave problem from the viewpoint of land utilization. The Soil Contamination Control Law was enacted this year to deal with this problem. The law provides for obligatory investigation of soil contamination, the inventory of contaminated sites and administrative order to the polluter or land owner for cleaning up the contaminated sites.

In regard to air pollution in metropolitan areas caused by motor vehicle emissions, the government has set up more stringent emission limits for newly-produced vehicles. The Automobile NOx and Particulate Matter Control Law, which was strengthened in 2001, provides various measures for vehicles, including particulate matter emission regulation for diesel vehicles. The government promotes the use of low emission vehicles including natural gas and hybrid vehicles. It is scheduled to change all government-owned vehicles for ordinary use amounting to 7,000 units to low-emission vehicles by 2004.

With regard to the multilateral environmental agreements, Japan acceded to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on 30 August this year. The Ministry of the Environment has been conducting environmental risk assessments of chemical substances including suspected endocrine disrupters. The Ministry of the Environment has worked on preparation for the ratification of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety including submission of a bill to the next ordinary session of the Diet in 2003.

(4) Environmental Activities in the Private Sector

One recent focus of Japanese environmental policy is to encourage good environmental management in the private sector. The Ministry of the Environment has been promoting such activities as environmental management system, environmental accounting and environmental reporting in the private sector.

Because the government is a big sector consuming goods and services itself, green governmental procurement is an important step to decrease environmental pressure from the public sector. This approach would develop a market and promote production of environmentally friendly goods and services. The Law concerning the Promotion of Procurement of Eco-Friendly Goods and Services by the State and Other Entities (green procurement law) was enacted in 2000. An

inventory of and criteria for eco-friendly goods have been prepared and reviewed every year based on the law.

Mr./Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In closing, I would like to thank the State Environmental Protection Administration of China, China Environment Protection Foundation, and Land, Environment and Resource Department of Hainan Province Government. I sincerely hope that this eleventh meeting of the Northeast Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation will be a forum for further enhancement of environmental exchange in the region.

Thank you for your kind attention.

KEYNOTE SPEECH

The 11th Northeast Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation
Hainan Province, China, 5-6 December 2000

Presented by Jae-Young Ko,
Director General of the International Cooperation Bureau,
Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea

(1) Introduction

Honorable Chairperson, and ladies and gentlemen!

It is a great pleasure for me to join you today at this gathering of environmental stakeholders on behalf of the Korean government to discuss the latest environmental issues and environmental policy achievements in each country. I extend my gratitude to the State Environmental Protection Administration of China for their superb organization of the 11th NEAC in this beautiful province of Hainan as well as to the China Environment Protection Foundation (CEPF) and the Government of Hainan for their support.

(2) Evaluation of the NEAC

The first Northeast Asia Conference on Environment Cooperation(NEAC) was first held in 1992 with officials from 5 countries in Northeast Asia participating. These participants came to an agreement that local governments, NGOs and other interested parties should join the conference to turn it into an open policy forum where various environmental issues can be discussed. Ever since then, it has contributed to promoting a mutual understanding and increasing public environmental awareness among different countries.

Since the emphasis on the importance of regional environmental cooperation at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, various multilateral cooperative channels have been established, such as the **NEAC**, **NEASPEC**(the Northeast Asian Subregional Program on Environmental Cooperation), **TEMM**(the Tripartite Environmental Ministers' Meeting) and **Eco-Asia**(the Environment Congress for Asia and Pacific) in an effort to jointly seek solutions to regional environmental problems in Northeast Asia. Although all the programs are important for their own distinct functions, NEAC is especially meaningful in that it retains several distinctive features, and based on these features, it has been performing a significant role in various Northeast Asian regional environment cooperation projects.

<Diversity of the Participants>

First of all, NEAC is a discussion forum attended by environmental officials, local governments, NGOs as well as many other interested parties, for an open discussion and exchange of knowledge and information. Especially The 10th NEAC, held in Incheon in 2001, was especially meaningful in that the first NGO session was held; NGO delegates of the Northeast Asian regions as well as internationally active NGO representatives participated to discuss diverse environmental issues and regional cooperation plans.

<Diversity of the Topics>

The second feature of NEAC is the diversity of the agenda items. Subject matters discussed in NEAC is unlimited in its scope (encompassing water quality, atmosphere, wastes, biodiversity, acid rain, climate change, regional environmental cooperation as well as many other global environmental issues). Therefore, host nations have chosen their own issue of interest besides the ones of common concern to the whole region, as the main topic of the conference.

<Policy Development Forum>

Thirdly, NEAC serves as a forum for policy development through the sharing of information and experience, including various outcomes from the implementation of respective environmental policies in each nation.

<Starting Point of New Cooperation Projects>

Even though NEAC does not undertake any specific collaboration projects or have resources, it has laid the foundation for more extensive collaboration in Northeast Asia, as demonstrated by the conclusion of environmental treaties and TEMM activities through both formal and informal discussions among Korea, China, and Japan during the North-East Asia Conference on Environment Cooperation.

Accordingly, as a development strategy in the future, the above mentioned features of the NEAC should be utilized effectively. At the 9th NEAC held in Mongolia, Korea proposed a new framework for regulating the objective and functions of the NEAC, in which the structure of NEAC is divided into governmental session (I & II), local governmental session (III), and NGO session (IV) to ensure participation of NGOs and the local governments.

However, the capacity of the local governments and the NGOs differ in accordance the circumstances of each nation, and some local governments and NGOs are not capable enough to form a global network. But since the role of local governments and NGOs are becoming more essential in settling regional environmental problems, each nation should make an effort to ensure their participation and sponsor the formation of their network.

<Basic Direction and Major Environmental Policies of the 21st Century>

Next, I will give you a brief overview of the basic direction for Korea's environmental policies and major accomplishments of recent environmental policies.

(3) Basic Direction of the Environmental Policy in the 21st Century

In the dawn of the 21st century, the Ministry of Environment is trying to promote policies for the environmental preservation based on the following basic policy paradigm.

First, we're seeking to achieve an economic growth based on the environmental preservation, and implement an environmental preservation policy which can contribute to the economic development.

Second, we plan to shift from supply-based policy to the one that focuses on demand management, while stressing the need for resource use efficiency.

Third, in dealing with environmental problems, we instituted a preventive framework in which the

aggregate environment and pollutants are pre-assessed and taken into consideration.

Fourth, since today's environmental problems require full-scale involvement from every member of the society, we're trying to institute an environmental administration system that secures citizens' full participation and their collaborative partnership.

(4) Introduction of the Major Policies

Within the framework of the environmental policy paradigm mentioned above, I will introduce you two major projects which the Korea Ministry of Environment is focusing on - the Prior Environmental Review System, and the Eco-2 Project.

<The Prior Environmental Review System>

As part of the Prior Environmental Review System, the Ministry of Environment is implementing the 1) Blue Sky 21 Project, 2) Comprehensive Measures for Water Management of the Four Major Rivers, 3) Resource-cycling Waste Management, and the 4) Framework for Sustainable Land Management.

1)Blue Sky 21 Program

First, In order to bring up Korea's air quality to the level of advanced countries by 2012, our government initiated the Blue Sky 21 Project. Blue Sky 21 introduces total pollution load management, and the emissions trading system in which industries that generate pollutants below the allowable level can sell their emission permits to those that have not.

In addition, Blue Sky 21 contains comprehensive measures to abate air pollution from automobiles. For manufactured vehicles, emissions standards will be strengthened while the supply of zero to low-emission vehicles expanded.

2) Comprehensive Measures for Water Management of the Four Major Rivers

Second, After establishing the comprehensive water quality protection measures in 1998 for Paldang Reservoir, which supplies drinking water to 20 million people in Seoul and its vicinities, Korea proceeded with the efforts to provide clean water to every citizen by formulating similar measures and laws for the other three major rivers. These measures introduce the total pollution load management, the User Pays Principle and the designation of riparian buffer zones.

With the completion of this step, Korea became one of the few countries in the world that administers holistic and precautionary policies to all of the major river watersheds.

3) Resource-cycling Waste Management

Third, Korea introduced the Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) system in recent on a voluntary basis, in which the producers of 6 kinds of products*(home appliances, glass, fluorescent bulbs, PET bottles, metal cans, tires, and lubricants)* agreed to treat their discarded products in an environmentally sound manner. EPR will be enforced by law starting January 2003.

4)Framework for Sustainable National Land Management

To prevent reckless development and preserve ecosystem integrity, the Ministry of Environment is strengthening national land management measures. First of all, we plan to preserve the Korean peninsula as an ecological organic structure by establishing an cological Network" with the Great Baekdu Mountain Range, the DMZ, and the coastal and island areas as the three major eco-axis. Also, we will develop and provide a "national ecosystem map" and "national ecosystem information network."

<Eco-2 Project 2002>
In order to realize sustainable development, Korea developed the Eco-2 Project. The project seeks to achieve Symbiosis between Environment and Economy through the development of clean technology and industry and the integration of environmental and economic policies.

Environmental technology development is one of the main components of the Eco-2 Project. Starting in 2001, Korea has been implementing the 10-year Eco-Technopia 21 project for the development of cutting-edge technologies. With the investment fund of 830 million USD, the project supports about 100 specific projects.

Environmentally friendly business management is another principal component of the Eco-2 Project. As of August 2002, 131 companies have been issued a certificate for outstanding management. *(These companies are linked through the Nationwide Environment Network in which they exchange information and provide technical assistance and consultation services to small- to medium-sized enterprises.)*

(5) Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to make a number of proposals regarding ways to better implement regional cooperation projects and secure budget for the strengthening of regional environmental cooperation in Northeast Asia.

1) The securing of funds and cost sharing among countries for regional environmental cooperation is the biggest challenge that we must address. In order to make multilateral cooperation projects successful, voluntary participation from countries is essential. And to induce voluntary participation, we must guarantee equal opportunities for participation in cooperation projects and create an environment for voluntary contribution to the project fund. TEMM projects among Korea, China and Japan are an outstanding example for this. While the three countries participate equally in the joint projects, costs incurred by project implementation for environmental improvement in a particular country is borne by that country.

2) Moreover, we should find ways to involve international bodies like ADB, GEF, World Bank, UNEP, and ESCAP in environmental cooperation projects in Northeast Asia. At the 4th TEMM held in Seoul last April, Korea, China and Japan agreed to invite participation and financial support from international bodies in our fight against dust storms and desertification. Recently, the three countries and Mongolia have accelerated our efforts to let people know that dust storm and desertification in Northeast Asia are not confined to a particular country or region, but constitute a global problems that requires prompt global action. As a result, dust storm prevention project*(Technical Assistnance for prevention and control of dust and sandstorms in NE Asia)* received 1 million USD from GEF and ADB starting in early 2003. We plan to develop and implement a preliminary project with the participation of countries from Northeast Asia and international bodies starting next month.

The development of a joint project with international funding is a huge achievement for the environmental diplomacy of our region, and it gives us a lot to think about in terms of strengthening environmental cooperation in Northeast Asia. One thing that we must continue making efforts at is to let the world know that environmental problems in our region are global environmental problems that have serious effects for our collective future.

With this final note, I would like to close my presentation. Thank you ladies and gentlemen. And thank you again to the Government of China, CEPF and Hainan Government for hosting this meaningful conference.

Keynote speeches By Kh. Khishigjargal, Officer of Strategic Planning and Mangement Department of Ministry of Nature and Environment of Mongolia.

The natural environment of Mongolia is very sensitive and means to restore it after certain disasters are very limited; therefore , it is not easy to protect the natural environment from degradation. During the transition towards a market economy, we are in great danger of loosing our ecological balance. This mainly because organizations and private citizens are using our natural resources in unsustainable ways only for their own personal gain, without any responsibilty for the future. We have urgent need to create pre-conditions to control the use of our natural resources and to maintain the ecological balance in our nature.

Mongolia through its Constitution, 1992, has assured or guaranteed the right of citizen's to live in healthy and safe environment and stated that public shall own the land and natural resources and protected by the state. Based on this fundamental principle Mongolia is quided by sustainable and eco oriented socio- economic development policy in harmony with the nature. Creation of legal basis for the environment and natural resources protection and rehabilitation are to pay more attention of the Mongolian Government, which are included to the package of 25 environmental laws, passed by the State Great Khural since 1994. In addition to this nearly 23 Environmental National Programs on protecting biological diversity, Combating desertification, Water and Special Protected areas and others were approved during this period and currently under the implementation.

Mongolia also has joined to 10 International Environmental Conventions since 1994. The main trend of Mongolian development in the 21 century is based on the principles of sustainable development. In order for Mongolia to reach susutainable development, it has to shape a social economy policy , which will provide a sustained grouth in its GDP, this can be achieved through the introduction of ecologically sound technology and the production of quality products that can meet the needs of population. In 1997, government policy on ecology was developed and deliberated by the Parliament. The document is aimed to establish legal and economic bases for achieving ecological balance which is central ideal of Mongolian sustainable development for the next twenty years. Within the government action plan included main objectives and 3 of them are environmental priority issues included: a) to provide sustainable development, ecological balance; b) promote of land reform; and c) mitigation of air, water, soil and environmental pollution in the major towns. The implementation of Good governance on human security Program of the Mongolian Government for the period 2001-2004 will be important step for the activity and Policy for the future sustainable development of the country.

Currently we are developing the Poverty Reduction strategy in Mongolia. Whilst people living in poverty are seldom the principal creators of environmental damage, they often bear the brunt of environmental damage and are often caught in a downward spiral, whereby the poor are forced to deplete resources to survive, and this degradation of the environment further impoverishes people.

The original sources of economic and social development of Mongolia are territory and natural resources. Last september Mongolian Parliament has approved the new "Land law" and "Law on land privatization to Mongolian citizen" which will play very significant role for protection and sustainable use of land resources.

In our difficult economic situation, international cooperation, programs and projects all will have an important role. For example, there are several ongoing projects on environmental protection, elaboration of some legislation, training of national staff, equipment needs in which international participation is needed. An excellent opportunity has surfaced whereby taking an active role in implementing the projects and programs in relation to the above mentioned policy documents and in using effectively financially effective sources such as the Global Environmental Facility . We are now facing , the problem of Global climatic changes, which may have several negative impacts on the ecological systems and on the socio economic development of Mongolia, and which therefore, needs special attention.

Northeast Asia possesses enormous and complementary potential in geopolitical. High technology, capital and know how terms, as well as in labor and natural reources, but it remains virtually unexplored. This potential has the possibility to propel the region into a position where it could become largest and most powerful economic area in the world. It is good that there are a number of mechanisms for monitoring and supervision of environment within and beyond North East Asia including the East Asia Asid deposition monitoring network (EANET) , the Action plan for the Protection, Management, and Development of Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP), and the Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN). Currently, there is no mechanism specially addressing water issues at the subregional level in North –East Asia. There are many areas where further efforts must be made in the implementation of Agenda 21. In the Northeast Asian subregion, China and Mongolia are seiously affected by the land degradation and desertification. Both countries have adopted national action programmes to combat desertification. Currently, there is no specific mechanism for cooperation regarding biodiversity conservation in Northeast Asia.

The diversity and complexity of ecolgical systems and mechanisms of natural disasters , as well as their international dimention require international cooperation to promote observation, research and the development of relevant technologies. There is also growing need to enhance the sharing of scientific data and encourage its use worldwide through making the best use of information tehcnology. The existing mechanisms and other existing platforms in monitoring and supervision of environment within and beyond North-East Asia to be strengthened and expanded in their activities. In addition to these already existing mechanisms, there is the need for the subregion to develop innovate ways to link monitoring and assessment activities and the actual process of formulating policies. In order to foster subregional cooperation to combat desertification and land degradation, the opportunities provided by the current climate change mehcanisms could foster joint efforts from both countries affected by desertification and other countries not directly affected but having potential to contribute to the solution of these problems. In that prespective, mechanisms and potential under the Kyoto Mechanism or other possible frameworks could be explored at the subregional level.

The establishment of networks among national actors involved in biodiversity conservation activities and organization of workshops that would serve as forums for exchange of information and experience. Using such mechanisms can enable countries to cooperate in identifying and designating tarnsboundary protected areas and promote a regional inventory of critical ecosystems, habitats and species in the subregion . In long term perspective, developing subregional arrangement s similar to the ASEAN Agreement on the Conservation of Nature and Ntural Resources and the ASEAN framework protocol on access to genetic and biological resources could be considered .

Creating such mechanism especially addressing water issues in NEA for the exchange and sharing of experiences and developing general principles and minimum standards for the sustainable management of water is desirable. Strategic water management plans should be prepared that cover the complete basin in order to coordinate water management between the different jurisdictions and offer a framework for negotiation on how to find solutions for upstream – downstream conflicts.

Enhansing the activities, of the existing mechanisms such as EANET and developing ways to ensure cooperation among them would foster effective subregional cooperation towards sustainable development. Given that North East Asia is composed of countries at different levels of development , mechanisms for regional cooperation through wich technology can be transferred from more advanced countries to less developed ones can offer opportunities for improving production process industries. Developing networks among such national organizations will enable countries to exchange experiences and promote technical cooperation in the area of cleaner production.

Air Pollution

The most serious pollution problem in Ulaanbaatar is the air pollution which caused by low quality technologies used in small and medium sized industries associated with the fact that operators don't have sufficient training and knowledge in pollution issues. The main sources of the Ulaanbaatar's pollution are; power station, ger areas and car. 4 thermal power plants, which are using 5 million tons of coal annually more than 40.000 automobiles from 500 different brands, 75.000 gers households which are use 200.000 tons of coal and 160.000 m3 of firewood for fuel, dusts from eroded and degraded lands, 65.000 hectares of coal ash reservoir, 250 coal fired boilers using 400.000 tons of coal are increasing the air pollution of Ulaanbaatar and stimulating the diseases caused from a population. According to the research 90 kg of poisoned emissions are allocated per 1 citizen of Ulaanbaatar

48 percent of Ulaanbaatar's pollution gers, Mongolian traditional housing units. Wood and coal are used in household stoves for cooking and heating in every single ger. Toxic substances such as carbon monoxide are emitted into the air and are spread to the neighborhood from the stoves short stacks affecting the health of inhabitants in the ger area. We have no pollution control devices in use. For emissions from wood and coal fuel.

During the bitterly cold and long winters, smoke – attributable to incomplete combustion of 75.000 ger district household stoves, lies over towns. It is major cause of respiratory complaints and diseases. Air pollution index in Ulaanbaatar is 2-5 times higher than permissible. Mongolia has one of the highest greenhouse emissions in the world. Each ger district family expenduture on fuel is about 100.000 –120.000 tugrics / about 110$ US / per year and half of this expenduture is being wasted due to the low energy efficiency of existing stoves. Low energy efficiency of existing stoves is a major source of air pollution and increase of wastes. Therefore, the wide adoption of new stoves with improved combustion and low emission of gases, low fuel consumption will not only make a contribution to the protection of environment but furthermore, it will have valuable impact on social development. The prefeasibility studies carried out earlier have revealed that the most significant way to reduce air pollution is to improve existing heating stoves in ger districts. 3Improved household stoves in Mongolian urban centers3 Project will be implemented during 2001-2004 by technical assistance and funding from Global Environmental Facility and World Bank .

The plans to arrange transportation in Ulaanbaatar city are usually only practically oriented and hence the effects and consequences on environment are either not considered or are heavily held

in Ulaanbaatar. These cars are usually second hand vehicles which are in a poor condition. Pollution control devices are lacking also in this field.
Hitherto no one has had automatic analyzer to measure hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, sulfur compounds, carbon monoxide and dust.

- Create the law basis for air pollution
- Introduce filtration equipment for toxic emissions of cars and control the emissions
- Install smoke filters for power plants
- Produce and distribute low smoked full stoves for ger districts
- Establish mobile laboratory for controlling air pollution

Pollution and scarcity of water reserves

As researched, due to the fact of 20% of total inhabitants are drinking water, which is over mineralized, 68% of population is drinking water with low contents of iodine and fluorine are there is a tendency of increasing urinal, urological and teeth caries diseases

As researched, in a water sources around the Tuul river during the winter and spring season from January to April soil water level decreases and declines to 3.5-14 meters.
Water supplier authority of Ulaanbaatar is using water from unusable water reserves /static/ and that certifies there is danger of loss Eco-balance.

The Tuul river is of vital importance in Mongolia since it is the source of drinking water for a large part of the Mongolian people and a source of process water for industries. However, the river is strongly polluted, with BOD and ammonia concentrations exceeding the maximum permissible level 10 to 50 times.

In order to improve above issues the Netherland's government assisting industries to introduce clean technologies and waste water pretreatment systems and assisting the government to work out a polluter-pays-principle adapted to the Mongolian situation.
This project is implementing since 2000 to demonstrate the environmental and financial benefits of cleaner production and effluent pretreatment to the Mongolian industry by implementing them in one model factory, assissting the Mongolian government to desing feasible effluent standarts for industries and fee system for waste water discharge, to propose a viable system of industrial effluent monitoring by a self-supporting laboratory and indicate and demostrate how the Mongolian Environmental Trust Fund can be linked to the process of cleaning up the industry

The benefit of this project is reduction of Pollution Tuul river by implementing a clean technologies in undustry, development of effluent standards, fee system of industry, the set up of a self supporting wastewater monitoring laboratory.

In Mongolian cities wasteful utilization of water and unsatisfied counting and controlling system.
To take measure on water counting and improve the control on water utilization

- Improve the water management in central region of Mongolia and to introduce the water recycling system
- Establish subsoil water monitoring network
- Soften and freshened the drinking water in Gobi and steppe region
- Renovate and expand water purifying system

MAJOR ISSUES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The past year in many countries and also in the Russian Federation has been marked by the preparatory processes for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Accordingly this year was characterized by a greater environmental activity on the national as well as on the international level.

The environmental trends in Russia in general have been characterized with a steady decline of pollutant emission and wastewater discharge. But since 2000 as the economic growth has started the environmental impact has increased. The economy is still retaining its resources and energy consuming type, and it represents a serious environmental threat.

In 2002, January a new Federal Law "On Environmental Protection" has been adopted. For the recent years there also have been adopted the a number of the other legislative acts (on environmental insurance, environmental certification, etc). There are under consideration the drafts of the new Federal Water Code, Federal Forest Code and Federal Subsurface Code. The National Report on the State of the Environment is being published annually.

In 2002 August by the Government the political document "Environmental Doctrine of Russia" has been approved which was purposed to enhance the environmental component of the national activity in support of the sustainable development.

In concordance with the document the national environmental policy is built up basing on the following principles:

- the conservation and rehabilitation of natural ecosystems, their biodiversity and self-regulating capacity as a major prerequisite of the human existence;
- the sustaining use and an equal access to natural resources;
- the provision of favorable environment for well-being and quality of life of the national population.

There has been developed the Plan of Actions of the Environmental Protection and Use of Natural Resources for the period 2003-2005. The previous one was developed for 1999-2001, the implementation of which has been hampered by the administrative reform of the environmental and nature use agencies in 2000.

In order to retain the former functions of the liquidated agencies there have been established within the framework of a single ministry the State Environmental Protection Service, the State Geological Service, the State Water Service, the State Forest Service complemented by the Service of

the Control of the Environmental Safety and Nature Use. All the services perform the administrative governance as relatively independent bodies. As a result of merging of the State Forest Service and the State Environmental Committee in May, 2000 the united system of management of the national parks and natural reserves has been formed.

In 2001 the territorial governance of Russia has been enhanced by the system of federal districts (okrugs). Accordingly there have been established the Department of the Environmental Control of the Siberian Federal District (Okrug) composed of 16 Subjects of Federation and the Department of the Environmental Control of the Far Eastern Federal District (Okrug) composed of 9 Subjects of Federation. They have been established to provide coordination of the environmental activity over huge territories. They will also accumulate the environmental information over the region of the North Eastern Asia. Besides in the Far East there has been established the Specialized Inspectorate on the Protection of the Rare and Endangered Species ("Inspectorate Tiger").

At present the staff number of the Ministry and its affiliation bodies in the districts amounts to 2,5 th. people.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has developed the Concept of improvement of management of water resources based on the basin approach and the National Plan of Actions addressed to development of the water industry of Russian Federation "Water Resources of Russia – 21". These documents have been issued in implementation of the Water Initiative of the European Union and former USSR countries for sustainable development which was presented at the World Summit.

In June, 2001 at the Public Forum there has been approved the National Strategy on the Biodiversity Conservation and accordingly the National Plan of Actions. The support for the regional biodiversity strategies has been rendered. The innovative economic and financial instruments of the Biodiversity Conservation have been approbated. The Environmental Program of the Baikal biodiversity protection has been developed.

In Russia there has been established a unique system of specially protected natural areas of national and international significance composed of state natural reserves, national parks, state natural reserves, natural monuments, natural parks. The total area amounts to 136,6 mln.ha - 8% of the national territory. For the 1991-2002 the number of reserves has been increased from 75 to 100, and their territory - from 20 to 33 mln.ha (by 65%). That of national parks has increased from 17 to 35 and the territory – by 90%.

The positive example of international cooperation with the North Eastern Asian countries is the establishment of transboundary reserves: "Lake Xingkai/ Khanka Lake", the "Daurskiy-Dalainor-Daguur".

The Russia part of Asia is remarkable for the two nature objects of international significance – the Baikal Lake and the Amur River.

The Baikal basin is governed by the Federal Law "On the Lake Baikal Protection", and its central zone is also under jurisdiction of the Convention on the World Heritage. In August, 2001 the Decree of the Russian Government on the List of prohibited activities in the Central Zone was approved.

In the Far East region there is a growing concern over the state of the water environment of the Amur River. These problems will be discussed at the International conference on the Water Protection in the North East Asia in Khabarovsk on 26-30th May, 2003.

The international cooperation is of primary importance for the Russian Federation.

The greenhouse gaseous emissions in our country have been reduced by the one third (amounts to 60% of the world reduction). Russian Federation has sighed the Kyoto Protocol and is pushing its ratification in near future.

On the initiative of the President of the Russian Federation in autumn, 2003 in Russia there will be held the International Conference on the Climate Change which will present a good chance to discuss some points of joint programs and also the issue of the global environmental services relevant to global climate problems.

In May, 2002 Russia has signed the International Convention on Persistent Organic Polluters (Stockholm Convention), and the national conference there was approved a decision to develop a Plan of Actions on implementation of the Convention.

Russian Federation has a commitment for further development of the bilateral cooperation with the North East Asian countries basing on intergovernmental agreements - Japan, Chinese Public Republic, Republic of Korea, under consideration the agreement with Mongolia.

In the Far East of Russia and also in Siberian region the bilateral cooperation in the environmental sphere between regional administrations has been on a progress especially with Chinese regional administration. A number of agreements on nature and water protection have been signed or just under approval process.

According to the recent federal legislation the regional governments are empowered with greater authority to perform international cooperation activity. They participate in governmental and non governmental organisations – Northern Forum and so on.

On 20-22th March, 2002 in Vladivostok there was arranged the 7th Intergovernmental Meeting on the NOWPAP program which has been implemented since 1991 under the supervision of the UNEP.

To summing up, Russia has a growing interest in the development of environmental cooperation in the North Eastern Asia, and recently confirmed its commitment to arrange in Russia next year the Conference of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in the NEA within the framework of the ESCATO.

Ministry of Natural Resources of Russian Federation

STATEMENT BY REPRESENTATIVE OF UNEP

NEAC Meeting

5 December 2002, Hainan

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Since this is my first time to participate in the NEAC (Northeast Asian Conference for Environmental Cooperation) meeting as a UN official, it gives me great pleasure to be amongst you and to make an address, on behalf of Mr. Nirmal Andrews, Regional Director and Representative of UNEP, to this important meeting.

As far as I know, there are several environmental forums in this sub-region such as NEASPEC (Northeast Asian Sub-regional Programme for Environmental Cooperation), NOWPAP (North West Pacific Action Plan) and TEMM (Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting). Among others, NEAC provide the unique forum for participating countries and international organizations.

The Northeast Asia is one of the most dynamic and diverse regions of the world. It contains one of the richest and most highly developed countries of the world as well as some of the poorer and underdeveloped countries and areas. It also contains the largest country in the world with one fourth of the world population. Because of the dynamism and diversity, the Northeast Asia is the most difficult sub-region in Asia and the Pacific in terms of sub-regional environmental cooperation. There is no legal framework and no institutional body for environmental cooperation in this sub-region unlike other sub-regions such as Southeast Asia, South Asia and South Pacific.

Therefore, NEAC provide us with the valuable platform for environmental cooperation in this sub-region. In this regard, our Office places special importance on this sub-region. Let me give you some examples of the UNEP's activities in this sub-region.

First of all, I am pleased to inform the meeting that "UNEP/SEPA First Northeast Asian Sub-regional Workshop towards the Effective Implementation of the Chemicals and Hazardous Waste Conventions" was held on 15-17 May 2002 in Beijing. The workshop recommended that more policy dialogue on chemical issues should be promoted through the existing forums such as NEAC. Chemical pollution, particularly pollution by POPs or Persistent Organic Pollutants, is surfacing as one of priority agenda in the world since the Stockholm Convention was adopted. As a matter of fact, I came here from Japan just after I attended the Workshop on Environmental Monitoring of POPs in the East Asian Countries that was held on 2-3 December in Tokyo.

Secondly, yellow sand issue is becoming one of the urgent environmental agenda in this sub-region as indicated in the Fourth TEMM's communique. UNEP is actively coping with this issue. In the end, an epoch-making ADB/TA & GEF/MSP project proposal on Prevention and Control of Dust and Sandstorms in Northeast Asia was formulated as a collaborative project of 4 international agencies (UNEP, ADB, ESCAP and UNCCD) and

4 countries (China, Mongolia, Korea and Japan). This project will start from next month after the official approvals of ADB and GEF are obtained.

Thirdly, EANET (Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia) is also actively promoted by UNEP since the secretarial role was transferred from the Interim Secretariat at MOE of Japan to UNEP/RRC.AP at Bangkok early this year. The three staff-members for the EANET Secretariat were already recruited and started its operation. The 4th Inter-governmental Meeting was just held last week in Bangkok.

Last but not least, let me remind you that the Plan of Implementation of WSSD puts a strong focus on initiatives, experiences and institutional set-up at the regional level. In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that UNEP is now considering the strategy for regional implementation of WSSD. Once the strategy is adopted, I can say with no doubt that the role of regional offices will become larger than ever with a special focus on the Asia and Pacific region, in particular this sub-region, that is, Northeast Asia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

UNEP would like to be actively involved in environmental cooperation in this sub-region in association with NEAC and hope to make as much contribution as possible to effectively addressing the urgent and important environmental problems in the sub-region. I thank you for your kind attention and for giving me this valuable opportunity to share with you the UNEP activities as a committed partner in managing the Northeast Asian region's environment.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.