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Session 3, 11th NEAC

World Summit on Sustainable Development and
Enhancement of Environmental Cooperation in Northeast Asia

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Dear Distinguished Guests:

Good morning. It gives me great honor to make a speech over the world summit on sustainable development and the enhancement of environmental cooperation in Northeast Asia.

Ten years after the United Nation's Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) was held in September this year at Johannesburg. Implementation of Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 and the progress for global sustainable development were reviewed during WSSD, and Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and Plan of Implementation were approved.

In comparison with UNCED in Rio de Janeiro 1992, WSSD touched wider areas with more concrete issues which led to action-oriented results. In general, WSSD is a great success and will have deep influence on global sustainable development in the future.

1. Based on extended consensus reached by different parties, the idea of mutual and coordinated development on economy, society and the environment gradually predominates and

establishment of partnerships forms the trend. WSSD reaffirmed the principles as adopted by UNCED with special attention to the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities". The concept of sustainable development is greatly enriched by consensus reached over relations and balance among the three pillars as economic development, social progress and environmental protection. Nation-wide participation and cooperation has become a key characteristic of global sustainable development in the future.

2. In-depth discussions are made over concrete actions. Focused on the implementation of Agenda 21 and outstanding issues in key areas, the Plan of Implementation is adopted, which raised concrete objectives for sustainable development. Among all the objectives proposed, 25 items has come up with detailed timetables. This shows a strong of responsibility and activeness from the governments on global sustainable development.
3. Adoption of Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has been effectively sped up. As influenced by WSSD, the Protocol has now been adopted by 97 countries all over the world. Adoption of Kyoto Protocol by China and India is regarded

as a key outcome from WSSD, and has therefore raised extensive public attention.

4. International cooperation is highly regarded and voices for multilateralism is rising. Multilateralism should be emphasized so as to further implement the strategy for sustainable development and enhance international cooperation in economic and environmental fields.
5. As supplementary to the negotiation documents, interest parties has raised over 220 proposals for partnership on voluntary basis.

In spite of all the achievements made, we should admit that great difference does exist among countries in promoting measures, priorities and policy issues over global sustainable development. Some developed countries relate emphasis over environmental issues with social and political issues such as democracy, human rights and payment standards for labors, and relates environmental issues with human right issues. Some developed countries try to avoid international obligations and responsibilities of the government by over stating the importance of participation in the process of sustainable development by private sectors. The international society is still facing great challenges in the implementation of WEED outcomes as divergence of interests from different parties may influence and set barriers to international cooperation in the future.

We believe that sustainable development can only be realized

through joint efforts of countries all over the world. New strategic partnership shall be established based on equality, mutual benefits and respects so as to achieve mutual development. Technical cooperation in sustainable development shall be enhanced and international technology transfer shall be promoted to create a global economic environment in favor of sustainable development. Meanwhile, the international society should have full understanding of existing difficulties in funds, trade, and technology that developing countries are facing, and adopt effective measures for eradication of trade protection so as to facilitate with the realization of sustainable development in developing countries.

In general, China welcomes and appreciates the achievements made by WSSD. While concentrating on economic development, China, the world largest developing country, has adopted sustainable development as the basic national strategy and environmental protection as the basic national policy that should be adhered to for long term. We believe that environmental protection is the base and strong support to sustainable development. Enhanced environmental protection comes not only from the urgent need for ensuring environmental safety and human health, but also the request for change of economic growth model, poverty eradication and overall social progress.

The Chinese government has attached great importance to the

implementation of sustainable development strategy. In light of that, key indicators for sustainable development are included in the tenth five-year development plan for national economic and social development. During the 16th National Congress of the Communist Party closed a few days ago, development objectives over the next 20 years was planned as the following: Build a well-off society in an all-round way. Quadruple the GDP of the year 2000 by 2020. Industrialization will be primarily realized. The capability of sustainable development will be steadily enhanced. The ecological environment will be improved. The efficiency of using resources will be increased significantly. We will enhance harmony between man and nature to push the whole society onto a path to civilized development featuring the growth of production, an affluent life and a sound ecosystem. This covers objectives for sustainable development in economic growth, social progress and environmental protection, which is in consistence with the three supporting pillars as defined in WSSD.

Environmental cooperation in northeast Asia including China has made due contributions to WSSD and regional environmental cooperation. Northeast Asia is a region with high economic growth, high density of population and relatively complicated geological and environmental issues. Alongside with the development of regional economy and international environmental cooperation, good cooperation in northeast Asia as promoted by countries such as China, Japan, Korea and Mongolia,

etc, has been carried out in sustainable development related areas such as: environmental education and public awareness, fresh water, nuclear energy, air pollution and climate change, consumption model, poverty eradication, desertification and land deterioration. Policies and measures for further promotion over environmental cooperation in the sub region are established.

In order to assist the environmental institutions and organizations from northeast Asia in participating WSSD in an effective way, the member countries has developed the report for "issues of priority to be reported to WSSD and suggestions of resolutions to primary environmental and sustainable development issues in northeast Asia" through coordination meetings and senior official meetings. It is also noted that member countries have played an active role in WSSD.

As a main mechanism for maintaining dialogue among environmental protection authorities in China, Japan, Korea, Russia and Mongolia, the 11th NEAC and the following meetings and actions will improve understanding among member countries, facilitate the exchange of experience over sustainable development and form a solid base for extensive cooperation in environmental protection related areas. I believe that NEAC will play an important and active role in promoting cooperation in environment and development related fields among all member countries.

Thank you!

Statement

Session 3: WSSD and Northeast Asia Environmental Cooperation

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I am delighted to be given this opportunity to present Japan's view on the World Summit on Sustainable Development. My presentation focuses on contribution of Japan to the Summit and Japan's follow up activities to it, and some views on Northeast Asia Environmental Cooperation following the Summit.

1. Japan's Contribution to the Summit

Japan actively participated in the preparatory process and the Summit itself. Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi led the Delegation of Japanese government to the Summit. Also many NGOs, experts and enterprises participated in the Summit.

The basic principle of the Japanese government was that environmental conservation and economic development was mutually supportive to each other. Prime Minister Koizumi introduced tragic experience of pollution damage in Japan in the past and appealed for sustainable development. Based on the position, Japan addressed some approaches to be reflected in the output of the Summit. Those included achievement of an energy efficient and recycling-based society, utilization of scientific knowledge and technologies, strengthening of mega-city management, promotion of sustainable management of forest and other natural resources, and enhancement of environmental education.

Japan also made contributions in the negotiations at the Summit. As for the climate change, Japan's then-Minister of the Environment Hiroshi Ohki and Minister of Foreign Affairs Yoriko Kawaguchi led the discussion in gathering support for the Kyoto Protocol. The outcome was that a sentence "States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol strongly urge States that have not already done so to ratify the Kyoto Protocol in a timely manner" in the Plan of Implementation.

In addition to the main conference, Japan actively hosted many parallel events. Japan Pavilion was set up jointly by the Government, private companies and NGOs in the "Ubuntu Village" which was a place to offer a variety of attractions and activities and to provide a forum for interaction between the United Nations, Governmental, Non-Governmental delegates and the public. Exhibition of

environment-friendly vehicles and panels dealing with global warming, biodiversity, etc. were displayed, and a series of seminars on various themes relating to Japanese partnership initiatives were organized in the Pavilion everyday. We had more than 15,000 visitors to the Japan Pavilion during the Summit.

2. Japan's Follow-up to the Summit

Our current task is to strengthen implementation of measures for sustainable development along with the line agreed on at the Johannesburg Summit. Japan is determined to implement the Koizumi Initiative and its partnership initiatives which are Japanese commitment at Johannesburg.

Koizumi Initiative

Prime Minister Koizumi expressed, in his statement, his firm determination to contribute toward sustainable development through the implementation of the "Koizumi Initiative" which is a package of actions of capacity building for development and environment. The basic concept of the Initiative is that simultaneous achievement of economic development and environmental protection is indispensable in order to realize sustainable development. To that end, all governments, organizations and stakeholders should share their understanding, strategies, responsibility, experiences and information. Japan will implement concrete measures with respecting the ownership of the recipient and extending support as an equal partner.

Measures were grouped under three titles: "human resources development", "development" and "the environment". Environmental measures include the "Environmental Conservation Initiative for Sustainable Development (EcoISD)," implementation of environment-related human resources development for 5,000 persons in the five-year period beginning in FY2002; taking a leading role for the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol; proposal and promotion of the Asia Forest Partnership.

EcoISD

The Environmental Conservation Initiative for Sustainable Development (EcoISD), which is an important component of the Koizumi Initiative, provides with the Japanese policy to support developing countries through environmental ODA. The Initiative is based on the philosophy of i) human security, ii) ownership and partnership and iii) the pursuit of environmental conservation and development.

Action plans of the initiative provide with the following four priority areas of environmental ODA.

1) Efforts to address global warming

To raise awareness that global warming threatens sustainable development, to transfer to developing countries appropriate technologies,

and to enhance capacity to address this issue from scientific, social and systematic perspectives.

2) Pollution control

To provide support on measures to control pollution and improve living standards (air and water pollution and waste management) in urban areas.

3) Fresh water issues

To support the implementation of both water supply and sewage systems, as well as to promote “soft” cooperation for water resource management and water quality control.

4) Conservation of natural environment

To support the management of nature reserves, forest-related issues, prevention of desertification, and natural resources management, taking into consideration the efforts for eradicating poverty of local people.

The initiative also highlights new efforts by Japan including human resources development, provision of yen loans, enhancement of grant aid, promotion of collaboration with international organizations, and further improvement of evaluation methods of ODA projects.

Japan's Partnership Initiative

Japanese government registered 30 projects of Partnership Initiatives with the United Nations. I would like to introduce you some of our initiatives related to environmental cooperation in Northeast Asia.

➤ *Asia-Pacific Environmental Innovation Strategy Project (APEIS)*

Developing countries need to formulate environmental policies based on science supported by accurate data on environmental conditions and relevant social and economic activities. The Asia-Pacific Environmental Innovation Strategy Project (APEIS) aims to provide with scientific knowledge-based tools and innovative strategy options to promote informed decision-making for sustainable development for the use of policy makers, and to promote regional cooperation and capacity building for this purpose.

APEIS will develop monitoring methodologies and networks using satellite technologies; a set of assessment models to assess and predict the trends of environment conditions; and a strategic database and innovative strategy options for policy makers. These activities will be implemented by close cooperation among relevant research institutes in the Asia-Pacific region.

➤ *Enhancement of Regional Strategy on Climate Change through the Asia-Pacific Network on Climate Change (AP-Net)*

Greenhouse gas emissions from the Asia-Pacific region will continue to grow,

and the potential impacts of climate change are serious. The signs of those impacts have already been observed in some countries in the region. In order to implement the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, the region needs to promote policy dialogues among countries and enhance regional strategy for emissions limitation and adaptation policy. The initiative aims to improve the Asia-Pacific Network on Climate Change (AP-net) for further enhancing regional strategies on climate change.

AP-net expands its scope to provide information necessary for the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol including greenhouse gas inventories and outcomes of CDM feasibility studies, and of climate policy technologies including bio-mass, energy-conservation and renewable energy. AP-net will also provide an "e-learning" system which is an online system to develop human resources for climate policy. The initiative involves 25 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, UNESCAP and the Global Environment Center in Japan.

➤ *Asia Forest Partnership (AFP)*

The objective of Asia Forest Partnership (AFP) is to promote sustainable forest management in Asia by addressing urgent issues such as good governance and forest law enforcement; developing capacity for effective forest management; control of illegal logging; control of forest fire; and rehabilitation and reforestation of degraded lands.

Areas of cooperation include development of forest policies, plans and programs including national forest programs, development of land use and natural resource management arrangements, use of satellite data for forest management. The initiative pays particular attention to the control of illegal logging. Proposed cooperative activities encompass various aspects of illegal logging such as establishment and implementation of guidelines for controlling illegal logging; development and enhancement of log tracking capacity; and introduction of verification system such as labeling; promotion of effective measures, in both importing and exporting countries, to eliminate export and import of illegally harvested timber; international cooperation and coordination on trade statistics, information exchange on illegal logging and illegal trade, study of possible measures related to trade. Partners of the initiative are thirteen governments, eight international organizations and one NGO, and this number is expected to increase.

➤ *Conservation and Sustainable Use of Sites of International Importance to Migratory Birds in East Asia and Australia*

This partnership provides a cooperative framework for conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats across the region through the inclusion of the habitats in "Site Networks." The partnership is guided by the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy. In order to achieve their potential, the site

networks need to include at least 25 percent of internationally important sites across the migratory flyways. At present the networks include approximately 10 percent of such sites. This initiative provides for expansion of the site network. The Ministry of the Environment Japan, Environment Australia and the Wetlands International are the lead partners of the initiative.

3. Follow up of WSSD in Northeast Asian region

The Summit ended up with two documents and registering over 280 partnership initiatives. In the follow-up to the WSSD, what is really matter is implementation of commitments we made in Johannesburg. It is crucial that the world community takes concrete actions to carry out these initiatives. In the Northeast Asian region, it is also necessary to strengthen cooperation among countries and stake holders for making priority among issues and promote implementation.

The Plan of Implementation provides one chapter to the Asia-Pacific region. It cited seven initiatives (capacity building, poverty eradication, cleaner production and sustainable energy, land management and conservation of biodiversity, freshwater resources, ocean/small island developing states and atmosphere/climate change) identified in the Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific. These issues could serve as a basis for developing follow up strategy in Northeast Asia. "Kitakyushu Initiative", which was adopted at ESCAP environmental minister meeting in 2000, was also cited in the Plan of Implementation as one of the specific actions. The initiative aims to develop network of local governments for information sharing and implementation of pilot projects.

In the follow up of WSSD, it is expected that the Northeast Asia Conference on Environmental Cooperation will continue to serve as a forum for exchange information and experiences in addressing environmental issues of our common concern.

Thank you.

WSSD and Northeast Asia Environmental Cooperation

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Japan pavilion at WSSD



MOE Booth in Japan Pavilion



Exhibition of Low Emission Vehicles



Koizumi Initiative

- 1. People and Hope (Human Resources Development)**
 - Capacity building, knowledge, science & technology
- 2. Ownership and Solidarity (Development)**
 - Trade & foreign investment, energy, agriculture, ODA
- 3. Today's Complacency, Tomorrow's Plight (Environment)**
 - EcoISD

EcoISD

Environmental Conservation Initiative for Sustainable Development

Action Plans

1. Global Warming
2. Pollution Control
3. Freshwater Issues
4. Conservation of Natural Environment

New Efforts by Japan

5,000 human resource training in 5 years
Environmental loan, grant aid
Collaboration with international organizations
Improvement of ODA evaluation methods

Japanese Partnership/Initiative

APREIS
Asia-Pacific Environmental Policy Research Strategy Project

1. Objectives
 - To promote informed decision-making for sustainable development
 - To promote regional cooperation and capacity building
2. Activities
 - Development of monitoring methodologies and networks
 - Development of assessment models
 - Development of a strategic database and innovative strategy options
3. Partners
 - Research institutions in the Asia-Pacific region (China, India, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand)
 - Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)
 - UNU Institute of Advanced Studies

Japanese Partnership/Initiative

AP-Net
Enhancement of the Regional Strategy on Climate Change through Asia-Pacific Network on Climate Change

1. Objectives
 - Enhancement of the regional strategies on climate change
2. Activities
 - Data base of relevant information including the Kyoto Protocol
 - Collection and provision of information on climate policy technology
 - Online capacity building
3. Partners
 - 25 countries in the Asia-Pacific region
 - ESCAP
 - Global Environment Center (GEC)

Japanese Partnership/Initiative

AFP
Asia-Pacific Partnership

1. Objectives
 - Good governance and forest law enforcement
 - Development of capacity for effective forest management
 - Control of illegal logging and forest fire
 - Rehabilitation and reforestation of degraded lands
2. Activities
 - Development of forest policies, plans and programs
 - Development of land use and natural resource management
 - Implementation of guidelines for controlling illegal logging
 - Promotion of reforestation to rehabilitate degraded lands
 - Institutional development and capacity building and so on
3. Partners (as of 9 September 2002)
 - Governments (13), international organizations (6), NGOs (1)

Japanese Partnership/Initiatives

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Sites of International Importance to Migratory Birds in East Asia and Australia

1. Objectives
 - Conservation of migratory waterbirds and their inland and coastal habitats across the regions through the inclusion of their habitats in 'Site Networks'.
2. Activities
 - Expansion of site networks across the region to include at least 25% of internationally important sites across the migratory flyways (10% of them are presently networked)
3. Partners
 - MOE, Japan
 - Environment Australia
 - Wetlands International

Priority Areas for Asia & the Pacific
Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

- Capacity building for sustainable development
- Poverty reduction for sustainable development
- Cleaner production and sustainable energy
- Land management and biodiversity conservation
- Protection and management of and access to freshwater resources
- Oceans, coastal and marine resources and sustainable development of small island developing States
- Action on atmosphere and climate change

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Outcomes of WSSD, Challenges and Opportunities in Northeast Asia

by Suho SEONG

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Introduction

It has taken more than one year for the international community to prepare for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), involving several preparatory meetings at various levels, including the four United Nations Preparatory Committee Meetings. WSSD is said to be the biggest Summit since Rio in 1992. World leaders from more than 190 countries gathered together in the “Cradle of Humanity,” South Africa, and adopted the Johannesburg Declaration and the Plan of Implementation, both a blueprint for achieving sustainable development. While some are skeptical about the outcomes of WSSD because of lack of action-oriented paragraphs and not many clear targets and timetables in the Plan, the majority of governments have expressed their satisfaction with the results of the Summit and emphasized that what is important is to effectively implement the agreed text.

It is expected that the result of WSSD will be cited on many occasions in the post-WSSD period, as has been the case for UNCED. Many cooperative activities have already taken place in Northeast Asia especially in the field of environment since Rio. Ongoing activities need to be further strengthened through partnerships and, where necessary, new initiatives should be designed to better deal with emerging issues.

Overall Structure of the Plan of Implementation

The Plan of Implementation consists of eleven Chapters: Introduction, Poverty eradication, Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, Sustainable development in a globalizing world, Health and sustainable development, Sustainable development of small island developing states, Sustainable development for Africa, Other regional initiatives, Means of implementation, and Institutional framework for sustainable development. The Plan calls for actions at all levels for sound building of the three pillars of sustainable development, namely environment, society, and economy. Environmental issues basically underlie all sections of the Plan, but are

extensively covered in 'Protecting and Managing the Natural Resource Base of Economic and Social Development'.

During the negotiation for the preparation of the Plan, poverty eradication appeared to be the highest priority for achieving sustainable development. And some of the environmental issues were closely related to the activities leading up to poverty eradication such as reducing the proportion of the people unable to access safe drinking water, sanitation and equitable sharing of biological resources. In many instances, the issues were cross-linked and could not be seen as separate from one another. Nevertheless, broad aspects of environmental issues are mostly covered in the section dealing with natural resource base. Specifically, the section deals with fresh water resources, oceans and fisheries, disaster, climate change, air pollution and ozone layer protection, desertification, mountains, sustainable tourism, biological diversity, and forests. Individual issues will be described in detail in subsequent parts of this paper.

Key Environmental Issues in the Plan Of Implementation

With respect to water resources management, launch of actions to halve the proportion of people without safe drinking water and access to improved sanitation by 2015 was recommended. To this end, financial support and transfer of technology to developing countries, promotion of access to public information and water pollution prevention for the reduction of health hazards and ecosystem protection were mentioned. In addition, the Plan encourages the development of integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, which includes developing and implementing national/regional strategies and programmes for integrated river basin, watershed and ground water management. Other actions are also required to support developing countries in monitoring and assessing the quality and quantity of water resources, improve scientific understanding of water cycle through cooperation in joint observation and research, and to promote effective coordination among the various bodies working on water-related issues.

The paragraphs on oceans and fisheries turned out to be one of the hardest parts to reach agreement within the section on natural resource base. The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea was recognized as providing overall legal framework for ocean activities. To achieve sustainable fisheries, actions were called for, among others, restoring fish stocks to maximum sustainable level by 2015, developing and implementing regional fisheries agreements and where appropriate regional plans, eliminating subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and overcapacity. Strong emphasis was also

made on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA). The role of IMO was stressed to enhance maritime safety and protection of the marine environment from pollution, especially by requesting the IMO to consider stronger mechanisms in order to secure the implementation of IMO instruments by flag states.

In disaster management, several actions were proposed including the establishment of effective regional, subregional and national strategies, promoting joint observation and research, improving techniques and methodologies for assessing climate change effects, and developing early warning systems and information networks. In a related part on climate change, the agreed text turned out to duplicate the items already addressed in the UN Millennium Declaration. The language calling for the early ratification of the Kyoto Protocol ended up with the following: “States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol strongly urge States that have not already done so to ratify the Kyoto Protocol in a timely manner.” In addition, the importance of enhancing scientific and technological capabilities, technical and financial assistance, implementation of national, regional and international strategies to monitor Earth's atmosphere was emphasized to overcome adverse effects of climate change.

The Plan of Implementation stressed cooperation at international, regional and national levels as essential to mitigating air pollution including transboundary air pollution, acid deposition and ozone depletion. In regards to agricultural activities, the Plan noted their close linkage with sustainable use, protection and management of water resources.

While the Plan of Implementation placed emphasis on strengthening the implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to address the causes of desertification and land degradation, similar emphasis was also placed on enhancing synergies with other conventions such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Plan in this subsection called on the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to take initiatives in the designation of land degradation as a focal area for GEF.

The subsection dealing with the management of mountain ecosystems also had close linkage to land degradation and the protection of biological diversity. Especially one of the paragraphs proposed actions to implement programmes to combat deforestation, erosion, land degradation and loss of biodiversity. Like other sections and subsections, there was also an emphasis on full participation of

stakeholders like mountain communities in decision-making processes.

The Plan of Implementation stressed the promotion of sustainable tourism as a means of increasing the benefits from tourism resources for the population in host communities and at the same time enhancing the protection of ecologically sensitive areas and natural heritages.

Much of the debate on biodiversity during WSSD centered around concerning the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. During the negotiation in Johannesburg many developing countries insisted to develop a legally binding international regime in this field, while most developed countries were reluctant to accept this proposal. Agreement was reached by encouraging actions to negotiate within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity. All States were also requested to ratify the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and other biodiversity-related agreements.

Like many other issues, the linkages between forest management and poverty eradication was highlighted in the subsection on forest management in the Plan of Implementation. The UN Forum on Forests was recognized as a key intergovernmental mechanism to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of sustainable forest management measures at the national, regional and global levels. Immediate action was recommended to promote and facilitate the means to achieve sustainable timber harvesting. The Plan noted matters pertaining to the recognition and support for indigenous and community-based forest management systems to ensure their effective participation in sustainable forest management.

Relatively fast agreement was reached on mining, minerals and metals during the WSSD preparatory meetings. The subsection of the Plan of Implementation on these areas calls for actions to support efforts to address the environmental, economic, health and social impacts and benefits of related activities, to enhance the participation of stakeholders including local and indigenous communities, and to foster sustainable mining practices through capacity-building support to developing countries.

Technical and financial assistance, education and participation of major groups in decision-making were identified among others as major cross-cutting issues and mentioned repeatedly throughout the Plan of Implementation.

Some issues like waste management and chemicals management were included in the section dealing with consumption and production, rather than the environment or human health. Consensus was reached on waste management at an early stage of intergovernmental negotiations but there has been a strong disagreement over the chemicals management, especially with respect to

reference to the Precautionary Approach as set in the Rio Declaration. Debate was extended as a result of disagreement over the enumeration of follow-up actions to UNEP global assessment of heavy metals like the preparation of international instrument to reduce risks from heavy metals. The agreed text merely calls for promoting reduction of risks posed by heavy metals. Nonetheless it is expected that stringent measures at global level is likely to be considered through relevant forums including the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS).

Future Challenges and Opportunities in Northeast Asia

In this paper only a few selected issues, including freshwater management, oceans and fisheries resources management, climate change, air pollution, biological diversity and chemicals management will be discussed in detail.

First, in terms of freshwater resources, there have been only a few occasions that dealt with the management of water resources at this subregional level. Within the NEAC framework, for example, the issue was discussed two or three times in the past meetings. According to the documents from the International Conference on Freshwater held last December in Bonn, Germany, about 1.2 billion people lead an impoverished life without access to safe drinking water and almost 2.5 billion without access to proper sanitation. The Global Environment Outlook 3 (GEO3) published early this year by UNEP shows that about one third of the world's population lives in countries with moderate-to-high water stress. Also, GEO indicates that the usable portion of freshwater sources like lakes, rivers and shallow groundwater basins is about 200,000 km³, which is less than 1% of all freshwater on the Earth. The UNEP publication further points out that Asia and the Pacific region has the lowest availability of freshwater, with several countries already suffering from water scarcity. In addition, many reports covering freshwater resources estimate that the single most important use of freshwater is agriculture for food security because of rapid increase in population and consumption. As more and more countries become prone to water stress, the issue related to freshwater resources management faces a greater challenge due to a higher degree of potential conflicts arising from shared water sources between and among countries than ever before. For example, the report presented by the United Nations University this year suggests that there are more than 300 rivers crossing socio-political boundaries and this has led to an increasing number of conflicts among basin countries. More efforts need to be directed towards reducing the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and to proper sanitation. This poverty-related

goals seems particularly relevant for Asia and the Pacific region considering the fact that in absolute terms, roughly two thirds of the world's poor live in this region and that achieving these goals are intimately related to the reduction of water-related diseases.

Another issue for consideration within the NEAC framework is the preparation of subregional strategies for integrated river basin, watershed and groundwater management. This integrated approach covers not only the efficient use, pollution prevention and recycling of water resources but also other various issues pertaining to shared water resources. The preparation of Strategic Action Programme for Tumen river basin could be a good example in this subregional context. Similar actions can be initiated by utilizing the currently available communication channels to promote the work in this field with several multilateral cooperative activities underway. These could include, for example, NEAC, Tripartite Environment Ministers' Meeting (TEMM), and Northeast Asian Center for Environmental Data and Training.

With respect to the oceans and fisheries resources management, the report by the UN University this year indicates that agriculture, manufacturing industries and urban areas are all major contributors to the pollution observed in East Asian coastal waters and that the level of pollution in these areas can be approximately correlated to the level of industrialization in the countries adjacent to the coastal areas. Many other examples concerning over-exploitation of fish stocks and marine and coastal pollution are described in GEO3. One example demonstrates the extent of problems associated with eutrophication due to nitrogen inputs and corresponding increase in the economic losses in fisheries and aquaculture amounting to several million dollars. Multi-sectoral coastal and ocean management, together with the implementation of relevant international and regional agreements through regional coordination and cooperation mechanisms, is essential to mitigate marine pollution and to restore the depleted fish stocks. In this respect, further work should be done at this subregional level to strengthen the existing mechanisms like Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) and its related activities regarding the protection of marine and coastal environment.

Recently in climate change forums, it has quite often been emphasized that developing countries, especially the least developed, countries need special attention because of their vulnerability to climate change. The issue results in other direct or indirect problems like biodiversity loss and natural disasters. During the last two years most of the specific modalities and procedures to implement the Kyoto Protocol have been resolved and, I believe, the recent

agreements will enhance the mitigation of greenhouse gases at global level. Several cooperative activities are underway in this subregion to reduce air pollution including transboundary air pollution. For example, at the recent TEMM meeting, China, Japan and Korea have agreed to take joint actions to combat dust storm problem, which bears upon land degradation in this region. The Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) provides another venue for further elaboration of subregional and regional efforts to deal with acid deposition. All these existing mechanisms including NEAC should be fully utilized to promote cooperation and coordination of relevant work in this field.

From time to time biodiversity-related discussion have taken place within the framework of NEAC starting from the third conference held in September 1994 in Japan. However, there has been no systematic follow-up activities in this field. Considering the level of interest shown by the five NEAC-participating countries it is not surprising to see that, although all of these countries have joined the Biodiversity Convention, none of the countries have acceded or ratified the Biosafety Protocol yet. Also considering the fact that creating an international regime to promote fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biological diversity was one of the hottest issues during the negotiation for the Plan of Implementation, appropriate attention need to be given in this topic in future for, where necessary, creating a new regional mechanism to deal with the problems.

One last issue that I want to raise in this paper is chemicals management. In many countries there are several government Ministries/Departments/Agencies involved in chemicals management. It seems fair to say that no single government agency within a government deals with entire issues concerning chemicals management, partly because of the versatile use of chemicals from pesticides, industrial chemicals to everyday-life commodities. Moreover, there are emerging issues like the risks posed by heavy metals and endocrine disrupters. Efforts need to be made to address these matters on an urgent basis. One way of moving forward might be to prepare regional profiles to assess the current legal, institutional administrative structures in cooperation with relevant international organizations active and to strengthen the capacities for chemicals management.

Possible Approaches to Subregional Cooperation

According to the Plan of Implementation, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was specifically asked in collaboration with other regional and subregional bodies to conduct the following

tasks:

- promote the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development into its work in a balanced way, including through the implementation of Agenda 21;

- facilitate and promote a balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development into the work of regional, subregional and other bodies, for example, by facilitating and strengthening the exchange of experiences;

- assist in the mobilization of technical and financial assistance, and facilitate the provision of adequate financing for the implementation of regionally and subregionally agreed sustainable development programmes and projects, including addressing the objective of poverty eradication;

- continue to promote multi-stakeholder participation and encourage partnerships to support the implementation of Agenda 21 at the regional and subregional levels.

In conclusion, bearing in mind the mandates given to the regional commission, it is highly recommended that future post-WSSD work be conducted in close cooperation and coordination with ESCAP and other regional and subregional bodies. This way it would be possible to avoid the duplication of efforts and resources. It will also enhance synergy effects among the related activities for sustainable development.

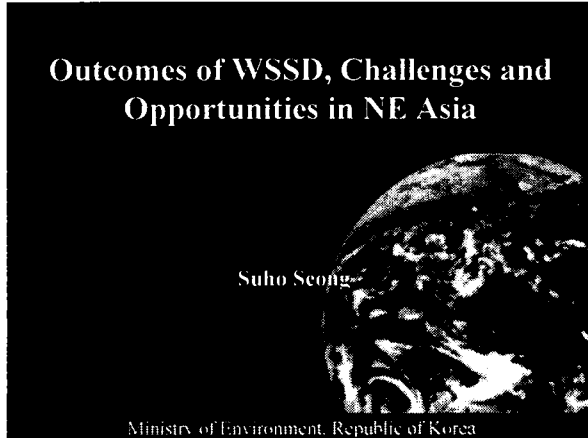
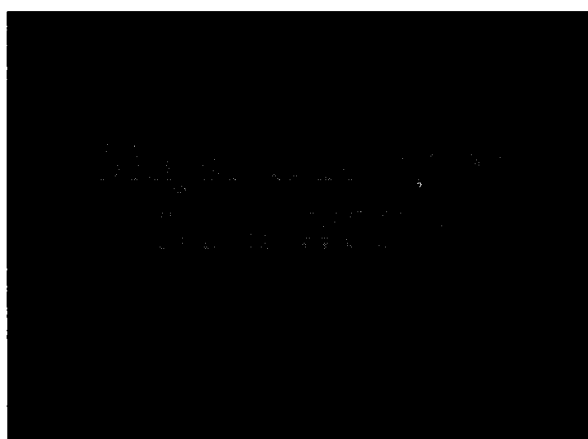


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- Prep meetings prior to WSSD (4 UN PrepCom)
- 10-yr review on implementation of Agenda 21
- more than 190 countries attended during 26 Aug-4 Sept (Summit: 2-4 Sept) in Johannesburg
- adopted Plan of Implementation & Declaration
 - Plan of Implementation: detailed action plan to be carried out next 10-20 years at nat'l, regional & global levels
 - Declaration: expression of political commitment to the Plan
- announced 172 Partnership Initiatives



- < Plan of Implementation >
- 11 Chapters with actions to overcome socio-economic and environmental problems
 - highest priority given to poverty eradication
 - environmental issues are mostly covered in Chapter on Natural Resources
 - freshwater resources, oceans & fisheries, climate change, air pollution, desertification, biodiversity, forests
 - Some others are throughout the Plan
 - cross-cutting issues (T/T, F.A, education, participation of major groups), Chemicals, Wastes in other Chapters

<Johannesburg Declaration>

- only a few selected countries were involved when drafting the declaration in Johannesburg
- 10-yr review on the implementation of Agenda21
 - not so much progress towards SD
 - lack of participation of major groups
 - imbalance betw. 3 pillars of SD: social, economic and environmental
- political will to implement Agenda21 & the Plan

<Partnership Initiatives>

- 172 PIs announced at WSSD
 - voluntary, involving IOs, Major Groups, Governments
 - not subject to intergovernmental negotiations
- still ongoing
- - to date more than 200 PIs are being carried out

Global Water Resources Assessment in the context of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

<Freshwater Resources Management>

- **Poverty-related goals :**
 - reducing the proportion of people w/o access to safe drinking water & to improved sanitation by half by 2015
 - financial support & T/T to developing countries, promotion of access to public info., water pollution prevention
- **Development of integrated water resources management & water efficiency plans by 2005**
 - nat'l/regional strategies for river basin, watershed and groundwater management
- **Support to developing countries in monitoring and assessing quantity & quality, joint research, etc**

<Oceans & Fisheries>

- **UNCLOS:**
 - recognized as providing overall legal framework for ocean activities
- **Restoring fish stocks to max. sustainable yield by 2015**
- **Developing & implementing regional fisheries agreements/regional plans**
- **Eliminating subsidies contributing IUU fishing**
- **Implementation of GPA**
- **Strengthening the Role of IMO**

<Disaster Management & CC>

- **For disaster management:**
 - establishing nat'l & regional strategies
 - joint observation & research
 - developing early warning systems & info. networks
- **In combating climate change:**
 - duplicate of Mill. Declaration
 - “States that that have ratified the KP strongly urge States that have not already done so to ratify the KP”

Air pollution, Agriculture, Desertification, Mountains

- **Coop at all levels to mitigate air pollution incl. transboundary air pollution, acid deposition & ozone depletion**
- **Strengthening the implementation of UNCCD**
 - enhancing synergies with other Conventions: CCC, CBD
 - designation of land degradation as GEF focal area
- **Management of Mt ecosystems – close linkage to land degradation, biodiversity, emphasis on full participation of mt communities**

Biological Diversity, Forest Management, Mining

- **Equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources**
 - negotiation within the framework of CBD int'l regime to promote equitable sharing of the benefits
- **Ratification of Cartagena Biosafety Protocol**
- **UN Forum on Forests, recognized as a key intergov. Mech. to coord. Sus. forest management**
- **Call for actions to support efforts to address environmental, economic, health and social impacts & benefits of related activities**

Waste & Chemicals

- **Included in the section on Consump. & Prod.**
 - early consensus on wastes but strong disagreement over chemicals management, esp. wrt Precautionary approaches
- **Ratification of relevant Conventions**
 - PICs by 2003, POPs by 2004
- **Follow-up to the UNEP global assessment**
 - stringent measures at global level is likely to be considered

Freshwater Resources Management

- **Global situation**
 - 1.2 billion people w/o access to safe drinking water
 - 2.5 billion w/o access to proper sanitation
 - 1/3 of population in countries with water scarcity
 - usable portion of freshwater is 1% of freshwater on Earth
 - 300 rivers crossing socio-political boundaries, high degree of potential conflicts arising from the shared water sources

- **Regional situation**
 - AP with the lowest availability of freshwater
 - agriculture is the single most important use of freshwater e.g., more than 80% of freshwater being used in agriculture
 - 2/3 of the World's poor living in AP
- **Opportunities in NE Asia**
 - preparation of subregional strategies for integrated river basin, watershed & groundwater management
 - utilizing currently available communication channels e.g., NEAC, TEMM, TumenNet

<Oceans & Fisheries>

- **Global situation**
 - over-exploitation of fish stocks
 - marine & coastal pollution
- **Regional situation**
 - Eutrophication due to Nitrogen inputs result in a heavy economic losses in fisheries & aquaculture
- **Opportunities in NE Asia**
 - multi-sectoral coastal management
 - strengthening existing mechanisms, e.g. NOPAP

<CC, Air Pollution, Biodiversity>

- **Need special attention needed for LDCs**
 - because of their vulnerability to CC, support for adaptation
 - associate problems like biodiversity loss, natural disaster
- **Several coop activities to reduce air pollution**
 - TEMM on dust storm, EASNET on acid deposition
- **First Biodiversity-related discussion at 3rd NEAC**
 - no systematic follow-up activities in this field
 - all NEAC countries are parties to the CBD, but no country ratified the Biosafety Protocol yet

<Chemicals Management>

- **Wide use of chemicals**
 - pesticides, industrial chemicals, everyday-life commodities
 - several gov. agencies are involved in chem. Management
 - emerging issues: risks posed by heavy metals, endocrine disrupters
- **Preparation of regional chemicals management profile**
 - assessment of current legal, institutional, administrative structures

Preparation of regional chemicals management profile

<Mandate given to ESCAP>

- **Promote integration of 3 pillars of SD**
 - in future work of ESCAP, other regional, subregional bodies
- **Assist in mobilization of tech. & fin. assistance**
 - facilitate financing regional & subregional SD programs
- **Promote multi-stakeholder participation and encourage partnerships**

<Conclusion>

- **Post-WSSD work in close coop with ESCAP, other regional & subregional bodies**
- **Avoid duplication of efforts and resources**
- **Enhance synergy effects among the related activities for SD**

WSSD SUMMIT AND ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION IN THE NORTHEAST ASIAN REGION

The Summit in Johannesburg proposed to the global community some crucial decisions and determined the definite objectives to provide a transfer to sustainable development.

Its great contribution was the Millennium Goals to combat poverty, to provide drinking water and sanitary supply. It also set the definite objectives to halt the degradation of natural resources and biodiversity losses, to promote a wide spread of the integrated approach to the water resources management.

It stressed the significance of the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, of compliance with the Montreal Protocol, UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention of Biodiversity.

At the Summit there been expressed a support to the Partnership Initiatives which to a great extent addressed to the NEA region.

The World Summit declared the ambitious objectives with not too many definite options how to achieve them. The Summit addressed to the regional international institutions in the environmental protection and to the countries with a high potential and the advanced experience in major environmental issues to assist in Summit Agenda implementation.

The Russian Federation actively participated in the preparatory process for the Summit. Into the documents of the Summit there have been incorporated the proposals on the water resources management, drinking water supply and sanitary services, protection and sustainable use of living resources corresponding to the interests of the Russian Federation.

In the follow-up of the Summit Russian Federation has a commitment to intensify the activity on the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, on adjoining to the Convention on Desertification.

In the report of the Head of the Russian delegation at the Summit it was declared that Russia and its ecosystems play a determinative role in the sustaining of the global environmental balance. Russia has 25% of the world's forest resources undisturbed by development that maintain global sustainability of the biosphere. Russia has 20% of global fresh water.

Russia plays a crucial role in settling the global debt crisis. Since 1996 Russia has decreased the debt burden of the developing economies by USD 35 billion. It enables to hope that in future the conversion of liabilities into investments for the environment and sustainable development will take place.

The NEA region is characterized by a great potential of the economic growth provided by the abundance of the natural resources, definite perspectives of the development of transportation networks (pipelines, rail

and highways, Northern Marine Route), development of the integrative economic international links.

In the follow-up of the Summit resolutions we consider important to concentrate our mutual efforts on the next problems:

a. Sustainable use of water resources

In the NEA region there is an urgent need in effective integrated efforts in the sphere of use and protection of water bodies and sustainable use of their living resources. The concern over the Amur River and its tributaries is growing.

The Amur is the most remarkable river of Russia from the point of biodiversity. These problems are to be considered at the forthcoming International Conference on the environmental problems in the NEA (Khabarovsk, May, 2003).

The protection of this huge water system should be based on a common international strategy and a system of measures on protection of the ecological balance of the whole basin in respect to the national legislation and a system of bilateral agreements between the countries of its basin. The first steps to create the joint monitoring systems close to boundary regions have been already done.

This activity can give start to a new Partnership Initiative in the follow-up of the Summit.

b. Sustainable use of the forest and living resources

In the NEA region we evidence the growing scale of the illegal use of natural resources (forest, fish and marine products). It is an urgent need not only to strengthen the existing national legislation but to establish the joint control mechanisms starting from the monitoring systems and information exchange and eventually – joint programs of restoration of valuable fish populations and their habitats.

In this programs the input of each country should be defined according to their potential and size of the effected damage.

Some projects of this type are being implemented on the Russian territory with the participation of the GEF (for example “Conservation of salmon population on Kamchatka”).

Russia has expressed its support to the proposal of Japan and other countries for the Summit - “Asian Forest Initiative”. The bilateral dialogue to combat the illegal logging is on a progress. The system of the voluntary timber certification has been launched. The Association of environmentally sound producers has been established. are d by

Since this year the Ministry Inspectorate “Tiger” is supervising the inspections of illegal export of the biological resources

c. Biodiversity protection

The NEA region is unique for its vast undisturbed areas on reason of a severe climate, unaccessibility and remoteness. But this situation can be changed in near future with the development of new technologies for their exploitation and new investment opportunities.

To a certain extent it can be restricted with a establishment of the transboundary nature protected areas (jointly Russia and China, Mongolia). The joint research of Russian and Japanese scientists is being performed in Russian reserves. The number of these transboundary reserves can be greater. We have in mind those reserves where scientific cooperation was effective.

There is need in further cooperation development on the protection of habitats of migratory birds of international significance. In the Far East regions of Russia this activity is going on in conformity with the bilateral conventions on bird protection with Japan and Korea.

Russia is at present implementing the project under support of the GEF – “Protection of the globally significant wetlands and migration corridors for the stork and other waterfowl”. The coordination of efforts of all NEA countries is needed.

A good base for this activity has been provided by the Summit Partnership Initiative – The [Conservation and Sustainable Use of Sites of International Importance to Migratory Birds in East Asia, South East Asia and Australasia](#).

For the recent years in the NEA regions there have been performed very important studies for determination of major environmental and biodiversity threats within the framework of the projects under support of the international financial organizations such as:

- Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis of TumenNET,
- Diagnostic Analysis of the Lake Khanka Basin,

In the process of their implementation there have been proposed instruments of biodiversity protection which can be recommended for the other «hot spots» of biodiversity:

implementation of the joint activities in the fields of ecotourism, biodiversity conservation, wetlands and migratory birds conservation, joint environment monitoring project, enhancement of nature reserves, joint biodiversity conservation database, common ecosystem management rules, development of legal framework.

The objective of conservation of ecosystem functions in the region of rapid economic development gains its significance. This fact was stressed at the 10th NEAC Conference in 2001, which was also addressed to management of the coast ecosystems.

The NEA region is a good ground for introduction of innovative technologies of sustainable development proposed by the international institutions such as the IGES, and also implementation of the Summit Partnership Initiative - [“Biodiversity Conservation in the Asia-Pacific Region - Towards New Partnerships after the Johannesburg Summit”](#)

In the NEA region there are already represented highly effective cooperation institutions in the sphere of biodiversity protection, transboundary pollution, climate change and sea water protection as:

- The North East Asian Crane Network Center 1997,
- Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) 1998,
- Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN),
- NOWPAP program. 1991

The EANET is enhancing its capacity and effectiveness and create the model to be replicated for the rest types of transboundary pollutants.

The Plan of Actions on protection, management and use of marine environment (NOWPAP) has been implemented since 1991 under supervision of the UNEP.

Russia is an active participant of these programs. But the rate of institutional development in the environmental cooperation in the NEA region is less compared to other regions –EEC and other regions.

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