



**Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environment Cooperation
2021-2025**

7 December 2021

I. Introduction

1. Background

- 1.1. Since created in 1999, the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Korea, China and Japan (TEMM) has played as an effective high-level regional environmental cooperation mechanism in Northeast Asia.
- 1.2. Sharing the understanding that Northeast Asia shares common challenges and interests on the environment, TEMM has addressed varying environmental issues of the three countries' common interest in a systematic and participatory way. From academia to business sector and civil society, broad stakeholders have contributed to TEMM cooperation by providing inputs to or taking part in the TEMM activities. The multi-layered structure of TEMM comprising the Ministers Meeting, TEMM DGM, and pre-TEMM and post-TEMM Working Level Meeting has enabled effective implementation management, review and assessment, and constant improvement of the cooperation.
- 1.3. For the purpose of addressing key environmental challenges in a targeted manner, five-year Tripartite Joint Action Plans were developed and implemented under TEMM respectively for the period from 2010 to 2014 (First TJAP) and from 2015 to 2019 (Second TJAP). Implementing the TJAPs has significantly strengthened the TEMM cooperation both in scale and depth and contributed to environmental improvement and green development in the region.
- 1.4. Despite the accomplishments it has made over the last two decades, TEMM is called to assume a greater role in seeking environmentally sustainable way to overcome and recover from the crisis caused by the global COVID19 pandemic as well as in achieving the global goals such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement.
- 1.5. Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, TEMM22 which had been scheduled in 2020 in Korea was postpone to 2021 as well as the adoption of the 3rd TJAP. Therefore, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China, and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (hereinafter referred to individually as a "Side" and collectively as "the Three Sides") consented to extend the period of the 2nd TJAP up to the adoption of the 3rd TJAP and have continued the implementation of the activities under 2nd TJAP.

2. Overall Review of the Tripartite Joint Action Plan 2015-2019 (Second TJAP)

- 2.1. The Second TJAP set out nine Priority Areas: (1) Air Quality Improvement; (2) Biodiversity; (3) Chemical Management and Environmental Emergency Response; (4) Circulative Management of Resources/3R/Transboundary Management of E-Waste; (5) Climate Change Response; (6) Conservation of Water and Marine Environment; (7) Environmental Education, Public Awareness and Corporate Social Responsibility; (8) Rural Environmental Management; and (9) Transition to Green Economy.
- 2.2. Cooperative activities under the nine Priority Areas of the Second TJAP were conducted in various forms with a variety of topics aiming to meet the visions and objectives set out in the Plan. Overall progress of their implementation was significant while the degree of achievement varied by area and by topic. Building common political will, support by the Three Sides, early consensus on cooperation topics and working methods, and close communication among focal points or implementing entities were key to making progress in those activities with outstanding performance.
- 2.3. In the majority of the Priority Areas, regular meeting mechanisms in the form of policy dialogue, seminar, or forum functioned as a platform on which multiple action topics in the area were addressed in an integrated manner.
- 2.4. Through the implementation of the Second TJAP, tripartite cooperation on conventional environmental issues such as air pollution and environmental education has been advanced further. In the meantime, the three countries also conducted timely cooperation on emerging issues such as disaster wastes, marine plastic litter and microplastics, invasive alien species and low carbon cities.
- 2.5. In many areas, activities were carried out in the context of major international process including multilateral environmental agreements such as the UNFCCC and the CBD, and several activities were conducted through or in connection with other regional environmental programs including NOWPAP and WEPA.
- 2.6. Through the implementation of the second TJAP (2015-2019), the three countries strengthened exchange of information, experience and best practices in the priority areas, improved their capacity of environmental protection, enhanced public awareness, and developed a well-functioning coordination and communication mechanism for jointly addressing regional and global environmental challenges. As a result, TEMM has play an increasingly significant role in regional and global environmental cooperation.

II. Vision, Principles, and Objective

1. Vision

- 1.1. To promote cooperation to tackle environmental issues of the three countries' common interest, taking into account the three countries' respective efforts such as Ecological Civilization/Living in Harmony with Nature/Green Transformation, in light of the commitments made at the Trilateral Summits and stated including in the Joint Statement on Environmental Cooperation in 2015, Joint Declaration of the Seventh Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit in 2018, and the Trilateral Cooperation Vision for the Next Decade in 2019.
- 1.2. To better cooperate together closely and contribute to achieving global goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals and UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement in the three countries and to support the endeavor to build forward better and greener in the post-COVID19 era through green recovery, redesign of socio-economy, and coordinated advancement of economy and the environment.

2. Principles

- 2.1. Cooperation in the TEMM framework will contribute to achieve the SDGs of the three countries.
- 2.2. Joint activities under the Third TJAP will be promoted in consideration of the interlinkages among the Priority Areas as well as the interdependence across the goals and targets of the SDGs and conducted in a way to maximize the synergies.
- 2.3. In the fields where three countries have experience and know-how, and the willingness to share with other countries, TEMM will further explore possible "3+X" cooperation to promote sustainable development in the region and beyond, while utilizing multilateral frameworks such as G20, ASEAN+3, and APEC and seeking partnerships with other countries and international organizations with consensus of the three countries.
- 2.4. The TEMM activities are to be developed on the basis of mutual respects, mutual benefits, each country's available resources and respect one another's difference in the stage of development, and will be reviewed and renewed from time to time to seek the effective and efficient mechanism.

3. Objective

- 3.1. The Three Sides will endeavor to further enhance their joint actions to meet the visions

in paragraph II.1 in accordance with the principles in paragraph II.2. The objective of the Tripartite Joint Action Plan 2021-2025 (Third TJAP) is to present such actions to be promoted under TEMM for the period from 2021 to 2025.

III. Priority Areas, Activities, and Actions

1. Priority Areas

1.1. At TEMM21, the Ministers adopted the new Priority Areas of TEMM cooperation for the period from 2020 to 2025 as follows:

- (1) Air Quality Improvement
- (2) 3R/Circular Economy/Zero Waste City
- (3) Marine and Water Environment Management
- (4) Climate Change
- (5) Biodiversity
- (6) Chemical Management and Environmental Emergency Response
- (7) Transition to Green Economy
- (8) Environmental Education, Public Awareness and Engagement

2. Activities

2.1. An Activity is a tripartite gathering in the form of policy dialogue, seminar or forum through which Actions may be planned, conducted, coordinated, facilitated, or supported. The Activities which have been established or will be newly launched under the eight Priority Areas are as following:

- (1) Air Quality improvement
 - Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution (TPDAP)
 - Working Group I & II on Dust and Sandstorms (DSS WG I & II)
- (2) 3R/Circular Economy/Zero Waste City
 - Tripartite 3R/Circular Economy/Zero Waste City Seminar
- (3) Marine and Water Environment Management
 - TEMM-NOWPAP Joint Workshop
 - Tripartite Forum on Water Policies and Technologies

- (4) Climate Change
 - Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Climate Change, Carbon Neutrality, and Sustainable Recovery
- (5) Biodiversity
 - Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Biodiversity (TPDBD)
- (6) Chemical Management and Environmental Emergency Response
 - Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemical Management & Expert Seminar (TPDCM & TESCM)
 - Ad Hoc Tripartite Dialogue on Environmental Emergency Response
- (7) Transition to Green Economy
 - Tripartite Roundtable on Environmental Business Plus (TREB+)
- (8) Environmental Education, Public Awareness and Engagement
 - Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN)
 - Environmental Training for Officials
 - TEMM Youth Forum

3. Actions

- 3.1. An Action is a basic component of cooperation under this TJAP, which has a specific topic, purpose, and modality of implementation. An Action may be planned, conducted, and/or supported by the Activity under the Priority Area either individually or in connection with other Actions.
- 3.2. The list of Actions and their descriptions are set forth in the Annex. The Actions may be modified or updated through consultation among the three countries taking into consideration of changing circumstances and cooperation interest during the implementation period of this TJAP.

IV. Implementation Arrangement

1. Implementation Mechanism

- 1.1. For every Action under paragraph III.3, at least one focal point will be appointed from each Side. The focal points of an Action from the Three Sides communicate with each other for any matters concerning the implementation of the Action. They will discuss, plan, and implement the Action, summarize the result, and report it to pre-TEMM or

post-TEMM Working Level Meeting. They may update or improve the topics and modality of the Action responding to emerging issues and new cooperation demand.

- 1.2. The individual Actions may be conducted on or supported by the Activities under paragraph III.2.
- 1.3. The pre-TEMM and post-TEMM Working Level Meetings (WLMs) are responsible for coordinating overall TEMM cooperation. It identifies problems arising from the implementation of Actions and coordinates their solving, and facilitates communication among focal points of each Action. On an annual basis, the WLMs will review the progress in the Actions under the Priority Areas and prepare a TJAP progress report to be reviewed by TEMM DGM.
- 1.4. The Directors General Meeting (DGM) will review the TJAP progress report submitted by pre-TEMM, provide its considerations and recommendations for improvement, and adopt the report to be presented to TEMM. DGM will also be reported with and confirm the progress of the tripartite joint research on dust and sand storms (DSS).
- 1.5. The Ministers Meeting (TEMM) oversees the general progress and achievements of the Activities and provides guidance.

2. Implementing entities

- 2.1. This TJAP will be implemented jointly by the Three Sides, and/or implementing organizations nominated by the Sides taking into consideration of their specific national circumstances.
- 2.2. Based on consensus of the three countries, cooperation under this TJAP may be promoted in collaboration with or with the support from other organizations including the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat.

3. Resources

- 3.1. Resources necessary for the implementation of the TJAP will be jointly contributed by the Three Sides considering their specific national circumstances.

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