

## **Students Forum of TEMM14**

### **Final Summary**

We, youth representatives from Japan, Korea and China, gathered for Student Forum of the 14<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Environmental Ministers Meeting. During the forum, we exchanged our views on 2 themes. The first one is Youth and Our Green Behavior and the second one is Youth and Our Roles in Promoting Sustainable Development and Green Economy. On behalf of the students, I would like to present the summary of this student forum.

#### Theme 1. Youth and Our Green Behavior

During this section, representatives from Japan, Korea and China delivered presentations and shared various experiences on green behaviors done by youth of the three countries.

The Japanese representatives share green actions by presenting five cases, which can be divided at campus level, community level and global level. On campus, the Japanese youth make efforts against abandoned bicycles and promote power saving activity. At community level, the Japanese youth advocate people moving from cities to depopulated villages to do agricultural and forestry activities in order to revitalize the community life in nature. At global level, the Japanese youth connect people not only domestically but also internationally to solve environmental problem through the case of Eco-League and that of the Northeast Asia Student Round Table.

Representatives of Korea introduced green behaviors via four cases. The

Korean youth attempt to reduce the greenhouse gas emission through changing people's eating habits of meat consumption in Meat Free 7 Days action. The Korean youth also launched a campaign called Empty Rice Bowl via various advocacies in order to reduce leftover food. In addition, the Korean youth actively take part in biodiversity protection activities in DMZ area which is border line between Korea and North Korea. Through the Green Energy Town Program, the Korean youth call for enterprises to provide energy assistance in winter for low-income households to reduce energy consumption.

Representatives of China introduced green behaviors by being Environment-friendly Youth Ambassadors (EFYAs). As EFYAs, the Chinese youth not only reduce carbon dioxide and pollution in daily lives, but also make every effort to share environmental knowledge and awareness with families, friends and the public in schools, governments, communities, companies, etc. Creativity and influential ability are highlighted in Chinese youth's green behaviors. The Chinese youth showcase creativity by introducing an environmentally oriented drama---"We are all on the Same Boat", which was played at COP 17. As for influential ability, the Chinese youth actively participate in the Earth Hour activity (WWF) on campus and the Protecting Our Mother River Program.

For theme 2, delegates had deep discussion and addressed some questions. Youths also proposed different solutions in three dimensions including education, communication and leadership.

Question 1: Under the category of education and communication, what can we do?

Talking about education, youths can teach themselves to perform a sustainable behavior and take more actions. Besides, we can teach other people and share skills and knowledge to the elderly, children and the whole public. In addition, youths can disseminate information throughout Asia. Through education, youths can raise public environmental awareness.

Youths also realized that communication method is significant to promote sustainable development and green economy. Youths can take advantages of Social Networking Service (SNS) and create a new website among Japan, Korea and China for data information sharing and sustaining strong ties of communication.

Question 2: How do youths make contributions to green economy?

Youths advocate green production system, such as organic items like cotton towel using green energy in Japan, Low Carbon Emission Green Labeling Project in Korea and Environmental Labeling Product in China. After graduation, youths can choose to enter eco-friendly companies or run our green business. We will guide the whole company to build green office by saving energy, papers and produce green products. Other eco-friendly activities can be done by green consumption, recycling abandoned materials and change them into art products or other creative forms, and nurturing green habits.

Suggestions from delegates of Japan, Korea and China.

To land all these solutions smoothly, the youths need supports from companies, governments and other organizations of societies nationally and internationally. Enterprises and youths can work together using CSR platform to enhance green behaviors.

All of our delegates would like to extend our appreciation to the TEMM 14 for providing such a great opportunity for us to share our experience and learn from each other. We also learned the importance of understanding each other by overcoming the cultural difference and misunderstanding through the deep discussion. After this student forum, we want to keep connections and publicize green ideas to the public. More importantly, given that we have limited time to discuss, we only find out solutions literally. Therefore, we want to make our outcome formed in this meeting practically by exchanging different opinions and receiving more practical and professional training that perhaps from inter-governmental exchange program.