

Meeting Summary of Business Forum

The 15th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Japan, Korea and China

Kitakyushu, Japan

May 5-6, 2013

Background

Hosted by Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the 15th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Japan, Korea and China – Business Forum was held in Kitakyushu during May 5-6, 2013. The Forum is designed to implement the initiative on enhancing environmental cooperation and dialogue. 16 delegates from Japan, Korea and China participated in the meeting, represented by government, industry and institutions. The Business Forum focused on the theme, “International Cooperation towards Expansion of Green Market and Promotion of Green Economy” this year. The presentation focused on the current situation and issues/ barriers surrounding green markets and overseas expansion, followed by discussions on ways to overcome those barriers.

(List of companies who participated in the Forum)

Current Analysis around Expansion of Green Market

In the morning session, seven companies made presentations; three from Japan, two from Korea and two from China. In their presentations, Japanese representatives introduced their advanced energy saving technologies and products to reduce CO₂ and NO_x, and introduced some cases in China. The companies also asked for government incentives to promote implementation of such green technologies. Korean representative introduced their air pollution control technologies with some cooperative project ideas with China and Japan, and presented an overview of recycled scrap metal business where request for industry-friendly incentives and regulations to green service providers were also raised. Chinese representative also introduced a recycling and safe disposal business and explained the necessity of Integrated Environmental Services in which they gave the Japanese and Korean companies insight into how they can work better with Chinese corporations in offering their advanced technologies in this area.

Ideas and requests to solve the problems and barriers

In the afternoon, five companies offered their presentations; two from Japan, one from Korea and two from China. Japanese representatives shared successful cases of eco-friendly CDM schemes in South East Asia and asked for financial support to PPP scheme from the government. They also proposed creating and enhancing Emission Trade Schemes as one of effective tools to reduce carbon emission. Korean representative introduced a cutting edge dust control

technology and was met with interest from the Chinese delegate. The Chinese representative introduced their comprehensive water treatment business and pointed out that selecting the right location, timing and partner to work with is the key to successful expansion into other markets, including China.

Discussion

During the discussion, participants talked about some of the problems and barriers identified in the earlier presentations; mindset toward environmental issues as a whole, lack of understanding, financial support, lack of policy and transparency as well as collaboration and understanding of other cultures. Some mentioned the importance of localization and understanding of other cultures when pursuing business collaborations or expanding into other markets. The participants also acknowledged that the cutting edge green services can be costly and that not only government support would be appreciated and localizing the products to suit the local market to save cost was suggested as an option to lower the entry barrier. In terms of government support, support in the means of awareness building and capacity building among the three countries were mentioned.

Summary

During the Forum, participants made insightful presentations, shared information and made suggestions on the expansion of environmental services and international cooperation based on their abundant experiences in the area. It was mutually agreed that it is important to maintain and further develop the cooperative relationships among Japan, Korea and China and that the cooperation among the three countries will contribute to reducing the burden on environment. The participants also felt the need of support from the government in promoting business collaborations in the region.