

TEMM2

Beijing, People's Republic of China (February 26–27, 2000)



1. At the invitation of Mr. XIE Zhenhua, Minister of the State Environmental Protection Administration of the People's Republic of China, Minister SHIMIZU Kayoko of the Environment Agency of Japan and Minister KIM Myung Ja of the Ministry of Environment of the

Republic of Korea visited Beijing. The three Ministers met for the Second Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM) on 26-27 February 2000. The Ministers also paid a courtesy call to H.E. Premier Zhu Rongji at the State Guest House on 26 February 2000.

2. The Ministers reaffirmed the TEMM as an important forum for fostering regional environmental cooperation and sustainable development. The Ministers shared the view that they should contribute to the success of important regional and global environmental meetings, including the 4th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED), and the comprehensive review of Agenda 21 to be scheduled in 2002.

3. The Ministers noted that TEMM has produced positive effects. They shared the view on the importance of adopting appropriate methods and utilizing appropriate channels to further enhance the active role of TEMM in advancing environmental cooperation.

4. The Ministers reviewed the efforts made by the three countries, since the 1st TEMM in Seoul, in environmental protection, regional cooperation and the progress achieved in the 6 priority cooperation areas set out at the 1st TEMM. They noted that TEMM has promoted environmental cooperation at various levels and it is necessary to

further promote exchanges and cooperation of various forms, including among central governments, local governments, science and research institutes, industrial enterprises, and NGOs.

5. The Ministers also expressed their wishes to have more concrete project-style cooperation among their three countries in the above mentioned priority areas. They reaffirmed their wishes that the three countries would continue developing projects at working level, in particular projects to raise consciousness of the environmental community, fresh water (lake) pollution and land-based marine pollution prevention and cooperation in the field of environmental industry, about which the three countries have already initiated concept project proposals for cooperation.

6. The Ministers also discussed various issues of common concern, including air, water and marine pollution, biodiversity, combating desertification and climate change issues.

7. On the air pollution issue, the Ministers commended the efforts of the three countries in promoting the ongoing cooperation projects, such as Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), the three countries' joint research project on Long-range Transportation of Air Pollutants (LTP) and the establishment of a subregional center in the Republic of Korea for environmental pollution data monitoring and analysis. The Ministers expressed their hope that the three projects would go into a further step of implementation as planned.

8. On the marine environmental management issue, the Ministers recognized the importance of promoting various activities under the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP).

9. The Ministers noted with appreciation the progress made by their three countries in addressing climate change, and affirmed the

common recognition that all Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) should further strengthen their domestic efforts and international cooperation, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities, respective capabilities, and their social and economic conditions, in order to achieve its ultimate objective. The Ministers indicated their intention to make efforts for a successful outcome of the 6th Conference of Parties to UNFCCC and bring the Kyoto Protocol into force as early as possible.

10. On ecological and bio-diversity issues, the Ministers shared the recognition that habitat conservation and restoration of damaged ecosystems are essential for conserving bio-diversity, for which the collecting and sharing, as appropriate, of information on the fauna and flora are also important.

11. On the issue of water, the Ministers shared the recognition that sustainable water resources management, ensuring an environmentally-sound water cycle, securing safe water resources as a basis for development, and enabling efficient water use, are regional as well as global concerns. In this context, joint cooperation on this issue could contribute to the global efforts and could bring a positive message to international environmental forums.

12. The Ministers decided that the next TEMM would be held in Japan. The date and venue will be proposed by the host country and then confirmed with the other countries. In addition, the Ministers shared the view that they would meet on the occasion of international forums attended by all three Ministers.

13. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the friendly atmosphere and the achievements of this year's meeting. Minister SHIMIZU Kayoko and Minister KIM Myung Ja expressed their gratitude to the host country for its kind and warm hospitality.