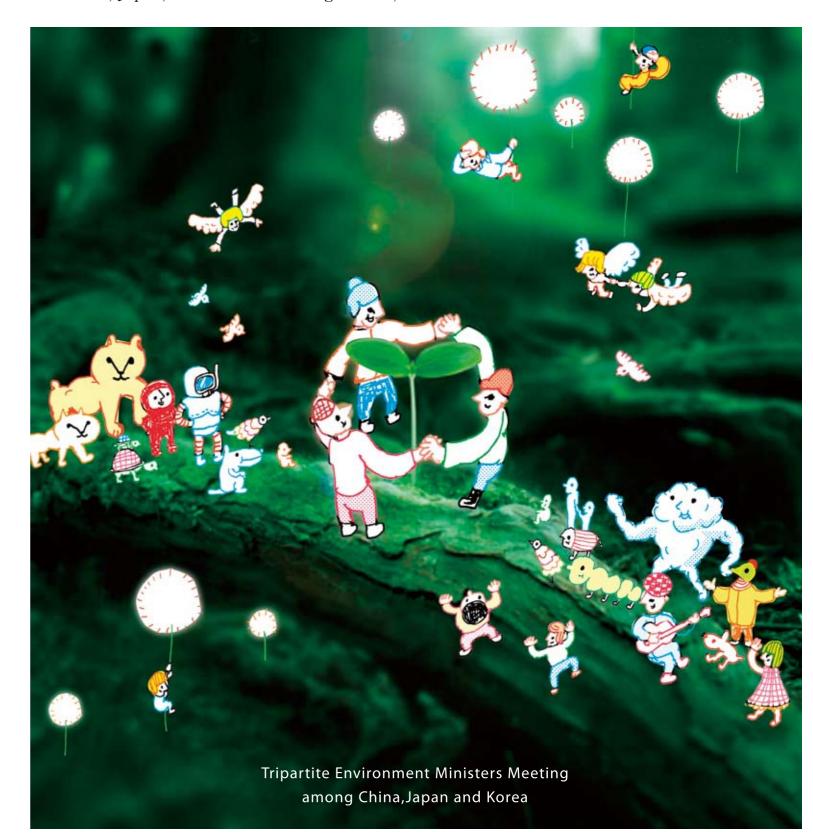


# Environmental Cooperation Among China, Japan, and Korea

Tripartite bonds of environmental cooperation among China, Japan, and Korea extending to Asia, and then the World







# Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among China, Japan and Korea

http://www.env.go.jp/earth/coop/temm/introduction\_j.html

International Cooperation Office International Strategy Division Global Environment Bureau Ministry of the Environment, Japan

1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8975 Japan Tel: +81-3-5521-8248 Fax: +81-3-3581-3423 http://www.env.go.jp/earth/coop/coop/index.html



# Environmental cooperation among China, Japan, and Korea

In recent years, the Northeast Asian sub-region has experienced extremely strong economic development, and further growth is expected. At the same time, problems such as environmental pollution and ecosystem deterioration have come to light. While respective economic and social conditions differ substantially among China, Japan and Korea, these countries must enhance cooperation for environmental conservation to increase our awareness as an environmental community and to realize sustainable development. In this context, the environment ministers of the three countries have been holding the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among China, Japan and Korea (TEMM) on annual basis since 1999. In addition, a range of initiatives for environmental cooperation are being promoted through various bodies including environmental NGOs, student bodies, and the like. Within this framework, the three countries aim to take a leading role in regional environmental management by promoting environmental cooperation, and to also contribute to global environmental improvement.

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# What is TEMM?

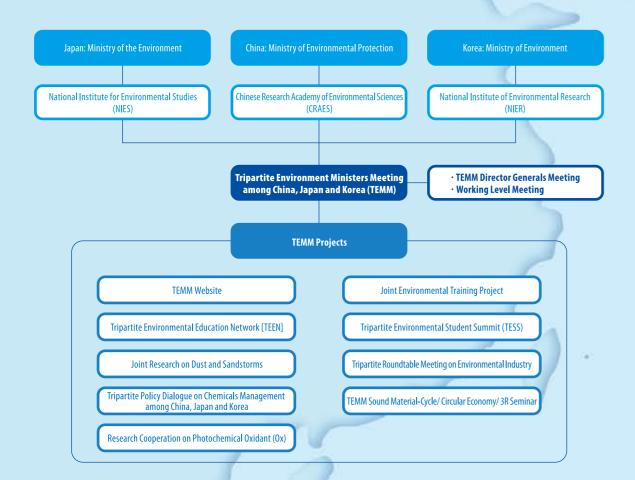
# **Objectives of TEMM**

Importance of cooperation among China, Japan, and Korea

At the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM,) the three ministers meet together to exchange frank views regarding cooperation in relation to both regional and global environmental problems. TEMM has been held annually since 1999 for the purpose of strengthening cooperative relationships. China, Japan and Korea enjoy both a strong geographical and historical connection, and share environmental challenges through the air and the sea. The three countries are conducting discussions towards effective activities for environmental issues not only in our region, but also throughout the world.

# **TEMM Organization**

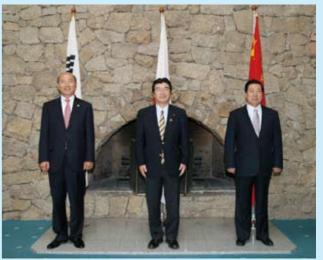
[Strengthening cooperation among China, Japan, and Korea]





# **Northeast Asia Environmental Cooperation forming a Stronger Scrum**

TEMM is the result of an agreement among China, Japan, and Korea to hold a first annual meeting in 1999 that was reached during the "6th United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development" held during April 1998. TEMM is attended by the environment ministers of the three countries and represents the sole cabinet-level meeting in the Northeast Asian region for discussion regarding the regional and global environment. TEMM also plays a role as a "prominent feature of the tripartite summit." The results of the ministerial meeting are reported at the summit meeting and tripartite environmental cooperation is conducted in environmental fields based on instructions issued at the summit meeting.



TEMM Group (May 2010, Hokkaido, Japan)

# **TEMM**

[Japan] [China] [Korea]

Exchange information regarding national environmental policy

Discuss environmental problems at a regional and global level

3

Discuss and report projects instituted under the auspices of the ministerial meeting



# **TEMM Website**

## **Providing TEMM Results to the World (from 2000)**



The National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER)

\*The Japanese-language website is prepared separately by the Ministry of the Environment.

http://www.env.go.jp/earth/coop/temm/ introduction\_j.html/

TEMM website (URL http://www.temm.org/)

## created the TEMM Website for the purpose of presenting TEMM results with the cooperation of Japan and China. Information provided by the website includes a TEMM joint communiqué and the state of progress of TEMM projects. Information on the website is updated on a regular basis, and includes a range of links to various environmental institutions in the three countries.

### Tripartite Environmental Education Network Symposium (Nagoya, November 2009)

This project conducts annual workshops and symposiums for the exchange of opinions or active debate regarding initiatives for environmental education among experts, educators NGO representatives etc. in environmental education from the three countries.

The 10th TEEN Symposium and Workshop was held in Nagoya, Japan, inviting experts and governmental officials to share the relevant activities conducted in each country and to seek for the direction of future cooperation. The focus was put upon the environmental leaders development in higher education through multi-stakeholder partnership.

# (Joint Environmental Training Project)

## Forming the Basis of Tripartite Cooperation (from 2001)

The objective of the training program is to form a foundation of tripartite cooperation by creation of a network for smooth exchange of opinions between environmental administrative authorities and sharing of awareness of the current environmental status, outstanding issues, and policies in the three countries, and thus the program provides an opportunity of participation for administrative officials from both central and local governmental bodies from the three countries. The training project has been conducted on an annual basis since 2001 by the three countries in rotation, and enables the participants to debate on the regarding national policies on environmental issues.

The tenth training was held in 2010 in Tokyo on the theme of water environmental conservation. The training program invited lecturers from each of three countries and conducted lectures on 2 subthemes; "Current state and issues on the freshwater Pollution" and "Groundwater Pollution Control". Field trips such as to Teganuma and groundwater remediation site were also held to promote better understanding on current environmental situation in Japan which is related to the training themes.



The 10th Joint Environmental Training Project (Tokyo, November, 2010)

# (Tripartite Environmental Student Summit (TESS))

## **Promoting Environmental Cooperation by Students (from 2009)**

(Tripartite Environmental Education Network [TEEN])

Aiming for Effective Environmental Education (from 2000)

Students from the three countries gathered in Nagoya in November 2009 to exchange opinions and report environmental activities by students in each of the three countries. They prepared a joint declaration through group work for environmental cooperation. They developed a tripartite student environmental network concept (three action plans), and made a presentation at the Tripartite Environmental Education Network [TEEN] symposium.

## ASEAN +3 Youth Environmental Forum 2010

Students from the tripartite countries were invited to participate in the ASEAN youth environmental forum held in Brunei Darussalam in March 2010. This is the third time that the forum has been held by ASEAN countries since 2005. 140 participants aged 15-25 conducted group discussions, group debates, and group announcements, and decided to continue to promote the activities of ASEAN +3 Youth.



Preparation of Joint Declaration by students from the three countries (Nagoya, 2009)



Brunei Darussalam Meeting



5

# (Joint Research on Dust and Sandstorms)

## Response to Increasing Problem of Dust and Sandstorms (From 2007)



The 4<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee on dust and sandstorms (Tokyo, January 2010)

The increase in damage caused by dust and sandstorms seen in recent years has stimulated a policy dialogue related to dust and sandstorm strategies in the Northeast Asian region, and an annual meeting of tripartite director general is conducted for that purpose. The steering committee and working group have been instituted to oversee joint research for the purpose of dust and sandstorm monitoring, early warning systems, prevention and control, and the like. The 5th tripartite director general meeting was held in 2010 in Japan to announce the progress of joint research and decide further planning activities.

# (Tripartite Roundtable Meeting on Environmental Industry)

## Improving the Environment through the Development of Environmental Industries (from 2001)

The Tripartite Roundtable Meeting on Environmental Industry is held annually for the purpose of promoting information exchange and cooperation in relation to industries, technologies, and developments related to the environment to thereby improve the environment by stimulating the environmental industries that will be one of the most important industrial sectors of this century. The participation of specialists, researchers, and government representatives allows for the exchange of views regarding the performance of mutual verification of environment labeling, green purchasing, environmental management, and distribution of environmental technologies. The participants take the experience of each country into account when examining methods of cooperation across the region.

The 10th Tripartite Roundtable Meeting on Environmental Industry was held in Korea in 2010 on the themes of "green purchases," "environmental management," "environmental labeling," and "environmental technologies." Discussions were held regarding the state of new environmental information exchange in the three countries, and debate will be pursued on a continuing basis.



The 10th Tripartite Roundtable Meeting on Environmental Industry (Seoul, December 2010)

(Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemicals Management among China, Japan and Korea)

## Preventing Environmental Contamination by Chemical Substances (from 2007)

In recent years, since Japan has increasingly imported and exported various types of refined products or chemical substances with various countries in the Northeast region including China and Korea, the suitable operation of a chemicals management system in each country is important for the prevention of environmental contamination in the Northeast region that includes Japan. Furthermore, the business entities that manufacture or import chemical substances have expressed a view that the chemical management regimes of each country should be harmonized. Linkages, cooperation, and international harmonization between the three countries are increasingly important for the prevention of



Tripartite specialist meeting for ecotoxicity test guidelines for chemicals (Tokyo, September 2010)

environmental contamination by chemical substances in the Northeast region. In light of these circumstances, agreement was reached at the 8th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM8) held in August 2006 to hold an annual chemical substances policy dialogue. The policy dialogue facilitates exchange of information related to problems common to each country such as the GHS (Global Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals), and to the current state and issues surrounding initiatives by each country. Discussions are also held regarding future directions for linkages and cooperation in relation to chemical management policies. The 4th Policy Dialogue was held in September, 2010 in Japan. Opinions were exchanged by tripartite government personnel, and discussions were held regarding future directions in tripartite linkages and cooperation, in addition to the exchange of information and opinions regarding the latest directions in chemicals management. Agreement was reached regarding the necessity to strengthen cooperation in the field of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP), test guidelines, and risk assessment of chemicals.

8

# TEMM Sound Material-Cycle/ Circular Economy/ 3R Seminar

## **Role of Relevant Parties in Promotion of 3R Activities (from 2005)**

Information and opinions are exchanged regarding tripartite policies and initiatives related to the recyclable society, the 3Rs, and the recyclable economy. In addition, structures in the three countries related to waste disposal management, and 3R information sharing systems are examined. The 5th seminar was held in 2009 in Japan. Active discussions were conducted regarding themes such as "3R/ Sound Material-Cycle Society and Low-Carbon Society," "each country' activities for E-waste/mercury waste," and "TEMM Sound Material-Cycle Society/Circular Economy/3R activity."



TEMM Sound Material-Cycle/ Circular Economy/ 3R Seminar

9

# (Research Cooperation on Photochemical Oxidant (Ox))

## Towards Improving the Atmospheric Environment (from 2008)



The 1st Workshop on Scientific Research of Photochemical Oxidant (Tokyo, September 2008)

Research cooperation is conducted for the purpose of forming a common understanding in addition to elucidating contamination mechanisms by sharing scientific knowledge in relation to photochemical oxidants that exhibit transboundary behavior within the Northeast Asian region. In 2009, the "2nd Tripartite Workshop on Scientific Research of Photochemical Oxidant" was held in Korea.



# Starting Tripartite initiatives for improving the environment of Northeast Asia Positive initiatives for a Range of Problems

### 1999.1

# The 1st Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting



Mr. XIE Zhenhua, Minister of the State Environmental Protection Administration, People's Republic of China Mr. CHOI Jae-wook, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea Mr. MANABE Kenii, Minister of the Environment Agency, Japan

Date: 13 January 1999
Venue: The Westin Chosun Hotel,
Seoul, Korea

The Ministers of Environment from China, Japan, and Korea as leading countries in Northeast Asia met together to exchange the views on environmental cooperation to address global environmental issues and to strengthen the cooperative relationship.

## 2000.2

# The 2nd Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting



Ms. SHIMIZU Kayoko, Minister of the Environment Agency, Japan Mr. XIE Zhenhua, Minister of the State Environmental Protectic Administration, People's Republic of China Mr. KIM Myung Ja, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea

Date: 26-27 February 2000

Venue: Diaoyutai State Guesthouse,
Beijing, China

The Environment Ministers from each of the tripartite countries reconfirmed that the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting is an important forum for promoting regional environmental cooperation and sustainable growth. The Ministers shared the view that they should contribute to the success of important future regional and global environmental meetings, including the 4th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED), and the comprehensive review (Rio +10) of Agenda 21 to be scheduled in 2002.

## 2001.4

# The 3rd Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting



Mr. XIE Zhenhua, Minister of the State Environmental Protection
Administration, People's Republic of China
Ms. KAWAGUCHI Yoriko, Minister of the Environment, Japan
Ms. KIM Myung Ja, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea

Date: 7-8 April 2001 Venue: Hotel Okura, Tokyo, Japan

The Ministers exchanged views on recent progress in environmental initiatives in their respective countries and in the Northeast Asian region. The Ministers noted with great pleasure the high recognition given to the progress of TEMM by the Trilateral Meeting of the Leaders of China, Japan and Korea, which was held in November 2000.

## 2002.4

# The 4th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting



Ms. KIM Myung Ja, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea Mr. OHKI Hiroshi, Minister of the Environment, Japan Mr. XIE Zhenhua, Minister of the State Environmental Protection

Date: 20-21 April 2002 Venue: The Westin Chosun Hotel, Seoul, Korea

The Ministers observed that environmental protection would be key to shaping the course of the 21st century. In this vein, they anticipated that the international community would make significant efforts to achieve sustainable development. The Ministers agreed that providing information on TEMM to other regional and global environmental meetings would prove valuable to international environmental efforts, and in that context, is highly regarded.

## 2003.12

# The 5th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting



Mr. XIE Zhenhua, Minister of the State Environmental Protection Administration, People's Republic of China Ms. HAN Myeong Sook, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea Ms. KOIKE Yuriko, Minister of the Environment Ministry, Japan

Date: 13-14 December 2003 Venue: Beijing Hotel, Beijing, China

The Ministers are encouraged by the Joint Declaration on the Promotion of Tripartite Cooperation signed by leaders of the three countries in Bali last October. In the field of environmental cooperation, they also recalled the significance attached to TEMM for its leading role in the regional environmental cooperation by the leaders of the three countries at the 2001 Trilateral Summit. The Ministers agreed that TEMM would play a more important role in strengthening regional and global environmental cooperation for realizing the goals of the Declaration.

## 2004.12

# The 6th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting



Mr. KWAK Kyul Ho, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea
Ms. KOIKE Yuriko, Minister of the Environment, Japan
Mr. XIE Zhenhua, Minister of the State Environmental Protection

Date: 4-5 December 2004 Venue: Mita-Kaigisyo, Tokyo, Japan

The Ministers reemphasized their common view that TEMM was an important meeting for encouraging regional environmental cooperation and sustainable development and exchanged their opinions on the progress of the environmental actions which had been made recently in each country and in the Northeast Asian region.

## **Progress of TEMM Projects**

#### 2000

Opening of the TEMM website

Holding of the "1st Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN)"

#### 2001

Holding of the "1st Joint Environmental Training Project"

Holding of the "1st Tripartite Roundtable Meeting on Environmental Industry"



# TEMM 10th Anniversary Strengthening Ties for Environmental Cooperation within the Northeast Asian Region

## 2005.10

# The 7th Tripartite Environment



Mr. XIE Zhenhua, Minister of the State Environmental Protection Administration, People's Republic of China Mr. LEE Jae Yong, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea Ms. KOIKE Yuriko, Minister of the Environment, Japan

Date: 22-23 October 2005
Venue: Shilla Hotel,
Seoul, Korea

The Ministers shared their views on the recent progress in each country regarding environmental management following TEMM 6. They welcomed the outline of China's next five-year plan that clearly expresses the intention to establish an environmentally friendly society based on the "Scientific Outlook on Development." The Ministers confirmed that TEMM would play an important role in achieving sustainable development and progress in regional environmental cooperation in the Northeast Asian region. They confirmed that the three countries would continue to work together on various regional issues.

## 2006.12

# The 8th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting



Mr. LEE Chi-Beom, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea
Mr. WAKABAYASHI Masatoshi, Minister of the Environment, Japan
Mr. ZHOU Shengxian, Minister of the State Environmental Protection
Administration, People's Republic of China

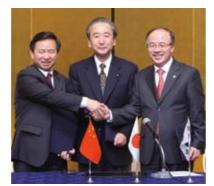
Date: 2-3 December 2006

Venue: Diaoyutai State Guesthouse,
Beijing, China

The Ministers shared their views on the recent progress in each country regarding environmental management after TEMM 7. They welcomed the "Three Transformations for China's Environmental Protection under the New Situation" put forward by China, "Integrated Improvement of the Environment, Economy and Society" by Japan, and "the Comprehensive National Environmental Plan" by Korea that clearly express the intention to integrate environmental protection into economic and social development.

## 2007.12

#### The 9th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting



Mr. LI Ganjie, Vice Minister of the State Environmental Protectio Administration, People's Republic of China Mr. KAMOSHITA Ichiro, Minister of the Environment, Japan

Date: 4-6 December 2007

Venue: ANA Crown Plaza Hotel Toyama,
Toyama, Japan

The Ministers shared their views on the recent progress in each country regarding environmental management after TEMM 8. They welcomed the "Environmental Strategy for the 21st Century" put forward by Japan, the "National Strategy for Sustainable Development" by Korea, and strategic concept of "applying Scientific Outlook on Development to build up an environmentally friendly society" by China, all three of which clearly express the intention to integrate environmental protection into economic and social development.

## 2008.12

# The 10th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting



Mr. ZHOU Shengxian, Minister of the Environmental Protection, People's Republic of China

Mr. SAITO Tetsuo, Minister of the Environment, Japan Mr. LEE Maanee, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea

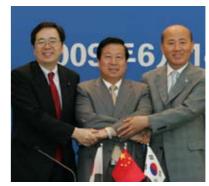
Date: 1-3 December 2008

Venue: Jeju International Convention Center,
Lotte Hotel Jeju, Korea

The Ministers shared their views on the recent progress in each country regarding environmental management after TEMM 9. They welcomed the "Environmental Policy Directions & Tasks for Green Growth & Higher Quality of life" by Korea, the efforts of "pollution abatement" and "rehabilitating the ecologically vulnerable rivers and lakes" guided by the "Scientific Outlook on Development" by China, and the "Clean Asia Initiative" and the "Action Plan for Low-Carbon Society" by Japan, all three of which clearly express the intention to integrate environmental protection into economic and social development.

### 2009.6

# The 11th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting



Mr. SAITO Tetsuo, Minister of the Environment, Japan Mr. ZHOU Shengxian, Minister of the Environmental Protec People's Republic of China

Mr. LEE Maanee, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea

Date: 13-14 June 2009

Venue: Diaoyutai State Guesthouse,
Beijing, China

The Ministers have shared their views on the progress of tripartite cooperation during the past decade since TEMM 1. They reached consensus that TEMM was of vital importance in promoting regional environmental cooperation and achieving sustainable development in the Region. They expressed appreciation for the achievements on priority areas in the last 10 years.

## 2010.5



# The 12th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting



Mr. LEE Maanee, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea

Mr. OZAWA Sakihito, Minister of the Environment, Japan Mr. ZHOU Shengxian, Minister of the Environmental Protection

Date: 22-23 May 2010

Venue: Hotel Mizuno-uta, Chitose and Hotel Nidom, Tomakomai, Hokkaido, Japan

The Ministers reaffirmed that TEMM plays an important role in promoting regional environmental cooperation and achieving sustainable development in Northeast Asian. The Ministers adopted the Tripartite Action Plan on Environmental Protection for 2010-2014 on 10 priority areas and agreed to cooperate in order to develop and achieve the goals stated in the Action Plan.

## **Progress of TEMM Projects**

2005

Holding of the "TEMM Sound Material-Cycle/ Circular Economy/ 3R Seminar"

#### 2007

Holding of the "1st Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemicals Management among China, Japan and Korea"

Holding of the "1st Tripartite Dust and Sandstorm Director General Meeting"

## 2008

Holding of the "1st Tripartite Workshop on Scientific Research of Photochemical Oxidant"

#### 2009

Holding of the "1st Tripartite
Environmental Student Summit (TESS)

# **TEMM**

# The 12th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among China, Japan and Korea

TEMM12 was held on 22 (Sat) - 23 (Sun), May 2010. On the 22nd, the welcoming ceremonies for the ministers of each country were started by a performance of the Shikotsuko international drum group, followed by a commemorative ceremony including tree planting ceremonies, bi-lateral discussions between the environment ministers from two countries, and then the reception was opened by the Chitose chapter of the Ainu Association. On the 23rd, the TEMM meeting commenced, followed by signing and sealing ceremony, and a joint press conference. Thereafter, a performance was conducted by Tomakomai City and Chitose City at a hosted luncheon. Then performances were conducted by students and eco-clubs during an inspection of the Lake Utonai Wildlife Conservation Center.



Candles presented by local businesses

**TEMM Plenary Session** 



elementary school students from the local Shikotsuko area gave a welcoming performance.



Hokkaido since long ago, and is also used in China and



exhibitions showing the natural environment of Shikotsuko (volcanic activity, and the like) and the ecology of local

#### China-Japan Discussions



Upon request by Mr. Ozawa, the Minister of the Env relation to transborder pollution, Chinese agreed to host hold a workshop for photochemical oxides and meetings regarding the strategies for the causes of dust and sandstorms in the three countries

#### Janan-Korea Discussion



to a request for support for Korea to hold the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP18 in 2012. Furthermore agreement was reached on bilateral exchange of information for an emission trading

#### Shikotsuko Ainu Classical Dance



performance including an introduction to Ainu culture and a classical dance was provided by the Chitose chapter of the Ainu Association of Hokkaido and the Chitose Ainu Culture Preservation Society.



Mr. Ozawa acted as the chairman during a meeting examining the progress in environment strategies of each

country and regional challenges, in addition to adopting a "Tripartite Action Plan in relation to Environmental

第12回日中韓三カ国環境大臣会会

Inspection of environmental education facilities at Lake Utonai Wildlife Conservation Center for the natural

## Daily Schedule of the Twelfth Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among China, Japan and Korea (TEMM)

## 22 May (Saturday) Welcome performance for each national delegation by Shikotsuko International Drum group Inspection of Shikotsuko town, and tree planting ceremony Discussion between environment ministers of Japan and China Discussion between environment ministers of Japan and Korea Discussion between environment ministers of Korea and China Reception Introduction to Ainu culture by Chitose chapter

of the Ainu Association of Hokkaido





Cooperation" and a joint communiqué



A performance about topical issues was given by 10 members of the "Junior Eco-Club of the Ministry of the Environment" of Tomakomai



LEE Maanee: Minister, Ministry of Environment Republic of Korea OZAWA Sakihito: Minister, Ministry of the Environment Japan ZHOU Shengxian,: Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection People's Republic of China(In order from left of photograph)

#### Signing and Sealing Ceremony





countries gave a presentation about should do to solve environmental

Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among China, Japan and Korea



On the 23rd, the results of discussions regarding environmental problems by students from the three countries were reported to the ministers of the environment of the three countries. A total of 25 students (7 students from the Tomakomai National College of Technology, 9 students from the Chitose Institute of Science and Technology, 3 Japanese students from the Hokkaido University, 4 exchange students from China, and 2 exchange students from Korea) participated on this event. Various meetings were held in advance, and the details of the report covered the "Need for effective environmental education for both parents and children of each country, and methods for such education." The ministers for the environment of the three countries listened carefully to the report, and it therefore provided a good opportunity for deepening understanding of environmental problems and exchange by the students from the three countries.

A "TEMM Linkage Meeting" was held by the Junior Eco-Club of the Ministry of the Environment. The "Youth Pen-Friend Club of Tomakomai" and "Team Explorer Eco-leaders" also participated, and gave a report to the tripartite environmental ministers regarding various initiatives.



# Impressions from all the students who participated

"When discussing real problems, it is important to listen to different viewpoints. A person who has the capacity to understand those views is really international. This point has a connection with improving our global environment. This was what I took away from the conference."

"I really learned a lot from everyone during the week of web-based debate, and then the two-day discussion. I feel that I have broadened my viewpoint regarding environmental problems."

"In addition to thinking seriously about environmental problems, we got the opportunity to talk one-to-one with students from China and Korea. I felt that the opportunity to experience another culture was an important result for me."

"Bringing together students from three countries having different cultures, discussing opinions and viewpoints regarding a single theme, and then expressing the results to the ministers of each country was a very precious experience for me."

"I changed my viewpoint a lot as a result of exchange of opinions with everyone from the Hokkaido University and Chitose Institute of Science and Technology and senior students at the Tomakomai National College of Technology. I really learned a lot from listening to opinions that I had not considered myself."

"It really meant a lot to give a report about our activities at a conference attended by the minister of Japan and the ministers of our neighbors China and Korea."



## **Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation**

#### Chapter 1:

Strategies of Environmental Cooperation among Korea, China, and Japan

#### 1. Introduction

The Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China, and Japan are situated in Northeast Asia and share the atmospheric, marine and natural environment. Recent years have seen rapid economic development in Northeast Asia, with continued growth expected. At the same time, various environmental issues have emerged, and how to achieve sustainable development, through initiatives such as green growth / green economy, has now become a crucial issue. Though the three countries have greatly varying economic and social conditions, they share the common task of having to address national, regional and global environmental issues taking into account their national circumstances.

Thus, the inaugural Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Korea, China, and Japan (TEMM) was held in 1999, to launch the three countries' cooperative efforts for the environment. To date, the three countries have promoted and implemented cooperation, including information exchange, joint research, and joint projects, etc., regarding various domestic, regional and global environment issues. These efforts have played a major role in the region's environmental management and made contributions to improving the global environment.

At the TEMM 11 which was held in Beijing, China in June 2009, the Environment Ministers from the three countries reached an agreement on the ten priority cooperation areas for future tripartite environment cooperation as referred to hereinafter. The leaders of the three countries met at the Second China-Japan-ROK Summit Meeting held in Beijing in October 2009, and released the Joint Statement on Sustainable Development among the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, in which the leaders endorsed the ten priority cooperation areas and encouraged the Environment Ministers of the three countries to develop a joint action plan in the stated ten priority areas for adoption at the TEMM 12 in 2010. Following this instruction, the Environment Ministers of the three countries met at the TEMM 12 in Hokkaido, Japan on 23 May 2010 and adopted this Action Plan, and will report it to the Third Tripartite Leaders Summit to seek its endorsement.

### 2. Vision and Scope

The Environment Ministers of the three countries shall:

Honor the commitment made by the leaders of the three countries as manifested in the Joint Statement for

Tripartite Partnership and Action Plan for Promoting Trilateral Cooperation among the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea adopted at the first Trilateral Summit Meeting December 2008, and the Joint Statement on 2 Sustainable Development among the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea adopted at the second Trilateral Summit Meeting in October 2009;

- Share the understanding that Northeast Asia is one Environmental Community:
- Make efforts to ensure that environmental protection is mainstreamed into measures for economic development of the three countries, with the recognition that these efforts are common global, regional, and national tasks and opportunities;
- Emphasize the necessity for stronger tripartite cooperation among the three countries for environmental conservation, under the principle of openness, transparency, mutual trust, common benefit and respect for cultural diversity;
- · Share the common concept that cooperation by the three countries for environmental conservation is a key to addressing environmental issues in Northeast Asia, and complements wider regional cooperation frameworks such as ASEAN Plus Three and the East Asian Summit (EAS), as well as enhances the synergies among these frameworks and promotes further progress; and
- Stipulate this Action Plan in the following ten priority areas of environmental cooperation among Korea, China, and Japan for the period 2010 – 2014:
- (1) Environmental Education, Environmental Awareness and Public Participation;
- (2) Climate Change;
- (3) Biodiversity Conservation;
- (4) Dust and Sandstorms (DSS);
- (5) Pollution Control;
- **(6)** Environment-Friendly Society/3R/Sound Resource Recycle Society;
- (7) Transboundary movement of E-Waste;
- (8) Sound Management of Chemicals;
- (9) Environmental Governance in Northeast Asia; and
- (10) Environmental Industries and Technologies

The aim of this Action Plan is to present specific plans for cooperative activities in the aforementioned ten areas, which are described in Chapter 2.

#### 3. Strategic Approaches

The three countries will advance their cooperation for the environment in the ten priority areas, taking into account the character and historical background of the issues in each area, based on one, two or all of the following approaches: i) information collection/sharing; ii) research-oriented approaches and iii) action-oriented approaches.

In the areas in which the existing cooperation framework has sufficiently matured, the action oriented approach will be the focus. In the areas where cooperation is newly started, the initial focus will be on information collecting and sharing and/or research-oriented approach(es), followed by an action-oriented approach built upon their achievements.

#### 4. Implementation Arrangement

The Environment Ministers of the three countries shall oversee the general progress and achievements of the Action Plan, taking opportunities such as TEMM, and provide guidance.

The respective director generals of the three Ministries shall periodically review the state of progress and achievements of the activities at occasions such as the TEMM Director Generals Meeting and report the results of the review to the TEMM.

A TEMM Working-Level Meeting shall be established under the TEMM Director Generals Meeting, with members from the division and/or office responsible for TEMM administration in the respective Environment Ministries of the three countries, which shall oversee routine communications and other business concerning cooperation among the implementing agencies in the three countries.

This Action Plan shall be reviewed and updated as required according to the state of progress of future cooperation.

The Action Plan will be implemented jointly by the implementing agencies in collaboration with the TEMM focal points.

Resources necessary for the implementation will be jointly contributed by the three countries taking into account their national circumstances.

The TEMM website will continue to be operated as an information dissemination tool for TEMM activities.

#### Chapter 2:

Action Plan in the Cooperation Priority Areas in 2010 – 2014

# 1. Environmental Education, Environmental Awareness and Public Participation

#### (Objectives)

As the foundation of regional and domestic actions regarding environmental issues, the three countries will advance their cooperation in environmental education,

raising environmental awareness and promoting public participation. At the same time, the three countries will nurture awareness of a common environmental community since Korea, China, and Japan share a common physical and biological environment, and must tackle environmental issues collaboratively.

#### (Activities)

The three countries agreed to collaborate on the creation of the Environmental Education Readers from 2010. The three countries value the achievements of the 2009 Youth Meeting held in Japan in preparation for building a network of the environmental youth groups in the three countries. This Youth Meeting will be hosted annually by each of the three countries in turn. The three countries will continue promoting cooperation including the Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN) and the environmental training for the officials of the three countries.

#### 2. Climate Change

#### (Objectives)

The three countries reaffirm their commitment to the objectives and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol, in particular, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and will work together to promote the full and effective and sustained implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol.

#### (Activities)

The three countries welcome the outcome of the COP15/CMP5, and agree to work constructively together towards a positive outcome at the COP16/CMP6 in Cancun at the end of 2010.

Recognizing the scientific view that the increase in the global temperature should be below 2 degrees Celsius, on the basis of equity and sustainable development, the three countries should take cooperative action to promote the exchange of information on policies and actions among them on mitigation and adaption to climate change, share knowledge and best practices, promote the joint development and the transfer of climate-friendly technologies, facilitate cost-effective, project-based, and mutually-beneficial cooperative activities that contribute to greenhouse gas emission reductions, and evaluate the effects of the cooperative projects on emission reductions in an appropriate manner.

The three countries will exchange information, starting from 2010, on each nation's policy and experience on a co-benefits approach, which aims to address both climate change and environmental problems, utilizing existing international networks whenever appropriate.



## **Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation**

The three countries will make efforts towards the realization of Green Growth and a Low- Carbon Society and will promote green and low-carbon development based on each country's national circumstances, such as (i) a "Green Economic Policy" seminar in 2010 hosted by China and (ii) commencing joint research on Green Growth and a Low-Carbon Society.

#### 3. Biodiversity Conservation

#### (Objectives)

The three countries recognize the serious impact on the ecosystems in Northeast Asia resulting from the pressure of urbanization commonly seen in the region; population growth and decline, as well as aging; and will strengthen efforts to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

#### (Activities)

The three countries will cooperate for the success of; the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/COP10), scheduled to be held in Nagoya City, Aichi, Japan in October 2010; will support the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress, which will be held at Jeju Island, Korea in 2012; and will lead global endeavors towards the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The three countries will formulate and promote trilateral joint actions such as joint research on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through collaborative initiatives in international and regional platforms such as the Satoyama Initiative, Asia Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network (AP-BON), and East and Southeast Asia Biodiversity Information Initiative (ESABII), etc.; and will utilize such platforms to deepen cooperation in the area of biodiversity conservation.

#### 4. Dust and Sandstorms (DSS)

#### (Objectives)

The three countries, with the aim of promoting regional cooperation on Dust and Sandstorms (DSS) policies in Northeast Asia, will cooperate in the establishment of DSS monitoring and early warning networks, and DSS prevention and control.

#### (Activities)

The three countries will continue to advance the DSS joint research begun in 2008, and will share the data and knowledge more deeply. Specifically, the three countries will promote joint research analyzing success factors for ecosystem restoration of desertified areas, develop DSS forecasting models, conduct joint research to improve their accuracy, and improve cooperation regarding sharing of data

on typical dust storm events.

#### 5. Pollution Control

#### (Objectives)

The three countries will prevent atmospheric and other environmental pollution in the region, and will protect the aquatic and marine environments.

#### (Activities)

The three countries will cooperate closely, involving the remaining country, to enhance activities of Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) under the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP), inter alia, to strengthen joint-workshops and activities to raise awareness and promote research cooperation for sharing the scientific knowledge, including that which would improve the understanding of all countries in the region regarding the marine litter generation mechanism, with a view to managing the generation of marine litter.

The three countries will hold workshops in order to identify and build mutual understanding regarding the mechanisms of ozone pollution, and start discussions on the implementation of concrete research cooperation in 2010.

The three countries will undertake collaborative initiatives in the Asian regional forums for pollution control, such as the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), the Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA), the Regional EST (Environmentally Sustainable Transport) Forum in Asia, and the Workshop on Reduction of Unintentional POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants) in East Asian Countries, as well as share information and utilize such forums to improve and protect the environment in the three countries.

# 6. Environment-Friendly Society/3R/Sound Resource Recycle Society

## (Objectives)

The three countries will strengthen cooperation in policy development as well as in technical cooperation, towards building an Environment-Friendly Society/3R/Sound Resource Recycle Society.

## (Activities)

The three countries will continue advancing policy discussions in the "Sound Material-Cycle Society/Circular Economy/3R" Seminars and the development of China-Japan-Korea 3R Information Sharing System, and sharing best practices and knowledge concerning 3R.

#### 7. Transboundary Movement of E-Waste

#### (Objectives)

The three countries will prevent illegal transboundary movement of e-waste and promote environmentally sound management of e-waste in order to protect human health and the environment.

#### (Activities)

The three countries will cooperatively take the initiative regarding the existing regional organizations such as Basel Convention Coordinating Center for Asia and the Pacific, and existing projects in Asia, including the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and the Basel Convention Partnership on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Wastes for Asia Pacific Region. In addition to keeping the close communication and information sharing among officials, the three countries will promote cooperation on e-waste management through information exchange on management and control of the transboundary movement of e-waste, as well as interexchange of experts.

### 8. Sound Management of Chemicals

#### (Objectives)

The three countries will promote information exchange on chemical management policies and their regulation, and prevent significant adverse effects on human health and environment caused by chemicals through proper operation of chemical management systems in each country.

#### (Activities)

The three countries will continuously hold the Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemicals Management among Korea, China, and Japan to exchange information on the recent trends of chemical management policies and to strengthen cooperation in the field of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP), test methods and risk assessment of chemicals.

#### 9. Environmental Governance in Northeast Asia

#### (Objectives)

The three countries will create a long term vision for cooperation between the governments of the three countries and the concerned stakeholders in order to strengthen environmental governance (capacities and mechanisms of environmental management) in Northeast Asia.

#### (Activities)

The three countries will commence in 2010 joint research on environmental governance in Northeast Asia including establishing an experts group, and joint research on the assessment of environmental impacts that accompany the development of the economic relationships among the three

#### countries.

The National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER) in Korea, the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES) and the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) in Japan, utilizing the opportunity of their annual Tripartite President Meeting, are encouraged to collaborate for the purpose of expanding environmental research capacities through discussions and joint workshops.

### 10. Environmental Industries and Technology

#### (Objectives

The three countries will promote environmental industries and research and development on environmental technologies in order to develop measures to protect the environment that do not compromise economic growth, and in order to realize Green Growth.

#### (Activities)

The three countries will continue to promote the exchange of experts, researchers and administration officers through the Tripartite Environmental Industry Roundtable; and to advance the sharing of knowledge concerning green purchasing, eco-labelling, environmental management, and environmental technology. The three countries will promote information sharing on verification of environmental technologies.

Hokkaido, 23 May 2010.

Sakihito OZAWA Minister, Ministry of the Environment Japan

LEE Maanee Minister, Ministry of Environment Republic of Korea

ZHOU Shengxian, Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection People's Republic of China



# The 12th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Korea, China and Japan

22-23 May 2010, Hokkaido, Japan

#### **Preamble**

At the invitation of Minister Sakihito OZAWA of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Minister ZHOU Shengxian of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China and Minister LEE Maanee of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea visited Hokkaido, where the three Ministers met for the Twelfth Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM12) on 22-23 May 2010.

# Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation

The Ministers confirmed that TEMM was of vital importance in promoting environmental cooperation and achieving sustainable development in Northeast Asia. We observed that considerable progress has been made under TEMM, such as Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN), Circular Economy/3R/Sound Material Cycle Society Seminar, Joint Research on Dust and Sandstorms (DSS), environmental industry, etc.

The Ministers noted the commitment made by our leaders in the Joint Statement on Sustainable Development among the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea at the Trilateral Summit in Beijing, China in October 2009, and adopted the "Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation," which states the goals and joint actions among the three countries from 2010 in the following ten areas.

- $\boldsymbol{\cdot}$  Environmental Education, Environmental Awareness and Public Participation
- Climate Change
- $\cdot \, \text{Biodiversity Conservation;} \\$
- Dust and Sandstorms (DSS);
- $\cdot \, \mathsf{Pollution} \, \mathsf{Control};$
- Environment-Friendly Society/3R/Sound Resource Recycle Society;
- $\cdot \, \text{Transboundary Movement of E-Waste;} \\$
- · Sound Management of Chemicals;
- · Environmental Governance in Northeast Asia;
- · Environmental Industries and Technologies

The Ministers committed to steadily implement the agreed actions for achieving the goals stated in the Plan in accordance with the vision and scope, the strategic approaches and the implementation arrangement stated in the Joint Action Plan. They also agreed to oversee the progress and achievements of the Action Plan as a whole and provide guidance under TEMM.

# Progress of Environmental Policies in Korea, China and Japan

The Ministers shared their views on the recent progress in each country regarding environmental policies after TEMM11. They welcomed the statements by each country on "Domestic Policy Progress on Global Warming Countermeasures and Measures toward Integrating the Environment into Economy" by Japan, "Accelerating the Shift of Economic Development Pattern and Exploring A Chinese New Road toward Environmental Protection" by China, and "Korea's Green Growth Policies" by Korea. The three Ministers shared their recognition that these measures meet the important direction of clear intention to integrate environmental measures into economic and social development, and become a driving force for solving environmental problems in Northeast Asia as well as on the globe.

### **Environmental Cooperation for Global Challenges**

"Climate Change"

The three countries reaffirm their commitment to the objectives and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol, in particular, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and will work together to promote the full and effective and sustained implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol.

The three countries welcome the outcome of the COP15/CMP5, and agree to work constructively together towards a positive outcome at the COP16/CMP6 in Cancun at the end of 2010.

Recognizing the scientific view that the increase in the global temperature should be below 2 degrees Celsius, on the basis of equity and sustainable development, the three countries should take cooperative action to promote the exchange of information on policies and actions among them on mitigation and adaption to climate change, shareknowledge and best practices, promote the joint development and the transfer of climate-friendly technologies, facilitate cost-effective, project-based, and mutually-beneficial cooperative activities that contribute to greenhouse gas emission reductions, and evaluate the effects of the cooperative projects on emission reductions in an appropriate manner.

The three countries will exchange information, starting from 2010, on each nation's policy and experience on a co-benefits approach, which aims to address both climate change and environmental problems, utilizing existing international networks whenever appropriate.

The three countries will make efforts towards the realization of Green Growth and a Low-Carbon Society and will promote green and low-carbon development based on each country's national circumstances, such as (i) a "Green Economic Policy" seminar in 2010 hosted by China and (ii) commencing joint research on Green Growth and a Low-Carbon Society.

#### "Biodiversity"

The Ministers confirmed to cooperate for the success of the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/COP10), scheduled to be held in Nagoya City, Aichi, Japan in October 2010; and to support the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress, which will be held at Jeju Island. Korea in 2012. The Ministers agreed that it is important to utilize scientific information on the status and future trends of biodiversity in order to assist the decision-making process. The three Ministers recognized that a global interface between science and policy on the issue of the biodiversity is important. The Ministers noted that UNEP/Korea will host the third conference of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) to be held in Busan city, Korea in June and look forward to the outcomes of this conference. And, three countries will send their delegations respectively to actively join this conference. The Ministers confirmed that they will formulate and promote trilateral joint actions such as cooperative research on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through collaborative initiatives ininternational and regional platforms such as the Satoyama Initiative, and the East and Southeast Asia Biodiversity Information Initiative (ESABII) etc. to utilize such platforms to deepen cooperation in the area of biodiversity conservation.

#### **Environmental Cooperation for Regional Challenges**

#### "Integrate the Environment into Economy"

The Ministers confirmed their common understanding that integrating environmental perspectives into economic and social

activities will contribute to achieving a new 21st century form of economic growth by making potential demand evident, strengthening competitiveness, and developing infrastructure for sustainable development. The three confirmed that they will cooperate toward the achievement of green growth and a low-carbon society through means such as holding a "Green Economy Policy" seminar in China in 2010 and initiating joint research on green growth and low-carbon society, while considering the circumstances of each country.

#### "Dust and Sandstorms"

The Ministers stressed the need to further promote measures to prevent and respond to Dust and Sandstorms (DSS), taking into consideration that DSS has become one of the high priority common challenges in the region. They also appreciated the efforts made by the Tripartite Director General Meeting on DSS among Korea, China, and Japan held in Sapporo, Japan on 13 March 2010, and confirmed that they will strengthen cooperation toward promoting the establishment of DSS monitoring and early warning networks, and DSS prevention and control measures. The three Ministers recognized the importance of DSS prevention and control, welcomed that the tripartite working group meeting on DSS prevention and control will be held in China, and confirmed their willingness to advance necessary cooperation. Furthermore, the Ministers confirmed the importance of providing and sharing relevant data, and the participation of experts on DSS forecasting models to further promote these joint activities, and welcomed that the working group meeting on DSS monitoring and forecasting models will be held in Korea.

#### "Pollution Control"

The Ministers stressed the need to further promote appropriate measures to prevent air pollution and to protect the water and marine environment in the region. Relevant joint scientific research projects were encouraged on early warning, pollution prevention and control, such as photochemical oxidants, water and marine environment

Air Pollution: The Ministers recognized the importance of prevention and control of photochemical oxidants (Ox) and agreed to cooperate to develop concrete joint research through a tripartite workshop, which will be held in China. With a view towards strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) and promoting its future development, the Ministers also welcomed its Twelfth Inter-Governmental Meeting which will be held at Niigata, Japan in November 2010.

Marine Litter: The Ministers appreciated the joint efforts made by the three countries within the framework of Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) including the progress of Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) containing the coastal clean-up activities and agreed to cooperate closely, involving the remaining country, to enhance RAP MALI activities, inter alia, to strengthen joint-workshops and activities to raise awareness and promote research cooperation for sharing the scientific knowledge, including that which would improve the understanding of all countries in the region regarding the marine litter generation mechanism, with a view to managing the generation of marine litter. The three Ministers noted that an appropriate management of waste and relevant materials in land and coastal areas in each country plays a crucial role in addressing the problems of marine litter. The Ministers also recognized the need to enhance such joint efforts with a view to enhance concrete measures in each country to prevent outflow of marine litter including appropriate management of wastes and relevant materials.

"Transboundary Movement of E-Waste"

The Ministers took notice of the environmental pollution caused by the transboundary movement of e-waste. They expressed their eagerness to cooperate regarding e-waste management, especially the prevention and control of illegal e-waste transboundary movement. They agreed to explore the possibility of 1) establishing a cooperation mechanism among the three countries to strengthen e-waste management and regional policy coordination, 2) setting up a focal point contact in each country to facilitate information exchange, and 3) promoting cooperation on capacity building, exchange of experts and training

#### "Sound Management of Chemicals"

The Ministers encouraged the progress of dialogue and cooperation on chemicals management. They recommended making continuous efforts for further cooperation on chemicals management and policy information exchange. Environmental Education, Environmental Awareness and Public Participation

The Ministers placed high value on environmental education, raising environmental awareness and promoting public participation. They appreciated the substantial achievements of joint environmental education activities accumulated for 10 years cooperation among the three countries including the environmental training of officials, development of the Tripartite Environment Education Network (TEEN) and its activities. They agreed to collaborate on the creation of the Environmental Education Readers from 2010, with reference to the Environmental Education Readers developed by China, and also on the promotion of information exchange on education materials developed in each country.

#### Outreach of TEMM

Three Ministers agreed on the need to strengthen environmental cooperation in East Asia. They emphasized that TEMM should play an important role in promoting regional cooperation through regional frameworks such as East Asia Summit (EAS) and ASEAN+3, noting the vision of an East Asia community and Asia Integration Process, understanding that environmental conservation is one of its key elements. They concurred that they will work toward achieving synergies between various initiatives, efforts, and ideas such as a low carbon East Asia community, and a green Asia. The Ministers will cooperate to outreach the green growth efforts of the three countries through events such as the UNESCAP preparatory meeting for the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development which will be held from 5-9 July 2010 in Muiu. Korea.

#### TEMM13

The Ministers decided that TEMM13 will be held in Korea. The date and venue will be suggested by the host country and subsequently confirmed by China and Japan.

The Ministers agreed to invite students and business representatives from the three countries to contribute their knowledge and experience to the TEMM.

#### Closing

The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the fruitful results of this year's meeting. Minister LEE Maanee and Minister ZHOU Shengxian extended their gratitude to Minister Sakihito OZAWA, the Japanese government, Hokkaido, Chitose city, and Tomakomai city for the hospitality.