

Japan-Mongolia Environment Policy Dialogue

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The Ministry of the Environment held a "Japan-Mongolia Environment Policy Dialogue" on January 30 (Tuesday) to exchange information concerning the environment in Japan and Mongolia and to examine a direction for environmental cooperation between the two countries.

1. Objective

To exchange views on environmental policy and challenges in both countries at the Director-level meeting and share the views on cooperation between two countries in the future.

2. Overview of the Policy Dialogue

Date: January 30 (Tuesday), 2007 AM9:30 ~ PM4:00

Venue: Room No. 1, Mita Conference Hall, Tokyo, Japan

Main Participants;

(Japan)

Mr. Minamikawa, General Director of the Global Environment Bureau

Mr. Kometani, Director of the Environment Cooperation Office

(Mongolia)

Mr. Enkhbat, Director of Sustainable Development and Strategic Planning
Department

Mr. Batsaikhan, Deputy Director of Environment and Nature Resources Department

Mr. Jigjid, Ambassador in Japan

3. Summary

(1). Environmental Policy and Challenges in Mongolia

Mr. Enkhbat Altangerel gave a presentation on the theme “Environmental Policy and Challenges in Mongolia.”

- Mongolia’s major problems are desertification, deforestation, decline of water resources, loss of bio-diversity, air pollution and solid waste in urban areas due to the reasons such as the change of economic activities into the market-based economy in the early 1990s, population concentration in urban areas and decreasing rainfall because of global warming.
- The Ministry of Nature and Environment (MNE) was established 20 years ago, and the “Law on Environmental Protection” was enacted in 1995. At present, over 30 laws on environmental regulations have been issued and the legislative regime continues to be improved. In addition, Mongolia has ratified international conventions such as Climate Change and Biodiversity.
- MNE sets specific objectives and implement policies for preventing illegal mining, overuse of water resources, deforestation and loss of biodiversity.

(2). Environmental policy in Japan

Mr. Hitoshi Kometani, Director of the Environmental Cooperation Office, Global Environment Bureau, gave an explanation on history of Japanese Environmental policy, and current measures for waste management and nature conservation.

The participants from Mongolia asked questions and the two countries exchanged information on penalties and the compensation system when environmental pollution occurs, site inspection and control.

(3). Present and future environmental cooperation between Mongolia and Japan

Japan made reports on the present situation and challenges of ongoing cooperation project of dust and sandstorms, waste management in Ulaanbaatar, protection of the snow leopard, and ozone-depleting substances.

Based on these results, the participants from Mongolia introduced actions taken by the Mongolian government and key challenges. Japan and Mongolia exchanged opinions on ideal forms of future environmental cooperation and its desirable direction.

(4). Japan-Mongolia Environmental Policy Dialogue in future

They agreed on the following points.

- Japan proposed that the agenda for next policy dialogue could be global warming and eco-tourism, which were high on the agenda in this dialogue for both countries. Mongolia agreed with this view.

- The participants from Mongolia stated that Mongolia is taking initiatives on climate change issues and is interested in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). Mongolia proposed discussing the possibilities of Japan's cooperation. Japan responded that it would consider it positively.
- Mongolia proposed that the second meeting be held in Mongolia. Japan welcomed and supported this idea.