

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 8th TRIPARTITE ROUNDTABLE MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL INDUSTRY

OPENING SESSION

1. Mr. Ryoichi Yamamoto, Professor of Institute of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo, delivered opening remarks and welcome address to the delegations of three countries, China, Korea, and Japan, and wished active and fruitful dialogue.
2. Mr. Yeonkie Ryoo, Director of Environment Industry Division, Environmental Strategy Office, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea, reviewed the summary of the discussions in the 7th Tripartite Roundtable Meeting in Busan and relevant events in Seoul, Korea in 2007.
3. Mr. Hiroyuki Ishitobi, Director of Environment and Economy Division, Environment Policy Bureau, Ministry of the Environment of Japan, made an introduction to the 8th Tripartite Roundtable Meeting on Environment Industry.

SESSION 1 - Green Purchasing

Chaired by Mr. Zunwen Liu, Assistant for Director of Environmental Certification Center of Ministry of Environmental Protection of China

4. Mr. Yiqun Chen, Deputy Director of Products Certification Department Environmental Certification Center of Ministry of Environmental Protection of China, introduced the project on implementation of Green Public Procurement started from 2006 in China. The green purchase inventory list was announced, and came into force to achieve sustainable socio-economic development in efficient manner. The "People's Republic of China to Promote Circular Economy Law" was adopted by China's National People's Congress Standing Committee on 29 August 2008 which directed higher priority to purchasing eco-products. The advantages of the inventory system were also introduced as well as its challenges.
5. Mr. Kazuyuki Harada, Deputy Director of Environment Policy Bureau, Ministry of the Environment of Japan, presented results of green procurement in the public sector and the method to evaluate efficiency of green procurement in Japan. The quantity of Eco-Friendly Products has increased in the market and the market share. The environmental benefits of green purchase are evaluated based on the reduced amount of CO₂ emissions.
6. Ms. Hyun Jung Im, Team Leader of Environment and Industry Team, Korea Eco-Products Institute (KOEKO), presented a study for evaluating the effects of green procurement in Korea to assess the environmental and economic benefits of eco-products. The benefits were derived from the gap analysis between Eco-Label product and general product of each target group by using the Korean Life Cycle Inventory Database.

7. Mr. Mori Hiromi, Secretary General of International Green Purchasing Network (IGPN), introduced major activities of IGPN to proliferate green purchasing practices worldwide, and explained that the Japanese committee is considering holding the Eco-Products Exhibition 2009 in China.

8. Chairperson

The presentations from three countries has improved and up-dated mutual understandings among all participants to promote concerned green procurement activities domestically and regionally. The participants from the three countries will actively consider the proposal that joint hosting of Eco-Products Exhibition 2009 in China raised by IGPN. The participants also suggested to have further discussions in relevant meetings.

SESSION 2 – Environmental Management

Chaired by Prof. Ryoichi Yamamoto, of University of Tokyo

9. Mr. Hidekazu Matsumoto, Deputy Director of Environment and Economy Division, Environment Policy Bureau, Ministry of the Environment of Japan, explained the state and role of the environmental conscious finance and the environmental information disclosure in Japan together with its global trends. The necessity of a comprehensive platform for socially responsible investments (SRI) to ensure opportunities and risks management was introduced. The importance of establishing sustainable framework and improving human resources for SRI activities was explained to promote environmental finance and environmental information disclosure.

10. Ms. Chang Jin Park, Assistant Deputy Director of Environment Industry Division, Environmental Strategy Office, Ministry of Environment, Rep. of Korea, explained the trend of Green Finance in Korea and the future prospects of Green Finance market. Recently, the significance of green finance through diverse financial instruments has been emphasized, but Korea is currently developing stage. In the future, pioneering of carbon market in financial fields is critical in securing green growth, new national development paradigm, and new growth forces of climate change.

11. Mr. Seung Tae Jung, Director of Strategic Planning Division, NeoEcos, mentioned three trends related with the environmental information disclosure; the environmental information disclosure system under progress, current status of environment report/sustainability report, and carbon disclosure projects (CDP6) in Korea.

12. Prof. Dongfang Feng, Director of Policy Division of Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy, Ministry of Environmental Protection of China, introduced policies, practices, and challenges/obstacles concerning the environment conscious credits named as “Green Credit” in China. A regulation on reporting and cross-management of Green Credit information was drafted under a policy orientation to improve the social and environmental performance assessment.

13. Mr. Feng Xie, Director of Science, Technology and Standards of Shandong Provincial Environmental Protection Bureau, introduced that 27 companies submitted the environmental reports in 2007 based on a preparation guideline in Shandong Province. The indexes and contents of the guideline were explained harmonizing socio-economic development and the environmental protection.

14. Chairperson

All participants recognized the extensive outputs. Three countries confirmed much progress in both fields of environmental finance and environmental information disclosure in different features. The three countries agreed the necessity of more active information exchange on the environment management to fulfill sustainable low carbon society.

SESSION 3 - Eco-Labeling and MRA-based Certification

Chaired by Prof. Tak Hur of Konkuk University

15. Mr. Hikaru Kobayashi, Director-General of Environmental Policy Bureau, Ministry of the Environment of Japan, remarked the significance of MRA-based certification having effects on the global green market.

16. Mr. Jin Hwan Chung, Team Leader of Criteria Management Team of KOECO, explained the procedures of MRA-based certification of PC between the three countries. Additionally, the development history of the common criteria system among the three countries was reviewed. Furthermore, the general principles of nomination procedures for the multifunctional office devices agreed in the working group meeting were reported.

17. Mr. Zunwen Liu, Assistant for Director of Environmental Certification Center of Ministry of Environmental Protection of China, introduced the China environmental labelling standards for printers, FAX machines and printer/FAX combinations, and explained the technical requirement for China Environmental Labelling Products and the basis of formulating its standards.

18. Mr. Sombo Yamamura, Secretary General, Eco Mark Office, Japan Environment Association (JEA) reviewed mutual understandings of MRA-based certification which contributes to the economic development in each country and the tripartite region. The consideration of verification methods of non-harmonized criteria was proposed for accelerating the implementation of the MRA-based certification. The advantages of mutual recognition in multifunctional office devices were also explained in both the aspects of economy and environment.

19. Chairperson

The progress regarding the MRA-based certification of PC between the three countries has been made and was recognized by participants. However, more discussions about the issues such as the different certification processes between the three countries and the harmonization of non-harmonized criteria are still needed. The multifunctional office (MFO) devices were selected as the product group for next MRA-based certification. Japan would prepare the 1st draft document which summarizes the common and non-harmonized criteria for MFO devices. The opinion was expressed that one of the new criteria for MRA-based certification should be formulated and long term target should be settled in further discussions. The outcomes and the progresses of the MRA-based certification would be reported at the 9th Tripartite Round Table Meeting.

SESSION 4 - Environmental Industry

Chaired by Prof Ryoichi Yamamoto of University of Tokyo

20. Mr. Dong Wook Lee, Team Manager of Environmental Industry Development Team, Korea Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (KIEST), explained the status and role on Green Growth and the environmental industry development strategy in Korea. The Green growth is the continuously growing new national development paradigm to create new jobs and development movement with green technology and clean energy while decreasing green house gases emissions and pollutions.

21. Mr. Hong Jiang, Officer at Director Level, Department of Science, Technology and Standards, Division of Environmental Technology guidance of Ministry of Environmental Protection of China, presented opportunities of the market and incentive policies of the technological based environmental protection in China, and noticed the environmental industry is in the accelerating period, which will surely bring in a better development of the industry.

22. Mr. Hidekazu Matsumoto, Deputy Director of Environment and Economy Division, Environment Policy Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, presented the state and role on the environmental business in Japan as well as Japan's Action Plan for Achieving a Low-carbon Society, and policy measures for the environmental business promotion together with prospective projects for JFY2009.

23. Mr. Hiroyuki Ishitobi, Director of Environment and Economy Division, Environment Policy Bureau, Ministry of the Environment of Japan, explained the practice of Eco-Action Point, one of the environmental business practice in Japan, which reduce CO2 emission from the customer's sector as a peoples movement.

24. Chairperson

The environmental innovations in the three countries have improved. It is increasingly important to promote the environmental industry. However, an acute shortage of clear definitions such as categorizations, estimations, market scale of the environmental industry was confirmed. The participants recognized the necessity to survey the definitions of relevant issues of the environmental industry.

SUMMARY SESSION

Chaired by Prof Ryoichi Yamamoto of University of Tokyo

25. The three countries confirmed following recommendations.

【RECOMMENDATIONS】

The three countries will actively consider the proposal of jointly hosting 2009 Eco-Products Exhibition in China which was suggested by IGPN. Participants advised to continue discussion on this matter at other following occasions.

The three countries agreed the necessity of more active information exchange on the environment management to fulfill sustainable low carbon society.

The participants recognized more discussions about the harmonization of non-harmonized criteria between the three countries are required based on the opinions on eco-labelling raised at the 8th Tripartite Roundtable Meeting.

The multifunctional office (MFO) devices were selected as the product group for next MRA-based certification of eco-labelling.

The outcome and the progress of the MRA-based certification of eco-labelling would be reported at the 9th Tripartite Round Table Meeting.

The participants recognized the necessity to survey and clarify the definitions of relevant issues of the environmental industry.

Jointly Prepared by

Ministry of Environmental Protection, China
Ministry of Environment, Korea
Ministry of Environment, Japan

6 November 2008