

Results of the Twelfth Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Korea, China and Japan

1. Objectives

The environmental ministers from Korea, China and Japan, the leading countries in Northeast Asia, have been holding the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Korea, China and Japan (TEMM) on an annual basis since 1999. The three countries aim to strengthen cooperation through dialogues on regional and global environmental issues.

2. Date: May 22 (Sat) – May 23 (Sun), 2010

3. Venue:

Chitose city, Hokkaido (May 22, Bilateral Ministerial Meetings - Japan-China, Japan-Korea, China-Korea)

Tomakomai city, Hokkaido (May 23, Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting)

4. Main Participants:

Japan Sakihito OZAWA, Minister, Ministry of the Environment of Japan

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

Korea LEE Maanee, Minister, Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Korea

5. Key Results of Japan-China and Japan-Korea Bilateral Ministerial Meetings (May 22)

(1) Common Results in both Japan-China and Japan-Korea

- Minister Sakihito Ozawa proposed to cooperate with both countries in order to achieve a low-carbon society (“a low-carbon East Asia community”), a low-pollutant society, and a sound material recycle society through the tripartite cooperation among China, Korea and Japan, by stressing that tripartite cooperation on the environment must play a central role in achieving an initiative for an East Asian community. China and Korea both agreed with the proposal made by Minister Ozawa and to mid-term and long-term cooperation.
- Minister Ozawa proposed to strengthen mitigation of transboundary pollution (Dust and Sandstorms (DSS), Air pollution, marine litter), particularly in the prevention and control at sources. China and Korea expressed their respect and agreed to take concrete

measures.

- China and Korea confirmed their intention to cooperate with Japan for the success of the 16th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC/COP16: November – December 2010, Cancun, Mexico) and the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/COP10: October 2010, Nagoya, Aichi prefecture, Japan).

(2) Specific Results in Japan-China Bilateral Ministerial Meeting

- Regarding climate change, Minister Ozawa proposed that China promptly identify the timing of GHG emissions peak-out and urge emissions reduction. China confirmed their intention to actively promote measures and to identify the timing of the peak-out saying that the country is currently in the process of analyzing the current situation.
- Regarding pollution control, Minister Ozawa requested that China host a working-level meeting on Dust and Sandstorms (DSS) prevention and control and a workshop on photochemical oxidants (Ox), which the three countries work on together. China accepted to this request. Regarding DSS, Minister Ozawa also stated that Japan is ready to consider utilizing the Hatoyama Initiative upon request since some DSS control measures such as afforestation and vegetation contribute to climate change measures.

(3) Specific Results in Japan-Korea Bilateral Ministerial Meeting

- Regarding climate change, Korea asked Japan to support for COP18 to be held in 2012 in Korea. Minister Ozawa expressed his own intention to actively support Korea. The two Ministers agreed to promote information-sharing on an emissions trading scheme between the two countries.
- The two Ministers agreed to strengthen cooperation on transboundary pollution control. Particularly on marine litter, Korea expressed its intention to strengthen prevention and control.
- Korea introduced the “Four Major Rivers Restoration Project” (promoting adaptation to climate change, flood control, improvement of water quality, and ecosystem restoration in the Han River, Nakdong River, Geum River and Yeongsan River) and requested Japan’s cooperation. Minister Ozawa expressed his intention to actively cooperate in this area.

6. Key Results of the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (May 23)

With chairpersonship of Minister Ozawa, the three Ministers discussed the domestic

policy progress of each country, as well as global and regional challenges. The three Ministers adopted the “Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation” (Annex1) and the “Joint Communiqué” (Annex 2). The Action Plan will be reported by Korea at the Third China-Japan-ROK Trilateral Summit (Jeju, Korea) on May 29 – 30.

Other main points discussed are as follows;

- The three Ministers noted the results of the bilateral ministerial meetings held the day before, and agreed as the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting that (1) tripartite environmental cooperation should play a central role in achieving an initiative for an East Asian community, and (2) the three countries will promote mid-term and long-term cooperation to achieve a low-carbon society (“a low-carbon East Asia community”), a low-pollutant society, and a sound material cycle society in Asia. The three countries confirmed that they will consider concrete activities at the working level after the meeting.
- The three Ministers noted the request made by Minister Ozawa, and agreed to strengthen cooperation and measures in the area of transboundary pollution control such as DSS, photochemical oxidants (Ox), acid deposition, and marine litter. Especially, the three Ministers confirmed that a working-level meeting on DSS prevention and control and a workshop on photochemical oxidants will be held in China.
- The three Ministers decided that TEMM 13 will be held in Korea and agreed to invite students and business representatives from the three countries to contribute their knowledge and experience to TEMM.