

**Chairman's Summary of
the second Tripartite Director General Meeting
on Dust and Sandstorms among Japan, China and Korea
September 18th, 2007**

1. The second Tripartite Director General Meeting (TDGM) on Dust and Sandstorms (DSS) among Japan, China and Korea was held in Tokyo, Japan on 18 September 2007.
2. In Session One, H. E. Mr. Sakurai Ikuzo, Senior Vice-Minister of the Environment, Japan, delivered his welcome statement to the participants. Following his statement, Mr. Shin Boonam, Director General of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Xu Qinghua, Director General of the State Environmental Protection Administration of the People's Republic of China and Mr. Tsened Banzragch, Director General of the Ministry of Nature and Environment of Mongolia made opening statements. Mr. Minamikawa Hideki, Director General of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, chaired the meeting.
3. In Session Two, Korea, China, Japan and Mongolia introduced activities for addressing DSS and future prospects in their own countries. Participants from Japan, China and Korea welcomed participation from Mongolia in the meeting, and encouraged Mongolia to continue their involvement in the TDGM-DSS process.
4. Participants shared the view that DSS is one of the most critical environmental issues in Northeast Asia and that they must take urgent actions against DSS in a cooperative manner. They reconfirmed the importance of the regional monitoring and early warning network in Northeast Asia in order to mitigate environmental, economic and social impacts of DSS in the region, and that they would continue to cooperate in establishing the network by sharing information with each other.
5. Experts from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Global

Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) introduced their activities related to DSS in North East Asia. The Directors General of Japan, China, Korea and Mongolia highly appreciated the significant support for the “Prevention and Control of Dust and Sandstorms in Northeast Asia”.

6. All four directors general indicated their continuing strong support for the project. Delegates requested ADB to prepare the proposal for “Establishing a Regional Monitoring and Early Warning Network for Dust and Sandstorm in Northeast Asia” and circulate the proposal among participating countries prior to the submission to GEF preferably in October. The delegates also requested GEF to favorably consider and approve their financial support to the project as early as possible, recalling the strong endorsement letter jointly signed by the three environment ministers dated June 2007. The delegates from Mongolia indicated that the Mongolian environment minister is prepared to submit a similar letter to the GEF CEO.
7. China and Mongolia were encouraged to give high priority on DSS among land degradation GEF projects in their respective countries.
8. In Session Three, based on the Joint Announcement in March 2007, the Directors General of Japan, China and Korea discussed the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Steering Committee for Joint Research on DSS. Participants appreciated Korea’s efforts to develop the draft TOR. Some of them expressed the view that all the relevant persons including officials from other related government departments, in particular Meteorological Authorities and Forestry Authorities, researchers from research institutes and experts from relevant international organizations should actively participate in joint research under the Working Groups. Some emphasized the importance of exploring operational and financial arrangements for the implementation of the joint research, while collaboration among existing research and projects on DSS is also

significantly important. Some expected that the TOR would enhance the efforts to establish the monitoring and early warning network on DSS and to promote measures to mitigate DSS in the region. Some suggested that the first Working Group meeting be convened at the TDGM-DSS, considering the result of the first Steering Committee Meeting.

9. The Directors General decided that the members of the Steering Committee who would be nominated by the Environmental Authorities of each country would be reported in TEMM9 and agreed to convene the 1st Steering Committee meeting on the occasion of a post-TEMM meeting possibly in January 2008 in Tokyo.
10. The Directors General also requested the steering committee to report to the TDGM the progress of joint research including establishment of the two working groups and outcomes of exploring operational and financial arrangements with a view to initiating activities in 2008.
11. In response to the proposal of draft TOR for the Working Groups from Korea as attached in Annex 1, the Directors General noted that Directors of Environmental Authorities with attendance of experts who may be members of the Working Groups would initiate discussion on how to promote the joint research including the TOR of Working Groups.
12. In Session Four, the Chair summarized the discussions of the meeting. The TOR of the Steering Committee was adopted by Directors General of Japan, China and Korea, and this agreement was welcomed by the other participants. In response to the adoption of the TOR of the Steering Committee as attached in Annex 2, the Chair announced the inauguration of the Steering Committee.
13. Before closing, the Directors General of Japan, China and Korea agreed that the third TDGM-DSS would be held in the first half of 2008 in the Republic of Korea, hosted by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea.

14. The participants expressed their gratitude to Japan for their generous hospitality and skillful hosting of the meeting.

ANNEX 1

Korea's Proposal for TOR of Working Groups

Working Group I & II

1. The Working Group of Joint Research Group on DSS among China, Japan and Korea consists of the Working Group I (for DSS monitoring and early warning network study) and the Working Group II (for prevention and control of DSS study).

Members

2. The Working Group consists of total 10-16 persons, 3-5 persons (competent officials from related ministries, competent experts from research institutes) from each country and one person recommended by international organizations such as UNEP for the Working Group I and UNESCAP for the Working Group II. It would be desirable that the Meteorological Authorities and Forestry Authorities would participate in the Working Group.

Chair person

3. The Working Group will appoint a leading country to take responsibilities. Two countries, which do not host TEMM, will take charge of the operation of each working group during the year. The team leader of the leading country will chair the Working Group for the year.
4. The team leader of next (or previous) TEMM host country will serve as the chair of Working Group I. It would be desirable that the director-level official from the Meteorological Authorities would be the leader of each country.
5. The team leader of previous (or next) TEMM host country will serve as the chair of Working Group II.

Roles of the Working Group

6. The roles of the Working Group are;
- (1) to establish detailed research plans for each research subject;
 - (2) to implement joint researches based on the approval by the Steering Committee;
 - (3) to organize a research task force team (TFT) consisting of working group members and other experts, if necessary;
 - (4) to make recommendations on countermeasures for DSS problems in accordance with the result of researches;
 - (5) to report progress and result of projects to the Steering Committee; and
 - (6) to promote any other studies the Working Group considers necessary.

Meeting Arrangement

7. The Working Group meeting will be held twice a year in non-Host countries of TEMM. However, the meeting can be called on at any time under the consultation of the three countries.
8. The Working Group will adopt the report of joint researches for the consideration of the Steering Committee.
9. The Focal Point of the Working Group will be the team leader of the Working Group of each country.
10. Host country's competent division of Environment Authorities or other related ministry will be in charge of holding the meeting of the Working Group.

Joint Researches: Working Group I

11. Working Group I will perform joint researches in DSS monitoring and early warning network areas, as following:
- (1) Study on establishment of DSS monitoring and early warning regional network;
 - (2) Research on meteorological conditions and characteristics of DSS occurrence in DSS source areas;
 - (3) Estimation of DSS transfer path through remote sensing;

- (4) Study on DSS occurrence and transfer modeling; and
- (5) Study on chemical and physical characteristics of DSS by major DSS source area and transfer path.

Joint Researches: Working Group II

12. Working Group II will perform joint researches in DSS prevention and controlling areas, as following.

- (1) Research on status and major reasons of desertification in DSS source areas;
- (2) Study on ecological restoration and preservation in DSS source areas;
- (3) Assessment of DSS' impacts on ecosystem;
- (4) Assessment of DSS' impacts on human health, living, and industries; and
- (5) Study on minimization of DSS negative impacts, and exchange of successful policies

Expenditure and Finance

13. Expenses for holding Working Group Meeting shall be covered by the host country, and the traveling expenses shall be born by each country.

14. Expenses for research shall be supplied by voluntary contribution including human and material support from each country. In addition, possible financial support from international organizations should be actively sought for.

ANNEX 2

The TOR of the Steering Committee for Joint Research on DSS

Members

1. The "Steering Committee for Joint Research on DSS" consists of a total of nine persons: from each country, one director-level official from the environment authorities and two other members, one from Working Group I and the other from Working Group II.

Chair person

2. The director from the environment authorities of the TEMM host country will chair the Steering Committee for the year.

Roles of the Steering Committee

3. The roles of the Steering Committee are;
 - (1) to provide general guidance for establishing and implementing the project plan of the Joint Research Group;
 - (2) to determine the direction of each working group's research plan and activities, and support them;
 - (3) to prepare the terms of reference of the two working groups;
 - (4) to review the progress and results of joint research and give instructions to the Working Groups;
 - (5) to report the result of joint research to the TDGM on DSS;
 - (6) to coordinate tasks among DSS relevant departments and agencies at national and regional levels, and devise plans for exchanging information;
 - (7) to explore financial arrangements to appropriately support the approved activities;
 - (8) to discuss policies on countermeasures for DSS problems in Northeast Asia; and
 - (9) to undertake any other activities the Steering Committee considers necessary.

Meeting Arrangement

4. The Steering Committee meeting will be held once a year in the host country of TEMM. However, the meeting can be called on at any time with the committee members' consent.
5. The Focal Point of the Steering Committee will be a director-level official from the environment authorities of each country.
6. The Host Country's competent division will be in charge of convening the meeting of the Steering Committee.

Expenditure and Finance

7. Expenses for holding the Steering Committee Meeting shall be covered by the Chair Country (TEMM Host Country) and the traveling expenses, including accommodations, shall be born by each country.