



Joint Communiqué

The 23rd Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting

among China, Japan, and Korea

December 1, 2022

Video Conference, hosted by China

Preamble

1. Minister HUANG Runqiu of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China, State Minister YAMADA Miki on behalf of Minister NISHIMURA Akihiro of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, and Minister HAN Wha-jin of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea met virtually on December 1, 2022 for the 23rd Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM23).

Recent Progress in Environmental Policies in China, Japan, and Korea

2. The Ministers shared recent progress in environmental policies in each country since TEMM22. Minister HUANG presented “Promoting Global Development with Green and Low-Carbon Transition, Jointly Building a Beautiful Homeland with Harmony Between Humanity and Nature”, State Minister YAMADA on behalf of Minister NISHIMURA presented “Review and Outlook of Environmental Policies in Japan”, and Minister HAN presented “Korea's Efforts for Carbon Neutrality and Sustainable Development: Convergence and Harmony towards a Sustainable Future”. The Ministers shared the view that such efforts of the three countries will contribute to achieving sustainable development in Northeast Asia as well as to solving national, regional, and global environmental problems.

Recent Environmental Cooperation Progress related to the Implementation of the Tripartite Joint Action Plan 2021-2025

3. The Ministers reviewed the progress in implementing the Tripartite Joint Action Plan 2021-2025 (TJAP 2021-2025) adopted at TEMM22 in December 2021. They expressed satisfaction with the progress of cooperation projects under the eight priority areas of the TJAP 2021-2025 and are committed to continuing efforts to promote trilateral cooperation.
4. The Ministers welcomed the continued sharing of policy and technology information on the prevention and control of atmospheric pollutants including PM_{2.5} and O₃ by three countries' policymakers and experts at the 9th Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution (TPDAP) hosted by Japan in September 2022. They appreciated the progress achieved in the TPDAP and other joint activities in line with the implementation of the Action Plan of the Second Phase of Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution among China, Japan and Korea (2021-2025), while recognizing the practical outputs based on the Implementation Plan of Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution among China, Japan and Korea (2016-2019). They shared the recognition that such joint efforts through the Dialogue substantially contributed to the three countries' improving air quality trends in recent years. The Ministers welcomed the cooperation progress of the Dust and Sandstorms (DSS) Working Groups (WGs) in implementing the Mid-Term Action Plans of Working Group I & II for Joint Research on Dust and Sand Storms (2020-2024) through the 15th meeting of DSS WG I hosted by Korea in November 2022, the 14th meeting of DSS WG II hosted by Korea in December 2021, and the 15th meeting of DSS WG II hosted by China in November 2022. They also expressed the willingness to promote cooperation with Mongolia in the DSS area and expected closer collaboration with relevant Mongolian agencies. The Ministers encouraged DSS WGI and WGII to enhance their collaboration. The Ministers also encouraged to make the DSS Portal website more informative.
5. The Ministers welcomed the 17th Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA) Annual Meeting held in April 2022, which discussed the current status of domestic wastewater governance and current status and challenges of introduction of decentralized wastewater treatment system.
6. The Ministers welcomed the 6th Forum of Carbon Pricing Mechanism in China,

Japan, and Korea hosted by Japan in December 2021, the Workshop on Aligning Climate Change and Sustainable Development Policies in Asia: Quantifying, Integrating, and Advancing Co-benefits hosted by Japan in February 2022, and the China-Japan-Korea Carbon Neutral Cities Forum hosted by China in November 2022. They also welcomed that the three countries exchanged information on their domestic policies on climate change, carbon neutrality/net zero greenhouse gas emissions and sustainable recovery in August 2022. They expressed the willingness to promote cooperation in the field of climate change tackling, including synergy between pollution control and carbon emissions reduction.

7. The Ministers welcomed that the three countries exchanged opinions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (the Framework) in meetings related to COP15. They expected that the 9th Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Biodiversity (TPDBD) to be held in 2023 will discuss issues related to the mainstreaming of biodiversity, to jointly promote the implementation of the Framework.
8. The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the 16th Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemical Management (TPDCM) and the Tripartite Expert Seminar on Chemical Management (TESCM) hosted by Japan in November 2022. They noted the progress of the joint research of the TESCM and welcomed the continued exchange of the latest regulations and best practices on chemicals management among the three countries.
9. The Ministers welcomed the results of the 6th Tripartite Roundtable on Environmental Businesses (TREB) themed “Actions for the Transition to Green Economy” hosted by Korea in December 2021. They noted the cooperation among the three countries for the Tripartite Environmental Pollution Prevention Cooperation Network and expected the Network to be launched as early as possible. The Tripartite Working-level Meeting on Eco-Labeling was hosted by Japan in September 2022. The Ministers recognized the progress made by the three countries in developing the common criteria.
10. The Ministers welcomed the 22nd Youth Forum held in December 2021 by Korea with the theme of “Raise Youth Voices for Climate Action” and the 23rd Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN) Symposium hosted by China in

November 2022. They emphasized the significance of environmental education, awareness raising and public participation including youth participation in promoting environmental protection.

11. The Ministers noted the fruitful discussions on strengthening multilateral cooperation for the goals of promoting post-COVID19 green recovery, addressing climate change, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals at major regional and global environmental conferences that all the three countries actively participated in, including the Resumed 5th Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), Stockholm+50, G20 Joint Environment and Climate Ministers' Meeting, and the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) .
12. The Ministers welcomed the outcome of the Trilateral Symposium on Environmental Education and Public Awareness held by the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) in August 2022 in collaboration with the ministries and TEEN, which promoted trilateral environmental cooperation and education to the educators and general public. The Ministers acknowledged the contribution of TCS under the framework of TEMM and welcomed continued collaboration with TCS under the TJAP 2021-2025.
13. The Ministers welcomed that the 19th Tripartite Presidents Meeting (TPM) among the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES) of China, the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) of Japan, and the National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER) of Korea was held in November 2022 and encouraged to further strengthen the tripartite research cooperation which would provide scientific reference for policy cooperation within the TEMM framework.

Promoting Cooperation in Major Regional and Global Environmental Issues

14. The Ministers realized that the world is jointly making efforts to recover from multiple challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis, and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. They reaffirmed the commitments to strengthen measures to address climate change, biodiversity loss, and

environmental pollution in light of their respective national circumstances, to accelerate the transformation towards green and low-carbon development / net-zero economy and society / carbon neutrality, promote harmony between humanity and nature, and pursue efforts to improve global environmental governance, so as to facilitate green recovery and sustainable, inclusive development.

15. The Ministers took note of the progress of the cooperative activities of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) and the North East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP) which make contribution to the air quality improvement in the region.
16. The Ministers welcomed and supported the convening of the second part of the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Emphasizing that biodiversity and the ecosystem functions and services it provides underpin human and planetary health and well-being, the Ministers reaffirmed that the three countries are willing to strengthen actions to conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems and make joint efforts to facilitate COP15 to adopt an ambitious, achievable, balanced, effective, robust and transformative Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that includes clear, feasible, and measurable goals and targets, provision of the necessary means of implementation in line with the Convention, and appropriate mechanisms for monitoring, reporting and review.
17. The Ministers stressed the urgency of climate crisis. The Ministers welcomed the success of UNFCCC COP27, and its outcomes including the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, as well as adoption of the mitigation work programme to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation, decision to establish new funding arrangements including a fund for responding to loss and damage, the progress made in the first year of the two-year Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation and decision to initiate the development of a framework for the global goal on adaptation. The Ministers called for implementation actions, faithfully translating climate goals and visions into concrete policies, measures and actions, and engaging relevant dialogues and

exchanges.

18. The Ministers welcomed the Resolution adopted at UNEA-5.2, aiming at developing an international legally binding instrument on ending plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full lifecycle of plastic, taking into account, among other things, the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as national circumstances and capabilities. They acknowledged the significance of strengthening the full lifecycle management of plastics and welcomed the existing measures to combat plastic pollution adopted by the three countries. The Ministers also expressed willingness to strengthen these measures based on their respective national circumstances and strengthen exchanges and cooperation to promote the regional and global actions to combat plastic pollution. The Ministers encouraged continuation and strengthening of policy and information exchanges on marine litter among the three countries through seminars and other activities.
19. The Ministers noted the outcomes of “Trilateral+X” cooperation with appreciation. They were willing to continue to explore possible “Trilateral+X” cooperation in such areas as climate change and marine environmental protection to support accelerated implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to multilateralism and were willing to encourage close cooperation among the three countries at upcoming major regional and global environmental conferences, including the 2023 G20 Environment Ministers’ Meeting and UNFCCC COP28.

TEMM24

20. The Ministers decided that TEMM24 will be held by Japan in 2023. The date and venue will be proposed by the host country and confirmed by China and Korea.

Closing

21. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the fruitful outcome of TEMM23. Minister NISHIMURA Akihiro and Minister HAN Wha-jin expressed their deep appreciation to Minister HUANG Runqiu for hosting the meeting.

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