

The Ninth Tripartite Presidents Meeting among NIER, CRAES and NIES

Joint Communiqué

At the invitation of President PARK Seok Soon of the National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER, Korea), delegations led by President MENG Wei of the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES, China) and President OHGAKI Shinichiro of the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES, Japan), visited Pyeongchang, Korea to attend the Ninth Tripartite Presidents Meeting (TPM9) from November 11 to 16, 2012.

In the opening session, President PARK Seok Soon pointed out the improvement and progress of tripartite cooperation and underlined the importance of continued research collaboration and partnership among the three institutes to address the ever-increasing environmental challenges facing Northeast Asia. President PARK also presented an overview of NIER activities to prevent dust storm in Mongolia and proposed that CRAES and NIES would join the NIER efforts to help mitigate dust storm in Mongolia.

President MENG Wei emphasized the basic principle of “Friendship, Communication, Cooperation and Win-Win” of TPM and further stressed that TPM had become a platform dedicated to the improvement of regional environmental cooperation in Northeast Asia. President MENG also introduced the achievements made over the past five years of China’s Special Programme on Water Pollution Control and Treatment and expressed CRAES’s interest in collaborating with NIER and NIES on this Special Programme.

President OHGAKI Shinichiro reaffirmed the achievements of TPM to date and the increasing importance of tripartite cooperation under the TPM framework. President OHGAKI also emphasized the lessons from the Great East Japan Earthquake, including the importance of development and continuity both in the immediate aftermath and over the medium to long terms when faced with unprecedented and unexpected environmental crises

and stressed the imperative to cultivate and maintain diverse and multilateral links in such circumstances paramount among which being the collaboration and mutual relationship facilitated under the TPM framework.

The presidents stressed that TPM9 was held on the basis of the experience accumulated from previous meetings and the important role of TPM9 in furthering cooperative endeavors, and strengthening mutual collaboration by means of personnel and information exchange and discussions among NIER, CRAES and NIES, as facilitated by the efforts of the Focal Points for the eight Priority Research Areas (PRAs). In addition, the three institutes exchanged information on their recent developments and research activities and acknowledged respective institution's contributions to consolidating the TPM mechanism at TPM9.

The presidents reaffirmed that the three institutes should continue to strengthen collaborations based on the exchange of information, data, publications and expertise. They agreed to further enhance the contact among Focal Points of the eight PRAs and also recognized the importance of establishing concrete measures to further facilitate cooperation in each PRA. The presidents agreed to select a lead coordinating institute for each PRA. Representative responsibilities of a lead coordinating institute should include information exchange, organization of training, workshop, seminar and symposium and development of new cooperative projects. The presidents decided in principle that a lead coordinating institute is in charge of each PRA for one year, but the term could be extended upon mutual agreement and the lead coordinating institute for each PRA would present the outcomes of each research item at TPM10.

Based on discussions, lead coordinating capacity for each PRA was assigned as follows:

- NIER - Dust and Sand Storm, Solid Waste Management
- CRAES - Freshwater Pollution, Chemical Risk and Management, Biodiversity Conservation
- NIES - Asian Air Pollution, Urban Environment and Eco-city, Climate Change

The theme of the TPM9 Parallel Workshop was "Urban Environment and Eco-city, and Climate Change Impact and Adaptation". NIER, CRAES and NIES shared their research

findings with the participants and the presidents expressed their willingness to engage in further collaborations in these two PRAs.

President MENG offered to host the Tenth Tripartite Presidents Meeting (TPM10) in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China. President MENG suggested Freshwater Pollution as one of the topics of the parallel workshop. The Working Group Meeting to discuss TPM10 arrangements will be held in China in April, 2013.

Finally, the presidents expressed their deep satisfaction with the outcomes of the meeting, including the new initiatives for collaboration. President MENG Wei and President OHGAKI Shinichiro extended their sincere gratitude to President PARK Seok Soon for his warm hospitality, and also thanked all the members of the NIER delegation for their contributions to the successful organization of TPM9.



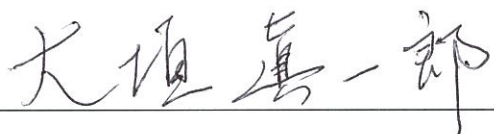
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OHGAKI Shinichiro

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