

**The Eleventh Tripartite Presidents Meeting
among NIES, NIER and CRAES**

Keynote Speech

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President SUMI Akimasa, President Meng Wei, distinguished delegates, and ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

I am very pleased to see you again in Kawasaki for TPM 11. Yesterday we toured around environmental facilities in Kawasaki city. Among tour sites, Kawasaki Eco Gurashi Mirai-kan and Kawasaki City Resource Recycling Facility were impressive. I think Kawasaki is a good example of eco-city, harmonization of humanity and nature. Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank President SUMI Akimasa and delegates from three countries for your preparation for this meeting.

Looking back on the past ten years, we have successfully sailed through tough times. And I believe our joint collaboration has been the key to the success of TPMs. From a historical perspective, cooperation among three countries is significant and meaningful. In that sense, we all deserve the praise for successful collaboration.

I think TPM has become one of the best examples of environmental cooperation in North East Asia because of the following three aspects. First, we have provided an excellent platform for our experts to share experience of each country. Second, we have sought solutions to environmental issues through joint cooperation. Third, we have been responding to emerging environmental issues in a flexible manner.

Since I took office last year, I have emphasized one thing, that is, NIER should always focus on “practical research” for the people and the nation. That means, the research should be substantial, and the research results should be used for improving people’s

quality of life. There is a saying in Menzi, “The people are the most important, the nation is the next, and the government is the least (孟子 百姓爲貴 社稷次之 君王爲輕)”. In this vein, I think our joint research should put the most emphasis on the people.

In recent years, environmental challenges affecting people’s lives have become more complex, and sometimes pollution in one country can affect its neighboring countries. So, one nation’s effort alone is not enough to resolve emerging environmental issues. That is why we need cooperation.

Since the first meeting in 2004, we, three countries have been sharing information and seeking solutions to environmental issues. Last year, we added a new PRA, “Disaster Environment” to deal with emerging environmental issue. We, NIER lead three PRAs including Asian Air-Pollution, Dust and Sand-Storm, and Solid Waste Management. We all know pragmatic and practical research outcomes in each PRA are a key to the success of our TPM as a whole.

Dear TPM friends, I am very proud that TPM has played an important role in developing practical joint research in Asia. Today, I’d like to make three suggestions for further development of TPM.

First, we three countries need to expand and strengthen our substantial research collaboration. Our research outcomes should be used for people’s wellbeing, policy making, and national development. In that sense, I hope we continue our efforts to yield pragmatic research outcomes. At the 16th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM16) in April, this year three ministers agreed to step up joint cooperation to prevent air pollution by PM, dust and sand storms. Current environmental issues in Northeast Asia cannot be resolved without three countries’ cooperation. Therefore, we three countries need to strengthen our cooperation under the TPM philosophy.

Second, we three countries need to expand environmental health research. Last year, Korea suffered a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak. I know China has also been in a similar situation. NIER has conducted the relevant research to determine the cause of AI, but there were many difficulties to overcome. For further AI research, NIER began construction of Biosafety Level 3 Building (BL3) in October this year. The building will be completed next August. Resolving HPAI problem is not easy. Therefore, it requires collaboration and information sharing among three

countries.

Third, we three countries need to expand environmental radioactivity research. The day before yesterday, I signed the MOU with Japan Chemical Analysis Center. Recently, Korean people's concerns over radioactive contamination in the environment have been growing after Japan's unfortunate accident in 2011. To check the current status of nationwide environmental radioactivity in Korea, we now analyze river and lake samples from 60 sites. For nationwide monitoring and further research, we established five laboratories in total, and in not-so-distant future we will expand it to other media such as drinking water, atmosphere, soil, and wastes. I look forward to an in-depth discussion about environmental radioactivity under the "Disaster Environment" PRA.

There is a Korean saying that goes "Many hands make light work". Similarly, China and Japan have old sayings like 重擊易舉 and all of these point to the importance of cooperation. If we join hands to develop our research for the people, people can enjoy more comfortable life. I believe people's well-being and happiness lead to the development of a nation as a whole. I am confident that commitment and collaboration of all TPM-friends will lay a firm foundation for responding to Asian and global environmental issues. I hope TPM11 will set another important milestone for future collaboration among three countries.

Lastly, I hope we all have a memorable time in Kawasaki.

Once again, I appreciate President SUMI Akimasa and the NIES staff for preparing TPM 11.

Thank you.