

## Keynote Address

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President of NIER, Korea**

Dr. Yohichi GOHSHI, President of the Japanese National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES); Mr. MENG Wei, President of the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES); distinguished participants and organizing committee members; ladies and gentlemen.



On behalf of the National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER), I would like to extend my warm greetings to all of you on the occasion of the opening of the second NIES, NIER, and CRAES Tripartite Presidents Meeting, at which it is my great honor to participate.

The first Tripartite Presidents Meeting, held in Beijing from 16-17 February 2004, explored “Future Cooperation among Tripartite Institutes” and provided a valuable opportunity to share experiences, information and insights on environmental research. It set an important precedent for regional environmental cooperation which we renew on this occasion. Again I would like to express my appreciation to President MENG Wei of CRAES for hosting the first meeting.

I expect this Tripartite Presidents Meeting (TPM) will provide the basis for further strengthening the framework for environmental conservation and enhancement in Northeast Asia through cooperative research among the three institutes, and will mark a further step toward achieving sustainable development in the region.

As you are aware, since 1999 environmental ministers of China, Japan and Korea have joined in the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM) to strengthen mutual understanding and cooperation in Northeast Asia. The five meetings held so far—in Seoul, Beijing and Tokyo—have initiated and implemented joint projects and activities in a number of key

areas, such as the Joint Research Project on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollutants in Northeast Asia (the LTP project); the Freshwater (Lakes) Pollution Prevention Project, including pollution prevention at Lake Xihu in Hangzhou, China; and the Ecological Conservation Project in Northwest China.

NIES, NIER, and CRAES have collaborated in advancing these projects. Yesterday we held a fruitful workshop on “Freshwater (Lakes) Pollution Prevention” as one of the TEMM projects. The substance and sense of this and today’s meeting will be reported to the 6th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM), to be convened in Japan later this year.

Recently, at the 8th Special Session of the United Nations Environment Programme’s Governing Council and the Global Ministerial Environment Forum in March 2004, we demonstrated our common resolve to create a better future through the “Jeju Initiative,” which presents the key points of the TEMM discussions and decisions to date. They will be further developed at the 5th UN ESCAP (Environment and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, to be hosted by the Republic of Korea in Seoul from 24-29 March 2005.

Korea’s contribution to these proceedings can be briefly reviewed, as follows. The Korean Ministry of Environment undertakes a broad range of environmental policies and programs such as creating an Eco-Network on the Korean Peninsula, establishing a Strategic Environmental Assessment system, planning Total Pollution Load Management for metropolitan air quality improvement, implementing the Total Maximum Daily Load system for watershed management, developing a ten-year plan for promoting environmental health, and applying the Extended Producer Responsibility system for reducing waste generation at the source.

Since July 2002, the Ministry of Environment has also implemented a ten-year Master Plan for Eco-Technopia 21 in cooperation with private research institutes and enterprises for environmental technology development and diffusion. These decisions and actions are designed to achieve environmental soundness, economic efficiency, and social balance in

constructing a “Life-Respecting and Sustainable Green Nation.”

Through science-based research on environmental management techniques and technologies, NIER plays an important role in providing support to the Korean government in formulating and implementing policies and programs to enhance the quality and harmony of natural and human environments. NIER’s expertise and experience likewise serve to inform and assist environmental quality improvement throughout Northeast Asia in cooperation with NIES and CRAES colleagues.

Ladies and gentlemen, as recognized at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, we stand at a crucial point in global efforts to protect and enhance the environment. I believe our three countries can, should and will play an important role in this dynamic region and throughout the world by demonstrating sound leadership and solid achievements in environmental research and cooperation.

Our countries traditionally shared a common culture of spirituality, to which may now be added a growing capacity for scientific and technical excellence. Together we can work cooperatively and effectively toward building a truly sustainable future for the planet earth.

Further, I believe this meeting will prove to be a strategic moment for strengthening regional partnerships and advancing environmental research and development.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the delegates from the NIES, NIER, and CRAES, and particularly to the President Yohichi GOHSHI of NIES, for his generous support in making this meeting possible.

I wish you all the best for a very successful meeting and sincerely hope to meet with you again next year in Korea.

Thank you.