

Preface

Recent expansion of human activities, especially industrial development, brought huge profits to our human society, while it caused severe environmental problems not only in local industrial area but also regional/global scale. Asia, a rapidly developing region, would become a most hot-spot of economy and also of environmental issues of all the world in the 21st century.

The Ministers of Environment in Japan, Korea and China, leading countries in the Northeast Asia, have decided to meet annually to solve the environmental problems through promoting the cooperation and the information exchange from 1999. In this context, the cooperation among the national environmental research organizations of three countries is increasingly desired, while bilateral cooperation researches has already conducted between each of two countries in some research fields.

The first Tripartite Presidents Meeting among National Institute for environmental Studies of Japan (NIES), National Institute of Environment Research of Korea (NIER) and Chinese Research Academy of Environment Science (CRAES), so called "TPM", was held at Beijing in February, 2004. We, presidents of three institutions, discussed on environmental problems and research situation in each country and bilateral cooperation. We confirmed that the cooperation of three institutions should be necessary to solve the complicated environmental problems in local, regional and also global points of view, and that TPM should be held periodically to promote the three countries' cooperation.

Thereafter, the second TPM was held in Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan from October 12 to 15, 2004. I was sincerely pleased to meet the president Rhee, NIER, Korea and the president Meng, CRAES, China and their delegates again. We reviewed each institution's activities after the 1st TPM and discussed on further collaboration friendly, positively and frankly. After the active discussion, we could agree to sign up the "Communiqué" in 2nd TPM, which was sited in this report. Some important points were as follows;

- (1) The working level meeting held in August was highly fruitful to the success of the 2nd TPM and agreed that the practice should be continued.
- (2) On the topic of information exchange, we would develop the TPM

- homepage in each institute web site and exchange publications regularly.
- (3) The 1st TPM workshop on “Freshwater Pollution Prevention Control”, a topic identified by the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM) was succeeded and should be continued in the duration of TPM.
- (4) On the topic of research priorities, we explored the possibilities for joint projects in the areas of:
- Freshwater pollution,
 - Air pollution including vehicular sources,
 - Transboundary air pollution,
 - Yellow sand storm,
 - Hazardous materials contamination, such as endocrine disrupting chemicals and POPs, and
 - Migratory birds and wetland.

Furthermore, it was my pleasure that I could introduce some of NIES facilities such as Climate Change Research Hall, Endocrine Disruptor Research Laboratory, Soil Laboratory, etc. with our research activities to the delegation of Korea and China. I also believe that a field study tour around Oku-Nikko region (NIES Field Station, Ashio Copper Smelting Works, Odashiro-ga-hara Wetland, etc.) carried out after TPM in Tsukuba was a good opportunity in order to introduce the Japanese environment conservation activities including NIES monitoring facilities.

Although the period of TPM was short, we obtained so much fruitful results. I should thank the president Rhee, the president Meng, all delegates of three countries and also all participants who prepare and support to hold this 2nd TPM.

Finally, I hope that the practice of research cooperation will be started through the discussion of TPM in very near future.

Nov., 22, 2004



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