

The Fifth Tripartite Presidents Meeting among NIES, NIER and CRAES

Joint Communiqué

At the invitation of President OHTSUKA Ryutaro of the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) of Japan, President KO Yunhwa of the National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER) and President MENG Wei of the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES) visited Hokkaido, Japan and attended the Fifth Tripartite Presidents Meeting (TPM5) from November 25 to 28, 2008. The meeting of the presidents was followed by its parallel workshop, the “International Workshop on Environmental Contamination by Hazardous Substances”, and a field study in eastern Hokkaido.

In their opening remarks the presidents noted the friendly relations among NIES, NIER and CRAES in the area of environmental science and technology and expressed their satisfaction with the steady progress of the collaboration. President OHTSUKA congratulated NIER and CRAES on their 30th anniversary and praised their accomplishments during that period. Quoting a phrase from the Analects of Confucius “at thirty, I stood firm”, President OHTSUKA expressed his expectation that the two institutions will further enhance their research activities in the coming years. President KO briefly reviewed the developments of NIER during the last 30 years and introduced the new vision for the next 30 years. President KO acknowledged that the TPM provides a solid foundation for cooperation and expressed his interest in promoting collaboration in the fields of climate change and solid waste management as well as personnel exchange. President MENG also noted that the collaboration under the TPM has been expanded and introduced China’s Special Water Pollution Control and Treatment Program and underlined that collaboration among the three institutions could contribute to the program.

The three presidents reaffirmed the six priority research areas identified at the TPM2 in which possibilities for joint projects would be explored. They shared the view that “freshwater pollution” is an important subject and agreed to produce a separate Record of

Discussion on cooperative research regarding this subject. As for “air pollution including vehicular sources”, President MENG confirmed Chengdu city as the location for possible collaborative research. The presidents agreed that each institution should select one city in each country as a location for comparative research on models concerning urban air quality and that a research proposal would be developed through the points of contact. The presidents expressed satisfaction with the steady development made in the collaboration on “transboundary air pollution”. They also acknowledged a Joint Cooperative Project Proposal on “yellow sand storm” developed by the Working Group on Dust and Sand Storms (DSS) and recommended further elaboration toward its early implementation. The presidents welcomed the launch of collaborative activity on “hazardous material contamination” by the “International Workshop on Environmental Contamination by Hazardous Substances”. As for “migratory birds and wetlands”, the presidents shared the view of the importance of biodiversity conservation under this subject.

Furthermore, the three presidents agreed to add two new priority research areas. One is solid waste management, including risk management and 3Rs, and the other is climate change, including adaptation to climate change and the impact of climate change on ecosystems. The presidents nominated the points of contact for these two new areas to narrow down the subject areas and to explore the possibility of collaborative research projects.

The three presidents shared the view that personnel exchange greatly contributes to strengthening the ties among the three institutions and enhancing their research capacity. They also exchanged information on their respective short-term and long-term personnel exchange programs and agreed to accept or dispatch researchers under these programs where possible.

President KO offered to host the sixth meeting of TPM (TPM6) in Korea. He suggested that the timing of the Working Level Meeting would be in April or May, and TPM6 would be in September or November, 2009.

The Presidents expressed their satisfaction with the fruitful results of the meeting. President KO and President MENG extended their gratitude to President OHTSUKA for his hospitality and successful organization of the TPM5.

November 26, 2008 in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan



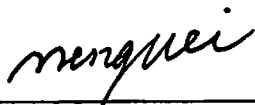
OHTSUKA Ryutaro

President, National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan



KO Yunhwa

President, National Institute of Environmental Research, Korea



MENG Wei

President, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, China