

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

**Joint Communiqué**

At the invitation of President OHGAKI Shinichiro of the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES, Japan), delegations led by President PARK Seok Soon of the National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER, Korea) and President MENG Wei of the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES, China), visited Okinawa, Japan to attend the Eighth Tripartite Presidents Meeting (TPM8) from November 21 to 24, 2011.

President OHGAKI Shinichiro noted the improvement and progress of tripartite cooperation, and stressed the importance of cooperation based on scientific evidence under the TPM mechanism in responding to local, regional and global environmental challenges, in particular in the context of the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011, and the subsequent accident at the TEPCO Fukushima nuclear power plant. President OHGAKI suggested maximizing the collaborative capabilities of NIES, NIER and CRAES by organizing thematic research groups for specific topics, and that environmental issues originating from disasters should be addressed specifically as part of the development of forthcoming collaborative activities among the three institutions.

President OHGAKI expressed his gratitude to the working group members from NIES, NIER and CRAES, acknowledged the support of the Ministry of the Environment Japan, Okinawa Prefecture and University of the Ryukyus, and welcomed the participation of former NIER President Dr. RHEE Deok-Gil, who attended TPM8 in his capacity as a CRAES visiting scholar.

President PARK Seok Soon offered his sincerest condolences to the victims of the March 11 disaster. President PARK suggested that cooperation on research into the environmental effects of disasters, including earthquakes, tsunamis, flooding and volcanic eruptions, in the face of the unprecedented and unpredictable events with which all three countries have been affected in recent times, should be both pursued and strengthened. President PARK emphasized that partnership and cooperation under the TPM mechanism were the key to future successes for the three institutions.

President MENG Wei expressed his deep respect towards the Japanese people for their dignity, unity and perseverance in the wake of the unprecedented disaster of March 11, 2011. President MENG emphasized the increased and pressing need for collaborations in the area of environmental restoration and reconstruction after the disaster.

President MENG stressed TPM's role in facilitating the creation of a joint research community to safeguard the regional environment in Northeast Asia. President MENG emphasized the principles of friendship, communication, and cooperation for the mutual benefit of the three institutions. President MENG also stressed the importance of further strengthening on these fronts by committing to cooperation on concrete projects under the TPM mechanism.

The presidents stressed that TPM8 was held on the basis of the experience accumulated from previous meetings, as well as the important contribution of TPM8 to furthering cooperation, communication, and information and personnel exchange among NIES, NIER, and CRAES. In addition, the presidents acknowledged the respective institution's contributions to nurturing and consolidating the TPM mechanism at TPM8.

The presidents agreed to partially refine the names, definitions and content of the eight TPM Priority Research Areas to reflect the changing environmental circumstances in the world. The names of the Priority Research Areas were agreed as follows – Freshwater Pollution; Asian Air Pollution; Urban Environment and

Eco-city; Dust and Sand Storm; Chemical Risk and Management; Biodiversity Conservation; Solid Waste Management; and Climate Change.

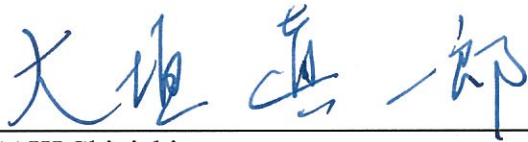
The presidents committed to further enhancing the contact among working group members and focal points in these research areas in order to advance cooperative projects among the three institutions. The presidents agreed to put forward the idea of extending invitations to researchers and parties on the eight TPM Priority Research Areas from concerned countries falling outside the TPM mechanism to attend future TPM meetings.

The theme of the TPM8 Parallel Workshop was “Asian Air Pollution and Biodiversity Conservation”. The workshop was opened to local environmental officials, local researchers and other interested observers, in order to facilitate the dissemination of the TPM goals and outcomes. The workshops, encompassing the broad scope of the TPM Priority Research Areas reaffirmed the importance of extant and forthcoming collaborations among the three institutions in these areas.

The presidents acknowledged the importance and practical advantages of the three institutions sharing their accumulated expertise with related institutions and interested parties. Presentations by delegates and researchers from NIES, NIER, CRAES, Naha Regional Office for Nature Conservation (Ministry of the Environment Japan), Okinawa Prefectural Institute of Health and Environment, and University of the Ryukyus were received with interest by the presidents.

President PARK offered to host the Ninth Tripartite Presidents Meeting (TPM9) in Pyeong Chang, Korea, in Autumn 2012. President PARK proposed Low Carbon and Green Growth, a subject related to the new Priority Research Area of Urban Environment and Eco-city, as the topic of the Parallel Workshop at TPM9. The Working Group Meeting to discuss TPM9 arrangements will be held in Korea in May 2012.

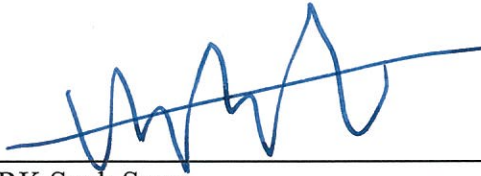
Finally, the presidents expressed their deep satisfaction with the outcomes of the meeting, including the new initiatives for collaboration. They also thanked the local organizations for their interest and involvement in TPM8. President PARK Seok Soon and President MENG Wei extended their sincere gratitude to President OHGAKI Shinichiro for his hospitality, and also thanked all the members of the NIES delegation who contributed to the successful organization of TPM8.



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OHGAKI Shinichiro

President, National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan



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PARK Seok Soon

President, National Institute of Environmental Research, Korea



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MENG Wei

President, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, China

November 22, 2011, Okinawa, Japan