

**International Workshop  
on Asian Air Pollution and Biodiversity Conservation**

The Eighth Tripartite Presidents Meeting among NIES, NIER and CRAES

**Closing Remarks (Session2)**

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It has been a long day today. It is now time to close - I am tired and you must be tired too. I learned many things from the presentations today. They were all really excellent. I learned about Okinawa, bird migration, biopreservation in China - all very new knowledge to me. The Honorable President OHGAKI and the Honorable President MENG, and all the delegations from three countries and the local participants from Okinawa; I believe we have had a very profitable discussion today. The exchange of views on the research of each institute has been extremely useful in sharing research expertise and experience on the theme of Asian Air Pollution and Biodiversity Conservation. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all participants for their hard work over the past three days. I think that we have all had a highly successful workshop.

The United Nations have declared the years from 2011 to 2020 as the United Nations Decade of Biodiversity. We are all aware of the importance of biodiversity; however biodiversity is, as we are also aware, declining. We are currently facing the situation where we are losing biodiversity in forests, grasslands, wetlands, and the ocean which will cause a serious impact on human life. So far many people in various countries underestimate - even neglect - the impact of biodiversity loss. However we should not underestimate, and not neglect the impact that biodiversity loss will have on human life and the economy. This is why it is very important for all of us to strengthen our research collaboration in the area of biodiversity conservation.

I understand that there have been many efforts on biodiversity issues till now. We still have lots of room to take our collaboration to a new level. We still have a long way to go and we must work together to conserve biodiversity. In this way I sincerely hope that we continue to expand the exchange of our knowledge, expertise and experience. Eventually we will contribute to the protection of our environment and our biosphere

not only for our region but for the rest of the world. Once again I am deeply grateful to all members from China, Japan and Korea for all our efforts to put together a meaningful workshop here in Okinawa. Okinawa is one of the most bio-rich areas in the world. Finally I sincerely hope to meet all of you next year in Korea.

Thank you.