

The Eleventh Tripartite Presidents Meeting among NIES, NIER and CRAES

Joint Communiqué

At the invitation of President SUMI Akimasa of the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) of Japan, delegations led by President KIM Sam Cwan of the National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER) of Korea and President MENG Wei of the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES) of China, visited Kawasaki City, Japan to attend the Eleventh Tripartite Presidents Meeting (TPM11) on November 11-15, 2014.

In the opening session, President SUMI Akimasa welcomed delegates from CRAES and NIER, and expressed his gratitude to Kawasaki City, in particular the Mayor, Mr. FUKUDA Norihiko and the Executive Director of Kawasaki Environmental Research Institute (KERI), Mr. YOKOTA Satoru for their support to TPM11. President SUMI also extended his appreciation to the Working Group (WG) members for their hard work in making arrangements for the meeting. President SUMI pointed out that in recent times environmental issues are a major agenda, and that solutions are required by government and society. In this context, it is necessary for all three institutions to contribute to providing solutions to the urgent problems, although these issues are complex.

President SUMI introduced important topics such as Japan Environment and Children's Study (JECS), Greenhouse gases Observing SATellite (GOSAT), Environmental Emergency Research, PM_{2.5}, Joint Credit Mechanism related to MRV (Measurement, Reporting and Verification)-Project and Biodiversity.

President KIM Sam Cwan said the three institutes need to expand and strengthen collaboration research on Asian air pollution, environmental radioactivity, and environmental health including highly pathogenic avian influenza. President KIM also stressed that practical research outcomes should be used for people's wellbeing, policy-making, and national development.

President MENG Wei first emphasized the basic principles of "Friendship, Communication, Cooperation and Win-Win" of the TPM mechanism. President MENG then introduced recent environmental policy developments in China, including the construction of ecological civilization and the three priority areas to solving key environmental problems, and also provided information of CRAES's recent important initiatives in science and technology innovation and development.

The Presidents stressed the importance of the practical and pragmatic joint efforts among the three institutes to improve the regional environment in Northeast Asia.

The Presidents shared recent development in the three institutes' activities and special research topics related to PM_{2.5} and SLCP (Short-Lived Climate Pollutant) identified as urgent issues in the three countries. They agreed that this is the first step for collaboration among the three institutes on the issue of atmospheric pollution, and hope that information exchange and collaboration are continued as a matter of high priority into the future.

The Presidents listened to the reports on each Priority Research Area (PRA) from the Focal Points (FPs) of the respective Lead Coordinating Institutes (LCIs). Based on the discussions, it was decided that the LCI for each PRA until TPM12 will remain as follows:

- NIES - Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change, Disaster Environment
- NIER - Asian Air Pollution, Dust and Sand Storm, Solid Waste Management
- CRAES - Freshwater Pollution, Urban Environment and Eco-city, Chemical Risk and Management

The Presidents agreed that cooperation in the PRAs is of utmost importance, and that the FPs of the LCI in each PRA should lead the collaboration among NIES, NIER, and CRAES under the TPM mechanism; and that FPs for the WG should share information on each PRA to facilitate relevant communication in a timely manner.

To expand TPM activities, the Presidents agreed to seek the collaboration of selected researchers in other institutions of the three countries. President SUMI also introduced the potential for collaboration with international organizations. The Presidents agreed to follow up this issue with further discussions.

The theme of TPM11 International Workshop was “Eco-city and Biodiversity”. The Presidents noted that both themes are important environmental issues in Japan, Korea, and China. They are satisfied with the sharing of information on recent situations and research findings in the three countries, and emphasized the importance of further collaboration. They thanked all presenters from NIES, NIER, CRAES, the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) and Kawasaki City.

President KIM offered to host TPM12 in Yeosu City, Korea, in November of 2015. The Working Group Meeting to discuss TPM12 arrangements will be held in May of 2015. President KIM suggested “Asian Air Pollution” as the theme of the International Workshop of TPM12.

Finally, the Presidents expressed their deep satisfaction with the outcomes of the meeting. They also thanked the Biodiversity Center of Japan, MOEJ, and Kawasaki City. President KIM Sam Cwan and President MENG Wei extended their sincere gratitude to President SUMI Akimasa for his hospitality, and also their appreciation to all members of the NIES delegation who contributed to the successful organization of TPM11.



SUMI Akimasa

President, National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan



KIM Sam Cwan

President, National Institute of Environmental Research, Korea



MENG Wei

President, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, China

November 13, 2014, in Kawasaki, Japan