

Preface

In recent times, East Asia has become one of the hot spots for environmental changes in the world. With this background, the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES, Japan), the National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER, Korea) and the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES, China) have agreed, since 2004, to hold an annual meeting, “The Tripartite Presidents Meeting among NIES, NIER and CRAES (TPM)” to promote further research ties and collaboration between our three countries. During these 10 years, the three institutes have collaborated in many environmental fields via discussions and workshops under the basic principles of “Friendship”, “Communication”, “Cooperation” and “Win-Win” of the TPM mechanism, and have thus played a vital role in developing our mutual understanding in response to environmental problems from scientific viewpoints.

It could be said that there are two major perspectives to be kept in mind when promoting our researches to reconcile both governmental and societal needs. These are the general consensus on the importance of basic research on environmental problems and the need for quick responses to find solutions before observing any process. While these would appear at first glance to be contradictory demands, they are in fact extremely meaningful for environmental researchers: by keeping these in view they can appeal to the value of the scientific outcomes of their research and how these can point the way to solutions to the actual environmental problems being observed in society. One of the ways to respond to these demands is through cooperation with other institutions, including overseas institutions having appropriate knowledge and experience of respective environmental issues, such as PM_{2.5} and SLCP (Short-Lived Climate Pollutant), which have been identified as urgent topics requiring redress in the three countries. At present, I believe that we have a solid foundation and should continue existing and initiate fresh practical and pragmatic joint efforts among the three institutes to improve the regional environment in East Asia.

The Eleventh Tripartite Presidents Meeting (TPM11) is being held on November 11-15, 2014 in Kawasaki City, one of the most polluted cities during the 1950-1970s, and which is nowadays developing as an advanced eco-city. We selected Kawasaki City as the venue of TPM11 as a symbolic place in the promotion of environmental restoration and the development of nature-harmonizing industrial society. From a similar perspective, we decided to organize the International Workshop as part of TPM 11 on the topics of Eco-city and Biodiversity. Both of these are research topics of great importance in the three countries and throughout the world. We have shared information on research at each institute as well as extant and forthcoming collaboration among our institutions, to encourage further research

cooperation which will facilitate the transition to the next stage of the TPM mechanism.

In embarking on this new stage, the role of the Focal Points (FPs) in each Priority Research Area (PRA), especially in the Lead Coordinating Institute (LCI), is of utmost importance to further collaboration in the nine PRAs designated at TPM: Freshwater Pollution, Asian Air Pollution, Urban Environment and Eco-city, Dust and Sand Storm, Chemical Risk and Management, Biodiversity Conservation, Solid Waste Management, Climate Change and Disaster Environment. We all understand the importance of research activities coordinated by the FPs and hope these lead to further collaboration among NIES, NIER and CRAES under the TPM mechanism.

We have been able to hold TPM 11 with the support of many participants not only from NIES, NIER and CRAES but also from Kawasaki City, including Kawasaki Environment Research Institute (KERI), as well as the Ministry of the Environment (MOE), Japan, whom we should thank for the valuable information they provided at the workshop. We are also grateful to all the staff of the institutions we visited, including Kawasaki Eco Gurashi Mirai-kan; Kawasaki City Resource Recycling Facility; Kawasaki Zero-Emission Industrial Park (Sanei Regulator CORELEX Tokyo Plant); KERI; Biodiversity Center of Japan (MOE); Mount Fuji Research Institute; and Fuji Hokuroku Flux Observation Site (CGER, NIES). I would also like to extend my particular gratitude to the Working Group members from NIES, NIER and CRAES for their efforts in arranging this valuable meeting. Last but not least, I must express my deep gratitude to President KIM Sam Cwan (NIER), President MENG Wei (CRAES) and Mr. FUKUDA Norihiko (Kawasaki City Mayor) for their support and encouragement over the course of TPM11.

Finally, I reiterate that the TPM mechanism is an excellent opportunity to exchange our knowledge and experiences. I also express my confidence that this, TPM11, will contribute to facilitating further collaboration among NIES, NIER, CRAES and all related institutions, and also will contribute to the creation of environment-harmonized advanced society in East Asia.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Akimasa Sumi', written in a cursive style.

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