

The Eighth Tripartite Presidents Meeting among NIES, NIER and CRAES

Keynote Speech

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November 21, 2011



Dear President OHGAKI, President PARK, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

First of all, on behalf of CRAES delegation and all my staff, I would like to express our congratulations on the convening of the Eighth Tripartite Presidents Meeting (TPM8) among CRAES, NIES and NIER on the beautiful island of Okinawa.

Today, we still remember the suffering and pain brought about by the earthquake of March 11. As a partner of NIES, we have witnessed the unity, patience and perseverance of Japanese people. I believe that, in the face of natural disasters, mankind is one community. We need to help each other, support each other, and overcome the difficulties and various crises together.

In the past eight years, eight TPM meetings have been convened while eight priority areas for collaboration have been identified. With deepened communication and exchanges on environmental issues of common interests, more and more concrete cooperative projects have been designed and implemented jointly. On October 21, 2010, CRAES successfully organized the side event "Biodiversity and Carbon in China: Opportunities and Challenges for Local Governments" at CBD COP10 in Nagoya, Japan, which received strong support and assistance from China's Ministry of Environmental Protection and NIES.

At TPM7, I proposed that TPM should respond to and promote domestic and international environmental protection priorities; on the other hand, TPM should enhance cooperation and joint research in Northeast Asia, according to the specific context of each partner country, on global environmental issues of common interests

through tripartite cooperation.

On November 4, 2011, the just-closed G20 Summit in France adopted the Cannes Action Plan for Growth and Jobs. However, economic growth and development will exert pressures on, and pose challenges for, the environment. China faces the challenges of industrialization and urbanization due to its rapid development, one of the features of China as a developing country in a particular development phase. China is currently experiencing the mid-late stage of industrialization. Heavy chemical industrialization is the main feature, which has led to high energy consumption per capita GDP. Therefore, China needs to strengthen industrial pollution control, vigorously develop clean production and circular economy, and promote the change of economic development patterns. In addition, the urbanization rate in China has grown from 19% to 47.5% in 30 years. Rapid urbanization will unavoidably bring a series of environmental problems. In terms of responding to and addressing the environmental issues brought about by industrialization and urbanization, China is exploring the ways to change economic development patterns, and has proposed to build a “resource saving and environment-friendly society”.

We should develop cooperation with specific characteristics based on the strengths and features of CRAES, NIES and NIER. In addition to strengthening the communication of the focal points in priority cooperation areas, we should conduct concrete cooperation in accordance with the priority areas of each country.

In June this year, the State Key Laboratory on Environmental Criteria and Risk Assessment was launched at CRAES. This is the first national key laboratory staffed by a group of the most capable domestic experts and equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for environmental quality evolution; aquatic ecological function zoning; environmental criteria; ecological security; and risk assessment. I believe the establishment of the State Key Laboratory could further promote cooperation among CRAES, NIES and NIER in broader areas of environmental risk management and assessment under TPM mechanism.

I believe that, with the continued support from the Presidents of NIES and NIER, and the joint efforts of the three parties, our cooperation will produce more fruitful outcomes; the TPM mechanism, as a regional cooperative and research community, will play a greater role in safeguarding the environment in Northeast Asia and even the world. I would like to work together with President OHGAKI and President PARK to promote the further development of the TPM mechanism and to make more contributions.

Today, we have the great honor to have Mr. RHEE Deok-Gil, former President of NIER, as an observer of TPM8. Mr. RHEE was one of the instigators of the TPM initiative. I would like to thank him for his contribution to TPM and for taking part in TPM8.

I have attended 8 TPM meetings and I hope that I will be able to attend TPM9 in Korea next year.

Finally, I hope that TPM8 and its parallel workshop are a complete success.

Thank you!