



The Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting
Among China, Japan, and Korea



Ministry of Ecology and Environment of
the People's Republic of China



Ministry of the
Environment of Japan



Ministry of Environment of
the Republic of Korea

Published by
Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat

Jointly published by
China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center

Supported by
Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China
Ministry of the Environment of Japan
Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea

Published in
June 2018

Statement
All contents are based on the official documents and information available from the TEMM website, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China, Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center and United Nations Environment Program.

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About Tripartite Environmental Cooperation and Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM)



Northeast Asia region has enjoyed tremendous economic growth in the past decades. At the same time, problems such as environmental pollution and ecosystem deterioration have come to light. In order to tackle the challenges and build a sustainable Northeast Asian, the People's Republic of China (China), Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) came together and held the 1st TEMM in 1999, a regional high-level cooperation mechanism on the environment in Northeast Asia.

The tripartite environmental cooperation centered on TEMM is comprised of a number of multi-layer cooperation mechanisms that involve government authorities, research institutes and the civil society. The Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation addressing a range of common environment problems was adopted to strategically and systemically manage a variety of environmental cooperation activities under TEMM. In the past 19 years, TEMM was held alternately among the three countries every year regardless of the ups and downs of the political relations in the region. TEMM is now the longest-standing and has evolved to be one of the most institutionalized mechanisms among all the current 21 trilateral minister-level cooperation mechanisms. Fruitful results have been achieved to promote environmental management, to take a leading role in regional environmental management, and to contribute to global environmental improvement.

2018 marks the 20th anniversary of TEMM. Let's take a moment to appreciate the extraordinary journey and picture a greener tomorrow together.

* In 1999, the first trilateral leaders' meeting among China, Japan and the ROK was launched during the ASEAN plus Three Summit. The three leaders proposed an initiative to strengthen environmental cooperation and dialogue, which laid a political foundation for the tripartite environmental cooperation.

* In 2018, the three leaders welcomed progress achieved under TEMM and reaffirmed commitment to supporting and promoting the joint effort at the 7th Trilateral Summit in Tokyo, Japan.



Footprint of TEMM

Building the foundation for cooperation (1999-2009)



1999
TEM M1
Seoul, ROK



2000
TEM M2
Beijing, China



2001
TEM M3
Tokyo, Japan



2002
TEM M4
Seoul, ROK



2003
TEM M5
Beijing, China



2009
TEM M11
Beijing, China



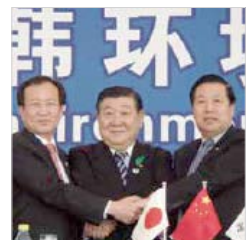
2008
TEM M10
Jeju, ROK



2007
TEM M9
Toyama, Japan



2006
TEM M8
Beijing, China



2005
TEM M7
Seoul, ROK



2004
TEM M6
Tokyo, Japan



Deepening cooperation (2010-2014)

2010
TEMM12
Hokkaido, Japan



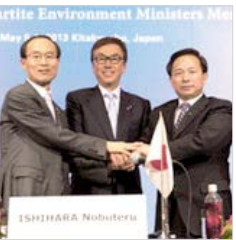
2011
TEMM13
Busan, ROK



2012
TEMM14
Beijing, China



2013
TEMM15
Kitakyushu, Japan



2014
TEMM16
Daegu, ROK



2018
TEMM20
Suzhou, China

2017
TEMM19
Suwon, ROK



2016
TEMM18
Shizuoka, Japan



2015
TEMM17
Shanghai, China



Steady development of cooperation (2015-2019)



The improved TEMM mechanism with its three-tier meeting structure allowed more effective coordination and further strengthened partnership.

Directors General Meeting for TEMM, Pre- and Post-TEMM Working Level Meetings are held each year to prepare for the smooth implementation of TEMM, and to follow up on the agenda agreed by the three ministers at TEMM.

Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation

As the highest-profile environmental cooperation mechanism in Northeast Asia, TEMM identified priority areas of cooperation respectively at TEMM1, TEMM11 and TEMM16, and established and implemented the two-phase Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation. Fruitful results have been achieved in many of the priority areas under the Joint Action Plans.

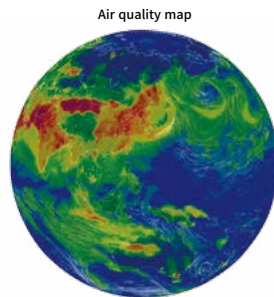


Air Quality Improvement



Air Quality Improvement

Addressing transboundary air pollution requires extensive cooperation efforts. To improve air quality in the Northeast Asia region, the three countries launched the Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution in 2014. Two working groups hold regular joint seminars to promote cooperation on scientific research on prevention and control, and technology and policy on air quality monitoring and prediction.



AirVisual Earth <https://www.airvisual.com/earth>



Dust and Sand Storms (DSS)

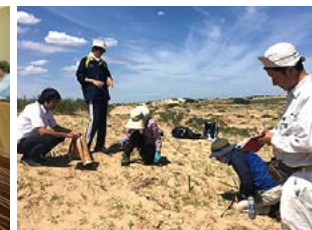


Dust and Sand Storms (DSS)

As a regional environmental challenge, the three countries' joint efforts to tackle the DSS problem consists of:

- DSS Directors General meeting
- Steering Committee meeting
- Working Group I which focuses on monitoring, forecast and early warning
- Working Group II which focuses on prevention and control
- Joint workshop between the two working groups

The meetings have enhanced exchanges and cooperation in DSS monitoring and assessment technology which result in improvement of DSS situation in the region throughout the past 20 years.





Environmental Education, Public Awareness and Corporate Social Responsibility



Biodiversity



Environmental Education, Public Awareness and Corporate Social Responsibility

China, Japan and Korea form one environmental community-based on this shared understanding, the three countries engage various actors and generations to promote environmental education.

Activity	Participants	Objectives
Tripartite Environmental Education Network	Environmental education experts, teachers, NGOs	Promoting initiatives of environmental education
TEMM Youth Forum	Students, Environmental education experts	Building youth community for environmental cooperation
Tripartite Environmental Training	Government officials engaged in environmental policies	Discussing environmental policies and challenges in each country
General Public Awareness	General Public	Promoting public awareness of environmental protection and cooperation

Empowering Youth and Deepening Understanding of Environment



Biodiversity

Recognizing the serious impact on the ecosystems in Northeast Asia, the three countries attach great importance to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. By far, four sessions of Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Biodiversity have been organized to strengthen and exchange of policies in the area of biodiversity and genetic resources access and benefit-sharing (ABS).

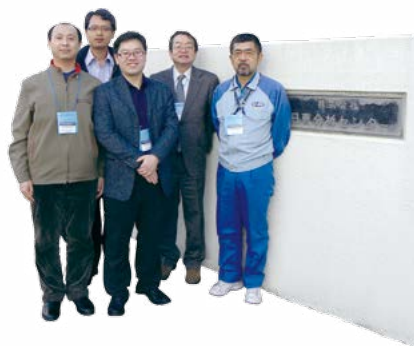


Chemical Management



Chemical Management

With the increase of trading among the three countries, an appropriate chemical management is crucial to prevent adverse impacts on human health and environment. The three countries have organized Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemical Management and Tripartite Expert Seminars on Chemical Management to discuss latest developments in chemical management policies. Information exchange on risk assessment, chemical management regulations, and environmental monitoring has significantly improved each country's chemical management capacity. Joint research on fish chronic toxicity tests has also been conducted.



Circulative Management of Resources/3R/ Transboundary Movement of E-Waste



Circulative Management of Resources/3R/ Transboundary Movement of E-Waste

The three countries spare no effort to strengthen cooperation in developing a sustainable environment-friendly society. Since 2006, eleven Tripartite 3R and Transboundary Movement of E-Waste Seminars have been held. Notable progress has been made in the alignment of circular economy policies, transboundary movement of e-waste, disaster waste management and city refuse recycling.

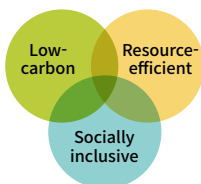




Transition to Green Economy

Transforming our Economic Model

To ensure that our economic and social activities are sustainable, the three countries are working together on pollution prevention, and environmental technology cooperation with industries.



Engaging the business sector



Representatives from environmental business sector had an active discussion at the Tripartite Roundtable on Environmental business on sustainable city, corporate social responsibility, air quality improvement and soil pollution remediation technologies, etc.

Technology Cooperation Tripartite Cooperation Network for Pollution Prevention and Control Technologies gathers trilateral efforts to establish website, organize joint research, hold seminar and build information platform for technology cooperation.



Mutual Label Recognition The three countries have so far agreed on nine common standards for mutual recognition of environmental labels. The labels can be found on printers and textile products.



Climate Change Response



Climate change is one of the most pervasive environment issues of our time, with far-reaching impacts in the 21st century. It is a global issue that requires collective leadership from all nations. China, Japan, and ROK have maintained cooperation under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

To respond to the challenges caused by climate change, the Tripartite Seminar on Climate Change has been organized. Policies, actions, and experience were shared in climate change mitigation and building low-carbon and environmental-friendly cities.

Conservation of Water and Marine Environment



Conservation of Water and Marine Environment



Marine litter, including microplastic, is global challenge in the marine environment.

The three countries support cooperation in marine environment protection under the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP). TEMM-NOWPAP Joint Workshops on Marine Litter have taken place together with coastal clean-up activities every year since 2015.

Through the meetings and activities, the member states not only exchanged information and research results of marine litter and microplastics management, but also strengthened marine environment cooperation in the Northwest Pacific region.

Sources of Marine Litter



Plastic bags and bottles



Cans



Fish nets



Cigarettes etc.

Rural Environmental Management



Rural Environmental Management

A mechanism for the timely sharing of rural environmental policies has been put in place to improve rural environmental governance and management in the three countries. The mechanism covers policy dialogue, technical cooperation, research on launching pilots and demonstration programs, personal exchange and capacity building. Since 2016, Two sessions of the Tripartite Rural Environment Policy Dialogue have been organized.





Future Prospects

In the past 20 years, The Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM) is the most successful and longest-standing cooperation mechanism within the framework of the Trilateral Summit of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea and has greatly contributed to building a clean and beautiful Northeast Asia. TEMM has made a sound decision-making mechanism at all levels to effectively implement the cooperative activities in key areas and promote the gradual improvement of regional environmental quality. It not only enhanced the environmental protection capabilities of the three countries, but also contributed valuable and useful experience to the rest of the world.

Global environmental governance will enter a new era, in which the tripartite environmental cooperation will play a more pivotal role in global environmental cooperation. China, Japan, and ROK will collaborate more closely around global agenda such as 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and under global framework including UNFCCC, Convention on Biological Diversity, etc.

The three countries will cooperate on the basis of mutual respect, equality, mutual benefit, openness and transparency; will implement the initiatives of the Trilateral Summit and deepen cooperation in various fields in the Tripartite Joint Action Plan (2015-2019); will expand cooperation channels and engage stakeholders across sectors; and will strengthen communication and consultation in global and regional environmental issues.

The next 20 years of tripartite environmental cooperation will surely be more exciting! We extend our sincere invitation to you. Join us on this journey to co-create a more sustainable Northeast Asia, and a community of shared interests, responsibilities and future.

Addendum



Information list of TEMM1-20

1	1999 1.13	Seoul, ROK	 Minister CHOI Jae-wook, Ministry of Environment (MOE)  Minister XIE Zhenhua, State Environmental Protection Administration(SEPA)  Minister MANABE Kenji, Environment Agency (EA)
2	2000 2.26-27	Beijing, China	 Minister, XIE Zhenhua, SEPA  Minister SHIMIZU Kayoko, EA  Minister KIM Myung Ja, MOE
3	2001 4.7-8	Tokyo, Japan	 Minister KAWAGUCHI Yoriko, Ministry of the Environment(MOE)  Minister KIM Myung Ja, MOE  Minister XIE Zhenhua, SEPA
4	2002 4.20-21	Seoul, ROK	 Minister KIM Myung-Ja, MOE  Minister XIE Zhenhua, SEPA  Minister OHKI Hiroshi, MOE
5	2003 12.13-14	Beijing, China	 Minister XIE Zhenhua, SEPA  Minister KOIKE Yuriko, MOE  Minister HAN Myeong Sook, MOE
6	2004 12.4-5	Tokyo, Japan	 Minister KOIKE Yuriko, MOE  Minister KWAK Kyul Ho, MOE  Minister XIE Zhenhua, SEPA
7	2005 10.22-23	Seoul, ROK	 Minister LEE Jae Yong, MOE  Minister XIE Zhenhua, SEPA  Minister KOIKE Yuriko, MOE
8	2006 12.2-3	Beijing, China	 Minister ZHOU Shengxian, SEPA  Minister WAKABAYASHI Masatoshi, MOE  Minister LEE Chi-Beom, MOE
9	2007 12.4-6	Toyama, Japan	 Minister KAMOSHITA Ichiro, MOE  Minister LEE Kyoo-Yong, MOE  Vice Minister LI Ganjie, SEPA
10	2008 12.1-3	Jeju, ROK	 Minister LEE Maanee, MOE  Minister ZHOU Shengxian, Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP)  Minister SAITO Tetsuo, MOE

11	2009 6.13-14	Beijing, China	 Minister ZHOU Shengxian, MEP  Minister SAITO Tetsuo, MOE  Minister LEE Maanee, MOE
12	2010 5.22-23	Hokkaido, Japan	 Minister OZAWA Sakihito, MOE  Minister LEE Maanee, MOE  Minister ZHOU Shengxian, MEP
13	2011 4.28-29	Busan, ROK	 Minister Maanee Lee, MOE  Minister ZHOU Shengxian, MEP  Vice Minister KONDO Shoichi, MOE
14	2012 5.3-4	Beijing, China	 Minister ZHOU Shengxian, MEP  Minister HOSONO Goshi, MOE  Minister YOO Young Sook, MOE
15	2013 5.5-6	Kitakyushu, Japan	 Minister ISHIHARA Nobuteru, MOE  Minister YOON Seongkyu, MOE  Vice Minister LI Ganjie, MEP
16	2014 4.28-29	Daegu, ROK	 Minister YOON Seongkyu, MOE  Vice Minister LI Ganjie, MEP  Minister ISHIHARA Nobuteru, MOE
17	2015 4.29-30	Shanghai, China	 Minister CHEN Jining, MEP  Minister MOCHIZUKI Yoshio, MOE  Minister YOON Seongkyu, MOE
18	2016 4.26-27	Shizuoka, Japan	 Minister MARUKAWA Tamayo, MOE  Minister YOON Seongkyu, MOE  Minister CHEN Jining, MEP
19	2017 8.24-25	Suwon, ROK	 Minister KIM Eunkyung, MOE  Minister LI Ganjie, MEP  Minister NAKAGAWA Masaharu, MOE
20	2018 6.23-24	Suzhou, China	 Minister LI Ganjie, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE)  Minister NAKAGAWA Masaharu, MOE  Minister KIM Eunkyung, MOE

10 Priority Areas in the Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation 2010-2014

- Environmental Education, Environmental Awareness and Public Participation
- Climate Change
- Biodiversity Conservation
- Dust and Sandstorms (DSS)
- Pollution Control
- Environment-Friendly Society/3R/Sound Resource Recycle Society
- Transboundary Movement of E-Waste
- Sound Management of Chemicals
- Environmental Governance in Northeast Asia
- Environmental Industries and Technologies

9 Priority Areas in the Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation 2015-2019


- Air Quality Improvement
- Biodiversity
- Chemical Management and Environmental Emergency Response
- Circulative Management of Resources/3R/Transboundary Movement of E-Waste
- Climate Change Response
- Conservation of Water and Marine Environment
- Environmental Education, Public Awareness and Corporate Social Responsibility
- Rural Environmental Management
- Transition to Green Economy

The Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) is an international organization established with a vision to promote peace and common prosperity among the People's Republic of China (China), Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK). Upon the agreement signed and ratified by each of the three governments, the TCS was officially inaugurated in Seoul, September 2011. The TCS aims to serve as a hub for trilateral cooperation that encompasses the broad spectrum of sectors and actors. With a view to solidifying the cooperative ties among the three countries, the TCS will strive to ensure that trilateral cooperation remains dynamic and future-oriented in the coming days.

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Email tcs@tcs-asia.org





 **Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat**

 **tcs tweet**

 **中日韩三国合作秘书处**

With the approval of Chinese Government and support of Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center (CAEC) was launched in 2010 and gained its two other identities as the China Center for Shanghai Cooperation Organization Environmental Protection (CSEC) in 2014 and the Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Center(LMEC) in 2017, serving as the MEE-affiliated think-tank to concretize initiatives proposed by Chinese leaders during major regional summits. CAEC aims to establish itself into a regional hub for South-South environmental cooperation; a think tank for environment and development; a demonstration base for environmentally sound technology and environmental industries; a knowledge center for sustainable development.

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 **TEMM** www.temm.org
 **MEE China** <http://english.mep.gov.cn/>
 **MOE Japan** <http://www.env.go.jp/en/index.html>
 **MOE ROK** <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/main.do>

Publication design Sangsang Creative(+82-2-6337-0231)



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