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## **A Summary Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> East Asia NCSD Workshop**

**Submitted by:  
Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development  
Republic of Korea**

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**BACKGROUND PAPER NO. 1**  
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# **A Summary Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> East Asia NCSD Workshop**

*(20-21 October 2005, Seoul, Republic of Korea)*

## **1. Outline**

The Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development (PCSD) of the Republic of Korea held the 2<sup>nd</sup> East Asia National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) Workshop in Seoul on 20-21 October 2005, in cooperation with the Japan Council for Sustainable Development (JCSD). Representatives from China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia and the Philippines and two keynote speakers – the Ambassador for Sustainable Development from the Netherlands and the Chief of the UN Division for Sustainable Development - attended the workshop. It also attracted wide local support from the business, civil society and the government, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Ministry of Environment, the Citizens' Committee for a Green Seoul and the Korea Business Council for Sustainable Development.

A Seoul Statement was adopted aiming to identify possible areas of further cooperation in the region. The Statement included measures such as holding regular meeting, establishing the East Asia NCSD website for information sharing and communication, exploring the possibility of creating a fund to support the civil society's initiatives for sustainable development.

## **2. Background**

The workshop was organized to build a network for promoting cooperation and sharing experiences on the implementation of sustainable development as well as WSSD's follow-up activities among East Asian countries. The recent workshop was a follow-up of the first one that was held in Seoul on 8-9 July 2002, and co-sponsored by JCSD. The same five countries participated in the first workshop as well, providing an opportunity to share information on and interests in sustainable development and to build a partnership in this region.

## **3. Key Discussions**

- a. Through opening remarks, Commissioner Chul-Hwan Koh delivered his sincere hope that this workshop would become the setting for exchanging experiences, learning from each other and working together for sustainable development. As the workshop had been organized through many difficulties, he asked participants to turn ideas and suggestions into tangible steps to progress toward our vision of sustainable development. The Environment Minister Jae-Yong Lee strongly stressed the importance and necessity of establishing efficient governance based on mutual trust between different stakeholders and also creating a successful regional model of cooperation appropriate for the new paradigm of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Mr. Moon-Kyu Kang, Chairman of Global Civic Sharing, who also worked as the first Commissioner of PCSD, extended encouragement through his remarks, stating that this workshop was the result of continuous cooperation with JCSD. He went to express his hope to see increased contributions from each country on

sustainable development.

- b. Mr. Ton Boon von Ochssee, the Netherlands' Ambassador for Sustainable Development, introduced in his keynote speech the "sustainable action," the government's strategy to implement WSSD. He also explained the active efforts being made through inter-ministerial cooperation to achieve sustainable development in the Netherlands. Emphasizing the importance of partnership, he expressed his anticipation of future cooperation between Europe and Asia. Ms. Mary Pat Silveira, Chief of National Information, Monitoring & Outreach Branch of the UN Division for Sustainable Development delivered another keynote speech on behalf of Ms. JoAnne DiSano, Director of UN DSD. She underlined vision, foresight and strategic planning to move toward sustainable development, which could be achieved through horizontal integration of economic, social and environmental sectors as well as vertical integration of local, regional and national concerns. She also pointed out the importance of the role of NCSDD for preparing the National Strategy on Sustainable Development (NSSD) and in coordinating its implementation. By suggesting the peer review process, used by the French Government in February 2005, to review its NSSD, she expected that this process could provide a useful way to share knowledge, build capacity and strengthen regional and international networks.
- c. The first session of the workshop was about the introduction of the organization, the role and functions of NCSDD in each country, its performance and future challenges after WSSD. This included China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED), Japan Council for Sustainable Development (JCSDD), the National Council for Sustainable Development of Mongolia, the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development and the Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development of the Republic of Korea. Although CCICED is not an NCSDD, it has been active under the leadership of its chairman, who is also China's Prime Minister. 50% of the members of CCICED are from government ministries and 50% are experts in international organizations and research institutions. Since the CCICED's launch in 1992, it has made a lot of endeavors to adopt the best practices and learn from the experiences of developed countries and apply them to China. JCSDD was established in 1996 with various policy stakeholders and is working to suggest future vision marking its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In Mongolia, with the launch of the new government, it is trying to re-build its NCSDD similar to the level that it had reached in 2002. The Philippines, where NCSDD first established a council in Asia in 1992, has two officials serving as co-chairmen, one to represent the government and the other representing the civil society. The Philippines' Council also strives to pursue the initiative for sustainable development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Recently, its major achievement lies in the successful implementation of MDGs, including water, sanitation and people's daily life. The Korean PCSDD, set up in 2000, has strengthened its functions and role as the national policy committee since the launch of the Participatory Government in 2003. As a follow-up measure of WSSD, PCSDD has worked as coordinator to publish an MDG report, declared a National Vision for Sustainable Development, and prepared an ODA report. It has also formulated policies on water, energy, land and conflict management.

- d. In the second session, there were presentations and discussions on key issues for sustainable development faced by each country. In order to build cooperation in East Asia and strengthen partnership, it is necessary to achieve mutual understanding and promote information exchange. The following are major areas as presented by participating countries: China is currently interested in water, energy, land use, consumption, poverty and governance; Japan mainly focuses on the issues related to climate change, carbon dioxide reduction, sustainable use of marine resources, food production, solid waste management, environmental tax, and education and promotion; Mongolia is interested in deforestation and desertification, destruction of biodiversity, air pollution, and education for sustainable development; the Philippines deals with excessive mining and logging, foreign debt and access to participation and justice; Korea takes the issue of land use from the environmental perspective of sustainable development (coordination of development demands and conservation of ecosystem), clean air (nitrogen dioxide, carbon dioxide, PM10, trans-boundary air pollution), water pollution and shortage, sustainable development governance (PCSD and Local Agenda 21), and international cooperation for sustainable development (ODA etc).
- e. The main theme of the third session was the roles of industries and the challenges they face to achieve sustainable development. Samsung SDI, Hyundai Motors and UNEP briefed the participants with their case studies. Samsung and Hyundai's management executives are taking sustainable management as a very important business strategy. In this session, there was a heated debate over technology transfer and support in order to encourage participation from more companies to this end, reflecting growing interests in corporate social responsibility. Moreover, increased public pressure by consumers and stronger government regulations against businesses were also suggested as effective measures for encouraging sustainable business.
- f. On the session for impending issues and challenges for sustainable development cooperation in the region, all participants engaged in active discussion on the Seoul Statement. Various suggestions were made whether to expand the scope of network beyond Asia. However, consensus was built that it would be better to strengthen cooperation and network among five participating countries first and then move beyond the region.

#### **4. Result**

All the participants have appreciated the leading role of PCSD for promoting sustainable development in East Asia. General consensus was reached that this workshop helped to consolidate the foundation for building further cooperation and network in this region, which had been suspended since the first workshop. In addition, it provided an opportunity to enhance understanding on major issues of sustainable development, recent activities, roles and the respective performances of NCSDs, as well as to share information and experience. Participation from the Netherlands and the UN are considered to open a possible opportunity for strengthening cooperation with European countries and the UN in the future. In particular, given the cooperation and support from the Seoul Metropolitan Government, Civil Society and the two ministries, the workshop was seen as a positive example of good and effective governance.

The Seoul Statement reflects specific measures to lead our efforts for enhancing cooperation in the future. This stems from our past experience of failing to keep the momentum since the first workshop. The Statement covers three work projects: first, to form a working group in the East Asia and to hold regular meetings at least once a year; second, to create the East Asia NCSD website for networking, information sharing and regular communication which will be linked to the five participating countries and other countries in the region; third, to explore the possibility of creating East Asia NCSD Fund to support the civil society's initiatives for sustainable development. The next meeting is expected to be held in Beijing in mid-2006, at which a common vision and action plan will be discussed

## **5. Future Challenge**

WSSD stressed the importance of partnership for sustainable development at the regional level. PCSD intended to expand the coverage of participating countries from Northeast Asia to Southeast Asia. However, due to a lack of communication, there are a lot of difficulties in identifying the right participants. Moreover, budget restraints also serve as an obstacle to inviting more participants to cover a wider area.

Systematic and continuous cooperation requires active involvement from various stakeholders, representing each country's committee or organization concerned. In this regard, the workshop is thought to provide an opportunity and occasion to sustain such efforts through regular communication and exchange. PCSD will do its best to serve as a bridge, facilitating the network and communication in this region. For the successful settlement of a regional cooperation model, interest and support from UNCSO must be ensured.

Above all, participants should prepare specific plans in accordance with the Seoul Statement and put them into practice. In particular, opening the website for NCSD will be an effective means to maintain the cooperation. For the 2006 workshop in Beijing, each country should make thorough preparations regarding our common vision and implementation plan. Thus, countries in this region will continue to communicate under the common goal, thereby facilitating the exchange of ideas and mutual reviews through the NCSD website.

## **Seoul Statement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> East Asia NCSD Workshop**

20-21 October 2005

Seoul, Korea

We, the participants from the five countries of China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia and the Philippines, gathered together in Seoul for the second East Asia National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) workshop on 20~21 October 2005, hosted by the Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development (PCSD) of Korea, in cooperation with Japan Council for Sustainable Development (JCSD). We appreciate the contributions by the Dutch Ambassador for Sustainable Development and the UN Division for Sustainable Development.

We shared various experiences about NCSDs and discussed key issues on sustainable development. We recognized the differences of implementing mechanisms for sustainable development among the five countries. We identified common major issues such as trans-boundary pollution, natural resources use and management, education and governance for sustainable development. We acknowledged that active involvement from the business sector was crucial in actualizing sustainability.

We outlined the necessity of a common vision to promote sustainability in this region through building up responsible partnership between multi-stakeholders at the regional level. As we move toward sustainability for a common future in the East Asian region, we agree:

1. To form a working group to advance sustainable development in East Asia and to hold regular meetings at least once a year. At our next meeting in Beijing in mid-2006, we will discuss a common vision and an action plan.
2. To create the East Asia NCSD website for networking, information sharing and regular communication, which will be linked to the five participating countries and other countries in the region.
3. To explore the possibility of creating East Asia NCSD Fund to support the civil society's initiatives for sustainable development.

Participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> East Asia NCSD workshop