

Outline of the Meeting of the Environment Subcommittee of the Association of North East Asia Regional Governments

On July 30th (Mon) the 8th Environmental Subcommittee was held as follows.
In the meeting, Toyama Prefecture was designated again as a coordinator.

1 Outline of the meeting

- (1) Date & Time : 9:30~16:30, July 30th (Mon), 2007
- (2) Venue: Toyama International Conference Center (1-2 Ohtemach, Toyama)
- (3) Participants: (10 municipalities from 5 countries)
 - Japan (4) : Toyama, Ishikawa, Kyoto, Tottori
 - Korea (2) : Kangwon-do, Chungcheongnam-do
 - Russia (1) : Khabarovsk

(Observers)

- China (2) : Liaoning, Shandong
- Mongol(1) : Dornogovi

Mr. Ito, Deputy Director, Environmental Cooperation Office, Global Environmental Bureau, Ministry of the Environment (Japan)

2 Brief on the meeting

(1) Reports

1) Reports on the environmental status and problems

6 municipalities(Chungcheongnam-do, Ishikawa, Kyoto, Shandong, Liaoning, Dornogovi) made presentations on the current environmental situation in each municipality. Participants deepened and shared their understandings.

The titles of each presentation were follows.

- Chungcheongnam-do (Establishment of the healthy natural environment in Chungcheongnam-do)
- Ishikawa (Ishikawa's international cooperation for the environment)
- Kyoto (Countermeasures against global warming in Kyoto)
- Shandong (Environmental problems and countermeasures against them in Shandong, China)
- Liaoning (Environmental situations and countermeasures against them in Liaoning, 2006)
- Dornogovi (Expansion of wilderness in Dornogovi, dedreasieng the kinds of wild animals and its reasons)

2) The individual projects in the year of 2007

3 individual projects were explained on their implementations by Toyama Prefecture.

- Research on washed-up driftage on the coast of the Northwest Pacific Region (Toyama)
 - This is the beach survey to investigate the situation of driftage in the beach along the Japan Sea and Yellow Sea, and to raise the awareness of the people for the marine litter. It will be continued in 2008.
- The Joint Survey with Northeast Asian Countries on Migratory Birds (Toyama)
 - This is a collaborative research on migratory birds in the Northeast Asia. This year would be last one of this research.
- Leadership Programm for the Northeast Asia Youth's Environmental Preservation (Toyama)
 - This is to develop young people (middle school students) who will be responsible for the environment in the region of Northwest Asia. In August 2007, the theme of the meeting will be "protection of the ocean environment (marine litter)" at Toyama Pref.

(2) Discussions

1) Designation of a coordinator

Toyama Prefecture was designated again as the coordinator for the next term (2 years). This will be its 5th consecutive term since July, 1999.

2) Proposals of the Individual Project in the year of 2008

Premorsky, Russia and Toyama Pref. proposed 4 projects for 2008.

New project

- The 3rd International Environmental Ecological Forum, "Nature without Borders" (Premorsky, Russia)
 - It aims to discuss and exchange opinions regarding the international cooperation and domestic cooperation among local cities for the appropriate environment, safe waste disposal, and rational use of natural resources.
- Establishment of yellow sand monitoring system (Toyama)
 - With establishing a network among municipality, business and academic worlds, the simple monitoring will be continued to understand dust and sand storms and its influences. The results will be used to decide and conduct effective countermeasures.
- The Northeast Asia Regional Environmental Program for the Youth training through the experience (Toyama)
 - Municipalities, industries and academics together provide students with a opportunity to have an experience directly on the environmental problem in the region of Northeast Asia, aiming to develop them to think and act on one's own.

Continued project

- Research on washed-up driftage on the coast of the Northwest Pacific Region (Toyama)

3) Activity Plan in the future

The activity plans in the future was confirmed.



Environmental Subcommittee of the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments

The Environmental Subcommittee is one of 5* subcommittees, which were decided to be established at the "North East Asia Regional Government Conference '98" in October, 1998. These 5 are Economy and Trade, Cultural Exchanges, Environment, Disaster Prevention, General exchanges. The environmental subcommittee aims to coordinate views among municipality members, discuss to conduct activities planned and review them for facilitating tasks. At the 1st Environmental Subcommittee Meeting in July 1999, Toyama Pref. was designated as the coordinator (secretariat) to take a leading part, such as contact, coordination, and operation of the subcommittee.

* Presently, there are 7 subcommittees with Cross-border Cooperation and Science and Technology.