

**Proposal for Enhancing  
Environmental Cooperation  
in Northeast Asia**  
**-Future sub-regional environmental cooperation  
and the NEASPEC-**

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Expert Group Meeting and the 13<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials  
Meeting of NEASPEC



**Purpose of the Presentation**

- **To share the research result conducted by three countries (Japan, China, Republic of Korea) as an input for the discussion of the future activities and direction of NEASPEC.**

## Outline

1. Tripartite Joint Research on Environmental Management in NEA under TEMM
2. Selected Research Results
3. Proposal for Future Environmental Cooperation in NEA
4. Future Perspectives for the NEASPEC and Suggestion for Improvement

## Tripartite Joint Research on Environmental Management in Northeast Asia

**The Tripartite Environmental Ministers Meeting (TEMM) since 1999**

**7<sup>th</sup> TEMM meeting: Need for collaborative research on environmental cooperation in NEA (October 2005, Seoul)**

### Objectives

1. To find out possible and efficient ways to improve the overall efficiency of environmental cooperation efforts in NEA
2. To find out measures on how to make TEMM play a more important role, improve the performance, and better coordinate with other mechanisms in order to promote coherent and coordinated measures for NEA.

Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy (PRCEE)



Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)



Korea Environment Institute (KEI)



## Analytical Framework

Identification of Major Environmental Issues in NEA



Review of existing regional environmental cooperation mechanisms (ECMs)



Proposal for enhancing environmental cooperation in NEA

### Questionnaire Survey

- Around 80 questions
- Period: August-November 2007
- Distributed to around 100 people → 68 answers received

## Priority Environmental Issues

1. Air Pollution
2. Land Degradation
3. Dust and Sandstorms
4. Marine Environmental Problems
5. Biodiversity Loss
6. Wastes
7. Chemical Pollution
8. Environment and Energy

## Selected Mechanisms

### Generic ECMs

- **TEMM : Tripartite Environmental Ministers Meeting**
- **NEASPEC : North-east Asian Sub-regional Programme of Environmental Cooperation**
- **NEAC : Northeast Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation**

### Specific ECMs

- **EANET : Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (Air pollution)**
- **NOWPAP : Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (Marine environmental issues)**
- **DSS-RETA : Regional Technical Assistance on Dust and Sandstorm**

#### Evaluation criteria:

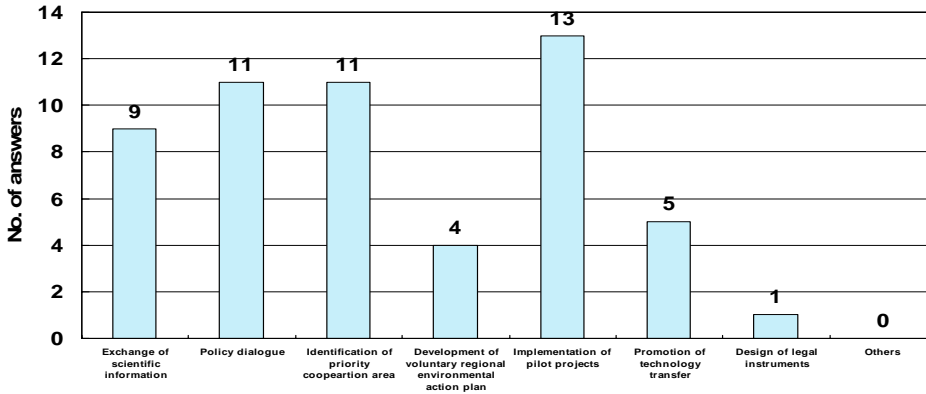
- ① relevance ② effectiveness ③ efficiency ④ stakeholder participation ⑤ sustainability

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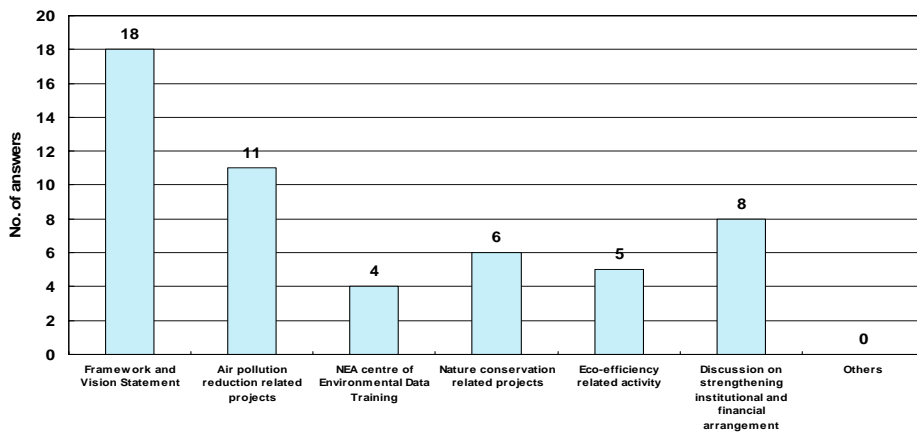
**Questionnaire Survey Result**  
**Expected Functions of NEASPEC under the current conditions**

**Catalytic Role to be Played by NEASPEC**



**NEASPEC's function is viewed as a project-oriented forum as a means to enhance regional cooperation.**

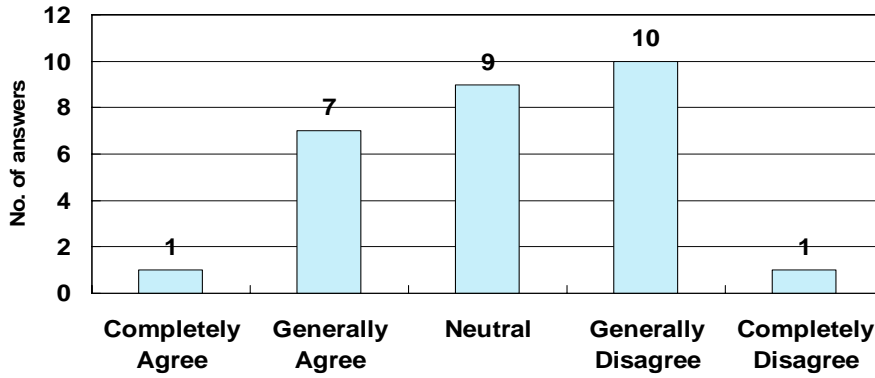
**Questionnaire Survey Result**  
**Positive outcomes of NEASPEC and related activities**



**Concrete forms of cooperation among countries in NEA (i.e. projects related to reduction of air pollution) have produced. These efforts should be continued, and further expanded and strengthened that NEASPEC can produce tangible outcomes.**

**Questionnaire Survey Result**  
**Resource Sufficiency**

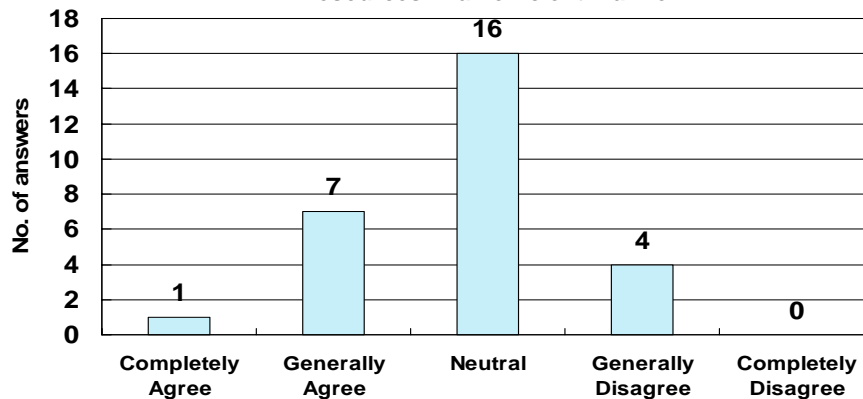
**NEAPSEC has fully secured human and financial resources necessary for its activity**



**There found shortages of resources to support the activities of NEASPEC. Further arrangements may be needed to strengthen the financial mechanism.**

**Questionnaire Survey Result**  
**Resource Efficiency**

**Question: NEASPEC utilizes available human and financial resources in an efficient manner**

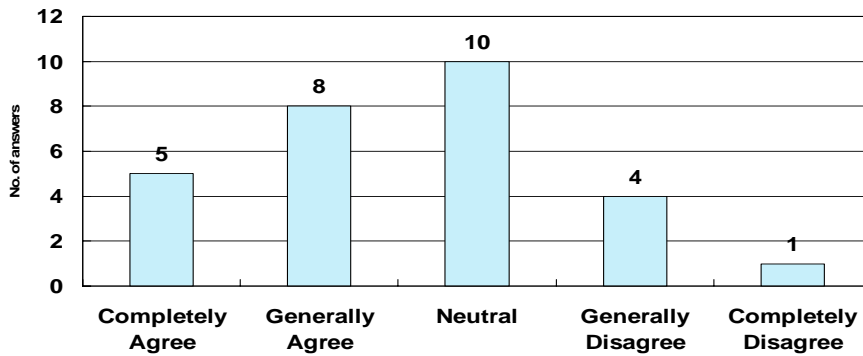


**Efficiency of resource utilization may need some improvements to spend its budget for projects implementation.**

**Questionnaire Survey Result**

**Expectation for establishing mandatory financial mechanism**

**NEASPEC needs to establish a financial mechanism with mandatory contribution of member countries**

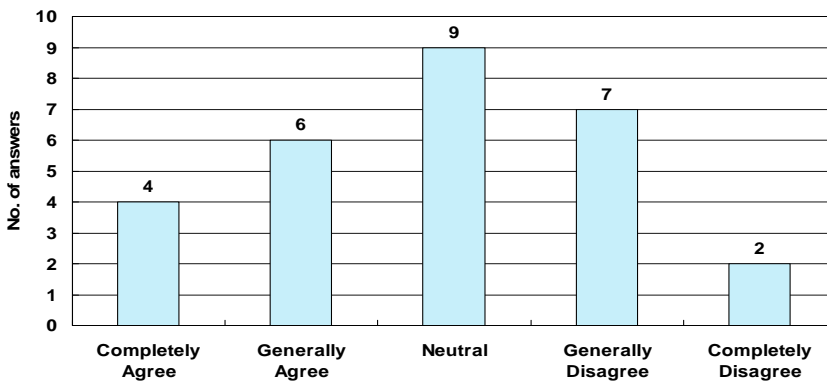


**Mandatory financial contribution of participating countries will secure the fund supporting activities of NEASPEC. Yet it is necessary to consider the diversified situations of each country.**

**Questionnaire Survey Result**

**Expectation for establishment of an independent/permanent secretariat**

**NEASPEC needs to have a permanent Secretariat outside the UNESCAP**



**From the viewpoints of respondents, the establishment of a permanent secretariat may need further discussion.**

## Comparative Analysis of NEASPEC and other Generic Mechanisms in NEA

### Level of Action

		Information Exchange	Policy Dialogue	Action Plan	Pilot Projects	Agreements for Implementation
Generic	TEMM	→			→	
	NEASPEC	→			→	
	NEAC	→	→			

### Stakeholder Participation

		International Organization	Government		Non-state actors		
			Central	Local	Experts	Corporations	NGOs
Generic	TEMM		Ministers			√	√
	NEASPEC	√	Senior level officials				
	NEAC	√	√	√	√		

## Result of Analysis: Geographic Coverage

		China	DPRK	Japan	Mongolia	ROK	Russia	Others
Generic	TEMM	√		√		√		
	NEASPEC	√	√	√	√	√	√	
	NEAC	√		√	√	√	√	
Specific	EANET	√		√	√	√	√	√
	NOWPAP	√		√		√	√	
	DSS-RETA	√		√	√	√		

- NEASPEC is the only environmental cooperation mechanism with the participation of all countries in NEA.
- Dilemma between consensus at practical level vs. wider geographic coverage.

## Result of Analysis: Scope of Issues

		Air Pollution	Land Degradation	DSS	Marine	Bio-diversity	Wastes	Chemical Pollution	Energy
Generic	TEMM	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	NEASPEC	√				√		√	
	NEAC	√	√		√	√	√	√	√
Specific	EANET	√							
	NOWPAP				√				
	DSS-RETA			√					

- They are some overlapping activities. NEASPEC and EANET both conduct monitoring of air pollutants, as well as related capacity building programmes.

→ **Weak coordination among each ECM.**

## Result of Analysis for NEASPEC: Summary

### Advantages/Strength

- The **only environmental cooperation mechanism with the participation of all countries in NEA.**
- Addressing the **root causes** of a priority environmental issue to be dealt with collaborative efforts of countries in NEA.  
→ Policy response is linked to the causes of the problem.

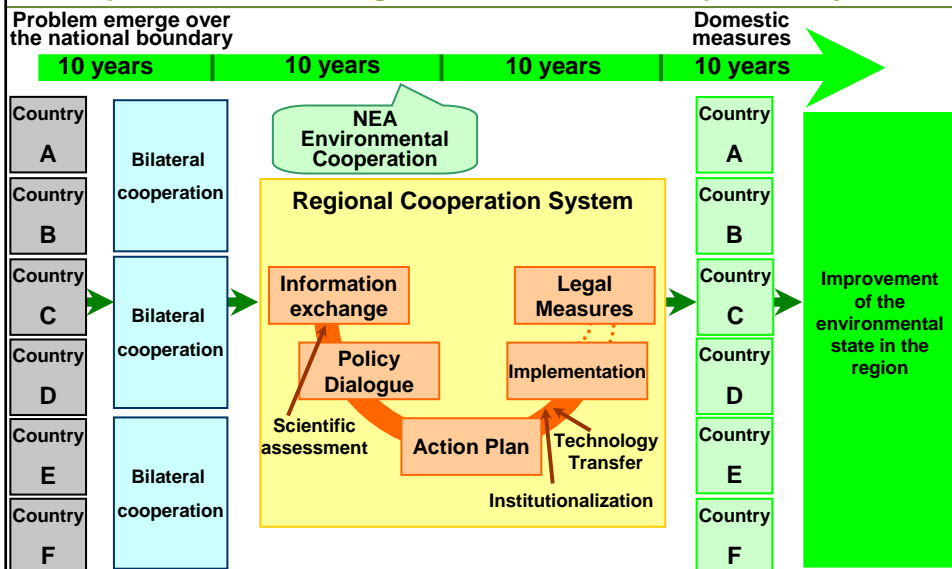
### Rooms for Improvement

- Projects are **small in scale and short in length**, without national follow-up activities. (about 10 workshops, 2-10 days duration, participated by total of around 150 people).
- There is **overlapping of activities** with other regional cooperation mechanisms, capacity building, and data collection. (i.e. EANET).

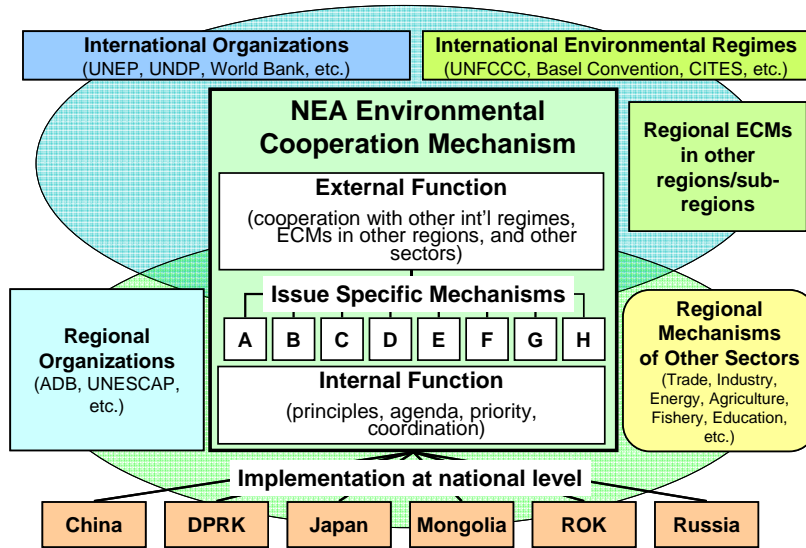
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## Development Process of Regional Environmental Cooperation System



## Effective Environmental Cooperation Mechanism in NEA



## Proposal for Future Regional Environmental Cooperation

- **Better coordination**
  - Among existing mechanisms
  - Within participating countries
  - With other international organizations and global environmental regimes
  - With other sectors
- **Improve financial strength**
  - By increasing involvement of donor agencies (World Bank, ADB, foundations from corporations, etc.) through meetings of donors.
  - By Encouraging involvement of private sectors.
- **Increase stakeholder participation**
  - From policy-making stage
  - Through systematization of stakeholder involvement.
- **Assure information sharing**
  - Up-to-date and comprehensive information (science, social, economic, and legal issues) dissemination through different forms of media will increase awareness of all social stakeholders.

## Proposal for Future Regional Environmental Cooperation

### Proposed activities to facilitate the environmental cooperation in NEA

#### Organize “Northeast Asia Environment Week”

- Strengthen the networking and cooperation among participating countries, relevant organizations, and donor agencies.
- Enhance further collaboration of various stakeholders.
- Facilitate coordination among individual mechanism.
- Increase public awareness on regional environmental issues.

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## Future Perspectives for the NEASPEC and Suggestion for Improvement

### Strength: only regional mechanism with the participation of all countries in NEA

- It should increase the political will of the all participating country to produce tangible outcomes.
- It should have more coordination and linkage with other regional mechanisms both generic and specific to facilitate the cooperation of all countries in NEA.

### Strength: Projects oriented mechanism addressing the root causes of problems

- For coal-fire power plants projects, should consider the applicability of the CDM projects (i.e. AMS-II.B. : Supply side energy efficiency improvements). A small workshop to discuss the feasibility can be organized. Which will mobilize funding sources as well as facilitate the stakeholders involvement.
- For biodiversity and eco-efficiency projects, prominent NGOs in this field shall be invited to further promote the projects implementation in large scale.

*Thank you.*