

# ABOUT NEASPEC



## Introduction

North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) is a comprehensive intergovernmental cooperation framework addressing environmental challenges in North-East Asia, where has been increasingly exposed to environmental problems coupled with the rapid economic growth of the recent decades. As a follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in 1992, NEASPEC was established in 1993 by six member States, namely, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Russian Federation, to promote environmental cooperation in the subregion.

## Objectives

As a subregional cooperation framework, NEASPEC aims to redress the dichotomy between economic growth and environmental protection and improve eco-efficiency and environmental sustainability for the economic development of the subregion by: promoting a step-by-step and practical approach towards subregional cooperation based on consensus, capacity building, information sharing, technology transfer and collaborative financing; providing a multilateral cooperation platform for all stakeholders of the subregion to deal with environmental issues; identifying common policy approaches and objectives of member States and linking them with national, subregional and global initiatives; and reviewing implementation process of NEASPEC projects and environmental trends periodically with a view to identifying additional areas for cooperation.

## Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)

As a governing body of NEASPEC, Senior Officials Meeting provides overall policy guidance and project coordination to NEASPEC by making policy decisions concerning all substantive and financial matters. SOM meets once a year in a member State on a rotational basis.

## Secretariat

UNESCAP has been serving as the NEASPEC Secretariat since its launching in 1993. Upon the establishment of the UNESCAP East and North-East Asia Office (UNESCAP-ENEA) in May 2010, NEASPEC relocated its secretariat from the UNESCAP Headquarters to the ENEA Office located in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

# NEASPEC's Milestones

**1993**

NEASPEC was launched and first SOM identified 3 priority areas for cooperation (energy and air pollution, ecosystem management, and capacity building).

**1996**

SOM-3 formalized subregional cooperation by adopting a Framework of NEASPEC, which underpins the institutional arrangement of NEASPEC.

**1997**

NEASPEC was reported to the major conferences including "Rio+5" and "the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly held in New York in June 1997" and UNESCAP Commission Session adopted a resolution on NEASPEC.

**2000**

SOM-6 established a Core Fund and adopted a Vision Statement.

**2004**

SOM-10 decided upon a project on "Nature Conservation Programme in North-East Asia."

**2005**

SOM-11 approved the 3rd phase of the project on Air Pollution from Coal-fired Power Plants.

**2007**

SOM-12 adopted the NEASPEC Resolution on Nature Conservation Programme (Nature Conservation Strategy).

**2008**

SOM-13 presented a guidebook "Eco-efficiency: a practical path to sustainable development."

**2009**

SOM-14 approved three major projects (Nature Conservation in Transboundary Areas, Dust and Sandstorms, and Eco-efficiency Partnership).

**2010**

SOM-16 was the first SOM after the relocation of the Secretariat from the UNESCAP Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand to the ENEA Office in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

**2012**

SOM-17 endorsed proposals of new initiatives including launching a marine protected areas network, and protecting the key habitats of migratory.

**2013**

SOM-18 endorsed the projects on transboundary air pollution, DNA analysis of Amur tigers and leopards, and the Terms of Reference of the North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN).

## MEMBER STATES AT A GLANCE

### Member States

- China
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Japan
- Mongolia
- Republic of Korea
- Russian Federation



## 6 MEMBER STATES SHARE

