

Celebrating 30 Years of Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia

A Commemorative Event of the 30th anniversary of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC)

09:30-11:45 (GMT+9), 23 November 2023

Novotel Ambassador Gangnam Seoul (Champagne A, 2nd Floor)

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Background

Established in 1993, this year marks the 30th anniversary of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC). As a comprehensive intergovernmental cooperation framework addressing environmental challenges in North-East Asia, NEASPEC was established as a follow-up to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) or Earth Summit by six member States, namely, China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation.

NEASPEC has gradually evolved by developing programmatic areas covering air pollution, biodiversity and nature conservation, marine protected areas, low carbon cities, and desertification and land degradation, expanding partnerships from governments to civil society organizations, and strengthening interlinkages of the work between global, subregional, regional, national, and local agendas. As such, NEASPEC has played a role in addressing the subregional environmental challenges of common interests and bridging the gaps between policy, science, and practice.

To highlight the strengthening environmental cooperation in the subregion through the years, a Roundtable on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia is being organized. This engagement serves as an opportunity for reflections not only on past achievements and ever-changing dynamics faced by NEASPEC but also on future directions. It provides a platform for member states and stakeholders to engage in meaningful exchanges on how NEASPEC can enhance its support in addressing the pressing global climate crises of our time. The discussions are crucial for shaping the future direction of NEASPEC and ensuring NEASPEC continues to play a pivotal role in fostering environmental cooperation, guided by the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, in East and North-East Asia and beyond.

Provisional Programme

Time	Agenda
Opening	
09:30-10:15	Opening Remarks - Mr. Ganbold Baasanjav (Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office)

	<p>Video: Celebrating 30 Years of Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia</p> <p>Congratulatory Remarks from NEASPEC member governments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - China - Japan - Mongolia - Ms. Hyeoun Jenny Kim (Ambassador and Deputy Minister for Climate Change, Republic of Korea) - Russian Federation <p>Group photo</p>
<p>Roundtable on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia</p>	
<p>10:15-10:55</p>	<p>Moderator: Mr. Sangmin Nam (Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP)</p> <p><i>Reflections of NEASPEC member governments: Achievements, progress, and opportunities of NEASPEC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Cai Yue (Division Director, Department of International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China) <i>(tbc)</i> ○ Mr. Yoshinori Suga (Director for Sustainable Infrastructure, Ministry of the Environment, Japan) <i>(tbc)</i> ○ Ms. Ariuntuya Dorjsuren (Senior Specialist, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Mongolia) ○ Mr. Chanwoo Kim (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea)
<p>10:55-11:40</p>	<p>Moderator: Mr. Sangmin Nam (Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP)</p> <p><i>Perspectives of NEASPEC partners: Achievements, progress, and opportunities of NEASPEC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Jung-Hun Woo (Professor, Konkuk University/ Chair of the Science and Policy Committee (SPC) of North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP) ○ Mr. Bernhard Seliger (Representative, Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea) ○ Ms. Jennifer George (Chief Executive, East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership) ○ Mr. Jungho Nam (Senior Research Fellow, Korea Maritime Institute) ○ Mr. Chris Di Gennaro (Program Officer, CityNet Secretariat)
<p>11:40-11:45</p>	<p>Closing</p>