

## UNCCD COP- 10 Side Event

### Subregional Cooperation on Combating Desertification and Land Degradation in North-East Asia

18:00-20:00, 11 October 2011

Changwon Exhibition Center, Room MET-04

**Organized by North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC)**  
in collaboration with North-East Asia Forest Network, the Chinese National Bureau to Combat Desertification and the Mongolian National Committee to Combat Desertification

In the context of desertification and land degradation in North-East Asia, the side event will

- Provide an overview of subregional challenges
- Discuss the implication and approach of bilateral/multilateral cooperation
- Highlight successful practices of different actors

#### Program:

- 1800 – 1820 Multilateral cooperation on combating desertification and land degradation in North-East Asia  
*Dr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna, Director, UN ESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia*
- 1820 – 1840 Bilateral and multilateral cooperation of the Republic of Korea  
*Mr. Wonbee Lee, Deputy Director, International Cooperation Division, Korea Forest Service*
- 1840 – 1900 National efforts to combat desertification in China and transfer of best practices  
*Ms. Xiaoxia Jia, Director, Division of International Cooperation and UNCCD Implementation, National Bureau to Combat Desertification, China*
- 1900 – 1920 Challenges of desertification, land degradation and droughts in Mongolia  
*Mr. Bayarbat Dashzeveg, Secretary for the National Committee to Combat Desertification, Mongolia*
- 1920 – 1940 The role of civil society organizations in combating desertification  
*Mr. Samuel Lee, Director General, Ecopeace Asia*
- 1940 – 2000 Discussion: Why multilateral cooperation on combating desertification is important in North-East Asia? What are the lessons from the subregion for the global action?

*Refreshments will be provided during the event*



**NEASPEC** was launched in 1993 as a comprehensive intergovernmental environmental cooperation mechanism with the membership of China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea (ROK), and the Russian Federation. ESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia (SRO-ENEAS) serves as the NEASPEC Secretariat.

### **NEASPEC Project on Implementing the Regional Master Plan for the Prevention and Control of Dust and Sandstorms in North-East Asia**

Many areas in the subregion continue to suffer from deforestation and desertification and loss of biodiversity. Currently, 27% of Chinese territory (2.62 million km<sup>2</sup>) is suffering from desertification and 90% of Mongolian pastureland is vulnerable to land degradation and desertification. As a result, North-East Asia faces huge challenges of dust and sandstorms.

To address the subregional challenges, the Regional Master Plan was jointly adopted in 2005 by four agencies (ADB, ESCAP, UNEP and UNCCD) and four countries (China, Mongolia, Japan and the Republic of Korea). The NEASPEC project is realizing a part of the Regional Master Plan with the following main activities:

- The pilot afforestation project in a cross-border region of Zamyn-Uud, Mongolia and Erenhot, China in Eastern Gobi
- Capacity-building Training (for Mongolian officials and experts)
- Innovative approaches to planting natural wind and sand-breaks
- Development of self-financing mechanisms
- Development of GIS database on combating desertification
- Awareness raising and capacity building materials
- Strengthening exchange of experience and expertise within the subregion

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