

보도시점 2025. 9. 28.(일) (배포 후 즉시) 배포 2025. 9. 28.(일)

Environment Ministers of Korea, China, and Japan Pledge New Actions to Address the Climate Crisis

- The 26th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting successfully held in Yantai, China, September 27–28
- Expanded cooperation in climate, plastics, and living environment, with various side events such as the youth forum
- 20th anniversary commemorative event of Korea–Shandong environmental cooperation held and memorandum of understanding signed

The Ministry of Environment (Minister Kim Sungwhan) announced that the “26th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM26),” held in Yantai, Shandong Province, China, from September 27 to 28 with the participation of Korea, China, and Japan, concluded successfully.

The meeting was attended by Kim Sungwhan, Minister of Environment of Korea; Huang Runqiu, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China; and Asao Keiichiro, Minister of the Environment of Japan. Through bilateral talks, the plenary session, a joint press conference, and various side events, the three ministers shared the achievements of environmental cooperation in Northeast Asia and discussed future directions for collaboration.

At the plenary session, Minister Kim stated, “With the launch of the new government, the Republic of Korea has adopted climate crisis response and sustainable energy transition as its national environmental strategy. To support this,

the ‘Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment,’ which integrates the functions of climate, energy, and environment, will be launched in early October.” He emphasized that this will serve as a foundation to maximize policy synergy and accelerate the transition from a carbon-based civilization to a green civilization.

In response, Minister Huang Runqiu and Minister Asao Keiichiro congratulated Korea on its organizational restructuring and expressed their hopes for the seamless implementation of its carbon neutrality policy.

In particular, at this meeting, the three countries agreed to take the TEMM, which had previously focused on environmental policy cooperation such as improving air quality and conserving biodiversity, to the next level by significantly strengthening cooperation in the field of climate going forward.

Minister Kim emphasized, “Korea, China, and Japan together account for more than one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions, and cooperation among the three countries on climate response will play an important role in achieving global carbon neutrality.” To this end, the three countries discussed major climate issues such as the “2035 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)” and agreed to begin holding regular climate policy dialogues starting in 2026, as well as to strengthen cooperation on carbon markets and carbon labeling.

At the bilateral meeting between Korea and China held prior to the main conference, the two sides shared the achievements of the Blue Sky Plan in improving air quality and agreed to strengthen cooperation on global environmental issues such as responding to the climate crisis and plastic pollution, with a focus on the Korea-China Environmental Cooperation Center.

At the Korea-Japan bilateral meeting, Korea shared its experience with the c

arbon market in relation to Japan's Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), which will be implemented next year, and the two sides discussed cooperation in the field of biodiversity, including responses to invasive species and the protection of internationally endangered species.

In addition to the plenary session, various side events were held during the meeting, further broadening the scope of cooperation.

Minister Kim met with five Korean youth representatives attending the Youth Forum and shared views with them, saying, "When you look at the Earth from space, there are no borders, only clouds, seas, and land. Therefore, pollutants emitted from each country require a joint response, and for this, the cooperation of future generations is more important than anything else."

He added, "We hope that the decarbonization efforts of the youth in Korea, China, and Japan will expand beyond Northeast Asia into global cooperation."

At the "10th Tripartite Roundtable on Environmental Business," government officials, industry representatives, and experts participated to discuss "ways to achieve carbon neutrality."

Lee Oksu, Head of the Sustainability & Climate Center at Kim & Chang Law Firm, presented plans for promoting green finance based on the Korean Green Taxonomy. He stressed, "The global flow of finance will determine the success or failure of the carbon neutrality transition," and added, "We must systematically support domestic companies' investment demand for green transition through the revision of the Korean Green Taxonomy and the introduction of transition finance guidelines."

In his closing remarks, Minister Kim stated, "Korea, China, and Japan have overcome past challenges together through environmental cooperation, and now we have pledged new actions in the face of the civilizational task of the climate"

ate crisis.” He added, “We hope that today’s agreements and commitments will serve as a foundation for leading the green transition not only in Northeast Asia but also across the world.”

Meanwhile, at the commemorative event for the 20th anniversary of Korea–Shandong environmental cooperation held during the TEMM, Minister Kim stated, “Over the past 20 years, based on unwavering trust and friendship, we have achieved tangible results in areas such as air quality improvement, environmental business exchanges, and technological cooperation,” expressing gratitude to the Shandong provincial government for its efforts. He emphasized, “Humanity is now facing the civilizational challenge of the climate crisis, and we must move beyond the limits of industrial civilization to transition into a decarbonization-based green civilization.”

The Ministry of Environment announced that, taking the TEMM and the 20th anniversary of Korea–Shandong environmental cooperation as an opportunity, it plans to further deepen trilateral cooperation and pursue concrete actions for responding to the climate crisis and advancing the green transition.