



APFSD 2018 SIDE EVENT

NORTH-EAST ASIA SUBREGIONAL PROGRAMME
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION (NEASPEC)

08:30~10:00(FRI) 30 MARCH 2018 | Meeting Room H, 1st floor UNCC

Accelerating the Transition Towards Low Carbon Development in North-East Asian Cities in the Context of SDGs

This side event will showcase and discuss city's transition towards low carbon development in North-East Asia. North-East Asian countries have initiated various programs, initiatives and projects for climate action or low carbon development at the city level. Considering strong policy coherence between the approaches and sustainable development, this side event will discuss how to develop and implement low carbon city strategies and plans with the full consideration of achieving SDGs. This side event will also provide a knowledge sharing and peering learning opportunity for participants on practical experiences in low carbon city development.

MODERATOR

Sangmin Nam Acting Head, ESCAP East and North Office

SPEAKERS

Li Yang Senior Analyst, Innovative Green Development Programme
Pil-young Kang Director-General, Seoul Metropolitan Government
Takahiro Hasegawa Director for International Strategy, Ministry of the Environment, Japan
Curt Garrigan Chief, Sustainable Urban Development Section, ESCAP

※ Refreshments will be provided before the event



NEASPEC

North-East Asia Low Carbon City Platform

North-East Asia has undergone remarkable urbanization with almost 1 billion people residing in cities, and now shares 8 out of the 30 world largest urban agglomerations. This urban growth trend has significant implications for greenhouse gases (GHGs) emissions as urban areas, compared with rural, have higher levels of energy consumption per capita due to energy intensive infrastructure and lifestyle. At the same time, cities have substantial potential in mitigating GHGs emissions. Compared with the central government, cities can more easily utilize their distinctive advantages such as proximity of authorities with stakeholders, concentration of resources and innovation, sense of community, flexibility of policy development and deployment, compacted scale of space and infrastructure, etc. Such conditions enable cities to initiate their own development of new approaches and policies, and central governments can utilize cities as a testing ground for piloting such approaches and policies.

In this connection, North-East Asian countries, particularly, China, Japan and Republic of Korea, have made progress in promoting GHG mitigation actions at city-level through national legislations (e.g. Japan Low-Carbon City Promotion Act and ROK Low Carbon Green Growth Act) and pilot programmes (China's 81 Low Carbon Pilot Cities) as well as cities' voluntary initiatives. To support such initiatives, North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC), through its North-East Asia Low Carbon City Platform, facilitates knowledge sharing and peer learning among various stakeholders working on climate action or low carbon cities (LCC).

The Platform aims to (a) bring together information and knowledge on LCC approaches and policies, (b) synergize the works of research institutions, civil society organizations and international organizations working on LCC; and (c) collectively support municipal authorities in moving towards and continuing to advance.

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 East and North-East Asia Office (ESCAP-ENEA) serves as the NEASPEC Secretariat.

For more information, www.neaspec.org