



Concept Note

Meeting of NEASPEC National Focal Points

10 April 2025, Virtual meeting

1. Background

As a follow-up to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the so-called “Earth Summit”, the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) has played a key role in transboundary environmental cooperation in North-East Asia since its establishment in 1993 to promote environmental cooperation in the subregion by six member States, namely, China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. Following the adoption of the "Framework for NEASPEC" in 1996 and the "Vision Statement for Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia" in 2000, member States reaffirmed their commitments through the NEASPEC Commemorative Statement on Promoting Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia on the occasion of NEASPEC’s 30th anniversary in 2023.

From the programmatic viewpoint, NEASPEC has been guided by the strategic plans for its environmental cooperation efforts in the region. Since 2016, the member States implemented strategic plans for 2016–2020 and 2021–2025. These plans have focused on five programmatic areas: (a) Air Pollution; (b) Biodiversity and Nature Conservation; (c) Marine Protected Areas; (d) Low Carbon Cities; and (e) Desertification and Land Degradation. They have also supported the establishment of cooperation platforms such as the North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN), the North-East Asia Low Carbon City Platform (NEA-LCCP), and the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP), facilitating a shift from short-term, project-based approaches to long-term, programmatic strategies.

In preparation for the development of the NEASPEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030, an Expert Group Meeting was held on 13 December 2024 in Beijing, China, and online. The objectives of this meeting were to discuss the timeline and approach for developing the new strategic plan and to exchange views on operationalizing the goals articulated under the NEASPEC Commemorative Statement. Concurrently, the 27th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-27) took place on 12-13 December 2024 in Beijing, China. The SOM-27 reviewed NEASPEC activities and discussed strengthening cooperation. A key agenda item was the preparation for the development of the

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NEASPEC Strategic Plan 2026–2030, soliciting guidance and views from member States and other stakeholders to be followed by a survey to be shared with member States and other stakeholders.

The upcoming National Focal Point Meeting will provide an update of the NEASPEC substantive areas and discuss the draft Strategic Plan 2026-2030 focusing on the thematic areas and the overall goals and approaches of NEASPEC. The Meeting is also expected to provide member States an opportunity for discussion on key issues related to the developments of NEASPEC, including results-based management and the clustering of programmatic areas to strengthen coherence with global and regional goals and targets. Further, discussions will also explore a synergistic approach across different programmatic areas to maximize impact, foster cross-sectoral collaboration, and ensure coherence with the broader sustainable development agenda.

2. Objectives

The National Focal Points Meeting is proposed to:

- i. Updates on the NEASPEC substantive areas
- ii. Prepare draft NEASPEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030 for the adoption at SOM-28
- iii. Review other matters related to the developments of NEASPEC

3. Programme

- **Date:** 15:00-18:00pm (GMT+9), 10 April 2025
- **Venue:** virtual meeting
- **Participants:** National focal points of NEASPEC

Provisional Programme

15:00 - 18:00 (GMT+9), Thursday, 10 April	
15:00 - 15:15	<p>Opening Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks, <i>Mr. Ganbold Baasanjav, Head of ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office</i> • Introduction of the meeting, <i>NEASPEC secretariat</i>
15:15 - 16:00	<p>Session 1: Updates of NEASPEC substantive areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by the <i>NEASPEC secretariat</i> • Comments and suggestions by <i>National Focal Points</i> <p><i>This session aims to provide a stock-taking assessment on the implementation of the NEASPEC substantive areas</i></p>
16:00 - 16:15	Break
16:15 - 17:15	<p>Session 2: Strategic Plan 2026-2030</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background and draft of Strategic Plan 2026-2030, <i>NEASPEC secretariat</i> • Comments and suggestions by <i>National Focal Points</i> <p><i>This session aims to introduce the zero draft of the next strategic plan and its related background. A short presentation will be made on the plan, followed by substantive discussions among national focal points and relevant experts/ participants nominated by member States.</i></p>
17:15 - 17:45	<p>Session 3: Other matters</p> <p><i>This session will consider other issues for the development of NEASPEC, including any key issues member Governments wish to discuss.</i></p>
17:45 - 18:00	Conclusions