

Concept Note

The 2nd Roundtable on Transboundary Air Pollution in Northeast Asia

December 9, 2016, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Introduction

The 2nd Roundtable on Transboundary Air Pollution in Northeast Asia will be held in Seoul, Korea on 9 December 2016. This event will be co-hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Ministry of Environment (MOE) of the Republic of Korea, and Northeast Asian Subregional Programme on Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) Secretariat.

Background

In 2014, MOFA, together with MOE with support from NEASPEC Secretariat, successfully hosted ‘The 1st Roundtable Discussion on Transboundary Air Pollution in Northeast Asia’, an event to examine the status quo of transboundary air pollution in the region, national and regional mitigation efforts in Northeast Asia, and to explore possible collaborative potentials within the region.

This year, MOFA, MOE, and NEASPEC would like to review our effort in the past two years, learn from existing cooperative mechanisms in other parts of the world, review the development of NEASPEC's cooperative framework and explore ways forward to mitigate regional air pollution problem, through open, interactive and in-depth discussions among government officials, researchers, academics, and other experts.

Provisional Agenda

While detailed agenda at large is further to be developed, provisional agenda includes three sessions and a wrap-up: (1) On-going mitigation efforts within the region (bilateral and/or multilateral); (2) Case study of Regional cooperative initiatives addressing transboundary atmospheric pollution, preferably of UN ECE (Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution) and of ASEAN (ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution), and (3) A way forward to collaboratively tackle transboundary air pollution in Northeast Asia as envisioned by NEASPEC.