



Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW) 2019

**Partner Event: Multi-Stakeholder Cooperation in North-East Asia on
Combating Desertification and Land Degradation**

11:00 – 12:30, June 21, 2019, Room 206 (2nd floor)

Songdo Convensia Convention Center, Incheon, Republic of Korea

Background

North-East Asia faces a range of desertification and land degradation (DLD) challenges due to its vast landmass, geographical and climate variation, and differences in stages and choices of development paths. The Global Land Outlook published by UNCCD in 2017 has identified agriculture and forestry, urbanization, infrastructure development, energy production and mining and quarrying as direct drivers of land degradation globally, and that in addition to land being impacted, land use and management practices are an important contributor to climate change and resilience¹. Since established in 1993 by six countries – China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Russian Federation, the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) as a comprehensive environmental cooperation framework in the subregion has provided capacity building support for member countries to develop sub-regional strategies, implemented projects in cross-border area of Mongolia and China, and facilitated dialogues and cooperation among various stakeholders to address the DLD challenge².

As many new stakeholders and innovative approaches emerge in the DLD community in recent years, the proposed event offers the opportunity to share and discuss how some of the institutional, financing and technological innovations could be scaled up through bi- and multi-lateral cooperation in and beyond the subregion towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially target 15.3 for a land degradation-neutral world (LDN).

The event will also be held in connection with the “North-East Asia Multi-stakeholder Plan for Combating Desertification and Land Degradation

¹ p.43, p.218 and p.222, Global Land Outlook (First Edition), 2017, UNCCD.

² NEASPEC website: <http://www.neaspec.org/>

(NEAMSP)³ launched at an international workshop jointly organized by NEASPEC and the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (former State Forestry Administration) of China in 2015 for increasing the efficiency of cooperation among key actors and forging partnerships. NEAMSP maps out activities taken by multi-stakeholders to combat DLD in the subregion and provides a platform to share information and stimulate cooperation among stakeholders in six areas: (a) land restoration and ecosystem services; (b) capacity building; (c) integration of DLD into socio-economic development and resilience; (d) resource mobilization; (e) stakeholder engagement; and (f) awareness raising³.

Objectives

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

- Provide an overview of the current multi-stakeholder collaboration on DLD in North-East Asia.
- Share experiences and lessons learnt on institutional, financing, and technological innovations towards combatting desertification and land degradation
- Discuss the implication and approach of multi-stakeholder collaboration for more effective bi- and multi-lateral cooperation.
- Highlight successful practices of different actors in North-East Asia.

Expected Participants

National and local government officials, international organizations and UN agencies, innovative financing and technological partners, research institutes, and civil society organizations in and beyond NEASPEC member countries with a focus on desertification and land degradation are welcome to participate.

³ Concept note of “North-East Asia Multi-stakeholder Plan for Combating Desertification and Land Degradation (NEAMSP)”,
[http://www.neaspec.org/sites/default/files/5%20DLD%20Annex%202.%20NEAMSP%20Concept%20Note.p
df](http://www.neaspec.org/sites/default/files/5%20DLD%20Annex%202.%20NEAMSP%20Concept%20Note.pdf)

Provisional Program

Multi-Stakeholder Cooperation in North-East Asia on Combating Desertification and Land Degradation	
11:00 – 12:30am, 21 June 2019, Room 206, Songdo Convensia	
Agenda	
10:30 – 11:00	Registration
11:00 – 11:05	Opening remarks <i>Ganbold BAASANJAV, Head of UNESCAP East and North-East Asia Office</i>
11:05 – 11:15	Multi-stakeholder collaboration and emerging trends on combating desertification and land degradation in North-East Asia <i>Sangmin NAM, Deputy Head of UNESCAP East and North-East Asia Office</i>
11:15 – 11:25	Multilateral cooperation under the North-East Asia Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought Network (DLDD-NEAN) <i>Kihyung Park, Research Scientist, National Institute of Forest Science, Korea Forest Service</i>
11:25 – 11:45	Discussion: Opportunities emerged from recent policy developments in North-East Asia for enhanced multilateral cooperation, e.g. setting voluntary target on land degradation neutrality (LDN) Discussants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Oyunsanaa BYAMBASUREN, Director General, Department of Forest Policy and Coordination, Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia</i> ➤ <i>Representative, National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China (tbc)</i>
11:45 – 12:00	The “100 million sacsaul” project: A multi-stakeholder approach to the restoration of desert ecosystems <i>Jing SUN, Director of Desertification Control, SEE Foundation</i>
12:00 – 12:20	Discussion: The implication of innovative partnerships, financing and technological supports on future cooperation to combat desertification and land degradation Discussants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Kenichi SHONO, Food and Agriculture Organization</i> ➤ <i>Sangmin NAM, Deputy Head of UNESCAP East and North-East Asia Office</i>
12:20-12:30	Conclusion

Expected Outcome

The presentations and discussion will be shared through an event report on NEASEPC website and interested participants will be further consulted in the process of updating the North-East Asia Multi-stakeholder Plan for Combating Desertification and Land Degradation (NEAMSP).

Contact

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