

Summary of the Conference

International Conference on 'Climate Security in the Asia-Pacific Region' March 21-22, 2013 in Seoul, Republic of Korea

1. The International Conference on “Climate Security in the Asia-Pacific Region” was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on March 21-22, 2013, and was opened by H.E. Cho Tae-yul, Vice Minister of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Korea. The Conference generated significant participation from a broad spectrum of attendants including government officials, members of international organizations, academia, industries, media and NGOs. Video messages were created by UNEP Secretary General Achim Steiner, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres, and UNESCAP Executive Secretary Noeleen Heyzer.
2. The participants took note of the outcomes of the past conferences in Berlin in 2011 and London in 2012 and reaffirmed the threat to national and regional security posed by climate change and the need to build partnership for action.
3. The participants recognized the significant risks and threats arising from climate change including the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events and security implications for the Asia-Pacific region and explored the stress nexus between climate change and security in greater detail. The Conference recognized that the Asia-Pacific region is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The Conference focused on three major areas: coastal stability, water security and climate-induced migration, and recognized their potential to be the most significant challenges to the Asia-Pacific.
4. In this context, the participants urged all governments to review their existing policies and strategies considering climate change, particularly in a security perspective, and recommended the establishment of a regional mechanism or partnership in the Asia-Pacific region consisting of various stakeholders including policymakers of governments, international and regional organizations, NGOs, and experts.
5. The Conference also recognized the important role that regional and multi-lateral institutions can play in addressing the challenges of climate change. In this regard, it encouraged regional institutions to consider all the opportunities to work collaboratively to address these issues, in the broader context of sustainable development. The participants agreed to extend further cooperation

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and collaboration to galvanize international efforts to promote green growth strategy through international and regional organizations such as the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI).

6. The Conference noted the importance of the utilizations of climate and resources information. It encouraged all governments, regional and sub-regional institutions to improve the availability of shared or common resources data, particularly considering the possibility of building a regional information platform.

7. The Conference recognized further the need for a co-operative approach to responding to the challenges of climate security, promoting a whole of society response leading to a bottom up engagement by local communities and civil society.

8. The participants shared the view that the International Conference on “Climate Security in the Asia-Pacific Region” provided a timely opportunity to promote international efforts in tackling the adverse impacts of climate change and that the Conference could make a positive contribution to the “2014 World Leaders Summit on Climate Change” announced by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the Doha Conference (COP18).

9. The Conference reaffirmed the need for ongoing dialogue and discussion of climate security. Participants agreed that a subsequent conference should be organized in order to maintain the international political momentum in support of a higher level of political ambition to achieve the necessary conditions to bring about a global deal on CO2 emissions by COP 21.

10. The participants expressed their gratitude to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, Korea National Diplomatic Academy, Asan Institute for Policy Studies and UNESCAP for hosting and organizing the International Conference on “Climate Security in the Asia-Pacific Region”.

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