

Briefing of Symposium on Environmental Protection and Ecology in Developing Countries

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The symposium on Environmental Protection and Ecology in Developing Countries, organized and financed by Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Federation of Asian Scientific Academics and Societies (FASTS) and supported by American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the UNEP Regional representative has held on November 2-4 in Beijing, China.

Representatives from FASTS member countries—Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Nepal and AAAS attended the meeting. Dr. Nay Htun, UNEP regional representative of Asia and the Pacific and two Japanese scientists were invited. A total number of 28 participants including 18 Chinese scientists were present. Scientists from Philippines, Iran and DPRK intended to come. Twenty papers in different fields of environmental protection and ecology were presented.

Prof. Sun Honglie, vice president of CAS addressed the opening session to welcome participants from different countries gathering together, exchanging and discussing the important environmental and ecological problems of their own countries and problems in Asia and other developing countries. Prof. Ma Shijun (China), Prof. Dinesh Mohan (India), Prof. S. D. Chandhuri (Bangladesh) and Dr. T. M. Pradhananga (Nepal) gave comprehensive reports on environmental protection and ecology in their own countries and UN (UNEP) activities of environment. Other participants gave reports on deforestation and forest protection, soil erosion and water conservation, freshwater shortage and reuse, ecological construction and engineering, environmental management and some new technologies applied in environmental studies.

The participants were grateful to the organizers to provide a chance to contact and share their experience and to learn from each other. They found that some problems from different Asia countries are in common and expressed the urgent need for cooperation to solve regional and global environmental problems. For developing countries, it also needs UN and other international institutions, e. g. TNAS, ICSU, FASAS and some countries, e. g. China, India, Thailand in Asia and Academies, e. g. CAS, INS to promote and support these activities. They discussed quite extensively and made many recommendations although the schedule for the symposium was quite tight. At the closing session, Under the suggestion of Prof. Ma and the support of Prof. Yan and Dr. Nay Htun, a "Call for Action" was formulated. It will sent to the organizers, participants, FASAS member countries, AAAS, UNEP and so on, in the hope that there will be response later on.

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The Symposium is a successful one and the participants suggested that this symposium be followed by some specified activities with more countries participating in.