



Ministry of Environment

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Dear TumenNET colleagues,

With the completion of the TumenNET SAP document on-schedule, I am pleased that we are now on the cusp of moving to the implementation phase. However, there are a few issues that we need to address. I would like your kind help in resolving the following issues.

1. **SAP signing**

The Republic of Korea appreciates the PCU and the participating countries for their cooperative efforts during the SAP preparation phase. It is now a matter of urgency that SAP be signed promptly as an indicator of the project's success. There are some funds available to be channeled into the SAP implementation phase, by establishing the TumenNET working groups as stated in the SAP document. If not, we lose valuable momentum and introduce doubts as to the region's commitments to meet environmental challenges (and attract new funding).

The Republic of Korea is ready to sign the SAP as was seen by the presence of the Minister of Environment at the 2nd GEF Assembly in Beijing.

2. **SAP implementation: wastewater treatment to protect international waters**

One of the ROK's most significant SAP interventions is the donation by Hankook Titanium of approximately 40m USD in wastewater treatment chemicals to facilities in TumenNET zones, which will greatly assist efforts to protect international water resources. This intervention can only be carried out in concert with the recipient countries, municipalities, and facilities themselves.

To this end, the ROK proposes holding an initial feasibility meeting to identify specific recipients and clarify logistics for proceeding with the intervention. This meeting would be organized and funded by the PCU/UNDP, and fits with the remaining activities of the PCU according to its mandate presented in the e-mail dated Oct 10:

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“...approach donors to seek funding support for development of SAP project proposals.”

Based on the outcome of the feasibility meeting, the ROK MOE will organize and fund a wastewater treatment workshop in 2003 (as described in SAP) to finalize the details and begin transferring the chemicals. As for the domestic preparation, the Hankook Titanium has contracted Deloitte & Touche to develop a workplan for the project.

We anticipate signing by all TumenNET countries in a timely manner, and strongly encourage each country to allocate the time and resources needed to secure signing by their ministers.

We here at the ROK MOE have greatly enjoyed cooperating with our neighbors in NE Asia and beyond on the TumenNET project, especially SAP, and look forward to initiating an effective implementation phase. With everyone's collective wisdom, insight, and commitment, we can help ensure the sustained viability of ecosystems and economies in our region.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from each of you.

Sincerely yours,



Keumhee JUNG, Ph.D

Director, Global Environment Office

Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea