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PROPOSAL OF ASIA SCIENCE PANEL ON AIR QUALITY (ASPAQ)

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1. BACKGROUND AND AIMS

Accompanying with rapid economic growth, emissions of air pollutants in the Asian continent have exceeded those of European and North American continents after the year of 2000, and even those in East Asia (Northeast and Southeast Asia) alone are comparable to the other continents as of 2005. This situation prompted the concern to the Asian air pollution locally, regionally, hemispherically and globally from the point of air toxicants such as photochemical oxidants and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), biogeochemically active species such as acidic and nitrogenous compounds as well as short-lived climate pollutants such as black carbon and tropospheric ozone.

Being different from Europe and North America, where regional cooperation on air pollution mitigation based on scientific knowledge has been developed on the basis of Convention on Long-rang Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP), Asia that is outside of the Convention, does not have any framework for scientific discussion for atmospheric management.

On the basis of above consideration, Asia Science Panel on Air Quality (ASPAQ) is proposed aiming at the synthesis of scientific knowledge on air pollution in Asian region for providing common understanding among scientists and policy makers, and for reflecting Asian scientists' view to the international initiative of integrated approach of air pollution and climate change.

2. CONTENTS OF ASPAQ

ASPAQ is constituted of scientists related to air pollution research. It reviews the existing latest scientific knowledge, draws up a report and prepares "Summary for Policy Makers" based on consensus of major research scientists on the issues of air pollution and its relation to climate change in Asian region.