



Regional Northeast Asia Wildland Fire Network

Mission Statement

(Draft 4 – 18 November 2005)

The Regional Northeast Asia Wildland Fire Network, founded in 2004 by representatives of governments and civil society of China, Japan, South Korea and the Russian Federation, and organized under the umbrella of the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network, advocates the interests of its members and supporters towards reducing the negative impacts of wildland fires on the environment and on societies. The network aims at realizing these goals through enhanced international cooperation in wildland fire management research, development, capacity building, sharing of knowledge and resources, and mutual support. The cooperation is based on the principle of partnership between the participating countries and the international community.

Rationale

The countries of Northeast Asia (NEA) are experiencing growing impact of wildfires in forests and other vegetation (wildland fires) on the natural environment and on society. The fires contribute to the degradation of the soil, water resources and the atmosphere, endangering the sustainability and biodiversity of ecosystems, and threatening human populations, especially human health. NEA countries and the international community are increasing their efforts to manage the fires by reducing their occurrence and negative impacts. The problem is, however, so scaled that there is an urgent need to unite efforts and arrange bi-and multilateral cooperation in the field of fire management and to mitigate the consequences of fire. The NEA countries intend to work together with the Global Wildland Fire Network under the auspices of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC).

The Regional Northeast Asia Wildland Fire Network has been established at a foundation meeting at the Korea Forest Research Institute, Seoul, Korea, 5-6 March 2004. In this meeting agreements were made between representatives of the countries of NE Asia belonging to the network (China, Japan, South Korea, Russian Federation) to initiate cooperation in wildland fire science and management under the umbrella of the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network. The participants agreed to hold the Network meetings once a year in each country by turn.

NEA Network carries out its mandate by supporting and fulfilling research and natural resource management activities through personal and working groups or interested institutions. The NEA Network is a forum for exchanging experience and knowledge on wildland fire prevention and control; for cooperation among the Network countries to develop strategies and actions to solve policy, technical and management problems; and to actively participate with domestic and international agencies to implement and promote cooperation activities.

The Regional NEA Wildland Fire Network members support bilateral and multilateral agreements on cooperation in wildland fire management, based on international standards as proposed by the FAO and the International Wildland Fire Summit; investigate the introduction of the Incident Command System (ICS) as the international standard for all wildland incident management participating in international or interagency agreements and exchanges; cooperative regional wildland fire research projects and programmes; decision-support systems for large fire situations; training / capacity building in wildland fire management; community involvement in fire management; bilateral and multilateral wildland fire emergency exercises; exchange visits and programmes to share lessons learned and solving problems; updating online (Internet) access to information related to regional wildland fire management issues; to develop arrangements to support collection and dissemination of wildland fire information, facilitation of regular regional dialogue and joint projects between the countries, and to technically support countries in need of aerial assets and personnel for wildland fire suppression; to inform national governments about the need to prepare statements in favour of enhancing international cooperation in wildland fire management.

The organizations and individuals participating in the Regional NEA Wildland Fire Network intend to contribute to the international efforts to solve the global wildland fire problems.