July 25, 2013 AEON Environmental Foundation

80 university students from China, Japan, South Korea, and Vietnam gather for an academic exchange about the environment

The second Asian Students Environmental Platform to be held in South Korea

The AEON Environmental Foundation (Chairman: Takuya Okada, Honorary Chairman and Advisor of AEON Co.,Ltd.; hereafter, "the Foundation") will hold the second Asian Students Environmental Platform (ASEP 2013) over seven days starting Friday, August 2nd in South Korea.

Current environmental problems result in serious global-wide consequences that cannot be limited by region or country. Given this, the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (2011-2020) was proposed at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, and declared in December of the same year. The United Nations Decade on Biodiversity aims to accomplish the preservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through international cooperation.

In support of the establishment of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, the Foundation started ASEP as a ten-year project from 2012 in order to nurture global-minded individuals in the environmental field. University students from all over Asia congregate to learn about the differences in natural environment, history, culture, and values among the different countries and discuss biodiversity from a global standpoint.

The inaugural event held last year had sixty university students from Japan, China, and South Korea come to Japan and exchange opinions on biodiversity under the theme of "Changing the Environment through Culture."

This year, under the theme of "The Environment and Humans," Vietnam will also participate, and eighty students from the four countries will learn about and discuss coexistence with nature and the conservation of biodiversity through fieldwork in South Korea and lectures by specialists.

In addition to ASEP, the Foundation has various other undertakings that promote the conservation of biodiversity, such as both domestic and international tree-planting projects and awarding outstanding contributions to biodiversity with "The Japan Biodiversity Prize" (for domestic activities within Japan) and "The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity" (for international activities).

The Aeon Group will continue to undertake initiatives that protect the environment to preserve water and greenery for the next generation.

[About the Second Asian Students Environmental Platform (ASEP 2013)]

- 1. Dates: Friday, August 2nd Thursday, August 8th
- 2. Location: South Korea (Seoul, Jeju Island, and Jeonju)
- 3. Sponsor: AEON Environmental Foundation
- 4. Co-sponsors: Tsinghua University (China), Korea University (South Korea), Waseda University (Japan), and Vietnam National University, Hanoi (Vietnam)
- 5. Participants: 20 students from each university (80 students in total)
- 6. Schedule: Fri, Aug. 2nd ASEP opening ceremony

Sat, Aug. 3rd – Wed, Aug. 7th Fieldwork, lectures, group discussions Thu, Aug. 8th Presentations, ASEP closing ceremony

[About ASEP]

With the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in 2010, the Foundation and the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed to cooperate towards the goal of "promoting environmental studies among youths" and "implementing tree-planting projects." In accordance with this agreement, the Foundation holds ASEP in order to promote the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity and to nurture the next generation of environmental experts. With each subsequent year, ASEP aims to extend participation to the various Asian countries, and provide a border-less venue for Asian university students to contemplate the environment from a global standpoint.

The theme of 2013: "The Environment and Humans"

Until now, humans have used natural resources to develop civilizations and attain rich and convenient lifestyles. However, modern industrialization has brought about many environmental problems that have become serious issues such as the exploitation of natural resources and environmental damage. Interpersonal dialogue between countries is crucial in order to overcome these problems, which stem from undeveloped technology and economic

activities that value short-term profits. We will think about what people can do for sustainable coexistence with nature through learning about the use of natural resources in various environments, as well as areas with different natural, historical and cultural backgrounds.

Program

Fri, Aug. 2nd (Seoul) ASEP Opening Ceremony

Sat, Aug. 3rd (Jeju Island) Visit the Jeju World Natural Heritage Center

Climb the UNESCO World Heritage Site Geomun Oreum

Visit the Jeju Folklore & Natural History Museum

Lecture by a professor at Tsing Hua University, group discussion to follow

Sun, Aug. 4th (Jeju Island) Visit the Warm-temperate and Subtropical Forest Research Center's environmental

conservation test area of the Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI)

Visit the Jeju Folk Village Museum Hike along the coastal *Olle* trail

Lecture by a professor at Waseda University, group discussions to follow

Sun, Aug 5th (Jeonju) Visit the huge tidal flat *Saemageum* and observe the reclamation work

Plant a commemorative tree

Visit Hanok Village (traditional house district), lecture to follow

Mon, Aug 6th (Seoul) Visit the demilitarized zone (DMZ)

Lecture by a professor at Vietnam National University, Hanoi

Tue, Aug. 7th (Seoul) Visit the World Cup Park (ecology park) in Nanjido

Visit Cheonggyecheon (site of stream restoration)

Lecture by a professor at Korea University, group discussion to follow

Wed, Aug. 8th (Seoul) Concluding presentations

ASEP closing ceremony