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Asia, Europe discuss climate change in forum

JEJU - Environment month in Jeju will see a series of international talks on environment issues being held this week and next week.

The second round of talks of the Asia-Europe Environment Forum on reinforcing Asia-Europe cooperation on climate change opened yesterday at the International Convention Center for its two-day session.

It is a side event to the Global Civil Society Forum that starts today and continues tomorrow and the U.N. Environment Program Governing Council and Global Ministerial Forum that will take place on March 29-31.

Environmental experts from Asia and Europe have been presenting their options for cooperation between the two continents, specifically on climate change.

About 30 researchers, academics, government officials and civic organizations from such countries as Austria, Denmark, France, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and Vietnam took part in the forum.

"The round table forum will provide the platform for dialogue and debate on issues with regard to sustainable development and the environment in Asia and Europe," ASEF said.

The forum would identify concrete proposals for environmental cooperation between Asia and

The Korea Herald 직영
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Europe by opening discussion to find common ground on environmental issues.

The main topics include finding the effectiveness of international regimes for developing rules and policy instruments and reducing greenhouse gas emission.

The participants also considered whether the Kyoto Protocol signified a landmark for Asia-Europe cooperation, and discussed how the collaboration on the Clean Development Mechanism could be promoted and enhanced.

"Many Asian countries are keen to participate in CDM activities and most countries have ratified the Kyoto Protocol," said Chow Kok Kee, from the Malaysian Meteorological Service.

ASEF was launched in Feb. 1997 in Singapore by a member of the Asia Europe Meeting in order to enhance better understanding between the people and societies of Asia and Europe.

The first forum on climate was held on Sept. 29-30 last year in Bangkok. It focused on suggesting strategies to improve Asia-Europe partnerships and the implementation of a World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The third round of talks will be held in Stockholm, Sweden, in August to further the talks on green technologies and renewable energy.

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By Lee Joo-hee

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