

Annex:

Report of Stakeholder Survey on NEASPEC Strategic Plan 2021-2025

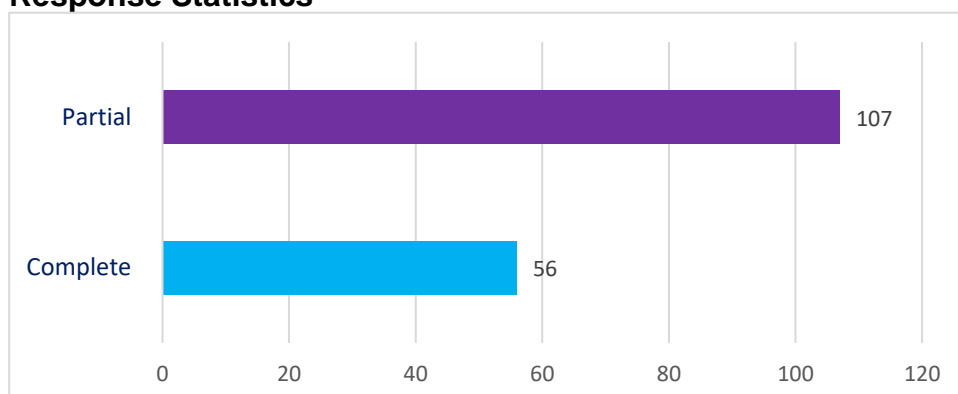
This Survey was conducted by the Secretariat through an online platform for the period of 16 March - 10 April 2020.

Invitation to the survey was sent to around 250 NEASPEC Stakeholders who are composed of (1) NEASPEC national focal points, (2) project partners, (3) experts who joined the NEASPEC activities (meetings, workshops, trainings, and so on), and (4) former staff, consultants, and interns.

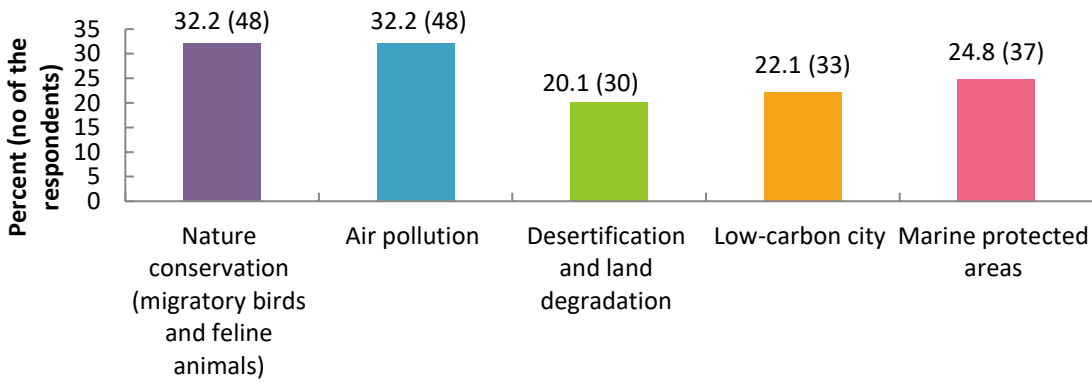
As seen below, 163 responded to the survey questionnaire either fully or partially.

Some questions received multiple answers from the participants and others received less answers from the participants.

Response Statistics

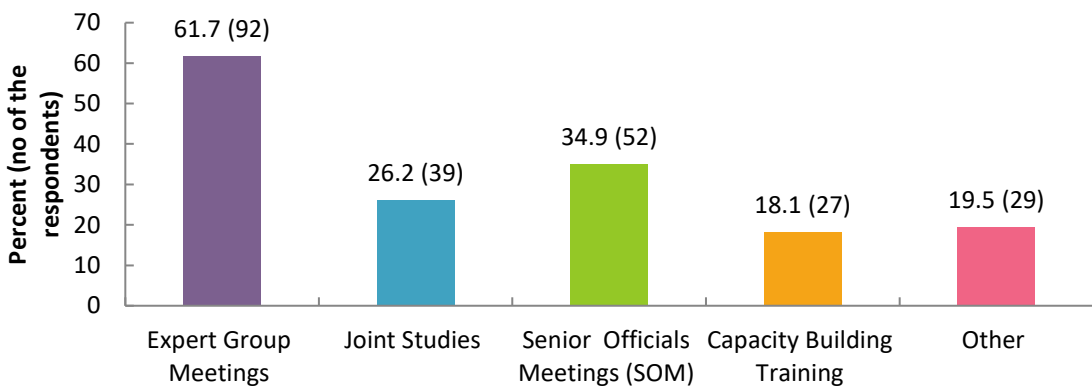


1. In which areas of NEASPEC have you participated thus far?



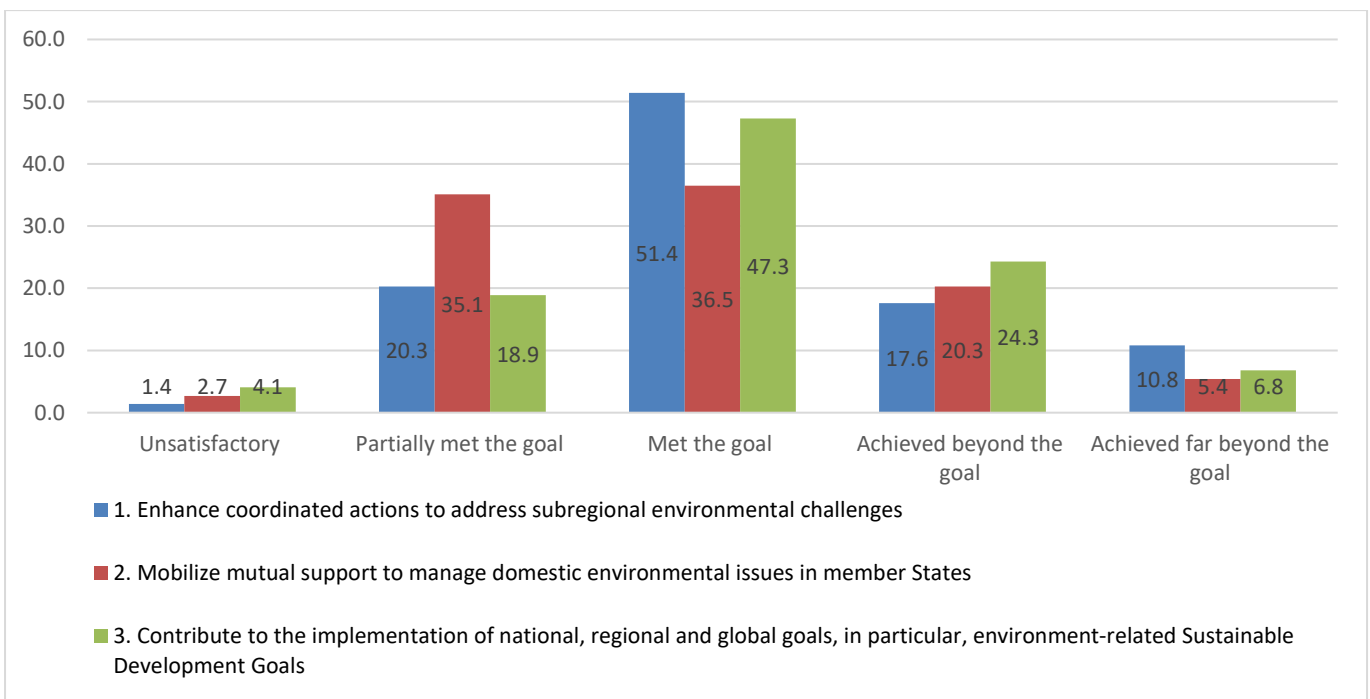
Note: some participants responded to one or more items.

2. In which activities of NEASPEC have you participated thus far?

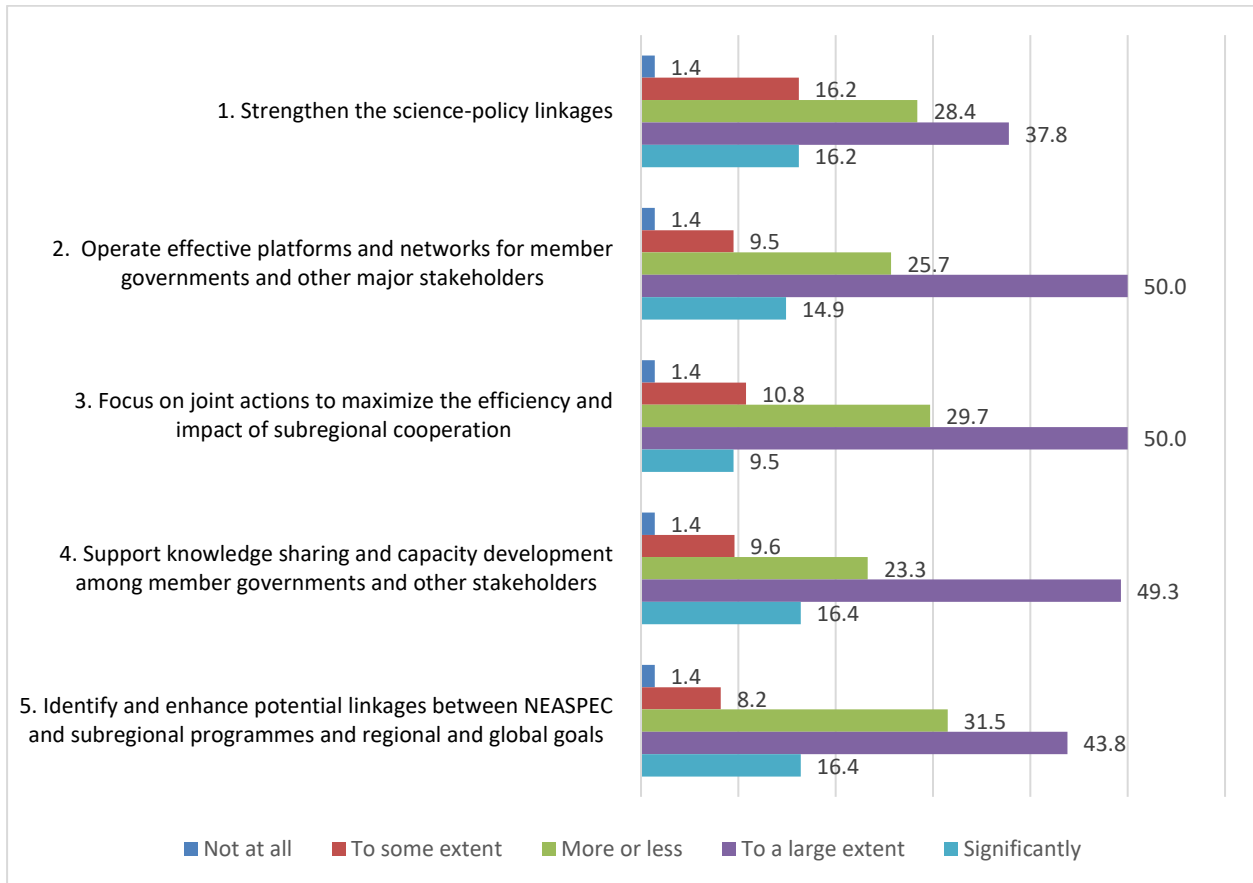


Note: some participants responded to one or more items.

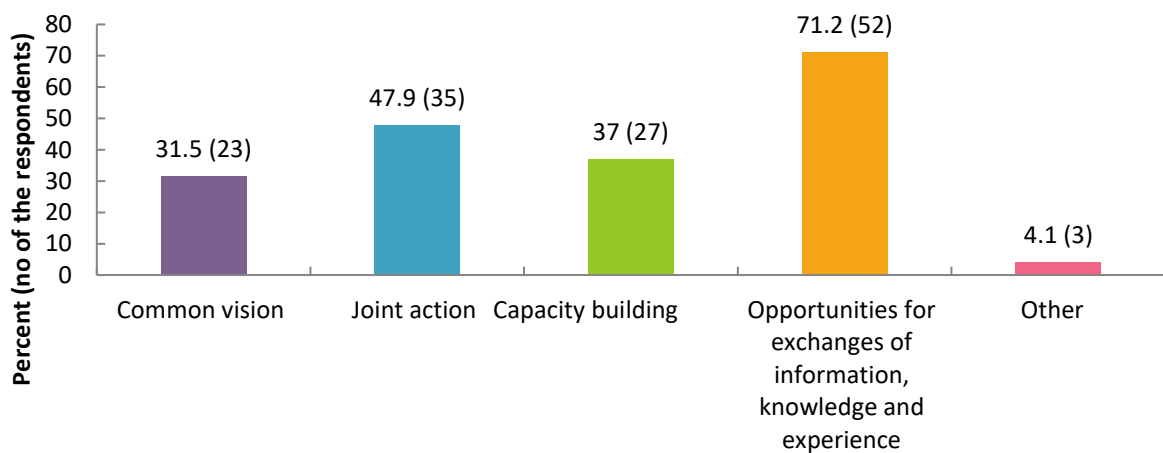
3. What is your evaluation on NEASPEC’s performance against those goals? (Unit: percent)



4. To what extent were these approaches effective and successful to achieve the goals? (Unit: percent)

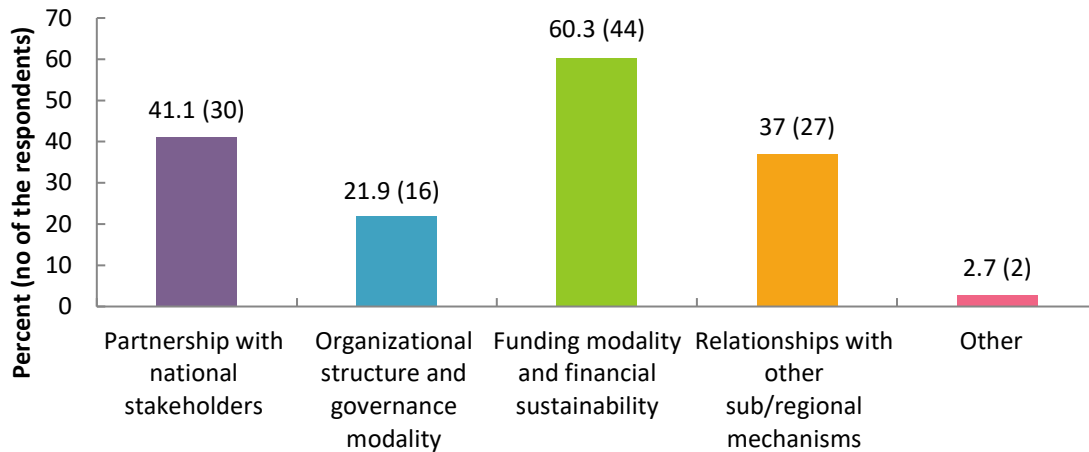


5. What would you consider as the most important achievements of NEASPEC?



Note: out of 163 total participants, 140 participants responded to this question.

6. What is the critical challenge/ constraints that NEASPEC faces?

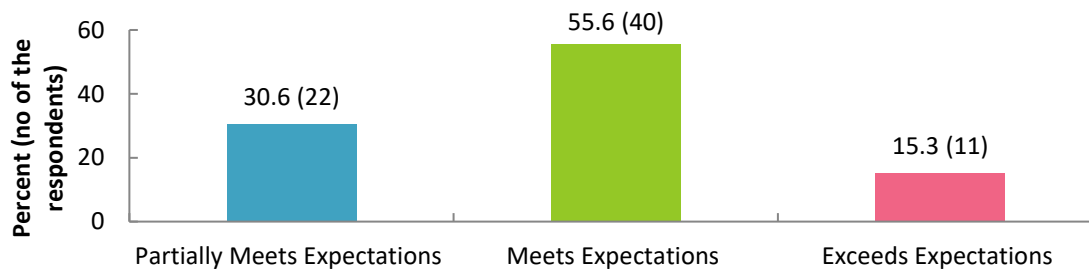


Note: out of 163 total participants, 119 participants responded to this question.

Other

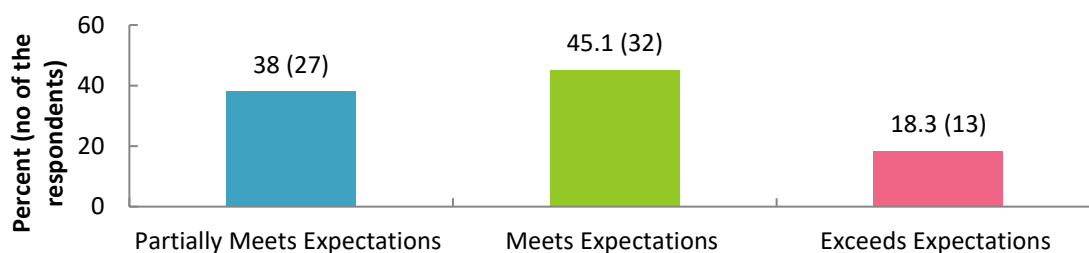
1. There is lack of connection between member governments and domestic stakeholders. Governments only join SOMs as routine and then leave it aside with no engagement with people.
2. Need to promote more joint actions

7. [Relevance] To what extent has NEASPEC framework been relevant to the needs and priorities related to environmental cooperation across the member countries and East and North-East Asia subregion?



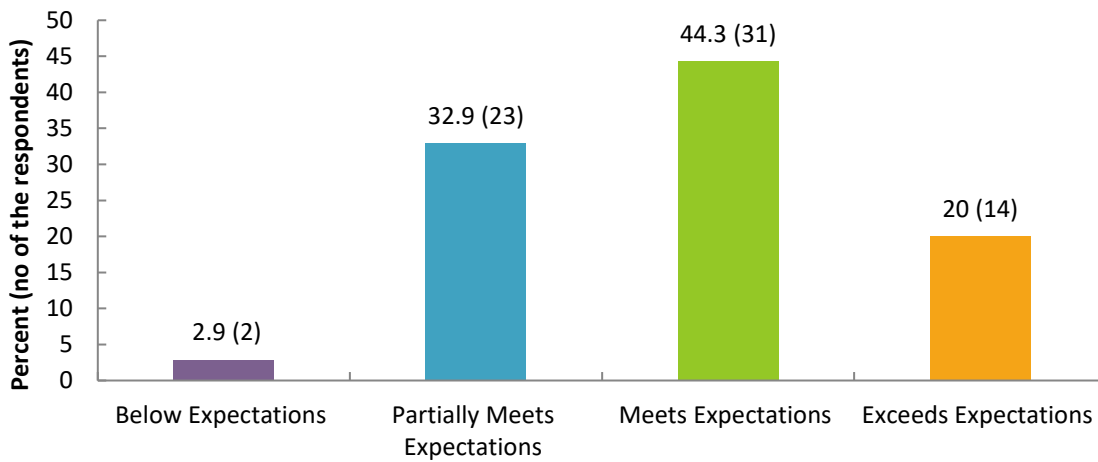
Note: out of 163 total participants, 73 participants responded to this question.

8. [Relevance] To what extent has NEASPEC been relevant to fulfil its mandate of supporting environmental cooperation in the subregion?



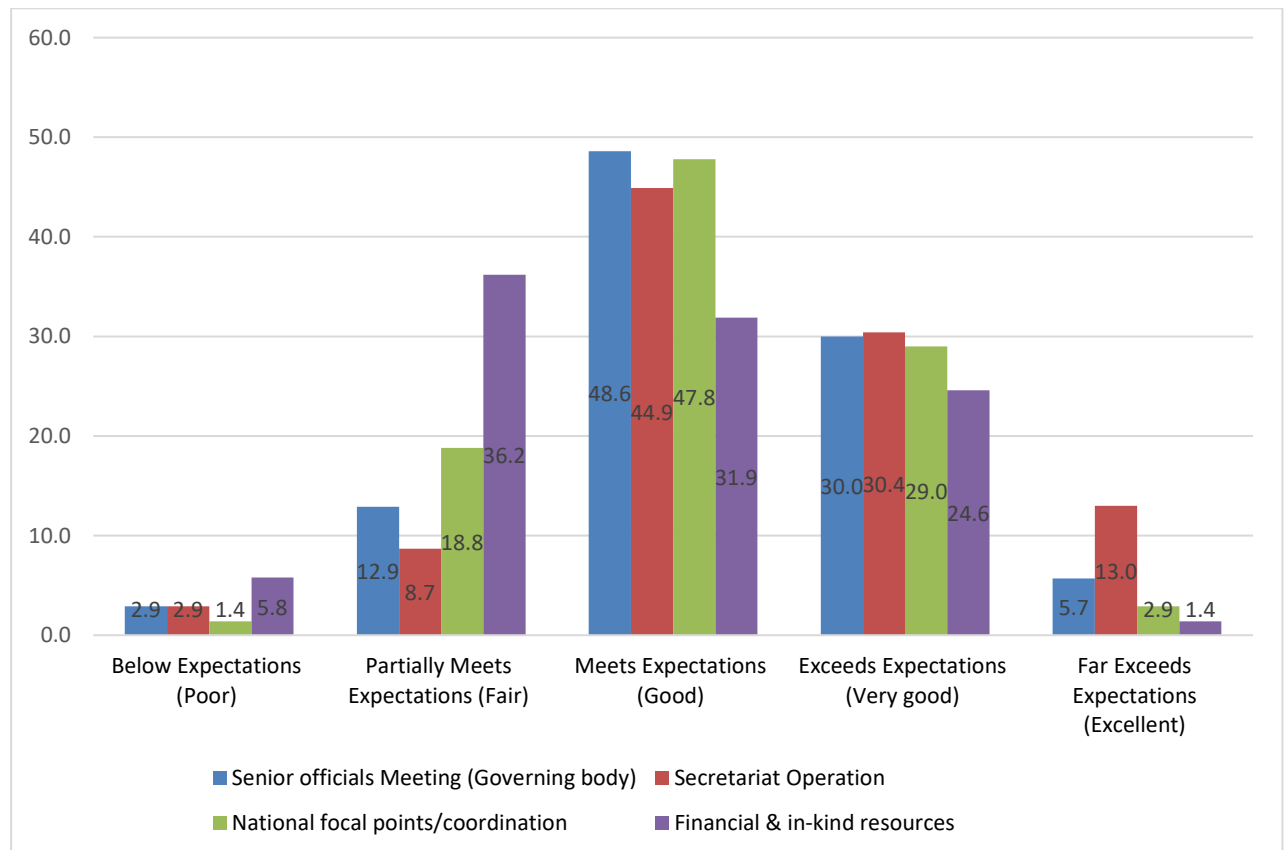
Note: out of 163 total participants, 72 participants responded to this question.

9. [Effectiveness and efficiency] To what extent has NEASPEC provided an effective platform and built up networks for member governments and other major stakeholders to enhance environmental cooperation?



Note: out of 163 total participants, 70 participants responded to this question.

10. [Effectiveness and efficiency] What would you assess the institutional arrangements and financial & in-kind resources of NEASPEC for effectively delivering the current strategic plans? (Unit: percent)

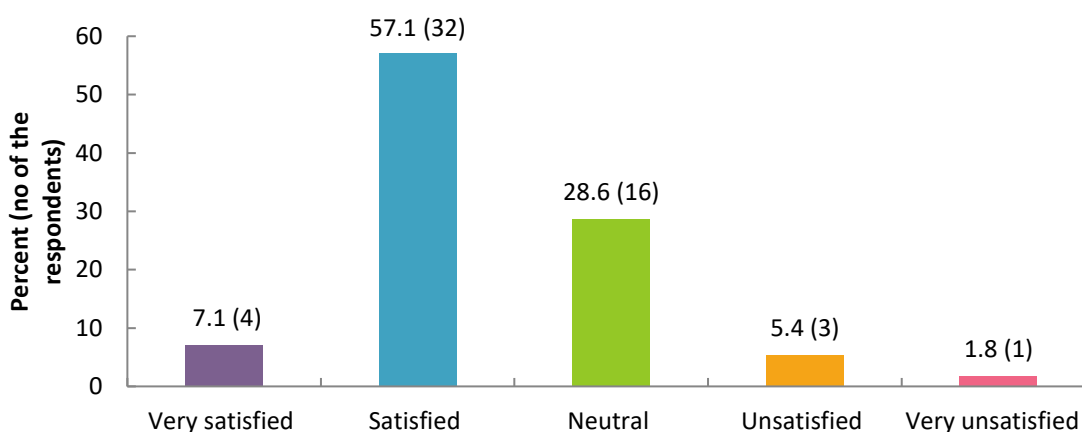


11. [Effectiveness and efficiency] What could be done to better improve the effectiveness and efficiency of NEASPEC’s work with respect to its mandate of addressing environmental priorities in North-East Asia and enhancing linkages between NEASPEC and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

	Response
1	In situ studying and long-term monitoring of the site-specific and scale dependent environmental issue
2	mainstreaming the NEASPEC’s work in each country (e.g. South Korea include the program of NEACAP in the national PM2.5 countermeasure)
3	Science and policy linkages
4	Need to mobilize more substantial financial resources and develop projects or programs that can provide practical help in addressing the subregional environmental issues
5	Awareness building should be more effectively done to public. Not many people know NEASPEC and its activities.
6	To strengthen policy dialogue and communication among member states and launch joint actions on major environmental issues
7	Mobilizing more substantial financial resources and developing programs that can offer practical support to address environmental issues in the subregion
8	To strengthen policy dialogue and communication among member states and launch joint actions on major environmental issues
9	Improve public communication, develop small project call programme so ensure multistakeholder participation, Increase frequency of expert meetings and circular their information.
10	As most of the platforms have issues with financial and project management support, cooperation is very important. It would be better if UN-ESCAP platforms could operate financial sources from public or private sectors and expand their projects based on cooperation with other organizations.
11	improved communication strategy joint studies
12	resource mobilization
13	1. Partnership with cities using technological solutions to improve the management and efficiency of the urban environment. 2. Build a dashboard (or platform) which shows baseline, performance indicator and final goals. Open those data to partner city and community
14	It is very important to strengthen the national capacity in particular the national focal points. Also need to improve the cooperation with other regional mechanisms.
15	Enhance the knowledge sharing and capacity development among member governments and other stakeholders
16	Work more closely with national focal points and provide more opportunity for stakeholder’s interaction on regional environmental issues, in particular, the transboundary biodiversity conservation programs
17	Try to build up connections between ecosystem services and NEASPEC projects and only focus on actions relate to the connections. Because neither species nor habitat is the specialty of UNESCAP, the best way is to engage conservation with sustainable development in the subregion. There are more organizations can do better in professional conservation. The effectiveness way might be work with other UN programmes to concrete funding from joint pilot projects at certain issues, such a few pilot projects, with real money, on how migratory species contribute and influence on ecosystem services, and what are the best practice in achieving sustainable development. It should be in a context that subregional transboundary conservation as a key element. These projects will show the connections between conservation and sustainable development and successful models which people can turn into their own practice.
18	To be included as the national strategy or the other relevant cooperative framework, such as bilateral or multi-lateral cooperation; To enhance the communication among the stakeholders and increase the funding support.
19	secretariat operation, correlation with research institutes
20	Should focus on the transboundary conservation long time and deepen bilateral cooperation.

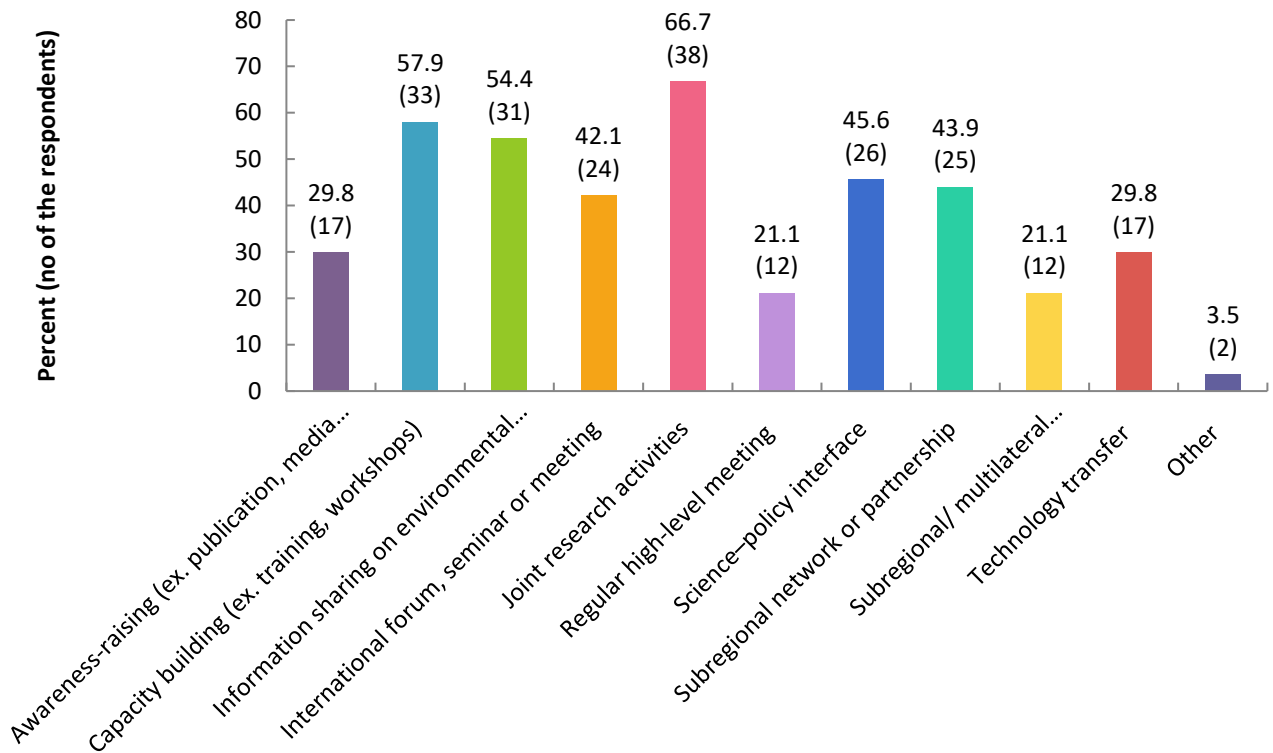
21	In the low-carbon city area of work: Continue to push forward assertively in regional expert coordination (continuing to include existing experts) and collaboration with other important regional networks and institutions. Provide robust funding for this time-consuming, travel intensive, and work-load-heavy campaign. Periodic, isolated projects will not be able to gain good traction or build momentum. Ensure that projects build on each other.
22	Support the permanent focal points with mandate to coordinate efforts on national level and between partnering countries
23	More close relationship and actions with and in range states. More concerns and actions are needed in the field of biodiversity research, capacity building and conservation
24	More close relationship with and in range states More concerns and actions are needed in the field of biodiversity research, capacity building and conservation
25	More close relationship and actions with and in range states More concerns and actions in the field of biodiversity research, capacity building and conservation
26	Enhance information sharing and best practice learning
27	enhance the relationship with environmental cooperation in the sub-region unit
28	Joint research and workshop Share knowledge and experiences
29	enhance scientific cooperation and knowledge sharing, more on application of advanced technology (IT, digital and) in environmental management and visualize challenges and impacts
30	Partnership with scientific communities/ to enhance use of IT and digital technology to support knowledge sharing and capacity building
31	Higher political profile (influence) of NEASPEC would help further promote key environmental issues in NEA
32	1. First, it is desirable to re-evaluate the need for the five themes and selection and concentration should be considered. The vital point is that to find the theme which the six countries have a common interest in. For example, the significance of policy on the marine protected areas seems to be less demanding for Mongolia, which has no sea region. Desert issues are of little interest to countries other than China and Mongolia. On the other hand, issues of air pollution and low-carbon cities are important issues for all countries. One option is to integrate the issue of yellow sand from the desert into the issue of air pollution or nature conservation. 2. NEASPEC has been conducting meaningful academic activities centered on expert groups. It is effective in understanding the current situation and issues in each country. However, if there is a plan to move toward providing solutions that solve actual problems of society in the future, it is necessary to consider further activities such as formulation of environmental standards that cross borders, technology transfer, and business matching.

12. To what degree are you satisfied with the activities that NEASPEC has so far carried out to promote subregional cooperation in your respective field?



Note: out of 163 total participants, 56 responded to this question.

13. To more effectively respond to subregional needs, which type(s) of actions in your selected NEASPEC programme should be further strengthened? (multiple answers possible)



- Other
1. Actions on the ground
 2. Organizational structure

14. What are the new issues/problems to be addressed in your selected NEASPEC programme under the new strategic framework 2021-2025?

	Response
1	Sustainable development in transportation sector
2	biodiversity conservation, prevention, and control of invasive alien species
3	ocean acidification; microplastics
4	Regional applicability of the policies and measures, and the criteria for ecosystems sustainability evaluation.
5	co-benefit between air pollution and climate change
6	Transboundary transmission of diseases
7	Strengthening linkages with climate change, renewable energy and biodiversity/ building public-private partnerships
8	Prevent grassland degradation and land desertification, reduce the dust hazards in northeast Asia
9	desertification combating, vegetation restoration program
10	Dust and sandstorm, sustainable agriculture
11	As the fourth industrial revolution becomes a rising issue, transforming to digital platforms and promoting access to information in developing countries became more important. The importance of data-driven policy and strategies is getting more intensified in the public and private sector. Therefore, it would be a great time and opportunity for the NEASPEC secretariat to consider implementing the use of big data in the new strategic framework 2021-2025.
12	updating communication strategy promote joint studies
13	- stakeholder engagement and partnership policy should be clarified in order to avoid from duplication
14	climate change and gender
15	no new problem
16	transboundary biodiversity monitoring program
17	Enhancing Ecological Services
18	Ecosystem approaches should be the new issues in Nature Conservation instead of certain species.
19	Conservation gaps of the umbrella migratory birds (habitat flagship species); Impacts of artificial feeding on the migratory birds
20	high-level and extensive jointing research activities
21	Urban biodiversity
22	Some conservation priority areas should be changed according the situation of targeted species and ecosystem
23	Policy relevance: What are the needs of on-the-ground policymakers in low-carbon city policy? How can NEASPEC best serve these needs, alone and in coordination with other organizations? Scope: There are hundreds of cities in the region. What subset of these cities can NEASPEC realistically hope to serve in the coming strategic cycle?
24	Integration with other regional and/or sub-regional activities not in these particular aspects
25	Develop Zero Emissions Vision for cities and regions. Japan-Korea-China Joint initiative phasing out oversea coal investment Climate change and China's Zero Waste Campaign Financing roadmap of low carbon cities
26	support cooperation at transboundary protected areas
27	Transboundary cooperation in biodiversity conservation Capacity building training Biodiversity database at range state level Assessment of wildlife populations at range state level
28	preparation of knowledge products illustrating the status and good practices in the focal areas
29	Under the NEA-LCCP, there is one more topic worth to pay more attention on how to enhance the ambitious of city on climate goal and how to help city to develop the long-term strategy
30	As for Nature Conservation aspect, it has to be ensured in line with the post-global biodiversity framework leading by Convention on Biological Diversity

31	- sustainable consumption and production, waste management - within nature conservation, specifically on institutional strengthening and system improvement for national conservation agencies
32	Avoid overlapping with other international organizations. Ex) TEMM (the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among China, Japan, and Korea)
33	Urban-rural land use connection for an integrated resilient ecosystems and populations, urbanization impacts to land pressure, water scarcity and ecosystems functions, greening production and consumption pattern to release pressure to land, transition of agricultural, husbandry and ecosystem management to sustainable management.
34	No particularly new issue; yet better understanding of the current transboundary air pollution issue in NEA including experienced parties and newcomers through new research projects
35	[e. Desertification and land degradation] In the previous meeting, duplication of work in the same area between UNCCD's DLDD-NEAN and NEASPEC was pointed out, and we think it necessary to resolve these in the next plan.
36	1. Establish a cross-border cooperation mechanism (measures consultation, implementation, and support mechanism) in the event of a large-scale disaster or plague (caused by environmental problems) 2. Build a database on the current status and needs of environmental technologies in each country

15. Could you suggest an overarching goal for the existing programme in its next phase (2021- 2025) of NEASPEC? You may wish to identify the global/regional environmental programmes or strategies relevant to this goal.

	Response
1	promote the achievement of the post-2020 global biodiversity targets
2	Coordination mechanism, regional applicability and sustainability of desertification and land degradation mitigation with integrated measures.
3	Air pollution experts and research infrastructure vary widely from country to country in Asia. This kind of imbalance must first be addressed for future collaboration.
4	NEASPEC may select few goals in the SDGs such as SDG11 and SDG6.
5	promoting synergies between DLD and other sectors such as climate change, clean(renewable) energy and biodiversity
6	To establish a multilateral cooperation mechanism to prevent grassland degradation and desertification in northeast Asia, To conduct joint research on relevant control technologies and national control policies To carry out control technology training and demonstration application of results To Implement restoration effect assessment and determine new research contents based on the assessment results
7	Increase resilience of local communities to dust and sandstorm, improve agriculture technology, promote organic farming
8	Following the answer above, I would recommend setting the goal of expanding the Open Data Platform based on big data from member countries, which includes demographic, economic, social, environmental, and geospatial data. It can be implemented in NEASPEC's five thematic areas - nature conservation, transboundary air pollution, desertification and land degradation, low carbon cities, and marine protected areas. It is expected to expand joint research and promote publications based on data-driven policy.
9	migratory bird connectivity arid land and water issues
10	resource mobilization should be another key item under the next phase
11	Should better emphasize the link between ESCAP's vision of the SDGs and NEASPEC's programmes/strategies
12	Promote Yellow Sea Ecoregion conservation initiatives EAAFP, and world heritage nomination
13	Reduction of land degradation, SDG 15.3.1 docking
14	Develop protocols, technical guidelines, and models for ecosystem-based approaches as key method for nature conservation. Migratory species may be an index of connection.
15	Ensure the migratory safety of globally threatened bird species and enhance the habitat resilience, especially for the anthropogenic habitats.
16	to enlarge monitoring area of amur tiger and leopard

17	How to promote the common vision and implementation for big cat corridors across two countries.
18	Low-carbon cities: Align NEASPEC LCCP work into net-zero campaigns around the world.
19	The overarching goal is to contribute as much as we can to the Sustainable Development Goals
20	Zero Emissions Vision
21	Enhance coordination between different regional initiative such as Flyway Initiative, Global Tiger Initiative, International Climate Initiative, WWF Amur Ecoregion Program, Greening Bel and Road Initiative.
22	Assessment of important biodiversity populations at range state level are done Biodiversity database at range state level set well and recommendations for conservation of important species, ecosystems are developed
23	- the nature conservation topic to broaden and reflect the new and upcoming CBD Vision and Targets to be adopted at the COP15
25	- 4th industrial revolution smart city
26	SDS(Sand and Dust Storm) Drought
27	Restoration of land degradation/ desertification for resilient peoples and ecosystems adapting climate change and sustainable development
28	[e. Desertification and land degradation] We understand that NEAMSP plays an important role in combatting desertification and land degradation across East Asia. In order to further develop these efforts, it is desirable to work organically with other existing efforts such as UNCCD's DLDD-NEAN, while eliminating duplication with them. [b. Biodiversity and Nature Conservation,] When studying the next five year program of NEASPEC, it is essential to choose activities that would increase synergies between "future activities related to the conservation of the migratory birds that are promoted under NEASPEC framework" and existing activities under framework of EAAFP: East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership.
29	. Coexistence and co-prosperity of nature and society 2. Establish a multilateral cooperation system that can monitor and respond to natural disasters and social issues 3. Realization of a low-carbon society and economy in Northeast Asia

16.To achieve that overarching goal, what type of activities should be implemented during 2021-2025 under NEASPEC?

	Response
1	International forum, seminar, or meeting
2	joint research projects, international workshops, data sharing
3	workshop or international meeting
4	Multiple integrated measures implementation at hotspots of desertification and land degradation in north China and central Mongolia.
5	It is advantageous to form a science advisory committee consisting of Asia, USA and Europe in order to reduce the gap between Asian countries.
6	Awareness and capacity building activities. Joint research may be performed if you have enough fund.
7	joint research activities, international forums or seminars involving government officials, experts (on subregional issues), representatives of international organizations and CSOs.
8	Signing subregional/ multilateral /intergovernmental agreements; Information sharing on environmental policies and regulations; Conduct joint research activities; Capacity building (ex. training, workshops)
9	Dust and sandstorm monitoring, joint research, establishment of regional or subregional data sharing platform, establishment of knowledge centers or hubs
10	The movement of providing the big data platform is already started in the UN (i.e. Big Data for Sustainable Development). If the open data platform can be made on the existing NEASPEC website and use existing data from member countries, the financial expenditure will not be a large scale. However, a consensus or an agreement on open data between member states should be implemented at the first stage during 2021-2025.
11	joint studies government level actions to establish connectivity conservation area

12	leadership commitment collection events like High level meeting of the programme expert training and secondments among the member countries
13	none
14	no suggestion
15	High level dialogues on Yellow Sea ecoregion conservation, northeast biodiversity conservation
16	Scientific research and policy consultation
17	Select a few sites with typical but different environmental challenges, such as climate change, water/hydrology shift, wetland conversion, agriculture/grazing disturbance, to conduct comprehensive projects on ecosystem management which will optimize gross ecosystem service for sustainable development.
18	Joint conservation and research on the umbrella migratory birds
19	should monitoring tiger in Wada Mountains near Russian
20	share data, information, and technology standards
21	Identify cities in NEA with net-zero or high ambition carbon reduction goals. What are their goals, what are their implementation plans, how can they work together or learn from each other? What can they teach other cities in the region or the rest of the world?
22	The above aspects answered in question 16
23	Develop Zero Emissions Vision for cities and regions. Japan-Korea-China joint initiative Phasing out overseas coal investment. Climate change and Waste Management Financing roadmap of low carbon cities
24	Direct support focal points in each member countries (non-ministerial person). Create permanent expert working group on particular thematic issues.
25	Assessment of important biodiversity populations at range state level Biodiversity database at range state level Recommendations for conservation of important species, ecosystems are developed
26	field study, capacity building
27	- exchange and sharing policies, regulations, and institutional arrangements - subregional discussion on the new global targets under the CBD, especially on MPAs and what the subregion can do as a network
28	joint research (China, Korea, Japan) on how to build energy efficient city(car, building, land-use) innovative analytical framework to address incomplete interpretations and dispersed data of the energy system in cities
29	Experts meeting and workshop of region or sub-region
30	1. Scientific understanding what the impacts of northeast Asia urbanization and rural development to land degradation; 2 comprehensive assessment on science technology and innovation's role on ecosystems/ land restoration in the region, and the benefits to peoples
31	. Implementation of practical projects (Development of problem-solving projects: for example, technology transfer) 2 . Construction of comprehensive environmental information database 3 . Inspection and coordination of resources and capabilities related to various monitoring and risk assessment systems distributed in each country 4. Support for environmental business between nations

17.To effectively implement these activities, which key actor(s) would you recommend to be involved?

Programme Area

	Response
1	Transportation sector
2	Biodiversity
3	Marine protected area: North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN)
4	Alxa steppe desert in Inner Mongolia, China, and Elsen Tasarkhai in Bulgan, Mongolia
5	air pollution
6	Nature conservation
7	Desertification
8	the adjacent to degraded grassland areas between China and Mongolia

9	Hexi corridor, China
10	Desertification and land degradation
11	Green Growth Knowledge Platform
12	governments
13	Biodiversity Conservation, Marine Programs
14	China-Mongolian border region
15	ecosystem management
16	Bohai and Yellow Sea
17	Wada Mountains
18	urban biodiversity
19	northeast China
20	LCCP
21	coal, low carbon city, waste management
22	Biodiversity
23	Biodiversity and Nature conservation
24	local NGOs & cooperative
25	low carbon city
26	SDS
27	Land degradation and desertification
28	1. Implementation of practical projects (Development of problem-solving projects: for example, technology transfer) 2 . Construction of comprehensive environmental information database 3 . Inspection and coordination of resources and capabilities related to various monitoring and risk assessment systems distributed in each country 4. Support for environmental business between nations

Organization

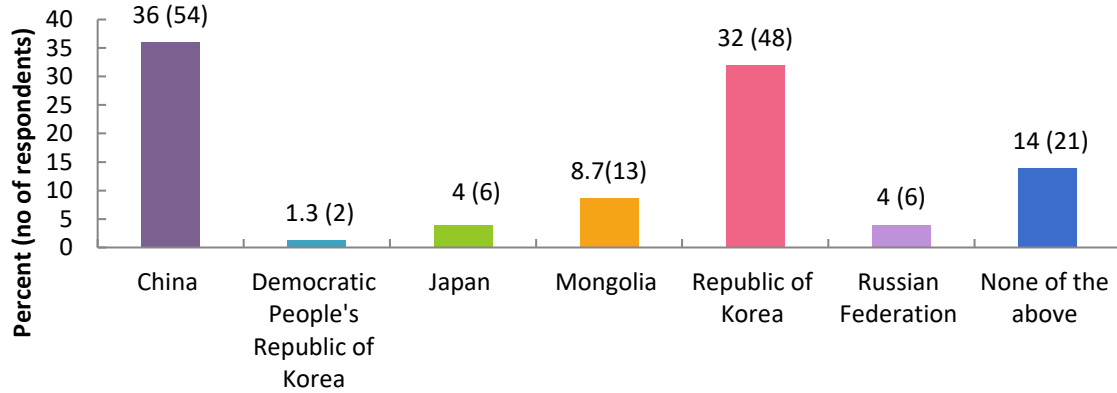
	Response
1	Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences under the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China
2	Northwest Institute of Eco-Environment and Resources (former Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute), Chinese Academy of Sciences
3	nasa, esa
4	PEMSEA
5	Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences
6	甘肃省治沙研究所
7	Desertification Center
8	UNEP
9	EAAFP Science Unit
10	consultant
11	APFNet
12	Beijing Forestry University
13	National Bird Banding Center of China
14	Research institute or university
15	ICLEI
16	Feline Research Center of National Forestry and Grassland Administration
17	C40, iCLEI, iGDP
18	innovative green development program
19	WWF Russia Amur branch
20	Irbis Mongolia Center
21	Korea Forest Service
22	UNCCD
23	Local governments and public research institutions in each country

18. To achieve the overarching goal that you mentioned above, what obstacles need to be addressed under the NEASPEC programme over the next five years?

	Response
1	Coordination of Transport, Energy and Environmental Management Departments
2	knowledge sharing, policy coordination
3	financial
4	N/A
5	To secure stable fund resource for next five years
6	Securing fund
7	Not sufficient coordination between different subregional cooperation mechanisms or different sectors
8	1.To solve the shortage of project funds; 2. To capacity building and training for herdsmen in the adjacent to degraded grassland areas of China and Mongolia; 3. To provide technical assistance to Mongolia.
9	environment restoration
10	Inaction of local government.
11	The possible obstacles rely on the lack of data in member states and reluctance to disclose data on sensitive issues such as PM2.5. However, the platform will be highly demanded among academia, researchers, and policymakers in the future. NEASPEC could be the only platform that can promote a meeting and consensus for disclosure of data and joint research in North-East Asia.
12	secure funding set the work plan
13	Effective communications
14	Media integration
15	The first will be the current working mechanism work with national focal points. Among so many regional initiatives, the member government will only regard SOMs as "tea party" if there are no actual projects/actions. There will be no news sharing or updaters after these officials returning home because it is just another talking meeting. Very few people hear about it after each SOM. If the network is a broader complex of various stakeholders instead of national focal officials narrowed down in numbers, it will be more stable and effective. The second will be funding. GCF and GEF are more popular because there are actual projects on ground with actual implementing people outside government. If NEASPEC could design a funding framework with other UN branches or policy banks, such GCF, GEF, ADB, even AIIB, it will be more effective.
16	The biggest obstacle is to acquire the governmental support to conduct the joint action and raise the fund to implement the relevant actions.
17	to recover tiger population is important in Wada Mountains which is key regions connecting with tiger distribution area of Russian.
18	joint scientific research under establishment of government regulations across two countries
19	A limited and feasible scope of action needs to be defined.
20	Probably coordination and finance activities
21	Less bureaucratic procedures in financial management of grants, which are less than 100 000 USD
22	Improve financial support
23	low capacity building program in the sub-region
24	strengthening subregional cooperation
25	One goal (or vision) of each country Cooperation of science and policy
26	Extended cooperation with governments and relevant partners having the knowledge, data and capacity to support joint activities by NEASPEC
27	1. Selection and concentration of programs 2. Raising awareness and supporting governments in governments 3. Fund

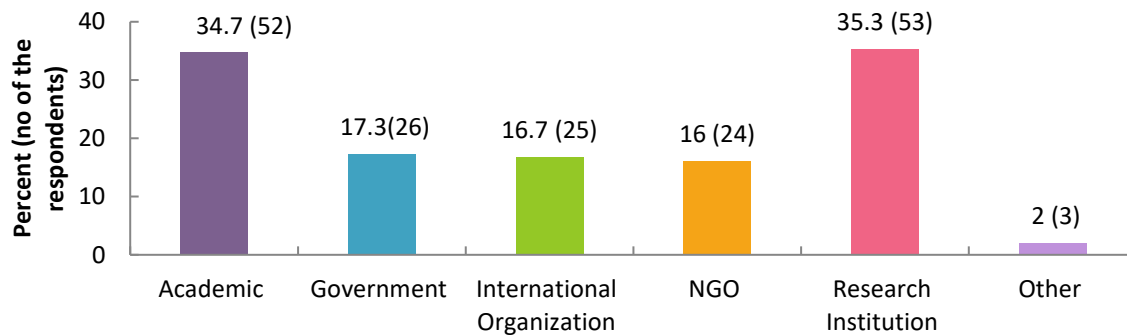
Profile of the Survey Respondents

1. Nationality



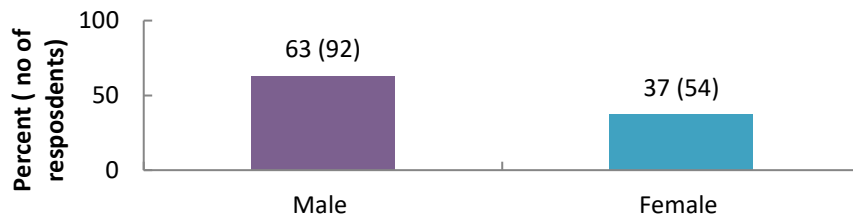
Note: out of 163 total participants, 150 responded to this question. "None of the above" means participants are from outside of the North-East Asia.

2. Professional background



Note: Some participants responded to one or more items.

3. Gender



Note: out of 163 total participants, 146 participants responded to this question.