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BEIJING—A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Thursday called all parties to the Korean peninsula to promote and protect their interests and to prevent and resolve conflicts and challenges as usual.

China set up a fund for rural environmental protection in 2008, with a combined 1.5 billion yuan from the central budget earmarked in 2008 and 2009. The MEP estimated that the central fund, local, and government departments had invested more than 5 billion yuan in rural environmental protection projects in 2015, with more than 13 million rural populations benefiting.

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BEIJING—China’s central government plans to spend 12 billion yuan (1.76 billion U.S. dollars) on rural environmental protection in the three years to 2012, the Ministry of Finance (MOF) said in a statement on its website Thursday. MOF Vice Minister Zhang Shaochun said the ministry will work with the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) in the coming three years to help treat rural pollution, a move expected to benefit 100 million rural populations.

China urged a state council meeting on Wednesday that the nation should accelerate pace in solving pollution problems in the rural areas and strengthen rural hygiene work.

To curb the rural pollution, China set up a fund for rural environmental protection in 2008, with a combined 1.5 billion yuan from the central budget earmarked in 2008 and 2009. The MEP estimated that the central fund, local, and government departments had invested more than 5 billion yuan in rural environmental protection projects in 2015, with more than 13 million rural populations benefiting.

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