

*First Announcement*  
**Kitakyushu Initiative Seminar on Urban Air Quality Management**  
**20-21 February 2003, Bangkok, Thailand**

**1. Seminar Objective**

Building the capacities of local governments has become imperative to effectively manage air quality issues in urban areas. Towards this end, the **Kitakyushu Initiative Seminar on Urban Air Quality Management** is being organized to provide a forum for open discussions on the experiences, challenges and future plans of local governments on the theme of urban air quality management, to build the capacities of local governments to address these issues and develop future strategies to improve management.

The seminar will cover three major areas: (a) the existing situations in cities, including major pollution sources, impacts from pollution, and management capacity of the local governments; (b) policy enforcement, in particular from the local governmental viewpoint, public awareness and political will; and (c) successful practices and challenges: How to improve the role and capacity of local governments for effective and efficient air quality management, including specific policies or actions that contributed to improvements in air quality, as well as problems to be addressed and possible future solutions.

This Seminar is the third thematic seminar under the Kitakyushu Initiative, following the successful organisation of two seminars in September and November 2002 on the themes of solid waste management and public-private partnerships in the urban water sector, respectively.

2. **Date & Time:** 20-21 February 2003, 09:00-17:00

3. **Venue:** United Nations Conference Centre (Bangkok, Thailand)

**4. Organisers**

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN/ESCAP)  
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan

**5. Participants**

Local governments; Outside experts; Representatives from the donor community; Other

6. **Working Language:** English

**7. Please direct enquiries to:**

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies  
3-9-30 Asano, Kokurakita-ku, Kitakyushu 802-0001 JAPAN  
Tel: +81-93-513-3711, Fax: +81-93-513-3712, E-mail: cpearson@iges.or.jp

8. **Programme (Please note that the programme is *tentative*.)**

20 February 2002 (Thursday): Seminar (AM / PM)

21 February 2002 (Friday): Seminar (AM), Field visit (PM)

**Provisional Agenda (20 February):**

- 09:00-09:10 Opening Statement
- 09:10-09:15 Overview of Seminar
- 09:15-09:30 Introduction of participants
- 09:30-10:20 Session I:
  - Experiences/challenges of local governments in urban air quality management  
*10-15-minute presentation, 10 minute Q&A for each presenter*
- 10:20-10:30 Break
- 10:30-11:20 Session I (Continuation):
  - Experiences/challenges of local governments in urban air quality management  
*10-15-minute presentation, 10 minute Q&A for each presenter*
- 11:20-12:00 Open Discussions
- 12:00-13:30 Lunch
- 13:30-14:45 Session II:
  - Experiences/challenges of local governments in urban air quality management  
*10-15-minute presentation, 10 minute Q&A for each presenter*
- 14:45-15:00 Break
- 15:00-16:15 Session II (Continuation)
  - Experiences/challenges of local governments in urban air quality management  
*10-15-minute presentation, 10 minute Q&A for each presenter*
- 16:15-18:00 Open Discussions, Conclusions

**Provisional Agenda (21 February)**

- 09:30-10:20 Session III
  - Experiences/challenges of local governments in urban air quality management  
*10-15-minute presentation, 10 minute Q&A for each presenter*
- 10:20-10:30 Break
- 10:30-11:20 Session III (Continuation):
  - Experiences/challenges of local governments in urban air quality management  
*10-15-minute presentation, 10 minute Q&A for each presenter*
- 11:20-12:00 Open Discussions
- 12:00-13:30 Lunch
- 14:00-17:30 Field visit

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### **Background Information on the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment**

The **Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment** was adopted by the Environmental Ministers at the 4<sup>th</sup> *Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED 2000)*, as a mechanism for the priority implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (RAP), 2001-2005, with special focus on environmental quality and human health. The Kitakyushu Initiative mandates the achievement of measurable progress in improvement of the urban environment in major cities in Asia and the Pacific, mainly through local initiatives aiming at control of air and water pollution and minimization of all kinds of wastes. This will be achieved through the use of all available technical, institutional, regulatory and participatory measures.

The **First Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network** was held in Kitakyushu, Japan from 20-21 November 2001, with the participation of 20 cities from 13 countries. The two-day program facilitated enhanced interaction among the national and local governments, the donor community, academia, and international initiatives and programs. Discussions and presentations focused on issues of air and water pollution, and solid waste management, among others, of which solid waste was identified as a most common and pressing issue. At the Meeting, participating cities concluded that the exchange of information and experiences in urban environmental management is beneficial in the deliberation, formulation and implementation of future programs in cities.

The Kitakyushu Initiative has since been included as a Type I initiative in the Plan of Implementation at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2002.

Kitakyushu Initiative Network homepage: <http://www.iges.or.jp/kitakyushu>