

**Second Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network (Mayors' Segment)  
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Good morning respectable guests and other participants. On behalf of the State Environmental Protection Administration of China (SEPA), I sincerely express our thanks to you for attending the Second Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network."

The Kitakyushu Initiative was adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED) held in September 2000. A series of activities for this initiative was conducted for these three years under the supervision and cooperation between the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) in Japan. Such activities were echoed and obtained successful results. SEPA greatly values the activities of the Kitakyushu Initiative in China. In 2001, SEPA held a seminar in Beijing on the Kitakyushu Initiative, and conducted individual research in the Chinese cities of Ningbo, Weihai, and Chongqing with the cooperation of UNESCAP and IGES. Moreover, we investigated the successful practice of urban environmental management in ten cities, and we attended the first Expert Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand, as well as the First Network Meeting in Kitakyushu. Many cities in China are network members of this Initiative. In the case of activities which Chinese cities conducted, Kitakyushu Initiative has achieved considerable impact through the exchange of information about the experiences and the lessons of urban environmental management. SEPA is very glad to open this conference in the beautiful city of Weihai and has great interest in this conference. The Pollution Control Bureau and the International Cooperation Bureau as a subordinate organization under the SEPA issued important instructions to this conference. On behalf of the guidance section at each level, let me congratulate you sincerely on the organization of this meeting.

Next, I will introduce the current status and future development of urban environmental management in China. The urbanization level of China reached 37% at the end of 2002, and increased more than 19 points from 1978. Between 1978 and 2000, the number of cities increased from 193 to 663 and administrative towns increased from 2,173 to 20,312. The population in towns rose from 170 million to 456 million, and its share of nationwide total population increased 17.9% to 36.1%. 50% of the industrial outputs, 70% of gross domestic product (GDP), 80% of national revenue, 85% of the added value in tertiary industry, and more than 90% of higher education and the science and technology, are concentrated in cities today.

According to historical experience about urbanization in the world, urbanization accelerates when the urbanization level of one country reaches 30%. It is a key time for industrialization and the modernization for a country. China is in such an important stage, and it is one of the national, important development strategies in the 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan to enhance the process of urbanization. According to the prediction of experts, in the next ten years, 150 million to 200 million people who live in the rural area will move in to the city, level of urbanization will achieve 50% by 2020 and urban population will increase from 460 million to 740 million. Based on the acceleration of urbanization, cities will play a leading role, and become the main driving force for economic development in China. Rapid urbanization brought about large challenges to the urban environmental management of cities in China.

Urban environmental management in China has developed with rapid urbanization for these 30 years. Many data indicates that urban environmental management has progressed greatly. Within last 30 years, the types and nature of environmental problems and main problems of urban environmental management in China have changed considerably. The challenges in urban environmental management have moved from the stage of industrial pollution control to management of complex pollution such as industrial pollution, municipal pollution and disturbed ecosystems in cities. To deal with these changes, China had tried to reform strategies, systems, policies and measures for urban environmental management. Various efforts have been made; the prevention measures of urban industrial pollution which had been executed in 1970-80s, comprehensive urban environmental quantitative assessment had been done in 1980-90s and

especially in the 1990s, creation of environmental model city, investigation towards eco-friendly cities and capacity building for sustainable development of cities had been implemented. As a result, the management level of the city has improved, and it brings forth fruit in environmental protection. As we can see from the environmental management strategies and the results of model cities, China had achieved lessening the time for improvement of environmental conditions and rapid development in urban environmental management by creating original models. In addition, China has searched for the most appropriate road for urban environmental protection for Chinese society. There are two methods in urban environmental management in China now. One is a comprehensive urban environmental quantitative assessment; the other is the foundation of the national environmental model city.

Comprehensive urban environmental quantitative assessment is conducted for city governments. Now, there are four examination factors (environmental quality, pollution control, environmental maintenance and environmental management), and 20 environmental indexes. The main purpose is to examine the achievement of the above-mentioned indexes in the city governments every year. This examination began in 1989, and the number of cities which participated in this examination already exceeded 600 by 2002. The second is the foundation of the national environmental model city. SEPA decided the national environmental model city foundation project to be developed in the whole country in 1997. There is an index system in this project, and it is divided into two parts: basic conditions and the index examination. There is an index of 28 items in total, and it is composed of four fields: social economy, environmental quality, environmental maintenance, and environmental management. Until now, 30 cities have been specified for the national environmental model city and two districts are specified for the model district. The cities and districts are as follows:

Zhang Jia Gang, Shen Zhen, Da Lian, Wei Hai, Zhu Hai, Xia Men, Kun Shan, Yan Tai, Lai Zhou, Rong Cheng, Zhong Shan, Hai Kou, Shan Tou, Su Zhou, Jiang Yin, Qing Dao, Wen Deng, Da Qing, Hang Zhou, Ning Bo, Tai Cang, Chang Shu, Hui Zhou, Shao Xing, Zhao Yuan, Ru Shan, Hai Men, Chang Chun, Yang Zhou, Jiao Zhou, Shanghai Min Hang ward (Shang Hai and Min Hang) and Tienchin City large port ward (Tian Jin and Da Gang).

Weihai city, where this conference is held, is the only national environmental model city group in China, (NB: "Environmental model city group" means an environmental model city where the range in the environmental model city expanded from the built-up area and the city core to the peripheral part of the city.)

Next, I'd like to introduce the development of the urban environmental management in the future in China. It seems that urban environmental management will develop in order to deal with the more rapid urbanization in the future. Aiming at raising the level of environmental management, we will make efforts for comprehensive urban environmental quantitative assessment and foundation of the national environmental model city, as well as enforcement of environmental management in the city and peripheral area by the local government and building a monitoring system by the people themselves. An increase in the environmental consideration of urban residents is an important barometer which measures the level of the urban civilization. The improvement of an environmental situation of the city district affects the life of residents.

According to the adjustment of the city industry and function, heavy industry pollution has moved from the built-up area to the peripheral area. Therefore, the main factors which threaten city environmental quality are dusts, emission gas from car, municipal waste, noise, and "white pollution" (NB: "White pollution" means scattering of plastic wastes, such as lunch boxes and so on; it named for its color.) The community based environmental management model is an effective means to control this type of pollution. The reason why China obtained remarkable results in capacity building is due to implementing community based environmental management in capacity building projects. Community based environmental management is an advanced management model in the field of international cooperation for environmental management. This is an important model in which community based management is operated together with international cooperation.

I'd like to address enhancement of environmental management in the peripheral area. The Chinese government adjusts an administrative district in a part of city little by little, and small city, villages, and towns, and rural areas which are located in peripheral area of city were build in the urban district, after

which the scale of the urban district has gradually expanded. In the peripheral area, environmental degradation which was caused by the development by interaction among new city area, old city area, and peripheral area is inevitable.

To deal with these problems, SEPA requested 113 cities to enhance environmental management in the peripheral area, improve the existing urban planning process, systematically rearrange the function and location of each area, and make efforts to improve financial mechanisms to increase investment for arranging environmental infrastructure. Moreover, SEPA has started to announce the achievement situation of environmental indexes on health and environmental quality in focal cities through the media from this year. Additionally, we encourage city governments to continue reforming, attempt to improve the transparency of environmental management, and promote the sharing the knowledge among the cities. We had already published “Chinese environmental report,” and obtained good results this year.

SEPA hopes that the Kitakyushu Initiative will make further efforts to promote environmental cooperation among cities in the Asia Pacific region and other related international organizations. In particular, we hope that the Kitakyushu Initiative will play the role of mediator of the initiative network with respect of actual cooperation projects. Many cities in China expect this.

Finally, we wish to express our gratitude to everybody who sincerely conducted cooperation activities for many years with regard to environmental protection in China. I pray for the success of this conference. Thank you very much.