

## **Second Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network (Mayors' Segment)**

**17 October 2003**

**Weihai, People's Republic of China**

Mr. Wang You Fang

Vice Director, Environmental Protection Bureau, City of Ningbo (China)

### **Current state of the environment and basic concept for the next five years in Ningbo**

Ningbo, China's most active economic base located in the Yangtze Delta, possesses a port and in comparison with other regions, is also well located. Within the Ningbo area, there are a number of rivers, lakes, mountains, sea and islands. Since the start of the reformation period, Ningbo has undergone rapid economic development; in 2002, Ningbo's GDP climbed to over 150 billion. GDP per capita is USD 3,331 and in the 1990s, income achieved the level of MDC. Together with rapidly social and economic development, the city government placed focus on harmonizing socio-economic development and environmental consideration and promoted the establishment of a well-off society. In this process, Ningbo is aiming towards the realization economic development and environmental protection based on sustainable development strategies.

#### **1. Recent results in environmental protection in Ningbo**

In recent years, activities towards environmental conservation in Ningbo during the 9<sup>th</sup> Ten Year Plan achieved results through the efforts of city residents, with the guidance of the local government and support of local representatives and political gatherings. In urban development, we promote integrated environment development consisting of high-level plans and policies while clarifying the direction of urban infrastructure and tying together a framework of development and reformation of old cities.

With the slogan of "clean air, beautiful water, greening, and purification" we have succeed in the improvement of the urban function by constructing environmental protection infrastructure. We have been awarded many times as a "National Park Advanced City," "Chinese Excellent Touring City," "National Environmental Protection Model City," "Chinese Human Settlements Environment Model Award," and others. In addition, in the process of industrialization, we are positively promoting high technology enterprises with a low impact on the environment by promoting eco-friendly production and creation of recycling economic systems by enterprises, as well as guiding the ISO14000 environment management system in economic development complexes. Based on the goal of eco-city construction, we are emphasizing the production of environmental protection model enterprises, guiding the construction of eco-model area in cities, and organizing urban afforestation/landscaping projects. In addition, projects such as construction of landmark buildings in historical towns, development of eco-friendly resort area, and renovation of castle ruins increase new attractions in Ningbo City.

At the same time, we are actively promoting international cooperation and are adopting high-level ecology protection and construction into our urban development. In the development of important areas, we invited famous experts in the area of urban development from overseas to develop high-level plans and landscape the urban housing environment. In the development of a certain area in the city, we invited a famous construction company. This landscape helps to enhance the image of Ningbo city.

We also requested the development and planning of another area in the city to an American company to build an urban residential town unifying the idea of ecology, resort, and sports to harmonize people and nature, making use of the natural environment and historical sources.

We are starting a municipal environment infrastructure constructing project and the environment integration in another area of the city with the support of international institutions such as World Bank. We are planning one of these projects, a wastewater treatment plant project (USD23 million, with capacity of 160,000 tons/day). The construction project of the wastewater treatment plant and piping network is under construction and the investment will be USD13 million (30,000 tons/day (1<sup>st</sup> phase construction), 60,000 tons/day (2<sup>nd</sup> phase construction)). Also, we have begun the environment integrated construction in another area of the city which includes the construction of a dam, river improvement, landscape area by introducing foreign capital of USD18 million. By these construction projects, the status of our city has

improved and the city's environmental protection activities have been a success as a model for other cities by introducing advanced concepts and methods through international cooperation and international exchange.

## **2. Development strategies for environmental protection for the next 5 years**

Now, the construction of an eco-city has become a major topic of the city's development for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. After our success as a "National Environment Model City," our city has become a new development target. The eco-city project has realized a healthy society and identified an effective method of development focusing on people. But, as the construction of eco-city is long and tough, we should make more effort.

At present, the government should start the building of five ecosystems related to the construction of eco-city. First, we must build the urban eco-economy system to utilize resources and decrease the burden on the environment. At the same time, we should formulate an eco-management system in stages and should develop laws and operation mechanisms to accommodate the market economy. Then, we should formulate a system to improve the local environment for sustainable development. In addition, by formulating the urban eco-housing system, we are going to build a unique urban ecological environment. At the same time, we should help boost morale to improve the citizen's awareness.

(1) The promotion of environmental education to facilitate citizens' participation in eco-society is the promise of the construction of eco-city. For the time being, as the primary stage of eco-city construction, we should carry out the project with policies at the high level. At the same time, we should propagate the importance of environmental protection in the planning stages to establish the concept of the construction. Above all, increasing the awareness of the government and leaders at different levels is essential. By these activities, the construction of eco-city will be carried out by the government's initiative, social responsibility, and participation of all citizens.

Next, we are going to advance the social knowledge and improve the awareness of environmental protection respecting basic and higher education. Governments at different levels have to include resource conservation and recycling, recycling-oriented economic system, the information about the eco-city construction, and laws in the program. It is important to make the most of the media to organize the place of discussion at different levels to propagate scientific information, as well as to award good activities and disclose illegal activities. At the same time, we will formulate eco-city construction activities by organization of activities such as environmental protection volunteers, field education concerning the ecological environment, establishment of environment surveillance system, application of information dissemination and disclosure system, strengthening of enforcement, and development of mechanisms for citizens' participation.

(2) Promotion of the recycling-oriented economic system and development of industries are the key to the construction of the eco-city. For this, we should promote and seek a recycling-oriented economic system in phases at three levels. At first, we should promote the production of environmentally-friendly products at the enterprise level and instruct company to obtain ISO14000 certification and eco-mark production. These systems have become widespread; some enterprises have become model companies. We are going to promote the recycling-oriented economic system continuously. Next, we are going to promote the construction of environment industrial complexes consisting of many companies in the economic zone in order to conduct the efficient use of resources and recycling to minimize environment pollution and formulate a complete industrial eco-system. Finally, we are going to introduce the recycling-oriented economic system in full scale and try a pilot project. Through the formulation of these three recycling-oriented economic systems, taking advantage of resources and technologies, we are going to promote development with optimization of industrial structure.

(3) To create the optimum housing environment through the adaptation of the citizens' opinion is the core of creating an eco-city construction. Culture is an important indicator to reflect the attraction and competitive power of the cities. The human oriented environment and spirit of the eco-culture will play a significant role in the final stage of the construction of an eco-city. At present, we are promoting a cultural tourism development project, adapting the concept of eco-culture, emphasizing the advertisement of advanced concepts and making appeals for the cities' cultural attraction. We think that these activities lead to the development of an urban ecosystem environment and creation of optimum housing environment.

Making the most of our blessed natural environment, we are going to conserve rivers, lakes, and harbors to promote the project focusing on water: "The city is in the water; the water is in the city." At the same time, we will tie this project together with mountains and tourism spots, and will construct comfortable housing space by creation of urban ecological green spaces under the slogan: "Mountains and waters blend with each other, and the city is in the natural environment".

(4) To develop an environmental market this is beneficial to governments and companies by environmental capital is the key in promoting eco-city construction. Firm guarantees will be brought about by accumulating funds from various routes, investing funds to construct environmental infrastructure, and converting environmental capital to economical capital in the market economy. The key to realizing this is to establish financial mechanisms and its standards. We are going to formulate an environmental price system, make environmental infrastructure into beneficial enterprises and attract capital for the environmental infrastructure. Now, we are conducting a trial about the construction of medical waste treatment plant. The mechanism is that a company invests in the construction of the facility and operation costs, hospitals pay the adequate treatment fee and profits increase. By formulation of these sound environment markets, we are looking forward to realization of the environment business in which companies and the government can get the profit.

(5) Pursuing of the eco-project and eliminating the gaps will be a key for creating an eco-city. We define recycling economy, which pursues the eco industry and using materials integrally and recycling, as the most important direction of local economical development. Moreover, we simultaneously put emphasis on gradual adjustment of industrial structure and conversion from "2-3-1" (secondary industry, tertiary industry, primary industry) to "3-2-1." We will pursue effective use of resources and build an ecological-industrial system, which utilizes human resources with the least influence to environment

In order to fundamentally improve the environment and raise the level of city development, we promote ecological environmental industry and strengthen environmental infrastructure under the slogan of "the clear air, beautiful water, greening, and purification." We must promote ecosystem protection and recovery of important areas and need to improve degraded land, and create ecosystem-efficient divisions and protection-of-nature divisions. In addition, we need to start new integral environmental maintenance of farms and villages, and identify solutions of specific pollution problems for each community and industry. We need the solution for immigration problems accompanying ecosystem construction, and immigration problems and poverty alleviation should be connected. We need to urge economically-suffering people to move from the mountainous areas or inconvenient areas to better areas. In addition to promoting the living standards, we believe we need to improve the ecological environment of farms and mountain areas.