

**Second Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network (Mayors' Segment)
17 October 2003
Weihai, People's Republic of China**

The Honourable Mr. Sadeque Hossain Khoka
Mayor (Cabinet Minister), Dhaka City Corporation, Bangladesh

Distinguished Mayors, participants, organisers, ladies and gentlemen:

I am really happy to be here in this Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network being held in Weihai, China. First of all, I want to say something about my city. You all know that Dhaka is the capital city of Bangladesh and its population is around 12 million. The city corporation population is over nine million.

Dhaka is now being considered as one of the ten mega-cities in the world. It will be the fourth mega-city by the year 2020. My city's facing many problems in providing housing, electricity, sewerage, transportation, etc. But solid waste management problem is worth mentioning.

Dhaka City generates about 5,000 metric tons of waste everyday. With our limited financial and manpower strain, it is very difficult for us to manage this huge waste although we are trying very hard. It may be mentioned here that, preparation of solid waste master plan is now being started in Dhaka City with the financial and technical help from JICA. I am hopeful that after the preparation of the Master Plan, we will be able to take appropriate steps as per the guidelines of the master plan.

It may be further mentioned here that we have already banned polyethylene bags from Bangladesh and diverted two-stroke engines in the city of Dhaka so that pollution can be controlled.

As you are aware, solid waste management pilot project has been started in one of the wards of my city, involving motivational activities and awareness among the local people with the financial and technical support of UNESCAP. If this pilot project brings success to the local people, I would like to spread it to the remaining wards in the city of Dhaka. I am optimistic that UNESCAP and UNDP will assist us in a positive and possible way. Further, I would like to inform you that Dhaka City Corporation has initiated a privatisation programme in managing solid waste in eight wards in the city during this year. This privatisation programme has been taken in accordance with the government policy. If it brings success and well-being to the city dwellers, other wards will be taken phase-wise.

Ladies and gentlemen, I believe that no development programme will be sustained without active participation of the local people. I am optimistic that Kitakyushu Initiative for Clean Environment being initiated in Rampura will bring positive results to Dhaka City. I am very much hopeful that the recommendations being adopted here in this meeting will bring positive results for the participating countries and neighbouring countries as well.

Thank you.