

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

The Honourable Mr. Muhlas Udin
Assistant Mayor, City of Surabaya (Indonesia)

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Mayor of Surabaya, I apologize that Mayor of Surabaya could not attend this meeting by himself, then, he asked me to convey his message in this conference.

Ladies and gentlemen,

"Partnership" is increasingly being used in the working plans of development programs and projects. The definition of partnership requires the involvement and cooperation of various stakeholders—governments, communities, and the private sectors, to work together to achieve the common goals of sustainable development.

Today we get together to re-emphasize the importance of partnership among us so, our efforts to improve our environment will be more efficient. Surabaya is committed to support and to implement partnership approaches in improving the environment. Our commitment is based on the needs of people of Surabaya to obtain a better environment. Surabaya is seeking partnerships with all friends from all parts of the world to share and to exchange our experience.

Our experience in Surabaya has shown that partnerships at the local levels, among local governments, NGOs, private companies, research institutions, and the community and international agencies have helped improve the living conditions of people. The types of partnerships bring together core local stakeholders for ensuring that the city is sustainably maintained. The promotion of localized and sustained partnerships bring apparent positive impacts in the form of enhanced and freer flow of information that result in better-informed decisions, more equitable resource distribution, and effective utilisation, and reduced local and regional conflicts.

Surabaya has tried to promote the involvement of the stakeholders in the urban infrastructure through partnerships. One example is our "Kampung Improvement Program" (KIP), which has brought benefits to our citizens. This program has been successfully adopted and implemented in other parts of the country.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are part of the problems, but we are also part of the solutions. Using the successful example of local partnerships, the experience of partnership between and among stakeholders is an appropriate tool for the global era, where partnerships and cooperation between and among stakeholders across boundaries have become more prominent and important. International and local partners are now able to share information and experiences on good solutions for social and economic issues that would benefit all stakeholders. Once again that on behalf of Surabaya, I deliver our commitment for urban environmental improvement because it is our demand and our need.

Thank you.