

**United Nations
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
and
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)**

**Fourth Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network
25-26 June 2007
Kitakyushu City, Japan**

Summary of Discussions

The “Fourth Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network” was organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the Kitakyushu City Government, from 25 to 26 June 2007 in Kitakyushu City, Japan. Following is the summary of the discussion in the Meeting.

Key Conclusions and Recommendations

1. The fast economic growth in the region has significantly contributed to mounting environmental as well as socio-economic pressures as experienced by a number of cities in the region. One of the key challenges posed by this experience is finding ways to ensure that an old paradigm of “develop first, clean up later” is replaced by an integrated approach that enables economic growth and environmental sustainability at the same time.
2. Despite mounting pressures, there has been substantive progress in improving urban environment in the participating local governments, which has been attained by adopting a holistic approach to manage urban environmental services, targeting multiple benefits that promotes livelihood and better living condition.
3. A number of innovative policy/programme options were presented by the participating local governments and their successful experiences were effectively exchanged. Further, lessons from ongoing activities, ideas on newly emerging policy/programme options, insights for improving/scaling up the efforts by participating cities were discussed throughout the Meeting. Those key findings were shared not only by local government representatives but also by national government representatives participated as observers in the Meeting through a special programme jointly arranged with the Asia Cooperation Dialogue.

Following are the key findings of the Meeting:

- The successful local initiatives presented in the Meeting demonstrated significant socio-economic benefits of local environmental interventions. These include, 1) revitalization of economic competitiveness resulting to employment and investment opportunities, 2) promotion of citizen's identity as well as city's long-term development strategies, 3) development of human and technological expertise for new business opportunities, 4) promotion of social equity, stakeholders participation and partnership, 5) health benefits, 6) livelihood opportunities and 7) improved local governance and transparencies in decision making process.
- A winning formula that can be deduced from the successful cases presented in the Meeting consists of following elements: strong political will and leadership by the mayor and the local government which is supported by mid-term and long-term strategies; involvement of and obtaining commitments by businesses and industries; and active involvement of citizens and NGOs throughout the designing, implementing and monitoring processes.
- Most cities with successful experiences have explicitly communicated their visions to be a sustainable eco-friendly city with various stakeholders through disseminating their lessons learnt and learning from successful practices in other cities; which altogether were regarded important success factors.
- As community-based approach was regarded a key for success, involvement of community-based organization and NGOs in designing, implementing and monitoring stages could dramatically reduce the overall cost with high environmental as well as social and economical returns. Awareness raising and environmental education for various levels and groups of stakeholders are also essential to enhance the sense of ownership as well as to encourage community-based leadership.
- There are a number of emerging cases which applied innovative financial modalities - such as public-private partnership (PPP) including build-operate-transfer (BOT) arrangement, climate change-related carbon finance such as Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and eco-money in local environmental initiatives - and acknowledged their potentials to significantly improve financial feasibility for implementing relevant projects. In particular, CDM was identified as a highly promising instrument to channel new investment to urban environment management services. Local governments were encouraged to review possibilities to formulate CDM-related projects through, inter alia, using a guidebook jointly developed by UNESCAP and Bionersis.

- As a number of successful practices in various fields from various sizes of cities in different countries were presented, some of them were assessed relatively easily replicable with appropriate technical assistance. In this context, the Meeting further emphasized that the facilitating role of an inter-city network, such as Kitakyushu Initiative Network, as well as seeking synergies with other international programmes in the relevant field in the region are vital. The Meeting also requested Kitakyushu Initiative Network Secretariat to further disseminate cases of such successful practices through the web-based database, with appropriate analysis, for an easy reference as well as to facilitate replication.
4. As an indispensable role of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network in providing an important platform for inter-city networking and cooperation was highlighted, the Meeting also underscored the importance of strengthening synergies with other international programmes in a relevant field ongoing in the region.
 5. The Meeting successfully garnered Commitments by 12 participating cities - which include a set of measurable goals addressing one or more areas of urban environmental issues alongside with social and economic challenges - to be achieved within a given timeframe, by 2010. In communicating these Commitments and targets, the participating local governments agreed to play a leading role in promoting environmental stewardship as well as to mutually support and cooperate among cities in the Asia-Pacific region. In response, UNESCAP and the Kitakyushu Initiative Network Secretariat, IGES, committed to make best efforts to monitor the progress and to fully recognize the achievements in future Kitakyushu Initiative Network events, as well as to mobilize and deliver necessary assistance for achieving the commitments, subject to available project funding.

Proceedings

Participants

6. The Meeting were attended by representatives from 20 local governments in the Asia-Pacific region, including Dalian, Weihai (China), Bogor, Surabaya (Indonesia), Ulsan (Korea), Sibul (Malaysia), Kathmandu (Nepal), Bago, Cebu, Puerto Princesa, San Fernando, La Union (Philippines), Bangkok, Nonthaburi (Thailand), Fukuoka, Kyoto, Minamata, Ube, Yokohama and Kitakyushu (Japan), as well as representatives from the private sector, local organizations and research institutes including Centre for Energy Environment Resources Development (CEERD), Bionersis (both from Thailand), Atsugi Nakacho Main Street Shopping District Promotion Union, Climate Change Experts Limited, J-Pec Co., Ltd., Kitakyushu International Techno-cooperative Association (KITA), Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women (KFAW) and Overseas Environment Cooperation Center (OECC) (all from Japan). Representatives from international organizations were

also present including ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC), International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, Japan (ICLEI), United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT). Participation of the representatives of the national governments, mainly those invited to the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) held back-to-back (26-27 June 2007) in Kitakyushu, was promoted through a special joint programme arranged on the second day of the Meeting (26 June). The full list of participants is attached as Appendix 1.

7. The sessions were facilitated by co-chairs, Mr Hideyuki Mori of IGES and Mr Masakazu Ichimura of UNESCAP. The special session was chaired by Professor Ryokichi Hirono, Seikei University of Japan.

Objectives

8. The Meeting was held to implement better urban environmental management and socio-economic development policies through providing an opportunity to learn from each other's experiences and to share innovative approaches. A number of presentations of best practices by local governments as well as other relevant approaches such as application of CDM and business models were introduced and discussed during the two-day meeting. The meeting also aimed to benchmark each city's environmental achievements so far and to identify the areas the Initiative could support and facilitate to further improve them for the remaining programme period.

Opening session

9. At the opening session, Mr. Kenji Kitahashi, Mayor of Kitakyushu City, welcomed the participants and expressed his expectation that this meeting contributes to share information and experiences of participating cities and eventually to improve each city's urban environment. Secondly, Mr. Ryutaro Yatsu, Councillor for Global Environment, Ministry of Environment, Japan, reviewed the first and second cycles of Kitakyushu Initiative in association with the climate change policy of Japanese Government and expressed his strong belief regarding importance of Kitakyushu Initiative's approach to deal with local and global environmental issues. Thirdly, Prof. Hironori Hamanaka, Chair of the Board of Directors, IGES, stressed the important roles of network cities to improve urban and local environment and promised continuous support by IGES together with UNESCAP. Following that, Mr. Rae Kwon Chung, Director, Environment and Sustainable Development Division, UNESCAP, introduced the new approach of "Green Growth" adopted at the Fifth Ministerial Conference for Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED5) in 2005 to cope with the challenge of increasing environmental stresses which already exceed the carrying capacity of Asian region. He stressed the role of both the central and local governments to lead Green Growth and expressed supporting role of UNESCAP to promote that.

10. The opening session was followed by an overview of Kitakyushu Initiative by Mr. Masakazu Ichimura, UNESCAP, who briefed the major achievements in the first cycle, 2000-2005, and the new focus in the second cycle, 2006-2010, such as applying Green Growth at local level, highlighting the win-win approach to promote environmental and socio-economic co-benefits and strengthening replication approach and analytical work to propose new development models based on successful practices by local governments. Then followed by Mr. Hideyuki Mori, Vice President of IGES, who explained the secretariat role of IGES and the time schedule of the second cycle. He also stressed the available supports by IGES to replicate successful practices and encouraged the member cities to take advantage of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network as well as other networks and funding schemes such as the Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED).
11. The Meeting organizers, UNESCAP and IGES presented certification of Awards to Mr. Bambang Dwi Hartono, Mayor of Surabaya City, Indonesia, and Mr. Somnuk Thanadechakul, Mayor of Nonthaburi City, Thailand, to recognize and commemorate their outstanding efforts and exemplary achievements with tangible improvements in urban environmental quality, through promoting innovative environmental initiatives which were also instrumental for social and economic development of local communities.

Successful Experiences – Urban Planning/Development Paradigm Approach

12. The first session of the meeting started off with presentations on Sustainable Urban Environmental Paradigms by Ulsan Metropolitan City on the “Establishment of Eco-polis Ulsan”, Yokohama City on “Promotion of Environmental and Local Economy in Yokohama”, Dalian City on “Environmental Improvement through International Cooperation” and Kitakyushu City on “Inter-City Environmental Cooperation and Capacity Development”. This session highlighted the successful cases of integrating local urban environmental actions into broader city development strategies.
13. Each cities achievement was outstanding. Ulsan City has improved the air quality from at around 0.06ppm of SO₂ concentration in 80s to less than 0.01ppm today by implementing clean fuel policies, introducing natural gas buses and concluding voluntary environmental management agreement with over 270 private companies. Ulsan has also improved the river water quality dramatically by dredging sludge from rivers and increasing sewerage treatment rate from at around 60% in the 90’s to over 90% today which was rewarded by the salmons returning to the river after 40-year disappearance.
14. Yokohama City presented a “Yokohama Model” which integrates environment and development of local economy by introducing a number of innovative policy/ programme options, such as a small business fund for innovative research and development for environmental management and introduction of eco-money to

give incentive to consumers to adopt environment-friendly lifestyle. These measures, which remarkably featured citizens' participation and involvement in local businesses, clearly showed a new model for a local government to simultaneously address environmental and socio-economic goals.

15. Dalian City also demonstrated a success story which established a clean and environment-friendly city by integrating its sectoral pollution control actions into broader city development strategies. Dalian City has overcome a serious pollution problem caused by the heavy industry during the 70's owing to a substantial support rendered by Kitakyushu City – a sister city – through bilateral cooperation. As a result, Dalian City was awarded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to be the first Global 500 city in China in 2001.
16. Kitakyushu City highlighted its experience in overcoming once-very-severe industrial pollution and maintaining good environmental management since then. The city has significantly contributed to build-up pollution control expertise as well as citizen's momentum for participatory environmental actions. The presentation also covered the city's strategy to gain support from the central government. Taking advantage of concentration of environmental technologies and related business skills and supports from citizens as well as the central government, the city has adopted a long-term development strategy centered around the research and development in environmental technologies, promotion of inter-city environmental cooperation targeting developing country cities in the Asia-Pacific region, and capacity building assistances for officers from developing countries which counts more than 4000 trainees from over 120 countries in the past 25 years.
17. The discussion highlighted those cities' common aspiration to be green and eco-cities taking best advantage of their past experience in overcoming the severe environmental pollution. This was echoed by Minamata City presenting its vision to be an environmental city based on their extremely expensive lessons caused by the notorious industrial pollution.
18. During the session, a serious question on the approach based on an old paradigm "develop first, clean up later" was raised. Participants were very much aware of that social costs in most cases outweigh mitigation costs, and stressed the importance of precautionary approach in managing urban environmental quality, using such instruments as Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) for urban development projects and other mechanisms which were available in many countries in the region.
19. With the emergence of environmental issues related to rapid urbanization and industrialization (economic growth), the above cases showed the significance of a concerted and consensual local economic and environmental development plan that promotes synergy in urban environment, where the advancement of one is not restricting the other. This was achieved by creating a holistic sustainable

economic, social and environmental system by raising an environmental conscious society, application of emission reduction technologies, strategic urban planning and promotion of public cooperation and partnership. The initiatives presented here have brought about enormous environmental improvements in air and water quality, ecological rehabilitation, climate change mitigation and aesthetic environmental improvements that lead to revitalization of economic competitiveness through attracting new investments and business ventures and creating employment opportunities. Furthermore, these improvements in the environment have become beneficial to the people's health and quality of life. The success of these initiatives has opened up local governments to international cooperation, opting to replicate their initiatives and extending technical and financial support.

Successful Experiences – Sectoral Approach

20. The second session showcased Innovative Local Initiatives in Sectoral Contexts such as waste water and sanitation, solid waste management and climate change and air quality management. The session started with presentations from Weihai City on "Public-Private Partnership for Urban Wastewater Treatment" and Sibuy City on "Urban Sanitation: Promoting Clean Public Latrines". It was followed by presentations from San Fernando City on "Integrated Solid Waste Management", Bago City on "Community-based 3R Approaches in Solid Waste Management" and Kathmandu City on "Integrated Solid Waste Management". And also local initiatives from Kyoto City on the "Usage of Recycled Cooking Oil as an Alternative Fuel for Transportation" and Bangkok City on the "Role of Bangkok Metropolitan Administration in Coping with Global Warming Problems" were presented. These presentations were supplemented by comments by Ube City and Fukuoka City, which respectively highlighted "Ube method", a framework for environmental management by various stakeholders and "Fukuoka Method", an effective landfill site management system.

(Sectoral Approach - water and sanitation)

21. The first part of the session discussed successful initiatives in managing local wastewater and sanitation. The presentations from two Kitakyushu Initiative Network cities, Weihai and Sibuy, demonstrated the opportunities facilitated from partnerships and cooperation between local governments, private entities, local and international organizations and local communities. Weihai City's experience underscores the effectiveness of a public-private partnership through build-operate-transfer (BOT) arrangement of sewage treatment plants implemented together with an appropriate tariff system that resulted in over 80% of sewage treatment rate today. This achievement implies health benefits to the city dwellers and has raised the level of awareness towards protection of the environment as well as a sense of sharing responsibilities.

22. In Sibu City, urban sanitary condition has been improved through upgrading urban facilities such as public latrines which was supported by a rigorous environmental awareness campaign. The initiative was supported by local and international organizations, private entities and other major local actors and contributed to health improvement and promotion of local tourism. The most crucial impact regarded was the cultivation of toilet culture within communities.

(Sectoral Approach – solid waste management)

23. The second part of the session introduced solid waste management initiatives from three cities, namely San Fernando, Bago and Kathmandu. Utilization of local technology or resources through the Clay Liner technology of San Fernando's landfill was one of the innovative characteristics of the solid waste management program. This implies the ingenuity and ability of a local government to adopt or modify technological measures that suits to local needs and to utilize local resources without requiring huge financial investments.

24. The same approach was seen in Bago City where the solid waste management strategies were adopted from successful cases of Nonthaburi, Thailand, Surabaya, Indonesia, Kitakyushu and other cities in Japan. These strategies, however, were incorporated and modified to conform to the local situation of Bago City where it primarily focused on strengthening market strategies of 3R activities and enhance community and NGOs participation. Both San Fernando and Bago City opted for socio-economic aspect in their solid waste management program where 3R strategies were used to generate income and promote livelihood opportunities, health protection and safety for the marginalized and informal groups affiliated with solid waste management activities.

25. Kathmandu placed emphasis on improving solid waste collection by applying economic interventions such as user fees. This intervention is gradually showing improvements on the behaviour of the people in dealing with solid waste and has showed interest in conducting 3R activities. At present, the city has planned to strengthen the solid waste initiative by amending the provisions of current solid waste management policy.

(Sectoral Approach – transportation, air quality and climate change)

26. The third part of the Session consisted of presentations addressing transportation and air quality management and climate change mitigation. Kyoto City presented an innovative approach in promoting the use of an alternative fuel, biodiesel, made from used cooking oil to promote resource recycling and to address air pollution and climate change. This initiative explicitly demonstrates the magnitude of environmental and socio-economic. The conversion/ transformation of used cooking oil into biodiesel resulted in significant reduction of waste, greenhouse gas and pollutant emissions. At social level, the initiative has improved the awareness level of the people on environmental issues and has

encouraged them to participate in and support the activity.

27. Bangkok on the other hand, pursues a campaign on climate change by initiating a "15-minute Lights Out" campaign that has achieved reduction of 143 tons of carbon dioxide emission and 530 megawatts of energy saving. This initiative implies significant economic gains from energy savings including global and local environmental benefits. The positive manifestation of the activity has brought Bangkok Metropolitan Administration to continue with its effort on climate change mitigation.

Role of International Support in Promoting Local Initiatives

28. The Role of International Support in Promoting Local Initiatives was the theme of the third session. Kitakyushu Initiative demonstration projects from Nonthaburi Municipality on "Solid Waste Management and its Subsequent Replication" and Cebu City's "Progress in the Implementation of Kitakyushu Initiative Demonstration Project" were presented together with ICLEI-UNESCAP Pilot Study in Puerto Princesa City on "Trike Project". Lastly, support mechanisms from ASEAN working group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities were also introduced.
29. Nonthaburi Municipality presented an innovative strategy on solid waste management that is based on a sound policy intervention promoting 3R activities, provision of market opportunities for recycling and composting and collective action of local communities, private entities, NGOs and the local government. Significant decrease in solid waste generation was achieved due to intensive application/adoption of 3R approach. Waste segregation is now widely practiced at individual households and school premises. People gained opportunities to earn extra income and to develop other means of livelihood through collection and selling of recyclable wastes. The initiative has also raised the awareness level of people and gained remarkable support by them. The strong political support of the Nonthaburi Municipality and the assistance from UNESCAP and IGES through the Kitakyushu Initiative demonstration project has greatly influenced the success of this initiative. This partnership has also been instrumental in promoting the replication of this initiative in other cities in the Asia-Pacific region through inter-city contacts, exchanges, study tours and seminars.
30. Similarly, Kitakyushu Initiative demonstration project has also supported Cebu City in wastewater management through construction of sewage treatment plants. The facility's design has been developed through an interaction between local engineers and international experts dispatched by Kitakyushu City and it has gradually brought about improvements on the river water quality and sanitation condition of the communities. Based on this success, Cebu City's long-term plan envisages the expansion of the wastewater treatment to cover other areas in order to sustain health benefits and to further improve the river water quality. It also seeks to adopt a simplified prototype to reduce costs of civil works in

expanding the facility, where further possibilities of inter-city technical cooperation could be explored.

31. The presentation by Puerto Princesa City illustrated how an innovative policy option nurtured through Kitakyushu Initiative's support can be scaled up and creates a strong impact towards improving the urban environment. The City's Trike Project commenced from the climate change study jointly initiated by ICLEI and UNESCAP under the umbrella of the Kitakyushu Initiative, focusing on development of "Vehicular Emission Reduction Strategy". Based on the recommendations of the study, the City government of Puerto Princesa with the support of United States-Asia Environmental Partnership and the Asian Development Bank proposed a full-scale air quality management (AQM) project to address the traffic, climate change and air pollution problems in the City. The Trike Project required a rest day period for tricycle drivers to maintain the traffic flow in the City and maintenance of engine to improve the combustion efficiency. The project also established a multi-purpose fund for tricycle drivers that was utilized to purchase efficient engines, to support trainings, workshops and livelihood investment, thereby to support their earnings during the rest day period. Policy interventions through the local Clean Air Act in Puerto Princesa further supported the project. It was reported that the air and noise pollution in the city improved by 20%, traffic flow by 14% and increased the income of tricycle drivers and operators by 50%.
32. Another advocate for local environmental initiatives was presented by the ASEAN Working Group for Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC). In this session, the presentation outlined the support mechanisms for local cities in Asian countries. Activities and programmes on clean air, water and land are promoted by the working group and those successful case studies are collected and disseminated. In order to incorporate and broaden environmental issues beyond air, water and land, ASEAN intends to move AWGESC to ASEAN Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Cities. Planned activities of this new initiative include setting up of environmental indicators, introduction of awards, development of web based portal sites and linking of external organizations for financial assistance. As it was addressed that the establishment of AWGESC was modelled after the Kitakyushu Initiative, promotion of further cooperation and synergy between AWGESC and KI is rational and promising.
33. The Meeting reaffirmed the important role of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network in terms of provision of an inter-city networking platform. However, the participants also requested to strengthen synergies with other international programmes in the relevant field to enhance effectiveness in gaining more practical lessons on the ground. In addition to AWGESC, such relevant programmes may include the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), a Sustainable Cities Programme in Asia by United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN HABITAT), and an Environmentally Sustainable Transport for Asian Cities programme by United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD); all of

which also expressed their readiness to synergize with Kitakyushu Initiative.

34. The Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women (KFAW) highlighted the importance of involvement of women in the local actions. With ever increasing recognition that environmental issues have different impacts on men and women, as illustrated in some of the presentations by the participating local governments, it was suggested that Kitakyushu Initiative should further strengthen its coverage of issues related to the integration of gender perspectives in promoting environmental and socio-economic co-benefits.

Innovative and Emerging Measures to Promote Local Initiatives

35. The special session on the second day focused on the innovative and emerging measures to promote local initiatives, including in particular new financial and business opportunities. Participants from international organizations, private companies and local governments provided substantive information on alternative means for promoting urban environmental initiatives. The highlight of the session was the presentations on "Linking Urban Environmental Management with Innovative Finance through CDM" by OECC, "Landfill Gas to Energy Project and CDM in Asia and the Pacific Region" from Bionersis Company, "Innovative Measures Applied for the Implementation of Solid Waste Management Policies" by Surabaya City, Bogor City for the "Sustainable Public Transportation", "Partnership Enhancing Synergies in Urban Air Quality and the Kyoto Mechanism" by CEERD and lastly "Creating an Earth Friendly Town" by Atsugi Nakacho main street shopping district.
36. The session started with OECC's presentation on the financial opportunities from Clean Development Mechanism in support for the implementation of urban environmental initiatives. The basic structure of CDM was introduced in the presentation where it channelled the potential involvement of local governments in new financial opportunities involved in CDM activities. As an example, it was presented that CDM has been adopted by several cities in the Asia-Pacific as a support for solid waste management programmes particularly for landfill gas projects. It was also noted that a number of local governments in Japan have supported CDM related activities and the given opportunity could be utilized by cities in developing countries for possible financial support for their initiatives.
37. Similarly, a French company, Bionersis, presented their experiences in supporting development of several landfill gas capturing projects in Southeast Asian cities where they assisted local government in turning landfill gasses into revenues, which is now compiled in a joint Bionersis – UNESCAP guidebook. The presentation clearly highlighted the co-benefits of this type of projects, such as reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution and odour, promotion of health, safety and livelihood opportunities and enhancement of local property value.

38. Centre for Energy Environment Resources Development (CEERD), Thailand presented an Energy Integration into Urban Planning project implemented in three cities from Philippines, Lao PDR and Vietnam, which aimed at incorporating energy and environmental concerns in city's development planning. The key outcomes of this project were expected to include the enhancement of the opportunity of implementing waste-to-energy projects in the region.
39. Two cities from Indonesia, Surabaya and Bogor, presented their current initiatives and the potential application of CDM. In Surabaya, solid waste management features community participation in waste segregation, composting and recycling, and these activities have provided the people with opportunities for livelihood development. In the City's mid-term development plan, it seeks to achieve significant reduction of waste generation by strengthening the current 3R strategy, and hopefully adopting CDM on the landfill gas project with the support by Kitakyushu City and the Japanese government. On the other hand, Bogor City has already established activities related to local transport system and climate change protection campaign. In order to strengthen these programmes, it has planned to adopt emerging innovative strategies such as bus-rapid-transit utilizing biodiesel from used cooking oil. Currently, Bogor has put up an initial biodiesel processing plant with a support by several international organizations and local cities in Japan. The realization of this project is expected to achieve an improvement of environmental quality as well as to uplift the living condition of the citizens.
40. Two innovative strategies were also presented by Japan. First, J-pec Co., Ltd., which has long been involved in techno-cooperation for composting, has expanded the approach by strengthening the techniques involved in recycling and composting. The approach was further developed through its integration as a social enterprise allowing people to benefit from it by means of livelihood and income generation. Then, Atsugi Nakacho, Japan, a shopping district promotion union introduced an advanced model of eco-money, which provides a card linked to other services such as garbage collection and composting. This system has encouraged recycling actions by communities through the provision of incentives.
41. After reviewed the above spearhead cases, the Meeting acknowledged their potentials for significantly improving financial feasibility of urban environmental actions. In particular, CDM was identified as a highly promising instrument to channel new investment to urban environment management services. The local governments were encouraged to review possibilities of formulating CDM-related projects through, inter alia, using the guidebook jointly developed by UNESCAP and Bionersis.

Commitments by Cities to Replicate/Scale-up Their Environmental Actions

42. The Meeting requested each of the participating local governments to establish and communicate a specific and achievable "Commitment", including a set of measurable goals addressing one or more areas of urban environmental issues

alongside with social and economic challenges, to be achieved within a given timeframe (by 2010). In response to this request, Commitments were communicated by 12 participating cities, namely Bangkok, Bago, Cebu, Kathmandu, Kitakyushu, Nonthaburi, Puerto Princesa, San Fernando, Sibuyan, Surabaya, Weihai and Ulsan. These Commitments included a number of quantifiable targets, particularly in the fields of solid waste management (11), reducing water pollution (3), air quality improvement (2), climate change mitigation (1), environmental awareness raising (1) and enhancement in inter-city environmental cooperation (1). In communicating these commitments and targets, the participating local governments agreed to play a leading role in promoting environmental stewardship as well as to mutually support and cooperate in the Asia-Pacific region. The Commitments made by 12 cities are attached as Appendix 3.

43. Together with the Commitments, the cities were requested to list up the type of assistances they require and expect from the international community to help achieving their targets. Based on this survey, the areas where the Kitakyushu Initiative is expected to provide assistance and services for the remaining program period include: facilitating regular monitoring of the commitments made by cities; improving access to relevant technical information; capacity building and training of community leaders and particular interest groups; arranging site visits and assessments by experts; organizing information and technology sharing/transfer activities; documentation of success stories; dissemination of information on applicable grants and funding institutions; and provision of seed finance for equipment and campaigning. In response, UNESCAP and the Kitakyushu Initiative Network Secretariat, IGES, committed to make best efforts to deliver such assistance and services subject to available financial resources.

Closing Session

44. The Meeting was closed by remarks by the co-chairs. The participants expressed their appreciation to the local host, the City of Kitakyushu, for the warm hospitality as well as the support for the smooth organization of the Meeting.

Study Tour

45. A study tour to Kitakyushu Eco-Town was organized. The participants visited the Kitakyushu Eco-Town where the different processes of waste recycling were introduced.