

Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment
Local Initiatives Addressing Environmental and Socio-economic Co-Benefits
A Pre-event Workshop for the Better Air Quality Conference
Inna Garuda Mendut Room, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
December 12, 2006

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

First adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED 2000) held in Kitakyushu, Japan in September 2000, the **Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment** programme has a mandate to achieve tangible progress in environmental quality in urban areas in Asia and the Pacific. To achieve this goal, activities have been conducted from 2000 to 2005 to promote local initiatives to control air and water pollution and minimise waste. These activities are channelled through the Kitakyushu Initiative Network, a network of sixty-one cities from eighteen countries in the Asia-Pacific region to improve capacity in environmental management. This is conducted through training seminars and programmes, demonstration projects, city-to-city cooperation and information dissemination through various media. The programme was recognised as a Type I Initiative in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in September 2002.

Following a shift in focus to the Green Growth approach highlighted by MCED 2005 as an innovative and powerful strategy for reconciling the two potentially incompatible Millennium Development Goals: economic growth to alleviate poverty, and environmental sustainability, the second cycle of the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment (2005-2010) will be instrumental in enhancing the capacity of local governments in Asia and the Pacific through the promotion and application of integrated win-win approaches in urban environmental management and the promotion of socio-economic livelihood at the local level.

Objectives

The “Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment: “Local Initiatives Addressing Environmental and Socio-economic Co-benefits” will be held on 12 December 2006. The workshop will be organized as a pre-event to the 2006 Better Air Quality Conference (BAQ), organized by the Clean Air Initiatives for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia) together with the Indonesian Ministry of Environment, Special Region of Yogyakarta and the City Government of Yogyakarta, which will be held in the City of Yogyakarta, Indonesia from 13-15 December 2006.

About BAQ:

Better Air Quality (BAQ) conference is an international event that highlights the most relevant issues, practices and groundbreaking activities on air quality management in the whole Asian region. Since 1999, BAQ workshops have been successful in giving hundreds of policy makers from across the region the opportunity to explore new ways to improve and reduce air pollution in their respective cities and countries. It aims to exhibit the best practices on air quality management in the Asian region putting emphasis on the initiatives taken by non-profit organizations and private sector firms. It also facilitates policy dialogues and provide strategic knowledge platform for sharing best practices and disseminating different policy instruments, tools and technologies among Asian countries.

The Kitakyushu Initiative pre-event on 12 December will be a one-day workshop and will include the participation of representatives from relevant local governments, private sector, NGOs and air quality management practitioners from Asia-Pacific region to discuss local initiatives on air quality management with particular focus on the environment and socio-economic benefits derived from the local experiences. Concrete examples may include:

- Emission reduction strategies for industrial and transport sector;
- Adoption of local policies based on the latest air quality control measures;
- Energy efficiency control measures;
- Formulation of clean development mechanism (CDM) projects;
- Air quality management modeling.

The objectives of this workshop are to strengthen the capacity of local governments in integrating win-win approach to urban environmental management and socio-economic development and to promote the exchange of information and experiences around the cities in Asia Pacific region concerning the multiple benefits of AQM initiatives adopted by local governments.

Expected Outcomes

Expected outcomes from the workshop include the following:

1. Present case studies related to environmental and socio-economic co-benefits experienced with air quality management initiatives of local governments in the region;
2. To discuss strategies in enhancing opportunities of multiple benefits of local air quality management initiatives, together with the requirements for national policy support.
3. Develop possible demonstration projects in the region

Date and Venue

Date: December 12, 2006

Venue: Inna Garuda Mendut room

Topic

Local level initiatives that address environmental and socio-economic co-benefits.

Participants

Participants will include local governmental officials, private sector, NGOs, and practitioners who have experience in, or are planning, local air quality management projects; approximately 30 participants in total. Speakers and selected participants will be sponsored by the UNESCAP and the BAQ organizing committee.

Organizers

The workshop will be organised by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), in cooperation with the Better Air Quality secretariat.

Language

The workshop will be held in English.

Inquiries

We highly encourage and welcome your expression of interest in participating and presenting a paper at this event. Please send relevant inquiries and abstracts by email or fax to UN ESCAP, as follows:

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