

**United Nations  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

**Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment  
Local Initiatives Addressing Environmental and Socio-economic Co-Benefits  
A Pre-session Workshop for Better Air Quality (BAQ) 2006 Conference  
December 12, 2006  
Yogyakarta, Indonesia**

### **Summary of Discussions**

The “Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment: Local Initiatives Addressing Environmental and Socio-economic Co-benefits”, a pre-event for the Better Air Quality Conference, organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in cooperation with the Better Air Quality Secretariat, was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 12 December 2006 at the Inna Garuda Hotel. The following is the summary of the workshop proceedings.

1. The Workshop included the participation of representatives from local governments in the Asia-Pacific region, including: Kitakyushu (Japan), Seoul (Republic of Korea), Surabaya (Indonesia), Puerto Princesa (Philippines) and Weihai (China). Representatives from national governments, research institutes and international organisations were present, including Ministry of Environment (Bangladesh), Ministry of Environment (Indonesia), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Philippines), Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (Japan), Transport Development Strategy Institute (Vietnam), Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center (Japan), Asian Institute of Technology, and Asian Development Bank. Additional documentation was submitted by the Bagio City (Philippines) and Khan Uul District, Ulaanbaatar City (Mongolia), and shared by the participants.
2. The workshop was held to strengthen the capacity of the 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. The workshop brought together relevant local governments and initiatives from Asia-Pacific region to discuss environmental and socio-economic co-benefits derived from local initiatives on air quality management.
3. At the opening session, Mr. Masakazu Ichimura of UNESCAP gave a brief description on roles of UNESCAP in promoting sustainable economic and social development in Asia-Pacific region and background of the Kitakyushu Initiative. The keynote presentation was also delivered by Mr. Ichimura wherein the concept of environmental and socio-economic co-benefits was explained and its significance in meeting the multiple challenges of the local government in the Asia-Pacific region to address environmental sustainability, poverty alleviation and other social problems on the limited resources base.
4. The opening session was followed by the introduction of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network activities by Mr. Kenichi Shimohara of IGES. The presentation

gave an overview of the wide-range of activities such as the replication of good practices through demonstration projects, collection and analysis of successful policies and practices and the development of collaborative mechanisms through the Kitakyushu Initiative Network.

5. In “Session I: Paradigm Shift Towards Sustainable Urban Development”, presentations were made by Kon-kuk University (Republic of Korea) on the Cheong Gye Cheon Restoration in Seoul Korea and the Environmental Bureau of Kitakyushu City (Japan) on the Kitakyushu’s Development Strategy based on its Experience in Environmental Pollution Control.
6. This session highlighted the successful cases in integrating the local actions for improving environmental quality into broader development agenda of the cities, such as revitalization of economic competitiveness of the city, construction of disaster-prone urban structure, shift from rapid motorization to pro-active and safe human mobility and the city’s long-term industrial development strategies to maintain local economic vitality. A broad range of environmental co-benefits, such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, ecological rehabilitation and local air pollution control in particular, were presented.
7. In “Session II: Accelerating Co-benefits in Transport Management and Air Pollution Control”, presentations were made by the Surabaya City Government (Indonesia) on the Revision of Local Transportation to Improve Air Quality in Surabaya Indonesia and the Asian Development Bank on Puerto Princesa City’s Trike Project. Information on the programme of Bagio City, Philippines was also distributed.
8. This session addressed the following issues: collaboration and correlation of transport and air quality management strategies, socio-economic and environmental co-benefits derived from mixed AQM interventions, significance of public awareness and participation. Such local initiatives have been effective through the combined interventions such as technical, suasive and infrastructure and policy related mechanisms. The presentations also emphasized the significance of a collective participation and actions among the key stakeholders to maximize economic opportunities and generate public acceptance.
9. In “Session III: Integrated Air Quality Management Initiatives” and “Session IV: Energy Efficiency and Climate Change”, presentations from Weihai (China) was made by the Weihai Environmental Protection Agency on the Air Quality Management in Weihai China, and from Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center (Japan) was delivered addressing the Co-benefits of Climate Change, absed on the outcome of the recent Asia Pacific Seminar on Climate Change. The information on the Kitakyushu Initiative Demonstration Project on Energy Saving in the public building, recently conducted by Khan-Uul District, Ulaanbaatar City, Mongolia Project, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia with support from UNESCAP, was also presented.
10. This session highlighted the significant potential of energy-related programmes for achieving environmental and socio-economic co-benefits. however; the latter was not measured quantitatively. The participants recognized the

significance of measuring benefits in order to obtain the support of stakeholders and promote it on local development agenda. Although co-benefit approach significantly enhances the financial feasibilities of local initiatives, importance of financial appropriation through subsidies, in particular for the project initiation phase, was underscored.

11. Throughout the thematic sessions as well as the general discussion, the major findings of the workshops has been summarized as follows;
  - a. The local initiatives presented and discussions in the workshop clearly states that cities in Asia Pacific are moving towards the achievement of a balanced and sustainable urban environmental management through harmonization of economic development and environmental protection. In so doing, local initiatives are progressively targeting multiple benefits promoting economic vitality and stimulating improvement in urban living.
  - b. The workshop facilitated the identification of a number of socio-economic co-benefits, which in the past had merely been recognized as by-products of urban environmental projects. Major co-benefits, identified and confirmed through the workshop included income generation, creation of new employment, promotion of new business opportunities, energy savings, health savings, road safety among others, all of these contribute to improve urban living. More broadly, revitalization of economic competitiveness of the city; promotion of citizen's identity as well as the city's long-term development strategies; development of human and technological expertise for new business opportunities; promotion of social equity, stakeholder participation and partnership; bettering the local governance and transparencies in decision making process; etc. were all stated as important soci-economic benefits demonstrated.
  - c. It was emphasized that such co-benefits, if explicitly demonstrated, will facilitate enhancing political profile and priorities of environmental projects, as well as promoting the public support for such projects. The magnitude of co-benefits based on the local initiatives presented was determined to be critical for designing and planning local policies and integrating it to local development agenda. However, some benefits, such that in the aspect of socio-economic were not clearly measured. Benchmarking of benefits was recognized as one critical factor in demonstrating the effectiveness of these initiatives and to be further applied and promoted to other urban environmental issues.
  - d. Environmental benefits demonstrated included pollution abatement, energy saving, GHG and criteria pollutants emission reduction, restoration of urban green spaces and biodiversity conservation. The connection between local urban environmental problems such as air pollution on the global environmental issues like climate change mitigation and adaptation. It states the relevance of integrating local

and global issues together rather than handling it individually to maximize the benefits.

- e. It was emphasized that pro-active initiatives targeting environment and socio-economic co-benefits may compensate lavish financial support, by bringing about explicit economic return through the project implementation, granting the access to the new and innovative financial resources that were not targeting at the local environmental actions, etc. In particular, consideration of urban environmental management associated with adoption of clean development mechanisms was also proposed as a possible channel in order to achieve environmental and socio-economic co-benefits. It was, however, emphasized that financial support schemes are still needed in particular at the initial investment phase. Policy interventions are also needed to mainstream such initiatives.
- f. While it is known that co-benefit approach is most readily applicable to solid waste management, the workshop revealed that the approach is highly promising to the air quality management / pollution control sector. Local transportation and energy efficiency management are the areas for immediate action that could derive mounting environmental benefits as well as socio-economic benefits.
- g. The significance of a collective actions/effort from major stakeholders and public was recognized as an effective instrument to promote cooperation and initiate change. The prospect of replicating successful initiatives in other cities in Asia Pacific relies on the ability of the local governments to promote change thoroughly and through a strong political will.
- h. In order to facilitate the replication of the successful initiatives, importance of developing the "business models" was highlighted. The workshop urged the Secretariat of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network to continue collecting the successful cases of co-benefit approach, develop several types of "business models" for wider and easier replication, and disseminate through the Network.

FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY  
12 December 2006

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