

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
City of Kitakyushu, Japan
Co-organizer: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan

Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment
Fifth Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network
10-11 February 2010, Kitakyushu, Japan

Concept Note (draft)

1. Background

In September 2000, the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment was adopted at the 4th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED 2000) held in Kitakyushu, Japan, as a mechanism to improve urban environment and human health through promoting environmental actions at the local level. Since then, a range of activities – from organisation of thematic seminars, study tours and workshops to implementation of demonstration projects – was carried out under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the secretariat coordination by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) Kitakyushu Office with primary funding support from the government of Japan and Kitakyushu City. The programme's practical and focused activities during the first five years were well recognised and supported by the ministers and the action plan for the second cycle from 2005 to 2010 was endorsed during the MCED 2005.

The second cycle of the Kitakyushu Initiative focused on the concept of Green Growth highlighted by the MCED 2005 as a reconciling approach for economic growth, poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability. In line with that, the focus of Kitakyushu Initiative activities has shifted from not only the collection and sharing of good practices but also replication of them to demonstrate actual environmental improvement on the ground. For that purpose, the Kitakyushu Initiative secretariat has organised a number of workshops and study tours to promote and facilitate actual replication of good practices by involving representatives of not only local governments but also NGOs and community groups, provincial and national governments and bilateral and international organisations. As a result, actual replication of good practices has been realised in some cities and some replication mechanisms were identified and being promoted for further application. Reflecting that, the number of cities participated in the Kitakyushu Initiative Network has increased from 20 cities from 13 countries at the beginning in 2001 to 62 from 18 countries in 2005 and more than 150 in 2009.

After the ten-year long operations, the Kitakyushu Initiative is closing in 2010 and the organisers and supporters of the programme intend to share the lessons learned and discuss the way forward with the representatives from the core network member cities and related organisations.

2. Objectives

Objectives of the 5th Kitakyushu Initiative Network Meeting include:

- Share the main outputs of the Kitakyushu Initiative activities, including actual environmental improvement achieved by the member cities and the results of the environmental commitments expressed by 12 cities during the 4th Kitakyushu Initiative Network Meeting in June 2007;
- Share the main outcomes of the Kitakyushu Initiative activities, including turning out of prominent environmental leading cities from the members and development and

- identification of replication models of good practices;
- Evaluate the roles and impacts of the Kitakyushu Initiative programme, as well as inter-city networks in general, and discuss the applicability of replication models and mechanisms identified through the Kitakyushu Initiative activities; and
- Discuss the messages for the MCED 2010 derived from the Kitakyushu Initiative activities, including the recommendations for setting up a new framework for a new inter-city network and announcement of post-KI activities in association with the Clean Asia Initiative programme under the Ministry of Environment, Japan.

3. Expected Outputs

Following outputs are expected after concluding the meeting:

- Recognition of the main outputs, as well as the outcomes, of the Kitakyushu Initiative programme, especially the environmental improvement achieved by the member cities and the mechanisms developed and identified to replicate them;
- Support by the member cities for application of replication models of good practices in each city and country;
- Endorsement of the recommendations for the MCED 2010, including the evaluation of the Kitakyushu Initiative programme and setting up of a new framework for a new inter-city network based on that; and
- Announcement of post-KI activities.

4. Dates & Venue

10-11 February 2010, Rihga Royal Hotel, Kitakyushu, Japan

5. Organisers

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
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6. Participants

Participants may include:

- Local governments: Mayors or top representatives and experts;
- National governments: Representatives from national ministries, agencies and institutes;
- International organisations: Representatives from international organisations; and
- Others: Representatives from academia, media and general public.

7. Language

The meeting will be conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation, except some sessions held in the sub-conference room on day 1. All documents will be in English.

8. Related Event

JICA Kyushu organises an International Symposium on the Development of Low Carbon Society in Asia at the Rihga Royal Hotel on 12 February 2010 for the general public.

■ Contact

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