

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

Statement from The Honourable Mr. Samak Sundaravej
Governor of Bangkok (Thailand)

Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) is the local authority being responsible for, and rehabilitate natural resources and environment for sustainable utilization, to ensure that economic development proceeds along with a well-balanced ecological system and an enhancement of people's quality of life. The BMA has set out a policy and strategic framework to manage natural resources and environment by sharing the same objectives with those of the National Economic and Social Development Plan regarding the regulation of urban growth and development, the improvement of the quality of life and the environment, and provision of sufficient social services for the less fortunate.

The concept of Healthy Cities Project is adopted in the Bangkok developing master plan and initiated the activities since 1998 in order to improve the living of Bangkok people in good physical, economic, social, health and mental. BMA's initiative is the prototype to other provinces in Thailand and BMA facilitate them to initiate their activities.

BMA has also worked out an agenda – AGENDA 21 – for what has to be done in the next 20 years in order to improve the city, the environment and the quality of life for the Bangkok people. The Bangkok Agenda is presented in 10 chapters, which is a long-term plan serving as the umbrella for all plans and activities in BMA, what must be done if Bangkok shall improve, the ten chapters are as follow :

1. The strategy for a sustainable Bangkok as a safe city with high quality of living standard
2. We will lead urban economy toward sustainability
3. We will use urban planning to improve quality of life
4. We will reorganize traffic and Transport to raise quality of air and neighborhoods
5. We will invest in green urban areas
6. We will make Bangkok a clean city
7. We will focus on good governance in BMA to meet the challenges of the future
8. We will secure easy access in formation in BMA
9. We will use human resources as a strategic tool in social and economic development
10. We will involve the citizens in the development of a better Bangkok

Bangkok used to be one of the cities facing the air pollution at a critical level. In response, BMA has set up the measures to mitigate the air pollution such as setting up checkpoints for vehicles emitting black smoke in collaboration with the traffic police and the officers from Land Transport Department, air quality monitoring by monitoring station and mobile unit, setting up the campaign activities on how to reduce emission from vehicles and to raise public awareness in reducing air pollution, increasing green areas, preparing the manual for purchasing green vehicles as well as setting up the engine inspection and tune-up services. Other measures include the improvement of the footpaths, planting trees along the roadside to mitigate the impact of air pollution, and regular roads clean up.

Further, BMA has also set up the measures to control solid and hazardous waste such as the improvements of waste collection, waste disposal and public participation such as Good Looking Home Front Project to foster people's sense of responsibility on their own homes, society and environment, Waste Minimization Project to decrease the amount of solid waste by urging people to reduce and separate wastes before disposal, encouragement on "Waste Minimization" is carried out by involving public participation by "Thinking over and Saving Resources" and The Garbage Exchanging for Eggs Project to collect recyclable materials, The Reprocessing Fresh Garbage into Odorless Garbage Project to promote the using of effective microorganism (EM) changing fresh garbage into fertilizer, together with the measures to control water pollution such as the implementation of central waste water treatment projects, improvement of the community waste water treatment plants, canal water improvements and public participation.

Additionally, BMA has established the project such as and Rattanakosin Project is situated in the old city center to initiate car – free street not only for environmental benefits but also for tourism, Bang Khunthien Natural Center Project to introduce new natural center of mangrove with camping area and observation deck in the southeastern area of Bangkok and to preserve coastal forest and provide clean air for the public.

As a result of our responses, environment quality in Bangkok areas has demonstrated improvements. The result proves that these implemented measures have been satisfactorily successful.

In terms of the future preventive and corrective measures of the BMA, we are aiming to prevent, correct and rehabilitate the environment quality in Bangkok, together with developing measures to reduce and eliminate pollution from its sources along with raising public awareness in environment quality management.

In this opportunity, I would like to mention that the achievement on environmental quality management in Bangkok does not rely on the work of the BMA alone but also the cooperation among the public and related agencies. Therefore, gaining public participation is one of vital keys to attain our goal.