

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

Mr. Nigel Paul C. Villarete
City Planning and Development Coordinator, Cebu (Philippines)

PROFILE OF CEBU CITY

Cebu City is the oldest city in the Philippines. From Zebu, a small fishing village and trading port in 1521, Cebu has now grown into a highly urbanized metropolitan area where it still maintains its stature as the center of trade and commerce in the Southern Philippines since the Spanish Colonial times.

Cebu City, the capital city of Cebu province, is located in the central part of the Philippines, Cebu City's total land area of 326.10 square kilometers serves as home to 718,821 Cebuanos. As the center of trade and commerce and international tourism, Cebu is accessible from all places by air and sea transport.

Cebu City is the center of education in the Visayas and Mindanao regions. It has educational and religious institutions located in its urban center. Currently growing at an annual growth rate of 1.65 %, the city is projected to grow in a declining rate in the coming years. While the projected growth rate is decreasing, education still plays the lead role in producing highly desired labor force to sustain growth.

Cebu City is rich in cultural heritage and history being the cradle of Christianity in Asia. Historic Cebu can be gleaned through the imposing edifice of the Castillan Fort San Pedro. Its most famous historical landmark is the Magellan's cross, considered the first symbol of Christianity in the Far East. The Basilica Minore del Santo Niño, the only basilica in the Far East is another historical land mark.

Cebu City is the center of trade and commerce and a global production base. It is the biggest growth center next to Manila. Direct foreign trade comprised 30 % of the entire Visayas figures and is equivalent to 52 % of the entire trade of Mindanao. Today, Cebu island, with Cebu City as the nucleus, is now fast developing into a production base of many global firms seeking the most profitable locations for their investments throughout the world.

Cebu City is the hub of air and sea transport. Outside of Manila, no other city in the country can surpass Cebu City in terms of connectivity to other points in the country and the rest of the world. This is made possible by the presence of a well-protected seaport in the city and the airport in nearby Mactan island.

Cebu City is an international tourism center. Allied with the trading and financial services in the city is the growing tourism industry, which is made possible by the presence of many recreation, entertainment and shopping facilities of the city. The latest attraction of the city is its new role as site for national conventions and trade fairs. Due to the presence of its many services and amenities, the city of Cebu has been considered as one of the most livable cities in Asia.

Cebu City's high population and the economic activities of Cebuanos have brought tremendous pressure to the city's efforts to carry out initiatives on environmental protection and management and its pursuit to bring about a cleaner and greener city.

However, the city is determined to make the city sustainable, thus it has performed activities in the past couple of years geared towards improving the environmental condition of the city.

Cebu City has currently focused its attention to initiatives in the field of Environment and Solid Waste Management. The projects are undertaken through partnerships and linkages forged with local and international partners.

BIOGAS DIGESTER PROJECT

A 50 cubic meter biogas digester facility has been constructed at the City Central Nursery. Cebu City decided to embark on the project to fulfill its commitment to adopt measures to protect the environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The project seeks to make use of animal waste disposed of by the City Abattoir and market waste produced by the Carbon Market. It is also aimed at curbing the practice of dumping animal waste directly into the nearby river and institutionalize an environment-friendly means of maintaining the cleanliness of the abattoir. It also seeks to cut energy use and consumption of the City Abattoir. The P175,000 facility is undertaken with the technical assistance of the University of San Carlos-Affiliated Non-conventional Energy Center.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

A 1,600 square meter area in Barangay Budlaan has been identified as the site for the city's renewable energy and poverty alleviation project. The initiative is the first integrated sustainable development project to be undertaken through the collaborative efforts of the beneficiaries (urban poor families), Cebu City Government, and non-government organizations (Pagtambayayong Foundation and Couples for Christ ANCOP International Foundation's Gawad Kalinga).

The thrust of the project is to re-use the greenhouse (methane) gas, and improve the living condition of the stakeholders/partners in the area. The project will showcase sustainable development through the integration of the aspects of local housing, agriculture, development and environment-friendly technology.

The site will feature facilities and amenities such as: shelter, cisterns, livelihood center building, garden plots, and a biogas digester that will utilize waste coming from the pigpens or backyard hog raising. Still a work in progress, the project is Cebu City's entry to the Energy Globe Award for Sustainable Development Contest which is based in Austria.

CREATION OF THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Solid Waste Management Board has been convened in the first quarter of 2003 after Mayor Tomas Osmeña's issuance of Executive Order No. 00-33.

The Board's creation is in compliance with the mandate of Republic Act 9003. The Solid Waste Management Board will be primarily responsible for collating data necessary for the drafting of the City's Solid Waste Management Plan.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Solid Waste Management Board has already drafted a Solid Waste Management Framework with the assistance of Fort Collins, Colorado USA, which is Cebu City's resource city under the Resource Cities Program of the International City/County Management Association.

The framework is comprised of the city's practical visions, strategies, action plans for the next ten (10) years in the field of solid waste management. It will serve as the city's guide in drafting a more comprehensive and encompassing solid waste management plan.

LANDFILL FACILITY IMPROVEMENT

Waste collected by city owned and barangay-owned garbage compactor trucks are dumped into the City's sanitary landfill. The city's sanitary landfill located in Barangay Inayawan right next to the old dumpsite of Cebu City, has a total land area of 15.41 hectares.

The 208.7 million project, which was designed and financed by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, was constructed from 1995 to 1997. The Inayawan Sanitary Landfill, which has a projected lifespan of seven years, became fully operational on September 11, 1998.

The city has undertaken several projects aimed at improving the operations of the landfill which include: fencing of the landfill site, purchase of additional soil cover, fencing of a separate cell for hospital waste, modification of landfill area.

Processing for acquisition of equipment such as trash compactor, shredders, high-pressure washers, composter drums has already begun. The purchase of the equipment is aimed at reducing the volume of waste dumped into the landfill.

HOSPITAL WASTE SEGREGATION

Hospitals within Cebu City's jurisdiction have implemented segregation through a four color coding scheme :

- black :non infectious dry waste
- green :non-infectious wet waste
- yellow :chemical, infectious and pathological waste
- red :sharps and pressurized containers

Hospital wastes are regularly collected by two dump trucks and are now dumped at a separate area in the landfill.

A hospital level "Kwarta sa Basura" project was launched last August 6, 2003 at the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (VSMMC). The project is a collaborative effort between the Cebu City Government, Department of Social Welfare and Services KALIPI Foundation Inc., Rotary Club of Mandaue North and the administration of VSMMC.

Women from the KALIPI Foundation who will be segregating trash at VSMMC underwent a training on the proper handling of hospital waste.

INDUSTRIAL WASTE TREATMENT

A common treatment facility for liquid wastes particularly electroplating wastes is situated adjacent to the sanitary landfill. The waste treatment facility is maintained and operated by the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry. It handles treatment liquid electroplating wastes from private industrial establishments operating not only within Cebu City but also in the neighboring cities of Mandaue and Lapu-lapu.

CONDUCT OF SOLIDWASTE MANAGEMENT SEMINARS/ CONSULTATIONS

Cebu City has conducted several seminars aimed at educating the various sectors of society about solid waste management.

To date, three major seminars have been conducted to serve as a venue for the sharing of best practices of international, national and local initiatives in the field of solid waste management.

In February 6-7, 2003, officials from the Japanese cities of Ube, Minamata and Kitakyushu shared their best practices with Cebu City officials, barangay captains and barangay leaders, non-government organizations, government agencies.

JICA dispatched 3 Japanese experts to Cebu to conduct studies on the current state of environment particularly on solid waste management, water quality monitoring and cleaner production and to recommend measures to manage the environment more properly. Subsequently, a seminar was held last March 14, 2003 at Waterfront Hotel to discuss their findings and recommendations with city officials, barangay officials, non government organizations and representatives of various government agencies.

An in-depth sharing of solid waste management best practices was held through a two-day symposium last May 27-28, 2003 at the Montebello Hotel. Speakers from the International City/County Management Association, USAID, Fort Collins, Colorado USA, and representatives from national- and Cebu- based hospitals, non government organizations, barangays, commercial centers, and subdivisions took turns in sharing their best practices.

Apart from the three major seminars mentioned above, the city government has conducted several trainings and consultations with barangay officials, urban poor organizations, homeowners associations and women's groups. A trainor's training to be participated by representatives from various sectors will be conducted in the last quarter of 2003.

BARANGAY LEVEL WASTE SEGREGATION

Waste segregation is conducted intensively in at least nine of Cebu City's urban barangays. Among the notable initiatives is the barangay based segregation campaign of Barrio Luz. Launched in the last quarter of 2002, the "Kwarta sa Basura" project of Barrio Luz seeks to minimize waste generation by encouraging residents to segregate garbage, reuse and recycle. The project has been recently launched in barangays Lorega San Miguel, Mabolo and Hipodromo.

Waste segregation is conducted in barangays Tisa, Luz, Sambag I, Labangon, Sambag II, Calamba, Guadalupe, Talamban and Mabolo in coordination with the barangay officials and non-government organizations. The Cebu City government intends to replicate and institutionalize the initiative in the remaining barangays.

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

A successful tree planting activity at the South Reclamation Project marked Cebu City's first celebration of Arbor Day last June 25, 2003.

The activity was celebrated in conjunction with the celebration of Environment Month. City government employees headed by the members of the City Council and the heads of the various departments at Cebu City Hall planted 200 narra trees along the boundary of Pond B of the South Reclamation Project.

Pond B was chosen as the site for the activity in order for the trees to act as buffer for the stench emitted by the nearby Inayawan Sanitary Landfill.

ADOPT A TREE PROJECT/ SEEDLINGS DISTRIBUTION

Heeding Mother Earth's call to embellish the world with plant life and trees, the City Government has intensified its program to adopt a tree project in public schools. Originally institutionalized in Mabolo and Budlaan elementary school in 2002, the project has been introduced at the Labangon Bliss Elementary School and Pit-os National High School in June 2003.

The project is aimed at inculcating awareness amongst school children of the vital role of trees.

Saplings and seedlings grown at the City Nursery are given free of charge to farmers and residents alike who wish to take part in the City's ongoing campaign to plant trees. The massive urban and rural tree planting project is aimed at improving the city's plant cover and green vegetation as well as to provide it with sufficient vegetation to serve as buffer for pollution.

Roadside tree planting has also been conducted in the upland barangays of Tabunan and Guba.

TREE INVENTORY

A tree inventory is currently undertaken by the Management Information Computer Services and the City Agriculture Department using the Global Positioning System.

This project takes note of the specie of trees, age, and location so as to keep track of the number of trees planted by the City Agriculture Department, the Parks and Playground Commission along major streets, parks, school campuses and private lots.

CONTAINER GARDENING

The City Agriculture Department has intensified its effort to promote urban agriculture through container gardening production. Identified as pilot area for the project are : Barangays Basak Pardo, Kasambagan, Sambag I, and Pit-os.

The said barangays are also the beneficiaries of the City Government's frontline cluster services department community outreach program.

AMBIENT AIR MONITORING

Cebu City is among the selected cities of Metro Cebu where monitoring of ambient air for sulfur and nitrogen oxides was undertaken. The project is a Technical Assistance Project for Environmental Monitoring funded by the Japan Fund for Global Environment of the Japan Environment Corporation. The project is made possible through the initiatives of the Pollution Control Association-Region VII, the Environment Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region VII and the University of San Carlos.

CISTERNS AND WATER RESERVOIR

Plans are underway to introduce model cistern and rainwater roof catchment system in the following areas Mabolo Elementary School, Tejero Elementary School, Basak Elementary School, Paril Elementary School, Bonbon Elementary School and Binaliw Sports Complex.

The project which is estimated to cost P P1,154,838.00 will be undertaken by the Cebu City Government in coordination with the Cebu Uniting for Sustainable Water.

The introduction of water conservation measures is intended to reduce the expenses of water consumption from Metropolitan Cebu Water District and dependence on ground water.

The construction of model cistern and rainwater roof catchment system is an integrated approach to water conservation, sustainable water resource management and flood control prevention.

COMPOSTING AND RECYCLING

A composting area has been established in the City Nursery. The P160,000 facility seeks to convert biodegradable garbage into organic fertilizer. It is aimed at encouraging residents to use organic fertilizer as a demofarm utilizing organic fertilizer has also been set up in the nursery.

Each day, an average of one to two tons of biodegradable waste is dumped into the facility. A ton of garbage is estimated to produce 350 kilos of organic fertilizer.

Funds have been appropriated for the purchase of composter drums and shredder to fast track the process of composting.

CAPABILITY BUILDING/ BENCHMARKING

Personnel and officials who are primarily involved with environmental and solid waste management concerns have been continuously sent to undergo training conducted by both local and international organizations.

In May 2002, a four-man team of the Department of Public Services was sent to attend a three-week Solid Waste Management training in Hoofddorp Haarlemmermeer, Netherlands. Another team will be sent to the Netherlands for a two-week training in mid November 2003.

Engr. Felicito Josol, Public Service Officer III of the Department of Public Services, Cebu City, was also sent to participate in the course on Capacity Development in Urban and Industrial Environmental Management held in Japan from June 2 to August 7, 2003.

Likewise, Hon. Nestor Archival has been chosen by the United States-Asia Environmental Partnership to participate in a Study Tour on Wastewater Treatment and Sanitation and the Water Environment Federation Exhibition Conference from October 8-15, 2003.

City representatives have likewise participated in several exchanges with international partner cities such as Fort Collins Colorado, USA; Haarlemmermeer, Netherlands and Kitakyushu, Japan.

OPERATION LINIS/PASKO SA BARANGAY

City Government employees have taken part in the conduct of operation linis and Pasko sa Barangay. The project's thrust is to undertake a general cleaning of pilot barangays through the coordinated efforts of the Cebu City Government, Barangay Council and the involvement of City government employees and residents.

GARBAGE COLLECTION SYSTEM

Garbage collectors operate 24 hours in three shifts. Waste is collected mainly by city owned garbage trucks complemented by barangay-owned garbage trucks. Presently, the city has 29 units of garbage compactor and open dump trucks. The city's garbage truck fleet is complemented by those owned by the barangays. As of the last count, 42 of the 54 urban barangays own either open dump trucks or garbage compactor trucks. The barangays own a total of 87 garbage compactor and open dump trucks that collect waste.

The city is employing three methods to ensure efficient collection of garbage. The bell collection method is used in areas that are inaccessible to trucks. The curbside collection method is normally used in areas where commercial establishments are located. The communal container collection method is used normally in schools, public markets and public terminals. In all methods, the city provides waste containers to prevent unnecessary littering and scattering.

The city has likewise forged partnerships with foreign organizations and sister cities who have committed to extend assistance in the form of logistical support to the city's environmental programs and initiatives. Linkages with the academe and private sector have also been established in order to address environmental concerns.

The city has also provided support in the form of facilities and equipment for the successful implementation of its environmental programs.

By doing so, Cebu City hopes to attain its vision of becoming a center for trade, industry and services through excellence in governance, entrepreneurship, labor, and management that will afford a full and decent life in a livable environment for all.