

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

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Mr. Chairman, Hon'orable Mayors, Mr. Sawhney, Mr. Khan, Professor Imura, Distinguished Participants,

I am pleased to have the honor to be here to take part in this important meeting with the objective of improving the environmental conditions of our cities. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to UNESCAP and the Kitakyushu Initiative Network for the assistance in order for us to enable to participate in this meeting. Similarly I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Hon'ble Mayor and the Municipal Government of Weihai for the warm hospitality extended to us during the meeting in Weihai. Please accept hearty greetings and best wishes from the people of Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal, the land of Mt. Everest.

Kathmandu Metropolitan City is taking new initiatives for institutional capacity building so that all available resources could be mobilized for the betterment of the people of the city. We have established working relationships with the private sector in many areas of urban management which has led to, besides other things, gradual improvement in the environmental quality of the city as well. There Kathmandu has given priority on the following aspects: **Strengthening institutional capacity, Promoting public private partnership, Promoting municipal international co-operation.**

I am also pleased to inform you all that Kathmandu Metropolitan City will start a 30 minute weekly radio programme and 30 minute monthly television programme from December 1, 2003 to inform, educate and motivate the people on matters related to different aspects of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network. At the same time, Kathmandu Metropolitan City is committed to extend every assistance to achieve the goals of KIN by hosting such meetings, seminars in Kathmandu as well as organizing exchange visits to Kathmandu. Kathmandu will also be pleased to carry out any initiatives with the collaboration of Kitakyushu Initiative Network and other cities in our region that contributes to the improvement of environmental conditions.

We should understand that we will only be able to address and deal with the growing and multidimensional challenges of urbanization effectively if we could strengthen our institutional capacity. In this regard, cities themselves must act for their improvement.

Finally, I once again express my heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to UNESCAP, Kitakyushu Initiative Network, and the Municipal Government of Weihai for the opportunity provided to express our commitment in Network activities for the improvement of environmental conditions of our region.