

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

In cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment:
Fourth Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network
25-26 June 2007, Kitakyushu, Japan

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background

The Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment was adopted by the 4th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Kitakyushu, Japan in September 2000, as an imperative mechanism to achieve tangible improvement in environmental quality and human health in urban areas in Asia and the Pacific. Since then, a range of activities has been developed under the auspice of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), with participation of a number of local, national and international partners. Amongst others, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan, has played a key role as its Kitakyushu Office has provided a secretariat function to the Kitakyushu Initiative Network of local governments. In this course, the Initiative has been recognised as a Type I Initiative in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in September 2002, and, based on the comprehensive review of its achievement in first five years, has also been endorsed by the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea in March 2005, for continuation for the next five years.

In line with the focus on the Green Growth approach highlighted by MCED5 as an innovative and powerful strategy for reconciling the two potentially incompatible Millennium Development Goals--economic growth to alleviate poverty, and environmental sustainability--the second cycle of the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment (2006-2010) is promoting integrated win-win approaches to urban environmental management and promotion of socio-economic livelihood at the local level.

2. Objectives

With the activities of the Kitakyushu Initiative in its second cycle, the **Fourth Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network** is being organised with the following objectives:

- To garner commitments by cities to form actions for the improvement of urban environment and disseminate their experiences to other cities facing similar challenges. The realization of these commitments will be followed up throughout the second cycle of Kitakyushu Initiative and will be recognized in due course by 2010.
- To collect successful practices and policies
- To identify models of innovative win-win policies and practices by focusing on how specific problems were overcome. Particular focus will be paid to environmental, social and economic benefits
- To discuss future intercity collaborative mechanisms.

A questionnaire will be disseminated to the cities prior to the meeting to determine the issues and challenges facing the cities, as well as to identify commitments by cities in implementing win-win approaches to urban environmental management. This will be conducted through open discussions and dialogues on cross-cutting issues, enhanced interaction among local and national governments, international organisations, the donor community and academia.

3. Dates & Venue

25 - 26 June 2007, Kitakyushu International Conference Centre (Kitakyushu, Japan)

4. 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
City of Kitakyushu, Japan

5. Participants

Participants may include the following:

- Local governments: Mayors or top representatives, experts;
- National government: Representatives from national governments;
- International organisations: Representatives from international organisations;
- Other: Representatives from media, universities and general public.

6. Key Outcomes

- (a) Commitments by cities to conduct demonstration or expanded projects and lend their experiences to other cities facing similar challenges;
- (b) Collection of successful practices and policies for inclusion in database;
- (c) Identification of models of innovative win-win policies and practices with environmental, social and economic benefits;
- (d) Identification of future collaborative mechanisms;
- (e) Commitments by cities to carry out projects and disseminate experiences to other cities facing similar problems.

7. Language

The meeting will be conducted in English, with simultaneous interpretation during the open session on 26 June 2007. All documentation will be in English.

8. Contact

Please direct inquiries to the following:

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