

**Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment  
International Workshop on Local Initiatives Addressing Transformation of Lifestyles Towards  
Achieving Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific  
23 June 2006  
Elizabeth Rose Conference Hall, United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan**

**Summary of Discussions**

The “Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment: International Workshop on Local Initiatives Addressing Transformation of Lifestyles Towards Achieving Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific,” organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), was held in Tokyo, Japan on 23 June 2006 at the United Nations University. The Workshop formulated Conclusions and Recommendations which were presented for discussion by the Ministers at Eco Asia 2006. The following is a summary of the workshop proceedings.

1. The Workshop included the participation of representatives from local governments in the Asia-Pacific region, including: Bago (Philippines), Dhaka (Bangladesh), Nonthaburi (Thailand), Siddharthanagar (Nepal), Surabaya (Indonesia), Tehran (Iran), Seoul (Republic of Korea), Daegu (Republic of Korea), Kawagoe (Japan), Miyashiro (Japan), Kitakyushu (Japan), Tokorozawa (Japan), Ishikawa (Japan), and Hidaka (Japan), as well as NGOs/NPOs from Japan, including Zero-Waste Academy, Atsugi Nakacho Main Street Shopping District Promotion Union, and Eco-House Gotemba. Representatives were also in attendance from international organisations and agencies, including the Asian Development Bank, ICLEI, United Nations Environment Programme/Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Environment Programme/International Environmental Technology Centre, and UN-HABITAT Fukuoka.
2. The Workshop was held to share information and experiences on specific aspects of development and implementation of relevant local initiatives to formulate a collective voice for further promotion of such initiatives for discussion by the Ministers at Eco Asia 2006. The Workshop brought together relevant local governments and initiatives from the Asia-Pacific region to discuss the theme of transforming lifestyles to achieve sustainable development, with a focus on local government policies and grass-roots activities that address the transformation of lifestyles aiming at improving environmental quality and enervate local economic livelihoods.
3. At the opening session, Mr. Yasuhiro Shimizu of the Ministry of the Environment gave opening remarks about the background of the Kitakyushu Initiative programme and the importance of the cooperation of stakeholders, in particular, the sharing of information by local residents, NGOs, private enterprises to enhance awareness. Mr. Shimizu’s remarks were followed by a short statement by Mr. Masakazu Ichimura of UNESCAP who provided an explanation of UNESCAP and its role in the Asia-Pacific region. Mr. Hideyuki Mori of IGES concluded the opening of the meeting with an explanation of IGES’s role in improving the environment in the region, as well as its role in the implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative.
4. The opening session was followed by a keynote address by Mr. Hiroshi Mizoguchi of the City of Kitakyushu, who presented about understanding environmental problems from the viewpoint of biological evolution and changes in eco-systems, as well as cultural evolution. This was put into context in the experiences of Kitakyushu in overcoming pollution from 1950 to today, in which a major factor of success was government intervention, multi-stakeholder involvement, and corporate social responsibility. Mr. Mizoguchi also provided information on the shift of integration of economy and environment, the concept of symbiosis and necessity of human resource development, environmental cooperation through intercity networks, as well as

expectations of the Kitakyushu Initiative programme.

5. Following the keynote speech, Mr. Masakazu Ichimura of UNESCAP gave a regional overview of the current situation in Asia and the Pacific. This presentation provided an introduction to local initiatives, lifestyle changes, integration of economy and the environment, challenges and solutions, support at the national and international levels, and tips for discussion during the workshop.
6. The opening session was followed by an orientation of the discussion by Ms. Christine Pearson of IGES. Four sessions followed: Review of achievements of local initiatives, identification of key gaps in promoting win-win initiatives, identification of enabling policy measures that can be adopted at the national level to support local initiatives, and creation of partnerships for future cooperation and replication of successful practices.
7. In “Session I: Review of achievements of local initiatives,” presentations were made by the Seoul Metropolitan Government (Republic of Korea) on restoration of the Cheonggechong River; Dhaka City Corporation (Bangladesh) on community-based composting; the City Government of Surabaya (Indonesia) on the revision of local transportation to improve air quality; Kawagoe City (Japan) on activities for global environmental conservation starting with energy savings; Tokorozawa City (Japan) on the idea of *mottainai* markets; and Miyashiro Town (Japan) on Kids ISO 14000 programmes and environmental education. This session was facilitated by Mr. Ichimura of UNESCAP.
8. Key issues presented in this session addressed the following questions: What lifestyle changes have been achieved? What environmental problems have been addressed? What economic benefits have been achieved as a direct or indirect result?
9. It was recognised that throughout the Asia-Pacific region, local initiatives are well developed as effective instruments to address different aspects of transformation of lifestyles towards sustainable development. Such aspects include provoking a shift in the urban development paradigm, developing an institutional and infrastructure base to support lifestyle changes, engaging a broader range of stakeholders in concrete actions at the grassroots level, and educating the young who will inherit over generations. Generally speaking, concrete actions of lifestyle change encompass energy-related, transport-related, and waste-related actions.
10. The presentations and discussions in this session determined that local initiatives are progressively targeting multiple benefits, addressing in particular poverty reduction (MDG1) and environmental sustainability (MDG7). Environmental benefits demonstrated included waste reduction and pollution abatement in cities; energy saving and GHG emission reduction; and water saving and water pollution control.
11. It was recognised that in the initiatives presented, environmental benefits were coupled with economic benefits, including cost savings, income generation, creation of new employment, and promotion of new business opportunities. These were not only clearly demonstrated, but also measured quantitatively, in particular in terms of benefits. Benchmarking of benefits is often critical in enhancing visibility of the achievements of local initiatives, convincing stakeholders of their effectiveness, and obtaining the involvement of stakeholders. Tools are increasingly available for concretely demonstrating and measuring both environmental and economic benefits.
12. In “Session II: Identification of key gaps in promoting win-win initiatives,” presentations were made by NPO Zero-Waste Academy (Japan) on lessening the dependency on fossil fuels in Kamikatsu Town and the activities of the NPO; Daegu Metropolitan City (Republic of Korea) on multi-stakeholder partnerships for clean-up of Guemho River; Tehran Province Water and

Wastewater Co. (Islamic Republic of Iran) on the Tehran waster conservation project in Nasim residential complex; and Siddharthanagar Municipality (Nepal) on solid waste management and lifestyle changes. This session was facilitated by Mr. Mori of IGES.

13. Key issues presented in this session addressed the following questions: What were the key difficulties encountered? How were those difficulties overcome? How were local initiatives developed adjusting to different local situations? How were partnerships and public participation maximised? How were environmental and economic benefits balanced? How were resources mobilised?
14. The presentations and discussions in this session demonstrated that there is a lack of awareness and public apathy towards the environment, lack of capacity and skills, and economic and social issues stemming from environmental problems were identified as key gaps for local governments and NGOs in the implementation of activities. It was noted that there are difficulties in convincing households/residents that changes in consumption behaviour would result in long-term benefits. It was also noted that awareness and information campaigns help change attitudes towards the environment, and result in environmental, economic and social benefits, which ultimately bring about a transformation of lifestyles.
15. Leadership on the part of core implementing bodies was also noted as an important factor in the conduct of successful activities, and local government staff often plays this critical role, in particular, with strong support/leadership by city managers. It was pointed out that capacity building of local government staff was a key issue, particularly in developing countries, to ensure that activities are sustainable even with the withdrawal of external support.
16. In “Session III: Identification of enabling policy measures that can be adopted at the national level to support local initiatives,” presentations were made by Eco-House Gotemba on resource recycling, Atsugi Nakacho Main Street Shopping District Promotion Union on eco-money recycling programmes, and the City Government of Bago (Philippines) on community empowerment in the KABAHIN KA (Clean Bago City) Programme. This session was facilitated by Mr. Ichimura of UNESCAP.
17. Key issues presented in this session addressed the following question: What were/are the key policy supports received or required from the national government which helped in carrying out activities?
18. The presentations and discussions in this session determined that local initiatives addressing the transformation of lifestyles may be most effective when combined or linked with other types of intervention. At the national level, this would include technology- or infrastructure-oriented interventions targeting environmental and economic benefits.
19. Discussions emphasised that comprehensive national policies and legislation which target the entire material lifecycle, production patterns and/or national development strategies are critical to support local initiatives which often have a limited and sectoral scope, as the environmental issues are sometimes too large to be addressed at the local level only.
20. The presentations highlighted the fact that those activities addressing lifestyle changed targeting environment and economic benefits have significantly low financial requirements. Nevertheless, financial support is still important for a number of lifestyle-oriented activities, in particular, at the initial investment phase. Current financial support schemes at the national level mostly target technology- or investment-oriented initiatives, and often do not match the requirements of lifestyle-oriented initiatives. Incentive mechanisms to encourage local initiatives also need to be developed at the national level.

21. Knowledge management was also highlighted as an important component to carry out successful activities. Information dissemination through such mediums as databases on local initiatives, and their components or methodologies, would be of benefit to implementing bodies. The development of national information systems in local languages was also encouraged.
22. In “Session IV: Creation of partnerships for future cooperation and replication of successful practices,” presentations were made by Nonthaburi, Thailand on promotion of waste segregation with material recovery, engagement of local people and self-replication. This was followed by interventions by representatives from international agencies and organisations, including the Asian Development Bank, ICLEI, UNEP/IETC, and UN-HABITAT. This session was facilitated by Ms. Pearson of IGES.
23. Key issues presented in this session addressed the following question: What kind of assistance from domestic and/or international partnerships do you think would benefit the implementation of activities?
24. The presentations and discussions in this session noted that domestic and international partnerships among cities and NGOs, as well as participation in the schemes of international agencies and organisations, were a key point to facilitate the sharing of know-how on successful activities; foster collaboration to provide a common platform to share ideas, experiences, and knowledge; facilitate input from other countries on similar problems; and coordinate financial, knowledge, and technological support.
25. The session also recognised that a number of international organisations/programmes provide support to further promote local initiatives. To ensure further effective support, synergy among such programmes was called for to achieve sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. The Kitakyushu Initiative, in partnership with other international programmes, may play an incubating role to facilitate local initiatives to gain substantive support from donors and financial institutions, such as the Asian Development Bank.
26. The participants in the Workshop expressed their enthusiasm that the findings of this pre-event were to be reported to the Ministers at Eco Asia 2006 on 24 June 2006.