

**6<sup>th</sup> Seminar on International Cooperation for Local Initiatives**  
*(Unofficial translation)*

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**Title:** Leading to international cooperation activities in solid waste management in Osaka City

My name is Masatoshi Kaneko from the Osaka City Environmental Management Bureau. The Osaka Environmental Management Bureau is in charge of managing solid waste generated within the city boundaries of Osaka.

Osaka City has mainly cooperated with JICA in international cooperation activities in the field of solid waste management.

Major cooperation projects with JICA include the acceptance of trainees each year. This has been carried out since FY1992; this year will be the 13<sup>th</sup> programme. Every year, approximately 6-10 persons visit Osaka City to learn about solid waste management activities. The programme is mainly comprised educational programmes through lectures and field visits. After participants return to their home countries, they develop action plans. This is a programme that is created through the ideas of the participants.

In addition to the acceptance of trainees, the Osaka City Environmental Management Bureau cooperates with other countries in a variety of different forms. A recent example is cooperation with Haiphong City in Vietnam (FY2002), in which waste collection vehicles which were not being used by our bureau (12 in total) were provided to Haiphong City as part of JICA cooperation (small-scale development partnership).

In addition, Osaka City has numerous sister city relationships with cities throughout the world. Our bureau carries out exchange activities with Shanghai every year and since last fiscal year, has carried out a technical cooperation project with San Paolo (Brazil), which is also a sister city. This project is carried out under the JICA technical cooperation scheme and has the added plus of being carried out as part of Osaka City's sister city exchange activities. In this way, it has major benefits to Osaka City.

In participating in these types of international cooperation projects, local governments can make an appeal to international society and use this as an opportunity to realize their potential.

In the future, in thinking of how local governments can make use of international cooperation schemes, I think that it is necessary to continue the organization of these types of seminars, and that they should be used as a forum for the exchange of information on cooperation practices of other cities.

In the active promotion of international cooperation activities of local governments, it is effective and significant to make use of the capacity of local governmental staff however, local governments have an obligation to explain to and obtain the understanding of the residents. In this way, the local governments that are being requested to provide cooperation must have benefits in participating and carrying out international cooperation, and a framework (system) created that enables the simple participation of cities.