Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment

Seventh Thematic Seminar

Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Urban Environmental Management: Strengthening the Implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative

Background

The Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, a Type I Initiative in the Plan of Implementation at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2002, was adopted at the 4th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED 2000) as a mechanism for the implementation of priority areas of the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (RAP), 2001-2005. The Kitakyushu Initiative mandates the achievement of measurable progress in the improvement of urban environment in major cities in Asia and the Pacific, mainly through local initiatives aimed at controlling air and water pollution and minimizing all kinds of wastes. More specifically, the Initiative involves a three pronged approach of: (a) implementing pilot activities that will identify and review different approaches to urban environmental management in selected cities in the region; (b) conducting thematic seminars and national training workshops aimed at encouraging the transfer of successful practices and promoting intercity environmental cooperation in country-specific contexts; and (c) establishing a network for information dissemination and capacity-building. These are to be achieved through the application of technical, institutional, regulatory and participatory measures.

Six thematic seminars have been held since September 2002 on solid waste management, public-private partnerships for urban water supply and wastewater treatment, urban air quality management, industrial relocation, public participation in urban environmental management, and international cooperation for local initiatives.

Information and communication technologies (ICT) provide tremendous opportunities for stakeholders to collaborate and exchange knowledge and information on a variety of issues in the area of urban environmental management. Local governments need to be made more aware of the importance of ICT and its use in day-to-day urban environmental management. Particularly, it is critical to enable local governments to demonstrate their best practices and share information on the same through networking. The seventh seminar will focus on the use of information and communication technologies to strengthen the implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative.

Objectives

- To share information and raise awareness of local governments on the use and effectiveness of ICT in urban environmental management
- To review the role of ICT in the implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative (sharing of best practices, implementation of pilot projects, operation of the Kitakyushu Initiative web site, etc)
- To discuss ways to strengthen information sharing and future implementation through use of ICT, including, among others, the possibility in developing an online discussion forum for the Initiative
- To train member city participants in developing and/or improving their own web sites for urban environmental management, which will also reflect the activities under the Kitakyushu Initiative

Expected Outcomes

- Improved understanding in use and effectiveness of ICT in urban environmental management
- Assessment of the current status of ICT application in urban environmental management at the local level
- Adoption of measures/activities to strengthen information sharing and future implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative through use of ICT
- Increased capacity of local participants in developing and improving web sites for urban environmental management

Date & Venue: 13-14 December 2004
United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

Organizers: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

Participants: Local environmental officials from selected member cities as well as representatives from relevant international organizations

Language: English

Programme

13 December 2004

1. Opening of the seminar.

2. Election of officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda.

4. Use of ICT in urban environmental management.

    a. Overview of potential of ICT in urban environmental management
    b. ICT in the implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment
    c. Policy measures in promoting ICT in urban environmental management

5. Assessment of the current application of ICT in urban environmental management in participating member cities.

    a. Presentations by selected member cities
    b. Statements by other participating cities

6. Discussion on steps forward

    a. Identification of future needs and opportunities
    b. Strengthening information sharing through the use of ICT: measures in future activities of the Kitakyushu Initiative
        • Creation of a web-based digital discussion forum for the Kitakyushu Initiative
        • Ways to improve the outreach of the Kitakyushu Initiative utilizing ICT, e.g. the format of website, the contents and other requirements, etc
    c. Strengthening of networking with relevant institutions/ programmes (Identification of resources and opportunities of other information sources)

14 December 2004

7. Training on developing and improving web sites for urban environmental management

8. Other matters.

9. Adoption of the recommendations

10. Special session: Presentation of eLearning training module on public participation in solid waste management