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Environmental Protection and International Cooperation in Dalian

In recent years, environmental protection activities in Dalian have focused on economic construction; Dalian has thoroughly executed the implementation of policies, regulations and laws related to environmental protection, with improvement of environmental quality as an objective. With the urban development idea of "being the best, not the biggest," environmental protection activities of Dalian have led to a new period of development.

The larger strategy of "sustainable development," has permeated all levels of national economy and social development. Through adjustment of macro economic strategies, relocation and renovation of large scale polluting enterprises, and prevention of extensive industrial pollution and comprehensive improvement to the urban environment, as well as promotion of international exchange and cooperation, the state of the eco-system and the urban environment has improved. Environmental quality has improved to its highest standard in these 20 years and harmonious development of the economy, society, and environment has been well demonstrated. In an evaluation of the results of an examination on comprehensive environmental improvement in 47 cities in China by the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), Dalian has continued to take top honours for the past twelve years, and has also taken first rank in the province.

In 1999, Dalian was appointed by the national government to "achieve two goals" in a period of one year; the city successfully passed inspection by the provincial government and SEPA. Next, Dalian was awarded as a national environmental protection model city, in addition to receiving the Global 500 award in 2001. Dalian could display these types of achievements in environmental protection as a result of the city's Communist Party commission, and the active participation of many residents, as well as international exchange activities in the field of environmental protection. Since the 1980s, Dalian has carried out widespread cooperation activities with a number of countries and cities throughout the world. One in particular I would like to point out is cooperation and exchange with Kitakyushu City in Japan in the field of environmental protection. The cooperative relationship with Kitakyushu has a long history and has had many successes. At the end of 1993, Mayor Sueyoshi of Kitakyushu and Mr. Mizuno, President of the Kitakyushu International Techno-Cooperative Association (KITA) presented a proposal for the creation of the "Dalian Environmental Model Zone" through Chinese-Japanese cooperation. With approval, extensive cooperation between Dalian, Japan, and Kitakyushu began.

During that time, assistance was received from JICA to turn the "Dalian Environmental Model Zone" into a development project. From the end of 1996 to March 2000, this project was successfully completed. The study at that time focused on a large number of areas, including the current state of air, water, industrial pollution, industrial and domestic waste, urban greening, and natural protection areas, as well as the current state and environmental management of noise pollution and vehicular pollution, PR activities and regulation systems. At the same time, KITA carried out a field study to identify pollution sources of important polluting industries and developed a proposal for countermeasures in this regard, which led to the enactment of production policies with consideration of the environment. In a report compiled by Chinese and Japanese experts, "Development study on creation of Dalian Environmental Model Zone," a magnificent blueprint for future environmental preservation activities was drawn up. In addition, JICA sent our city automatic atmospheric observation trucks, vehicles to observe smokestack emissions (noxious gases which leak from flues), and other high precision analytic machinery, which totaled RMB 30,000,000. The consecutive results from this type of technological cooperation not only contributed to the promotion of environmental protection activities in Dalian, but also served as a model for environmental protection in China.

In 1997, the former Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto, visited China on the 25th anniversary of normalization of ties between China and Japan. At that time, the creation of one or two

“model city” was proposed to the Chinese side. The proposal was accepted by China, and the outcomes of our city’s efforts and support from Kitakyushu City were presented. As a result, Dalian was selected as one of the cities to take part in the proposed project. The budget for the construction of a model city project was undertaken from yen-based loans and USD100 million was allotted to our city. The total investment was RMB 1.68 billion; yen based loans totaled USD100 million. Contents of investment included nine projects: first phase of construction of a pharmaceutical environmental protection business, expanded project of a dye factory and chemical industrial thermal power plant, second phase expansion of a thermal power plant, improvement of pollution from steelmakers’ electric furnaces, atmospheric dust removal projects from cement factories, third phase of a water source project, two sewage processing plant projects, and a water supply project.

The city government of Dalian attached importance to the model city project and established the Dalian environmental model city guidance group. Presently, funds have been passed for each of the nine projects as stated earlier and have entered into construction stages.

In 2001, through a recommendation from Kitakyushu City, Dalian was awarded the Global 500 Award from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). This was an evaluation of Dalian’s activities to date, and is encouragement.

Through self efforts and international cooperation, Dalian has achieved potential for rational urban planning and industrial formation, improvement of urban infrastructure, and rational energy formation. Dalian hopes to build a beautiful city of environmental cooperation with a function as an urban eco-cycle city. Then, Dalian can become a model city of “sustainable development” which encompasses both economy and environment for not only China but all other developing countries.

Finally, as the representative of the Dalian City Government, I would like to extend my gratitude to the Japanese Government and Kitakyushu City, as well as all the participants here today and request your support and encouragement.

Thank you.