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UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
(in cooperation with the Institute for Global Environment Strategies, Japan)

Second Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network
15-17 October 2003
Weihai, China

**Report of the Expert Group Meeting of the
Second Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network (15-16 October 2003)**

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Second Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network (Expert Segment)

15-16 October 2003

Weihai, China

The Second Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network (Expert Segment) was held in Weihai, China on 16-17 October 2003. The Meeting made the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. Overall Progress

The Meeting:

- expressed satisfaction with the overall progress made in the implementation of the activities by the Kitakyushu Initiative Network since its inception in 2001.
- recognizing there was a need to encourage cities to take concrete action as follow up to the various activities under the Kitakyushu Initiative, it was recommended that a questionnaire should be circulated within six months to the member cities in order to retrieve information on activities which they have undertaken to: follow up the outcomes of the thematic seminars; replications of the successful practices; and use of indicators/benchmarks. Any city wishing to send suggestions to the secretariat regarding the questionnaire may do so within one month.
- proposed that a system of an award should be instituted in order to promote model environmental cities within Kitakyushu Initiative. The criteria for the award would need to be worked out by the secretariat. Any suggestions regarding criteria may be sent to the secretariat within one month.
- emphasized that a specific theme of critical urban importance in Asia and the Pacific should be identified (such as solid and hazardous waste management) each year at the Network Meetings and progress related to that theme made by member cities should be evaluated.

- proposed that as far as possible, use of local languages should be promoted in the dissemination of the portfolio of successful practices, in holding of national seminars and report of their proceedings as well as preparation of materials related to local initiatives.
- recommended further enhancement and dissemination of information on Kitakyushu Initiative Network activities to member cities through various channels of communications including electronic media.
- welcoming with appreciation JICA's interest for developing collaboration in the implementation of the activities under the Kitakyushu Initiative, it was stressed that such partnerships/collaboration with other international organizations should also be promoted.

2. Thematic and National Seminars and Training

The Meeting:

- emphasized that holding of seminars should be continued as these are generating a useful database and helping as important avenues for information exchange on critical urban issues.
- emphasized that the cooperation with other regional and international initiatives should be enhanced in organizing such thematic and national seminars.
- recommended that the efforts should be made to follow up the thematic and national seminars with the development of field activities, action plans, and demonstration projects.
- suggested several topics for future thematic seminars such as control of industrial pollution, including through private sector initiatives; sustainable building and construction in urban areas; energy and water efficiency; and recycling.
- recommended that training activities should be promoted on management tools such as use of information and communication technologies in urban environmental

management.

3. Pilot Activities

The Meeting:

- noted that pilot activities within Kitakyushu Initiative include pilot studies such as feasibility analysis as well as demonstration projects to demonstrate efficacy of certain approaches.
- commended the completed and on-going initiatives and recommended that such activities should be continued and expanded to other cities and enhanced in future.
- recommended new areas for undertaking pilot/demonstration projects such as land use planning; information and communication technology (ICT) in urban environmental management; energy and water conservation; and recycling.
- proposed that pilot/demonstration projects should be upgraded into investment projects and/or major donor assisted projects such as Global Environmental Facility (GEF) projects.

4. Portfolio of Successful Practices

The Meeting:

- reaffirmed that exchange of information and experiences on urban environmental management in terms of both successful and unsuccessful practices is useful for deliberation, formulation and implementation of future programmes in individual cities.
- recommended that the portfolio of successful practices should be dynamic and be continuously upgraded particularly by the inputs from member cities.
- emphasized that a careful analysis of local situation should be made to make the necessary adjustments in the successful practices before their replication to an

individual member city.

- stressed that twining of cities as well as the exchange of study visits should be promoted for the replication of the successful practices.

5. Indicators / Benchmarks

The Meeting:

- emphasized that benchmarking of progress and impact of urban environmental initiatives using available quantitative indicators should be continued.
- recommended that the benchmarks should be developed to evaluate the environmental management capacity of member cities.
- requested that the testing of benchmarks should be carried out in volunteering cities.
- encouraged the cities to test the set of the indicators for sustainable development to monitor their progress towards sustainability. In that regard, the City of Korat (Thailand) volunteered to test the set of indicators on air quality management.

6. Other Matters

The Meeting:

- expressed its thanks to the Mayor and City of Weihai for the excellent organization of the Second Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network. It also commended the efforts of the City of Weihai towards environmental protection in the wake of massive economic growth of 18 per cent per annum during the last fifteen years.
- expressed its thanks to the organizers of the Second Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network.