

**Report on the Mayors' and Senior Officials' Segment
of the Third Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network
3-4 August 2004, Kitakyushu, Japan**

The Mayors' and Senior Officials' Segment of the Third Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network was held on 3-4 August 2004 in Kitakyushu, Japan. The Meeting discussed and adopted the Action Plan for future activities of the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment as well as the Message from Mayors and Senior Officials of the member cities of the Kitakyushu Initiative to the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific in 2005. The conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting are outlined below:

1. Policies and perspectives for sustainable development in cities of Asia and the Pacific

The Meeting noted with appreciation the actions taken by member cities for the promotion of sustainable development, particularly the progress made in policy reforms, institution strengthening, development of regulations and standards, as well as in the promotion of North-South and South-South cooperation.

The Meeting also noted the operational activities carried out by the cities in the areas of air and water quality management, solid waste management, and integrated urban environmental management. The Meeting noted the mechanisms of implementation adopted by member cities, such as replication of successful practices, technology transfer, and innovative financing.

The key problems in urban environment were highlighted as follows: the population concentration in megacities, air pollution, water pollution, increasing solid waste, and the challenge of integrated urban environmental management. Member cities' lack of capacity and appropriate technology, as well as difficulties of financial resources was also noted.

The Meeting proposed the following mechanisms to address these challenges: cooperation for capacity-building, financing, technology transfer and institutional strengthening. It also emphasized on exchange of information, development of partnerships and involvement of stakeholders in the promotion of sustainable

development.

2. Adoption of the Action Plan for future activities of the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment and the Message from Mayors/Senior Officials of member cities of the Kitakyushu Initiative to the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific in 2005

The Meeting adopted the Action Plan for future activities of the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, as discussed and finalized by the Expert Segment of the Third Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network.

The Meeting commended the substantial progress made by the Kitakyushu Initiative in capacity-building of local governments and urban environmental management in a short span of three years. It called for the Initiative to address the priority areas identified in the Action Plan.

Member cities noted with appreciation the contributions made by UNESCAP, the Government of Japan, IGES, and other relevant organizations in the implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative. They also reaffirmed their commitment to future implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative leading a better urban environment.

The Meeting also adopted the Message from the Mayors and Senior Officials of the member cities of the Kitakyushu Initiative to the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific in 2005.

3. Other Matters

A presentation was made on the assessment of the urban state of environment in the region. Its linkages with the Kitakyushu Initiative were also highlighted.

The participants were also briefed on the MCED 2005, including preparatory activities, objectives and outcomes, etc.

Participants expressed thanks to the Mayor and the City of Kitakyushu for their excellent organization of the Meeting. They also commended the efforts of the Kitakyushu City in the improvement of urban environment.

A vote of thanks was also presented to the organizers of the Meeting for the excellent preparations and arrangements made for the Meeting.