



The 14th Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific (ECO Asia 2006)  
Saitama City, Japan  
24 – 25 June 2006

**Session 2 “For Invigorating Actions by Communities”**

***Local Initiatives for  
Integrating Urban Environmental Management and  
Promotion of Economic Livelihood***

***Chung Rae Kwon  
Director, Environment and Sustainable Development Division (ESDD)  
UNESCAP***

## **Background – SOE in Asia and the Pacific**

- *Sustainable Growth under threat*
  - *Dynamic Growth – global production centre*
  - *Persistent Poverty and Unmet Basic Needs*  
*... need for Further Economic Growth*
  - *Limited Carrying Capacity ... environmental pressures*
  - *Current Pattern of Growth Cannot be Sustained*
- *NEED to shift towards eco-efficient growth pattern: Green Growth*
  - *Asia & Pacific strategy for pursuing SD*
- *Growth Pattern= production + consumption pattern*
- *Thus, we have to improve eco-efficiency of production & consumption pattern: JPOI, Chapter 2 Sus cons & prod*
- *Production pattern: easy to target and considerable progress*
  - \* *mainly pollution control & cleaner production*

## **Background – Sustainable Consumption Pattern**

- *Consumption pattern : life style issue & difficult to target little progress, main concept should be improving eco-efficiency:*
  - \* *as it has to change the lifestyle, it needs to be linked with traditional life style and cultural values, thus it can not be imposed by government as production pattern but has to be supported by civil society based on traditional lifestyle*
  - \* *Local initiative is a key component of generating civil society support for lifestyle change*
- *Major barrier of sustainable consumption : it is viewed as western idea & environmental issue*
  - \* *but sustainable consumption is not only western idea but age old Asian value and life style such as Buddhism, Confucianism, etc. emphasizing moderation and harmony with nature*
  - \* *SC is not only environmental issues, it is a condition for sustainable growth*

## **Background – Sustainable Consumption Pattern (SCP)**

- *UNESCAP, organized Green Growth and Consumption Pattern focusing on Role of Public Sector in Providing Sustainable Consumption Choices and linking with traditional lifestyle and cultural values, 23-25 May 2006, in Beijing, China*
- *SCP, not only choice of products by consumers, but improving eco-efficiency of economic and social system & lifestyle.*
- *Not only issue of consumers*
- *Role of public sector in providing sustainable choices to the consumers, such as public transportation, and generating civil society support in linking SCP with traditional lifestyle*

## **Background – SOE in Asia and the Pacific**

- *In Particular in Urban context....*
  - *Urbanization and Globalisation of Consumption Patterns Going On*
  - *Waste and Pollution Continue to Grow*
  - *Increasing Health Threats / Growing Problems in Human Settlements*
- *Local Initiatives are expected and promoted...*
  - *Leading Bottom-up approach to Shift in Development Paradigm – Improving Eco-Efficiency, in particular, in Consumption Patterns*
  - *Best Mix in Authority and Participation / Partnership*
  - *Addressing Issues of Local Governance - Participation and Partnership in Local Decision Making*
  - *Integration of Environment and Economy Essential from Self-Sustainability Viewpoint*

## **A UNESCAP Approach - Kitakyushu Initiative (KI)**

- *Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment*
  - *adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED 2000) held in Kitakyushu, Japan in 2000*
  - *Attempts to draw lessons from the practices and experiences of Kitakyushu and other cities > Mandate to achieve measurable improvement in urban environment by promoting local initiatives,*
- *First Cycle 2000-2005*
  - *Networking over 60 cities*
  - *Database of Successful Practices*
  - *Information Dissemination by Thematic Seminars, etc.*
  - *Pilot / Demonstration Projects*
- *Second Cycle 2006-2010*
  - *Based on Positive Evaluation and Support by 5th MCED in 2005*
  - *Strengthening Integrated Approach (Environment - Economy)*
  - *Facilitating Replication of Successful Practices*

## ***KI International Workshop in Tokyo, on 23 June 2006***

- *Theme: Local Initiatives addressing Lifestyle Changes towards Achieving Sustainable Development*
- *Co-organized by UNESCAP and IGES (Secretariat for Kitakyushu Initiative Network) with financial assistance from MOEJ and City of Kitakyushu*
- *17 Cities/NGOs from AP invited and participated*
- *Focused Discussion on Practical Aspects in Implementing Relevant Local Initiatives*
- *Formulated Recommendations and Conclusions*

## ***KI International Workshop in Tokyo, on 23 June 2006***

- *Key Conclusions and Recommendations*
  - *Local initiatives are being developed as effective instrument to address different aspects of transformation of lifestyles towards sustainable development;*
  - *Progressively target multiple benefits, incl. poverty (MDG1) and environmental sustainability (MDG7) aspects;*
  - *Benefits are clearly demonstrated and benchmarked in quantitative terms.*
  
  - *Lack of awareness, public apathy towards environment and associated economic and social problems, and lack of capacity and skills are amongst key gaps;*
  - *Local governments, often with strong leadership by city managers, can play critical role in engaging other stakeholders and make activities sustainable,*



## ***KI International Workshop in Tokyo, on 23 June 2006***

- *Key Conclusions and Recommendations (continued)*
  - *Need for National Support Identified:*
    - ✓ *Comprehensive national policies and legislation targeting the entire material lifecycle and cleaner production;*
    - ✓ *Technology- or infrastructure-oriented interventions to complement lifestyle approach;*
    - ✓ *Finance for incentives and initial investment support;*
    - ✓ *Facilitation of exchanging information on experiences/ methodologies in local languages*
  - *National / international networking and partnership among cities and NGOs*
  - *Synergies in international support schemes*
    - > *Kitakyushu Initiative has important role to play*