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Asian Mayors' Policy Dialogue
for the Promotion of Environmentally Sustainable
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Cooperation with local initiative for replication of successful practices

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This Presentation

- What is ESCAP?
- UNESCAP Assessment on Urban Environment
- “Green Growth” Approach to Urban Issues
- How UNESCAP Cooperate with Cities?
 - Green Growth Policy Advocacy
 - Kitakyushu Initiative – An Instrument for Facilitating City-to-City cooperation
- Call for Participation



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What is ESCAP?

- UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- One of the five Regional Commissions under ECOSOC, like ECE, ECLAC, ESCWA, ECA
- Regional arm of UN providing main economic and social development forum in AP region
- Assisting 62 members and associate members to achieve MDGs and other goals.



What does ESCAP do?

- Convenes Commission and other important fora
 - Inter-governmental
 - multi-ministerial outreach
 - multi-disciplinary socio-economic topics
 - mandated multi-stakeholder involvement
- Follows-up and coordinates the implementation of their recommendations to achieve sustainable development in AP region
- Environment and Sustainable Development Division (ESDD) promotes integration of Environment into Socio-economic Development
- **“Green Growth”** adopted as main approach in MCED 2005



“Green Growth”

- **Key Focus Adopted by MCED2005**
 - AP still need to pursue economic growth to address persistent poverty
 - Current pattern of growth cannot be sustained as already exceeding the region’s environmental carrying capacity
 - Action needed to harness economic growth in an environmentally sustainable manner



Urban Issues in AP Region

- **State of the Environment (SOE) 2005 Analyzed...**
 - **Continuing urbanization**
 - Sources of economic opportunity / vitality
 - High and Increasing population
 - Growing consumption
 - **Quality of Urban Life Deteriorating**
 - Air pollution, waste issues, health problems, traffic congestion, housing, etc.
 - Insufficient infrastructure (Public Transport, waste treatment, etc.)
 - Pressure exploding



“To improve” is critical – but how?

GG Approach to Urban Issues

- Promoting the concept of Eco-Efficiency
 - Minimizing the Economic + Ecological Costs while Maximizing Economic Outputs
 - E.g. Traffic Congestion Cost Economic (Japan 2% of GDP, ROK 4.4%, Manila 4%, Bangkok 6%, etc.) + Environment/Health/Medical + Safety
 - Eco-efficient city >>> high quality of life, economic competitiveness
- Exemplar policy measures include:
 - Demand-side Management
 - Infrastructure for Sustainability
 - Economic Instruments



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GG Approach to Urban Issues – Key Challenges

- Implementation Capacity
 - Physical Availability of Alternatives
 - Social / Technical Support Systems (e.g. Fee collection)
 - Institutional Capacity / Appropriate Authority
 - National policy framework
 - Finance
- Public Awareness and Acceptance
 - Leadership by Mayors (Determination, Well-supported logic)
 - Public Participation in Decision Making
 - Consideration on Comprehensive Socio Economic Impacts
 - Awareness on Overall Benefits
 - linking with Asian traditional lifestyle

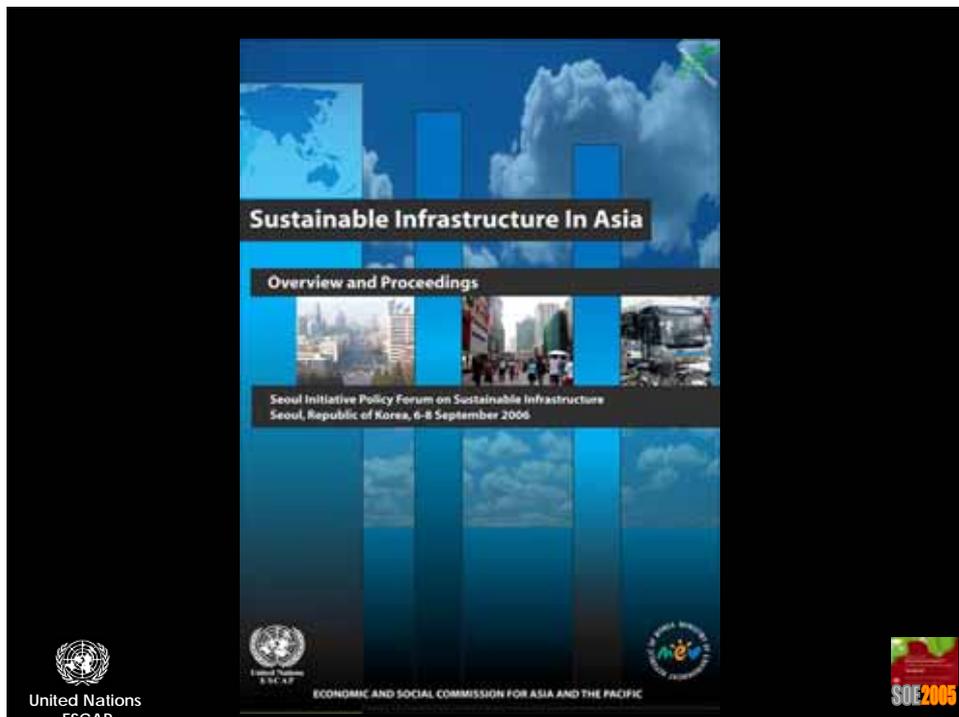


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UNESCAP provides instruments

- Advocating **Green Growth** as a new strategic approach
 - Policy dialogues for enhancing awareness of national leaders
 - Training provided under the Seoul Initiative
 - Analytical tools, i.e. Eco-Efficiency Indicator
 - Target study on sustainable infrastructure
- Promotion of Local Initiatives through **Kitakyushu Initiative**
 - Identify, analyze and disseminate successful cases of urban environmental management
 - Promote city-to-city cooperation
 - Focus on Environmental and Socio-Economic Co-benefits



Kitakyushu Initiative

*KI provides AP cities
to share experiences
(over 60 cities in 18 countries)*



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Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment (KI)

- **Mandated by MCED2000**
 - Attempts to draw lessons from the practices and experiences of Kitakyushu City and other cities in Asia Pacific
 - To achieve measurable improvement in urban environment (Air, Water and all types of Wastes) by sharing innovative policy measures – inter-city cooperation.
 - Networking over 60 cities
 - Successful experiences replicated / disseminated through a range of activities
 - Identification / Analysis of Successful Practices (database)
 - Web-based Information Network established and operated by IGES Kitakyushu, Japan
 - Thematic Seminars (Air, Water, Solid Waste, ICT Application, etc.)
 - Pilot / Demonstration Projects for Replication



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Environment and Socio-Economic Co-Benefits

- Key concept to overcome technical and financial as well as political barriers
- Creating synergy amongst mounting challenges by Cities
 - Transport as primary tool for economic development
 - Alleviation of economic loss by inefficient transport (cost of traffic jam)
 - Health and Safety
 - Socio Economic Objectives
 - Social Equity (poverty, slums, gender, disabled)
 - Economic Livelihood – New Business
- ESE Co-benefits will help, if explicitly demonstrated, will contribute to
 - Enhancing the priority in local policy making
 - Strengthen public support with enhanced awareness
 - Diversifying sources of financial opportunities
 - Enhancing economic viability
- Changing the Perception – Environmental protection measures are NOT financial burden > Rather be investment for broad returns / better future



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Ongoing Activities under KI

- Compilation of Exemplar Cases of Environment and Socio-Economic Co-Benefits across Sectors
 - Replication / Dissemination through Kitakyushu Initiative Network / IGES Kitakyushu
- Preparation of Practical Guidebook for Innovative Financial Options
- GG Target Study on Policy Analysis / Assistance Tools
 - Eco-Efficiency Indicators
 - SE Implications of Different Transportation Modes
 - Economic Loss of Traffic Jam
- Synergy with other Initiatives
 - IGES acts as Network Secretariat
 - Citynet, ICLEI, 3R Initiative, APFED, UNEP, AIT, EST by UNCRD etc.
- Fourth Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network (City of Kitakyushu, 25-26 June 2007)



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Thank You

