



High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities



Clean Asia Initiative

- **Location**

East Asian countries which participate in the East Asia Summit Environment Ministers Meeting (EAS-EMM)

- **Project Background**

In recent years, East Asia has experienced rapid industrialization, population growth and urban growth, which has resulted in considerable environmental change. The first EAS-EMM was held in Vietnam in 2008, where ministers agreed that environmentally sustainable cities (ESC) were to be the priority areas for EAS environmental cooperation. Japan proposed the EAS EMM High Level Seminar (HLS) on ESC in order to contribute to relevant activities, and the 1st HLS was held in Indonesia in 2010 and the 2nd HLS in Kitakyushu in 2011.

- **Objectives**

In order to promote the development of ESC in East Asia, central governments, local governments, international organizations, aid agencies, research institutes, NGOs and other bodies gather together in the Seminar, share knowledge, measures and activities regarding the environmental model cities. Based on the activities above, the Seminar aims at promoting and expanding cooperation between relevant parties.

- **Member Countries**

Japan, China, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, India, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam

● **Project Achievements**

March 2010: First High Level Seminar (HLS) on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC)

[Jakarta, Indonesia]

Five practical recommendations: the East Asia 'Model Cities' Initiative, ESC-related data and information management, ESC Public-Private Sector Forum, ESC capacity building programme and ESC Awards were adopted in the chair's summary, while eight participating cities announced environmental commitments.



Participants of the 1st HLS ESC

March 2011: Second High Level Seminar (HLS) on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) [Kitakyushu, Japan]

In the seminar, country-based ESC model city programmes were introduced, commitment to activities for ESC was made by each city, and support was expressed by international organizations and other bodies. At the same time, discussions were conducted on the importance of sharing information between the parties concerned.



Participants of the 2nd HLS ESC

● **Planned Activities**

The Third High-Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities is to be held in Cambodia in March 2012.

● **Project Partners**

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) / Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia)/CITYNET/ Local Governments for Sustainability (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives: ICLEI) / Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), etc.

● **Related URL**

Ministry of the Environment (MOEJ):
http://www.env.go.jp/earth/coop/coop/english/dialogue/high_level_seminar.html
 MOEJ Press Release:
<http://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/headline.php?serial=1562>
 High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (HLS ESC):
<http://www.hls-esc.org/>

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