

Local Initiatives of Environmental Cooperation in China

REN Yong

*Policy Research Center, State
Environmental Protection Administration*

Outline

- 1. Local environmental cooperation between China and Japan**
- 2. Kitakyushu Initiatives for A Clean Environment in China**
- 3. Some implications**

Local environmental cooperation between China and Japan

1. Chinese government has long paid importance to both multilateral and bilateral environmental cooperation. Up to now, China has ratified 32 international environmental conventions and protocol and reached 50 bilateral environmental cooperation agreements.
2. Among bilateral environmental cooperation, cooperation between China and Japan has been one of the most successful and fruitful cases in many respects such as the range covered, the actor involved and the amount of funds input.

Local environmental cooperation between China and Japan

3. Substantial cooperation between China and Japan started in the early 1980s. The cooperated areas cover pollution control, research and technology development, capacity building, and training and environmental education.
4. While national government oriented cooperation smoothly and successfully keeps going forward, local initiatives between two countries has increased their presence since the 1990s.
5. Up to now, 193 Chinese cities from 26 provinces has coupled with their Japanese partners as sister/friendship cities, such as Dalian vs. Kitakyushu, Chongqing vs. Hiroshima, Shanghai vs. Yokohama.
6. Cooperation initiatives between friendship cities are very diversified and flexible in many respects.

Kitakyushu Initiatives for a Clean Environment in China

- 1. The Kitakyushu Initiatives for a Clean Environment was adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asian and the Pacific held in Kitakyushu Japan 2000.**
- 2. Beijing Seminar on Kitakyushu Initiatives for a Clean Environment, March 2001: 13 Chinese cities.**
- 3. Surveys and studies on successful practice of urban environmental management in ten Chinese cities.**
- 5. The First Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network, Nov. 2001, Kitakyushu Japan: 4 Chinese cities as the first members of the Network.**

Kitakyushu Initiatives for a Clean Environment in China

- 6. 2 of 11 Pilot Activities/ demonstration projects in China:**
 - **Weihai city on public-and-private partnership in wastewater management;**
 - **Chongqing city on urban air quality management**
- 7. Thematic Seminar on Public-Private Partnerships for Urban Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment, Nov. 2002, Beijing China.**
- 8. The Second Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network, Sept. 2003, Weihai China: several other Chinese cities involved in the Network.**



Kitakyushu Initiatives for a Clean Environment in China

Some implications

1. Local authority has always been a key actor in implementation of international environmental cooperation programs.
2. Environmental cooperation between local authorities is getting more and more active now and gradually getting into a mainstream of national bilateral cooperation.
3. Environmental cooperation between local authorities is a more direct-dialog-oriented, needs-targeted and flexible approach, yet,
4. National government always plays an important role in promoting local initiatives of environmental cooperation.
5. Local environmental cooperation could be very diversified, however, necessary financial and technological inputs need to promote substantial activities of cooperation. Therefore,

Kitakyushu Initiatives for a Clean Environment in China

Some implications

5. National government, international and regional organizations, and private donors are importantly invited to involve in local cooperation.
6. Experiences and lessons from developed countries are useful to late-comers learning, at the same time, the successful or failure stories which are going on in one developing countries are more relevant to other developing countries.
7. China would like to share its experiences and lessons of environmental protection with other developing partners.

Thank you