

## **Yokohama Declaration**

### **As adopted at the 6th 3R Conference for Asian Local Governments**

We, the members of local governments and supporting institutions, having participated in the 6th 3R Conference for Asian Local Governments held in Yokohama, the most renowned port city of Japan which is open to Asian countries, highly evaluate the successful achievement we have made through serious yet friendly discussion to meet the objective, and confirm the reached conclusion as follows.

#### **(Background)**

The Asian Region is now in the middle of rapid economic development with each country's GDP per capita growing further, making people's living standards higher with unprecedented level of consumption. As a result, the solid wastes generation is increasing at an extraordinary level in volume and in speed. This has posed a daunting challenge to all the concerned parties in how to treat and dispose of them appropriately.

#### **(Progress)**

In order to find solutions to such a challenge, Japan Environmental Sanitation Center has taken the initiatives to organize this conference as a forum for Asian local governments to exchange information and discuss on the 3R issues, and it has been counted as the 6th conference this year. The number of the participating parties in this conference this year has been 21 local governments from overseas and 17 from Japan, as well as 12 supporting institutions. Every year the conference has adopted a declaration, and made a relevant appeal to Japan and to each country in Asia. The results we have concluded up to the last conference are as follows.

1. We have shared the recognition that we should cope with serious problems as to how to treat and dispose of solid wastes as well as to how to manage hazardous wastes appropriately in Asian countries where they are changing their lifestyle to more mass-production, mass-consumption, and mass-disposal oriented manner, just as once Japan experienced, reflecting the economic development.
2. Each local government has selected a different method of treatment of solid wastes depending on its size and local characteristics.

3. 3R activities (such as a waste bank) on their own initiatives with local people's participation are gaining momentum and spreading.

4. Successful practices have been disseminated to Asian cities as partnerships and cooperation among Asian local governments, including those of Japan, are expanding.

We, the member local governments and supporting institutions, have highly appreciated the above result of this conference.

(The Result of the Conference This Year)

In promoting the 3R Initiatives, it is important to engage in a comprehensive way including such diverse elements as promotion of material recycling and as achievement of low-carbon society, while ensuring appropriate treatment and disposal of solid wastes. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct comparative evaluations on that as objectively as possible. In order to do this, it is required to obtain appropriate evaluations with due consideration on record compilation of accurate actual data and other diverse elements. It should be noted that the need for the establishment of indicators to appropriately evaluate 3R activities was discussed also in the 4th Asian Regional 3R Forum (hosted by the Ministry of the Environment of Vietnam, co-hosted by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan) held in Hanoi in March 2013.

We have highly evaluated 3R activities on their own initiatives of each local government of each country while we discussed effectiveness and challenges of partnerships and cooperation among the cities based on the presentations of the member countries in "Solid Waste and 3R Policy" in Session 1 and "Partnerships and Cooperation among Local Governments" in Session 2 at the 6th 3R Conference for Asian Local Governments.

As a result of this Conference, we have reached the agreement for further progress of 3R activities as the following:

1) It is necessary to implement comprehensive 3R policies reflecting local and historical conditions.

2) Partnerships and Cooperation among local governments transcending national boundaries are viable in effective promotion and expansion of 3R initiatives.

3) We need to have appropriate evaluation indicators with due consideration of recording and compiling of accurate real data and diverse

elements to conduct proper comparative evaluation on a 3R policy.

The member local governments have agreed, as targets for effort, to take the measures as follows:

#### 1. Grasp of Actual Data

Mutual comparison and evaluation between different 3R policies should be conducted based on objective and actual data.

#### 2. Clues to Total Grasp of Reality

While increasing number of automated weighing systems and data-collection-and-reporting systems is being installed in large cities, many cities still lack waste weighing systems. It is necessary to make efforts to grasp the reality as a whole in such process as collection, transportation, treatment, disposal and recycling of solid wastes even if the accuracy of data is not ensured.

#### 3. Standardization of Indicators for Evaluation

In order to conduct evaluation and analysis of actual data, it is desirable to promote standardization in the definition of evaluation indicators (such as resources productivity, recycling ratio, 3R cost), as there are much variety in the process of collection, transportation, treatment and disposal in different local governments.

(Future action)

We, the member local governments and supporting institutions, have expressed an expectation that this conference would be held continually to expand the network, and the above result would be implemented in concrete manners toward a next year Conference. The member local governments also express a strong expectation that the supporting institutions would continue making efforts by providing various resources and opportunities.

We, the member local governments and supporting institutions, have agreed with the expectation that the result of this conference for local governments would be reported in Asia Pacific Regional Forum for 3R (Surabaya, February 24 - 27, 2014), which is an inter-governmental conference to be held soon, to further deepen cooperative relationships among the participating countries.

February 20, 2014

At Yokohama City

All participants of the 5<sup>th</sup> 3R Conference for Asian Local Governments