

SAITAMA Declaration

Recognizing that the discussion at the 1st 3R Conference for Asian Local Governments that was held on 28th October, 2008 at the place of Saitama, was fruitful and meaningful in that it deepened mutual understanding and facilitated common acknowledgement of a number of issues to be tackled, we, the participants of the Conference, summarize our discussion as follows;

1. In various places in Asian region, the significance of implementing 3Rs policies is increasing under the situation, that the waste-related issues accompanied with economical development are becoming apparent and more important meanwhile the limitation of natural resources such as oils and minerals has become clear.
2. At the G8 Environment Ministers Meeting held in May 2008, the Kobe 3R Action Plan was agreed and endorsed at the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit in July 2008. The movement of the 3Rs advocated by Japan and initiated through the collaboration with Asian countries is now spreading world wide.
3. For this movement of the 3Rs, not only the collaboration among central governments of Asian countries but also the role of local governments is extremely important, which directly provide the services regarding waste management and recycling. In addition, good awareness and cooperation by citizens are essential, and are also important that local governments play a central role and closely cooperate and collaborate with various stakeholders such as national governments, businesses, citizens and informal sectors.
4. Every participant of the Conference strongly recognizes that the 3Rs should contribute to the preservation of natural resources through activities including reduce, reuse and recycling of waste and to the creation of comfortable urban environment and citizens life.
5. Therefore, we gathered at the place of Saitama, where advanced endeavors to address the issues on waste management have been developed, and expect that the 3R Conference for Asian Local Governments is further developed for the realization of both the progress of the 3Rs in Asian region and further international cooperation through the activities such as 'Asian 3R Promotion Forum' to be launched in 2009.

29th October 2008

All participants of the 1st 3R Conference for Asian Local Governments