

FUKUOKA Declaration

Recognizing that the discussion on plastic shopping bag minimization at the 3R Conference for Asian Local Governments, held on 25th October, 2009 at the place of Fukuoka, was markedly 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. A disposable plastic bag was born in about 1965. Being convenient and lighter than a paper bag, it was adopted at a number of supermarkets and convenience stores in the late 1970's, and rooted in our daily life against a backdrop of mass production/mass consumption culture. However, mass consumption of disposable plastic bags invite furtherance of disposal-oriented mindset and increase of waste generation, cost of collection, pollution of river and drainage systems that cause flood, and induce concerns about such unfavorable effect to environment as disturbing early stabilization of landfill sites after landfill
2. From a standpoint of suppressing consumption of natural resources and reduction of waste, a number of nations have taken measures that regulate use of disposable plastic bags. In Japan, many local governments undertake efforts of disposable plastic bag reduction, by way of pay services or other means.
3. At the G8 Environment Ministers Meeting held in Kobe in 2008, member nations agreed to address the issue of disposable plastic bag minimization as a symbol of mass consumption and mass disposal. This was incorporated into the Kobe 3R Action Plan, and the movement of disposable plastic bag minimization is wide spreading worldwide.
4. Every participant of the Conference strongly recognizes that the disposable plastic bag minimization should raise awareness for the preservation of natural resources as well as the reduction of waste generation and contribute to proper management of final disposal sites and reduction of greenhouse gas emitted by waste treatment, through the process of the discussion.
5. Therefore, the local governments which gathered at the place of Fukuoka, where advanced endeavors have been developed to address the issues on plastic shopping bag minimization, reached an agreement that they will report the summary of the Conference to the Asian 3R Promotion Forum that will be held November, 2009, and the respective local governments will further work on disposable plastic bag minimization.

6. Given the outcome of the Conference, the participants of the 3R Conference for Asian Local Governments take up the issues of 3R in the Asian region, share the information, and expect that the Conference will further develop in the future.

25th October 2009

All participants of the 2nd 3R Conference for Asian Local Governments