

Tokyo Declaration

Today people are sharing common sense of value and influencing each other more often than before in Asia, where an incident in a country tends to bring about a serious impact on the lives of citizens for their production and consumption in other countries as the people, the goods and the means of production are being transferred dynamically across national borders.

In the field of solid waste management as well, we are having an increasing number of such issues to be shared as to how to tackle to common challenges in solid waste management, which is symbolized by the 3R Initiative, how to effectively and mutually transfer experience and technology of solid waste management, and how to make use of knowledge and expertise in protecting the citizens from disaster-generated solid waste that results from the earthquakes and floods that we have suffered recently.

In such a situation, the Participants of the 4th 3R Conference for Asia Local Government held on January 30 and 31 in Tokyo have agreed that the discussions on each of the three topics were important to be shared, and that the outcome needs to be disseminated extensively to the Asian countries in a mutually cooperative manner.

To promote the 3R, it is important to engage in a scheme integrating not only resources recycling but also biodiversity conservation and realization of a low carbon society. In addition, it is necessary for local governments to make the most of this network to promote an effective two-wheel policy; one is to receive cooperation from citizens and businesses while at times giving incentive to them, the other is to develop relevant technologies. Thus the local governments have confirmed that they should be fully committed to establishing a resources recycling system, to reducing final disposal volumes, to assuring core treatment functions, and to efficiently using resources and energy.

To accelerate technological transfer, it is crucial for businesses with high technology to interact with one another. On the recipient side, it is important for the government to provide a proper environment if a business uses specific technology to be viable. So it is often the case that a proper legal framework or a well-established collection system is essential for waste treatment or recycling businesses to be sustainable. For this reason, it is indispensable for the local governments, who understand well about their technological reliability and environmental impact and also play the role of improvement in legal framework and collection system, to join in the network together

with the businesses and to share their knowledge and experiences. Thus the local governments have confirmed that it is important for them to support businesses as well as to improve the environment for the relevant businesses to be viable, in order to establish extensive trust-based relationships among local administrations, which have responsibility for solid waste management, by way of such measures as promotion of eco-town projects or dissemination of efficient technology for the treatment of organic solid waste.

To dispose of disaster-generated solid waste is a first step to rehabilitation and reconstruction of the cities. To facilitate the treatment of solid waste of disaster-origin, it is necessary to form an extensive team of stakeholders, including local government officers, citizens, researchers and engineers, who get together across their city borders, to collaborate to commit themselves. Thus the local governments have confirmed that it is important for them to share the rare experiences by recording them, and to be fully equipped for all eventualities.

Today the participants of the 4th 3R Conference for Asia Local Governments have agreed that they will make utmost efforts in order to achieve 3R in their own country as well as in Asian Region, and to promote the mutual cooperation and exchange of experiences. We believe this result should be disseminated to other cities in Asia.

Lastly we sincerely hope that this Meeting will continue to develop further in the coming future.

January 31, 2012