

Kawasaki Declaration

Background

Today Asia is an engine of the global economic boost and has become a growth driver. Amid the progressing globalization, the people, goods and information are rapidly circulating in an accelerated manner through the region. At the same time, however, that has brought about serious environmental impacts, increasing waste volume, high energy consumption and increasing environment degradation risk.

Given that the amount of resources is finite, and the earth has its environmental carrying capacity, it is not an exaggeration to say that current developments in Asia, if continues as they are, may lead to a destruction of the whole globe. Each country in Asia is expected to make efforts to minimize environmental impacts while it makes progress economically. To that end, what is crucially important for us is to respond to this situation strategically through international cooperation and collaboration.

We, who have gathered today as the representatives of the twelve Cities of Asia and three International Organizations, have agreed on the following points:

1. Municipal 3R-Oriented Solid Waste Management Policy

Taking note of the experiences and challenges of the twelve Cities in and out of Japan, each local government needs to further promote 3R, reduction, reuse and recycling of the waste. For that, it is important to implement drastic measures reflecting local and historic characteristics of the city.

It is feasible to organize all the stakeholders including producers, consumers etc, in a cooperative and collaborative system that can develop into a comprehensive movement with community participation under the initiatives taken by both the central and local governments.

In the examination of specific activities of the 3R policy, we need to mutually reference the information of other cities. For that purpose, we are required to assess the effect of each activity quantitatively. As a first step, we need to create a data base on municipal solid waste management, such as its volume, quality, disposal cost, facilities, manpower etc.

2. Technology Transfer

In order to establish a municipal 3R-oriented solid waste management policy as public infrastructure, it is necessary for cities to introduce appropriate waste management technology by referring to systems of pioneering cities and preceding cases of technology transfer.

In the case of introduction, pioneering cities that have established an appropriate system and technology are expected to present the details clearly and extend support with some help from international assistance agencies. At the same time, it is important to examine conditions and features of the relevant cities and to verify the characteristics of the technology to be transferred.

In such a process of technology transfer, the central government must play an important role. No less important and effective is a scheme of public-private partnership involving private businesses, under which an information platform is

expected to be set up to explore institutional and technological trends.

3. The Roles of Central Government and International Organizations

In order to realize a sustainably developing society with least environmental impact in Asia, where the demand for resources and energy is soaring for the rapid economic development, a workable scheme for the central governments and international organizations is to prepare statistics such as resource productivity and solid waste generation per GDP as sustainability indicators, with which international assistance agencies can assess the 3R policy to support local governments. From the viewpoint of the promotion of information exchange, this Network Meeting is expected to progress further in contributing to a workable information platform with the support of relevant international organizations.

We, the participants of the 5th 3R Conference for Asian Local Governments, have agreed that this conference is very effective for those cities to exchange their experiences, and both the local governments in Asia and international organizations need to present their experiences and make assessment in the future. Lastly we have agreed that this significant international meeting for local governments' 3R needs to be continued to further progress in collaboration with the Regional 3R Forum in Asia of the central governments to produce more fruits for many years to come.

January 29, 2013

At Kawasaki City

All participants of the 5th 3R Conference for Asian Local Governments

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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