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Kitakyushu's International Environmental Cooperation Programme *Japan*

Good Practice

New for 2002

Categories: Urban and Regional Planning:
- localizing Agenda 21
- urban renewal
Environmental Management:
- ecological sustainability
- pollution reduction

Level of Activity: Global

Ecosystem: Continental

Summary

The City of Kitakyushu experienced severe pollution, the worst in Japan, in the 1960's and Kitakyushu overcame it through partnerships among citizens, private companies, academes and the local government. After request from the women's group, Kitakyushu started countermeasures such as stricter regulation and supports for factories.

Kitakyushu has promoted international cooperation for environmental improvement for cities in developing countries by utilizing our experiences and technology in overcoming problems.

Firstly, we started the international environmental cooperation with Dalian, China. Based on the proposal made through cooperation with Kitakyushu, model district was designated and implemented various measures. As a result of those efforts, Dalian made remarkable progresses and Dalian was awarded the "Global 500" by the United Nations Environmental Programme.

Utilizing those successful achievements of our cooperation with Dalian, we formed the Environmental Cooperation Network of Asian Cities and promoting international environmental cooperation. In Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, wastewater from the factory was decreased by 40% and customers were increased because of improved product quality. In Cebu, Philippines, we established basic plan for river environmental improvement, and we accomplished a river clean up with citizens' participation, especially youths, the first of such projects in the Philippines.

We are promoting these tasks by utilizing the partnerships of citizens, women, youth, private enterprises, academes and governments through the process of overcoming pollutions.

The Kitakyushu's activities were recognized by UNESCAP as a model of urban environmental improvement in Asian and the Pacific, and the "Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment" was endorsed in September 2000.

Narrative

?Situation before the initiative began (50/50 words)

Many governments and international organizations have extended various supports, but they don't

always accomplish adequate effects, state of the environment in developing countries stayed severe. To realize sustainable developments, environmental management capabilities of local governments remained constraints. Effective support by local governments of industrialized nations through inter-city cooperation was required.

?Establishment of Priorities (100/100words)

The fifth objective of environmental protection measures is "Promoting International Cooperation" in the master plan for Kitakyushu. "Tackling global environmental problems", contribution to global environment for our common future, is the first priority, "Creation of an environmental City for the future", in six prioritized mainstays, in the implementation program.

The master plan was established after requesting for advice from the committee consisted 50 members of representatives of all stakeholders in Kitakyushu and specialists, and for opinions of many citizens and citizens' groups. Regarding the implementation program, administration prepared drafts based on the master plan and the mayor made the decision.

?Formulation of Objectives and strategies (98/100words)

Achieving urban environmental improvement in developing countries through cooperation at local governments level, utilizing the experiences and technology of overcoming pollution was our goal. The first strategy was to identify cooperation with the friendship city in our comprehensive inter-city exchanges.

The second was to promote cooperation by forming an Asian cities' network, with similarities in population and characteristics to develop into comprehensive inter-city exchanges including trading, economic and cultural exchanges. The idea of the target was prepared through discussions by officials of Kitakyushu based on the studies by an institute in Kitakyushu, and the mayor made the decision.

?Mobilisation of Resources (200/200words)

In addition to the budget of Kitakyushu, official development assistance (ODA) fund of the Japanese government, subsidies and trust money from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Environment, other organizations such as JICA, JBIC, and international funds by the organizations such as ESCAP, World Bank were utilized. For each project, we sought appropriate funds sources and acquired them through negotiation.

Regarding technologies and experiences, they were accumulated within business enterprises and Kitakyushu during the process of overcoming pollutions in the 1960's and 70's were utilized. From the viewpoint of transfer of technology to developing countries, the local government and engineers of business enterprises, serving in the center of activities, reviewed and restructured the technology maintained. For example, the "Cleaner Production" can make environmental protection and enhancement of productivity at a time.

Regarding human resources, we have utilized the network of citizens, enterprisers, researchers and Kitakyushu organized during the process of overcoming pollutions. More than 200 groups and organizations including private enterprises, administrative organizations and institutions are cooperating utilizing the experiences and technology of each of them. Retired people who overcame pollutions, and accumulated special skills are involved. Citizens, women and youths have also participated in environmental exchange projects.

?Process (400/400 words)

In the 1960's, the most amount of dust fall in Japan was recorded in Kitakyushu. The Dokai Bay was called the "Sea of Death" where no creatures could live. Overcoming pollution was the biggest task for the city administration. Initial movement was lead by women's group. They suffered in their daily life; their children contracted asthma, laundry was soiled from falling dust if dried outdoors. They investigated pollution by themselves and requested that enterprises and Kitakyushu take necessary measures. In response, Kitakyushu restructured organizations and systems, trained personnel, established ordinances which are stricter than national regulations, conducted administrative and technical guidance, environment monitoring and provided low-interest loans to small and medium sized businesses. We needed authority to implement some of them so we realized decentralization in cooperation with the national government. Furthermore, Kitakyushu conducted sewerage improvement

and dredging sludge. Private enterprisers provided countermeasures by technical development. Academes supported improvements, development and training of human resources. Through those efforts, we could recover clean the clean environment.

People for environmental issues are wide-ranged, so how to organize and integrate cooperation became a problem. The KITA/Environmental Cooperation Center, which specifically implements environmental cooperation, was established. With this organization as the core, Kitakyushu, private enterprises, universities, institutes and citizens cooperated in the international training programs. We also established the KFAW, studying environmental problems in Asia from the standpoint of women, who initiated environmental activities in Kitakyushu, and the ICSEAD, studying environmental problems and other issues of Asia in the economic aspect, and other organizations and have them cooperate with one another.

When we started cooperation with Dalian, it was one of the most serious issues that how we could accomplish satisfactory result with limited resources especially in budget and personnel. Kitakyushu suggested that a limited area where the pollution is most severe be designated as environmental model district and funds and human resources are concentrated there. This proposal was adopted by Dalian, and the national government of Japan and China. Based on it, basic program for environment improvement was established and Dalian has worked on the projects systematically.

Requests for environmental cooperation have been increasing. Based on them, we selected six cities in four countries, which are enthusiastic in solving problems and launched the Environmental Cooperation Network of Asian Cities. We focus on self-effort and capability building for each of the target cities and implement acceptance of trainees, dispatch of specialists, and environmental studies through projects.

?Result Achieved (243 /250words)

Our environmental cooperation, which was implemented after overcoming various problems, achieved a great accomplishment.

In Dalian, we decided to prioritize the central area (217 km²) where pollution is severer in the total city area (12,600 km²). With strengthening personnel capability, cooperation with between other departments and sections was developed. It facilitated implementation of programs such as relocation factories, introduction of regulations, installing manufactured gas in the central. And improvements of air pollution and water pollution were largely developed, thus, Dalian became very livable city. Then Dalian was awarded the "Global 500" by UNEP in 2001.

In Ho Chi Minh City, the model factories could reduce wastewater by 40% and increase in customers through improvement of product quality by some measures such as cleaner production. Regarding the city administration, cooperation was greatly strengthened between environmental departments and other departments such as planning, economic and treasury.

In Metro Cebu, a trainee in our international cooperation program established basic plan for improving river environment, and began implementing projects systematically. Environmental improvement activities such as river cleaning activity by citizens, students, youths, and government officers were conducted for the first time in the Philippines.

The transferability and its effects of Kitakyushu experiences have been highly recognized by international organizations, "Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment" was endorsed by UNESCAP in September 2000. The environmental Improvement project in Metro Cebu was designated as the pilot project, to be the model for other cities within the Kitakyushu Initiative Network.

?Sustainability (298/300words)

The most important point is ensuring and developing personnel. Engineers of Kitakyushu and private enterprises who accomplished much for overcoming pollution are now engaged in the cooperation. They fully understand the importance and necessity of environmental improvement and develop younger human recourses, and are enthusiastic to prevent same mistakes, which Japan made in the past.

Women, who still play important roles for the environment, initiated and led the activities for environmental improvement in Kitakyushu. For sustainability, KFAW was established and Kitakyushu providing supports such as dispatching personnel, subsidizing funds. KFAW has conducted trainings, one of their theme is "Women, Environment and Development", participated as lecturers to various

environment training courses and conferences, solo or with the city government staffs. Furthermore they established a network for women's groups in Asia. Many women in Kitakyushu have participated in them. For sustainability of environmental cooperation, self-help efforts by people in developing countries are indispensable. To lead their incentives for environmental measures, the city of Kitakyushu present various pieces of information concerning damage by environmental pollution, effectiveness of preventive measures, recoverability from environmental pollution.

To promote sustainable environmental cooperation, secure of human resources and funds are indispensable, but laws aren't supporting environmental cooperation of Kitakyushu. Therefore, to continue inter-city cooperation, the spirit of reciprocity is essential. It's taken into consideration that the benefits of environmental cooperation should be distributed to Kitakyushu as well as our partner cities. The city's own budget is allowed to allocate in a way that Kitakyushu promotes the cooperation be profitable for citizens in Kitakyushu in learning from the others to create a cleaner environment, leading economic exchanges as well as effective for global environmental protection.

We are also proposing establishment of a system in which Japan's ODA and other international funds can be utilized for inter-city cooperation.

?Lessons Learned (299/300)

The first lesson we learned was the importance of know-how for international. It includes methods for international communication, solving problems, and risk management and knowledge of available systems by the government or international organizations as well as promotes mutual understandings, which is the most essential. We learned them through the partnerships with JICA, UNCRD and ICLEI. Then, we keep assigning those who had learned the know-how to international cooperation works affirmatively.

The second was how we could meet supply and demand. We participated in the case studies to review experiences of Japan by the World Bank as a model city. And while working in cooperation with specialists of them, we came to understand the root and nature of environmental problems in developing countries and needs for cooperation, the transferable experiences and technology of Kitakyushu, and also learned how we could meet supply and demand. In the cooperation, those lessons make the projects more effective and efficient.

The third was that organizations and systems should be adjusted under long-term plan. Japan's environmental administration made successful achievement based on basic plans covered systematically arranged purposes, policies and measures. In promoting international environmental cooperation effectively, we formulated a basic plan, "Kitakyushu International Environmental Cooperation Promotion Plan". Additionally, we established action plans regarding ten cities with which we promote environmental cooperation. Furthermore, to promote them, we established the "Office for International Environmental Cooperation" the first organization specialized in international cooperation of local governments in Japan, and assigned 15 staffs.

The fourth was that citizens' participation was important. Budgets of any projects conducted by a local government are from the tax of citizens. Therefore, understanding and cooperation of citizens are essential. So, we implement environmental cooperative projects, such as interactive meetings, conferences, and environmental exchange activities in which citizens, youths and community groups participated.

?Transferability (299/300 words)

There are two alternatives in transferring our accomplishments to other places. They are the method of environmental improvement, and the method of inter-city environmental cooperation.

Regarding the former, we would provide other cities following six items for their reference:

1. Strengthening of local initiative,
2. partnership among citizens, private enterprises, researchers and local government,
3. strengthening of environmental management capability at regional level,
4. upgrade environmental technology level,
5. encouragement of investment for environmental improvement by governments and private sectors,
6. dissemination of environmental information and promotion of environmental education.

They are the methods of environmental improvements based on the experiences of Kitakyushu, and proposed as the "Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment" at ESCAP Ministerial Conference to steadily promote urban environmental in Asia and the Pacific.

If other city wishes to refer to Kitakyushu's experiences and methods, Kitakyushu is willing to

cooperate with them through some programs such as dispatching experts.

Regarding the latter, effectiveness of inter-city cooperation conducted by Kitakyushu and other cities have been highly recognized by UNESCAP, "Kitakyushu Initiative Network for a Clean Environment" was launched in November 2001 with the participation of 36 cities from 15 nations to expand inter-city cooperation.

We understand that each of the many cities, which confronted with diversified environmental problems, in the world have different culture, society and economy. In order to promote environmental improvements it is indispensable to respect the social, economic, cultural and political background of each city. Whenever we implement environmental cooperation with another city, we have conferences and cooperate with various people in the other city as well as Kitakyushu. We learn many things each other through discussion and it help us adopt the most appropriate technology, methods and other related matters.

If other cities wish to conduct inter-city environmental cooperation, we will be glad to assist them through our know-how.

Key Dates

1965: The worst pollution in Japan

August 1980: Acceptance of international trainees began.

December 1996: Examination for development of Dalian began

15 December 1997: Organization of the Asian City Network for Environmental Cooperation

5 September 2000: Adoption of the "Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment" by ESCAP

References

These is media coverage:

"Kitakyushu a Stellar Environmental City"

The Daily Yomiuri (Newspaper in Japan) January 1, 2002

"Kitakyushu -Environmental Lessons"

Kinnaree, (Magazine of Thai Airline) January, 2001

"Promoting Co-operation with Asian Cities"

"Polluted Kitakyushu Changes Image"

"Children Learn about Loving Nature"

The Sunday Times, (Newspaper in Malaysia) April 23, 2000

The following reports are available:

1) OECD Report of 1985;

2) ICLEI, Final Report of UNCED Local Government Honors Programme, 1992;

3) World Bank/UNDP, Japan's Experience in Urban environmental Management Kitakyushu Case Study, 1996;

4) World Bank, Urban and Industrial Management in Developing Countries, 1998;

5) City of Kitakyushu, Pollution Countermeasures of the City of Kitakyushu, Japan, 1999

6) For People, the earth and coming generations:

International environmental cooperation, the City of Kitakyushu

Web links are as follows:

1) International Environmental Cooperation, city of Kitakyushu

<http://www.city.kitakyushu.jp/~k2602050/indexe>

2) ESCAP 4th Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Development:
<http://www.unescap.org/mced2000/index.htm>

3) Reports of above meeting:
<http://www.unescap.org/mced2000/mcedreport.pdf>

4) Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment:
<http://www.unescap.org/mced2000/kitakyushu.pdf>

5) Kitakyushu Initiative Network:
<http://www.iges.or.jp/kitakyushu>

6) Global 500 Award:
<http://www.global500japan.org/index-e.html#about>

7) Press Release of UNEP
<http://www.unep.org/documents/default.asp?documentid=201&articleid=2862>

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Type of Organization: Local Authority

Nominating Organization

Same as above

Partners

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Type of Partner Support: Technical Support

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Type of Organization: Non-governmental organisation (NGO)

Type of Partner Support: Political Support

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Type of Organization: Foundation

Type of Partner Support: Financial Support

Financial Profile

Year	Total (million US\$)	KITA	KFAW	ICSEAD	IGES
1996	9.71	46 %	18 %	23%	-
1997	8.97	44 %	18 %	27 %	-
1998	8.83	42 %	17 %	28 %	-
1999	8.40	41 %	17 %	28 %	1 %
2000	8.53	39 %	17 %	29 %	3 %

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