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### Progress in the implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment

(Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda)

#### *Summary*

The Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment (2000-2010) was adopted by the fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific in 2000. The unprecedented scale and pace of urbanization taking place in the region requires that new and innovative approaches be developed, on the one hand, and quickly replicated and up-scaled, on the other. In this regard, the Kitakyushu Initiative has generated considerable experience and lessons learned. Practices identified and promoted under the Kitakyushu Initiative have delivered tangible environmental, economic and social benefits, and have contributed to enhancing the political priority for such interventions. Key elements for successful replication and scaling up of practices identified include: (a) leadership and political commitment; (b) policy and regulatory support from the national Government; (c) public participation; and (d) effective partnerships.

The information and knowledge amassed and the models and approaches developed throughout the Initiative's 10 years of implementation constitute assets for sustainable urban development in the region which should continue to be used even after the conclusion of the Initiative.

The Ministerial Conference may wish to review the achievements and lessons learned from the implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative, and to provide guidance for future programmes in relevant areas.

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## I. Background

1. The Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment<sup>1</sup> was adopted at the fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific. Its objective was to achieve measurable progress in improving the urban environment in cities in Asia and the Pacific, by improving the capacities of local governments in urban environmental management, including issues related to water supply, sanitation, solid waste management, air quality or

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<sup>1</sup> Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, *Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific 2000, Kitakyushu, Japan, 31 August-5 September 2000: Ministerial Declaration, Regional Action Programme (2001-2005) and Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment* (ST/ESCAP/2096) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.II.F.12), Part Three.

transport. The Initiative was recognized as a Type I Initiative in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.<sup>2</sup>

2. The fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, which was held in Seoul in 2005, conducted a comprehensive review of the achievements of the Kitakyushu Initiative. The Conference decided that the Initiative should be extended and endorsed the Action Plan for the Second Cycle (2005-2010), which had been developed at the third Kitakyushu Initiative Network meeting, to guide activities from 2005 to 2010. The Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2006-2010,<sup>3</sup> which was adopted by the Conference, identified the Kitakyushu Initiative as one of the frameworks for improving environmental sustainability at the national level.

3. The second cycle focused on promoting and applying integrated approaches to urban environmental management, as well as improving livelihoods at the local level, in line with the green growth approach, which had been highlighted by the fifth Ministerial Conference as a key strategy for Asia and the Pacific to achieve Millennium Development Goals 1 (poverty reduction) and 7 (environmental sustainability).

4. The Kitakyushu Initiative programme has been implemented by ESCAP in cooperation with the Kitakyushu Office of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), which served as the secretariat for the Kitakyushu Initiative Network. The programme has been financially supported by the Government of Japan, IGES and ESCAP. In addition, there have been various contributions from the Network's member cities, including the City of Kitakyushu.

5. Participation in the Initiative's activities has increased over the 10 years of implementation. Starting with 20 cities from 10 countries in 2000, membership had increased to 62 cities from 18 countries by the beginning of the second cycle in 2005. As of early 2010, more than 170 cities had participated in the programme. Overall, a number of cities have continually taken part in activities as core partners of the programme.

6. The Initiative concluded with the fifth Network meeting, which was held in Kitakyushu in February 2010. Based on a review of its achievements and lessons learned from its implementation, the meeting formulated recommendations for promoting sustainable urban development in the region for consideration by the sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific.

## II. Implementation of Network activities

7. During the first cycle (2000-2005), the main focus of the Kitakyushu Initiative was on collecting and disseminating good practices. A database of good practices was created, thematic seminars were organized and demonstration projects were implemented. The thematic seminars were meant to build the capacity of local governments in urban environmental management

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap I, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>3</sup> *The Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.F.31), Annex II.

through the sharing of information on both successful and unsuccessful experiences. The demonstration projects were meant to replicate successful policies and programmes in different situations.

8. Building upon the achievements of the first cycle, the scope of the programme in the second cycle (2005–2010) was adjusted to accelerate actual environmental improvement within the given time frame. The priority areas selected for implementation were solid waste management, air quality management, water conservation and wastewater treatment, and integrated urban environmental management.

9. In order to support actual environmental improvement, the Initiative conducted a range of activities under four pillars: (a) accelerating the replication of successful practices; (b) integrating local initiatives into national policy; (c) incubating innovative approaches; and (d) stimulating action by Network members.

#### **A. Accelerating the replication of successful practices**

10. Replication of successful practices to other cities and towns with similar economic, social and environmental circumstances, priorities and challenges was identified as a key means to achieving tangible improvements on the ground. The practice of Surabaya, Indonesia, on solid waste management, for example, has been replicated in other Indonesian cities as well as in such countries as Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines and Thailand. Surabaya's waste management case attracted other cities not only because of its outstanding results (see box 1), but also for its cost-effectiveness and innovative approach based on public participation. The Kitakyushu Initiative assisted the acceleration of replication by making it possible for information and knowledge to be shared broadly and for city-to-city cooperation to be encouraged with a view to taking practical actions.

##### **Box 1**

##### **Replicating Surabaya's solid waste management model**

Surabaya, Indonesia, reduced waste generation reduction by more than 20 per cent over a period of four years (2004–2008) by actively promoting the composting of organic waste and successfully involving communities and private companies in solid waste management activities.

A solid waste management workshop was held in Surabaya in August 2008 to disseminate the knowledge and experience generated by the city's successful practice. It was attended by representatives from 20 cities as well as officials of central government ministries and agencies. By discussing national supporting mechanism for replication, the central Government was motivated to support a project aimed at replicating Surabaya's practices in five other Indonesia cities. The project secured technical support from the office of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Indonesia. As a result, these cities have constructed composting centres, with which they managed to reduce organic waste while simultaneously creating employment opportunities.

The solid waste management practice of Surabaya has been also replicated in several other cities across the region.

## **1. Compilation of successful practices**

11. Under the Initiative, successful practices on urban environmental management across the region were compiled, and an online database was created in order to reach out to a broader audience. Successful practices were shared during the meetings of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network, which were organized every two years, to expose participants to practices from various places that were grappling with similar environmental and socio-economic issues.

12. The Kitakyushu Initiative specifically targeted successful practices that: (a) had clear and quantifiable accomplishments; (b) were supported by policies that contain the necessary elements for success (such as setting clear targets, participatory decision-making processes, clear institutional arrangements and financing); and (c) had potential for replication and transfer to other cities.

## **2. Thematic seminars and workshops**

13. Thematic seminars and workshops were organized to discuss and disseminate policy options in specific sectors for a win-win approach to urban environment management and socio-economic development. Such seminars provided a forum for the exchange of information on local environmental practices, both successful and unsuccessful. The thematic seminars also facilitated discussions on the transferability and applicability of successful practices to other cities, as well as the development and implementation of suggested policies and related approaches.

## **3. Study tours**

14. Considering that information exchange alone would not automatically lead to replication, the Kitakyushu Initiative supported knowledge exchange among cities by organizing a number of study tours. This allowed city officials to observe successful practices first-hand, and gain a deeper understanding of how the practice had been developed and implemented as a result of discussing these issues directly with stakeholders in the host city, including residents and those who were involved in the implementation of the activities. For example, officials from the Philippine city of Bago attended a study tour of composting practices in February 2007 and subsequently went on to replicate this practice within the city's own solid waste management programme.

## **B. Integrating local initiatives into national policy**

15. Although the activities of the Kitakyushu Initiative mainly targeted local governments, the objective of achieving tangible improvements on the ground required scaling up successful practices at the national level. Therefore, the Initiative sought to bridge action at the local and national levels, and integrate successful practices into national policy. National agencies were invited to join activities such as thematic seminars and national consultation workshops for demonstration projects, as well as network meetings. This was done to increase understanding of needs at the local level, to discuss supporting national policies and mechanisms for local initiatives, and to explore the potential for partnership between local and national governments. For example, the National Conference on Solid Waste Management: Bridging the Gap between Policy and Local Action, held in Talisay City, Philippines, in May

2009, was aimed at identifying practical strategies and solutions to meet the challenges and constraints that many local government units face in implementing the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of the Philippines, which provides the basic policy framework for solid waste management in the country.

### **C. Incubating innovative approaches**

#### **1. Publication of guidelines**

16. A “Guide to Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Projects Related to Municipal Solid Waste Management” which linked action on a global concern (climate change) with action on a local concern (solid waste management) was published to help local authorities identify the economic, social and environmental benefits associated with the development of CDM projects at their existing municipal solid waste disposal sites.

17. An information kit on the Takakura Composting Method was produced with the intention of widely disseminating and encouraging low-cost and low-technology methods to waste reduction. The kit contained step-by-step guidelines for the composting of organic waste, economic analysis of composting, and practical information for replication.

#### **2. Implementation of demonstration projects**

18. Innovative approaches, such as low-cost and low-technology methods, micro-enterprise development and multi-stakeholder participation were piloted under different circumstances as part of the Initiative’s demonstration projects, and the findings were disseminated through follow-up national consultation workshops. A demonstration project implemented in the Philippines, for example, was aimed at supporting the development of “micro-enterprises” for waste composting and recycling that provide business and market opportunities for all stakeholders involved. The project resulted in multiple environmental and socio-economic benefits as it helped to strengthen environmental awareness and cooperation among all members of the community—students, local government, private entities, non-governmental and other stakeholders in the city.

### **D. Stimulating action by Network members**

#### **1. Setting measurable targets and developing action plans**

19. In order to clearly demonstrate improvement in urban environmental quality within the given timeframe, in 2007, 12 Kitakyushu Initiative Network member cities expressed environmental commitments with a set of measurable targets and action plans to achieve the targets by 2010. Most cities made commitments to improve solid waste management through 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle) approaches (see table 1). The Kitakyushu Initiative Network secretariat continuously monitored progress in the implementation of the action plans. The secretariat distributed questionnaires and conducted interviews and site visits to collect information on the status of each commitment and related activities. The evaluation conducted in 2010 showed that a majority of local governments made considerable progress towards the targets set; in a few cases, the targets were even surpassed. The results of the commitments were compiled in the “City Environmental Commitment Report (2007-2010).”

## **2. Provision of technical assistance**

20. In order to support these local governments in their commitments, the Kitakyushu Initiative developed its activities in line with the critical areas identified to address the actual needs of network members. This also paved the way to developing collaborative activities between Kitakyushu Initiative Network member cities and other network organizations that have the capacity to provide technical assistance for local governments.

## **III. Achievements of the Initiative and lessons learned**

21. The Kitakyushu Initiative contributed particularly to building the capacity of local governments in the area of urban environmental management. Municipalities were exposed to innovative strategies not only by means of sharing information at meetings and workshops, but also through hands-on experience in the form of study tours. In doing so, city-to-city cooperation was recognized as a strong means of tackling local urban environmental management issues of shared concern in the region. Local governments have also deepened their understanding of the significance of a multi-stakeholder approach involving communities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the central government.

22. In the 10 years that the Initiative has existed, there have been substantial achievements, which have created favourable conditions for further action to be taken in favour of sustainable urban environment in the region.

### **A. Improvements in urban environmental quality**

23. Exposure to successful practices and interaction with cities in neighbouring countries through the Kitakyushu Initiative prompted cities to commit themselves to taking a leading role in sustainable urban development. The Kitakyushu Initiative assisted city managers in strengthening environmental stewardship in their cities by, among other things, improving institutional and technical capacities, and promoting local initiatives by communities and civil society groups.

24. As the objective of the Kitakyushu Initiative was to achieve measurable progress in improving the urban environment in cities in Asia and the Pacific, such improvement has been witnessed in a number of the network's member cities. In 2010, an evaluation of the commitments made at the fourth Kitakyushu Initiative Network Meeting, in 2007, showed that cities had made substantial progress in urban environmental quality and, in many cases, had even surpassed their targets (see table 1).

**Table 1**

Targets and the results of the environmental commitments of 12 Kitakyushu Initiative member cities

City	Targets	Results
Bago City, Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease waste generation by 60%</li> <li>• Extend livelihood opportunities by promoting waste segregation, entrepreneurial recycling and source-level composting</li> <li>• Establish an exemplary level of awareness and support among stakeholders in the environmental protection and regeneration programmes and activities of the city</li> </ul>	Waste generation was decreased by 49%. This was mainly attributable to the active participation of city stakeholders in the composting of household biodegradable wastes, the utilization and recovery of recyclable waste materials.
Cebu City, Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce municipal waste generation by 50%</li> <li>• Reduce the use of plastic by 75%</li> </ul>	Half the targeted rate of reduction in waste generation was achieved by introducing composting activities and strengthening measures aimed at segregating waste at the source. A ban on plastic bags is in the process of implementation, and a “plastic-to-fuel” study is being carried out.
San Fernando City, Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the waste diversion rate to 28%</li> <li>• Institutionalize waste segregation at the source and recycling programmes in households and commercial areas</li> </ul>	The monthly waste recovery rate at the city's landfill has increased from 2% to 4%. Meanwhile, the estimated waste diversion rate has reached 20% and is expected to increase to 60% upon the establishment of a centralized materials recovery facility (MRF) and a composting facility at the landfill area.



City	Targets	Results
Puerto Princesa City, Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the waste diversion rate to 68%</li> <li>• Extend livelihood opportunities in the city by promoting waste segregation at the source and composting</li> </ul>	The annual waste diversion rate was maintained at 55% (achievement of 90% of set target).
Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieve 30% reduction in overall municipal waste generation</li> </ul>	At 32.42%, the waste reduction target was surpassed
Nonthaburi Municipality, Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease waste generation by 30%</li> <li>• Extend livelihood opportunities by promoting waste segregation at the source and household composting</li> </ul>	A waste generation reduction rate of 26% was achieved in 2008 and 28% in 2009; it is expected to reach 30% by 2010.
Sibu Municipal Council (SMC), Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease waste generation by 10-15%</li> <li>• Extend livelihood opportunities by promoting waste segregation at the source and household or communal composting</li> </ul>	A number of activities focusing on developing and strengthening community-based initiatives on waste management, including recycling and organic composting, were completed. From 2006 to 2008, waste reduction was achieved at an average rate of 2%.
Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC), Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the overall urban environmental conditions in the city</li> </ul>	Two sanitary landfills were established, and another landfill is scheduled to open by 2010. Continuous support was provided to community initiatives on waste management, such as recycling and composting. Environmental awareness campaigns were held widely in schools.
Weihai City, China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease SO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 5% and COD by 15% from 2005 levels</li> </ul>	SO <sub>2</sub> emissions were decreased by 9%, and COD was decreased by 15% in 2008.

City	Targets	Results
Kitakyushu City, Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue building mutual support and cooperation with other Asian cities by supporting the activities of the Kitakyushu Initiative in making tangible improvements in urban environmental quality in its member cities and provide technical support to cities through annual trainings</li> <li>• Decrease the city's household waste generation by 20% Increase the recycling ratio by 25%</li> <li>• Decrease carbon dioxide emissions by 10%</li> </ul>	<p>Most of the targets were achieved, with a 26% decrease in household waste generation and a 30.6% increase in the recycling ratio. In 2007, 751 low-emission public vehicles were provided, and that number is expected to have reached 860 by 2009. This action is expected to contribute significantly to the city's target of decreasing carbon dioxide emissions. Training was provided to 494 city officers from developing countries in 2007, 434 in 2008 and over 400 in 2009.</p>
Surabaya City, Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease waste generation by 40%</li> <li>• Extend livelihood opportunities by promoting waste segregation at the source and household composting</li> </ul>	<p>The city government of Surabaya surpassed its target, decreasing waste generation by 51.38% in 2007 and 58.67% in 2008. That success was made possible by continuous at-source waste segregation campaigns supported by the local mass media, trainings and a steady increase in the number of environmental cadres and the marketing of recyclable products.</p>
Ulsan Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease per capita municipal waste generation to 0.90 kg per day</li> <li>• Achieve a recycling rate of 65%</li> </ul>	<p>A per capita municipal waste generation of 0.99 kg per day and a recycling rate of 62.5% were attained.</p> <p>This was achieved through a continuous media campaign on waste segregation and reduction at-source, regulating the use of disposable products, marketing of recycled products, implementing a volume-based food waste fee system and increasing waste disposal fees.</p>

Notes: SO<sub>2</sub> = sulphur dioxide; COD = chemical oxygen demand.

## **B. Local leaders motivated on inter-city cooperation for sustainable urban development**

25. Inter-city cooperation was a key instrument throughout the implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative. Cities actively shared knowledge and lessons learned from their own practices with other cities by hosting study tours and/or trainings where participating cities had the opportunity to learn how partner cities addressed similar urban issues. Having become more aware of the usefulness of inter-city cooperation, Kitakyushu Initiative Network member cities even voluntarily played the role of mentor for the replication of their own practices beyond the Kitakyushu Initiative. As a result, some cities are now taking prominent roles in a number of regional cooperation programmes and initiatives on urban issues.

## **C. Enhanced knowledge base**

26. The Kitakyushu Initiative database of good practices includes practices in solid waste management, water supply and wastewater management, air quality management and environment in general. The database is not merely a collection of practices; it also provides an analysis of innovative approaches, offering knowledge beyond information. Therefore, other cities and communities are given a chance to examine and select appropriate instruments for the implementation of each practice, instead of merely copying them from one city to another. Some successful practices from the Kitakyushu Initiative have been included in the Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED) Good Practice Database. In 12 months (1 April 2009–31 March 2010), the Kitakyushu Initiative database recorded more than 18,200 visitors who downloaded good practices for their references.

## **D. Innovative approaches developed and disseminated**

27. The Kitakyushu Initiative successfully developed and demonstrated a number of innovative approaches to urban environmental management. Such innovative approaches include: (a) the application of low-cost and low-technology waste and wastewater treatment facilities; (b) the introduction of demand-side management in the provision of urban services; (c) the promotion of the win-win approach highlighting environment and socio-economic co-benefits; (d) wider application of public-private partnerships; (e) support for community businesses and mini-enterprises; (f) the use of information and communication technologies; and (g) access to carbon finance through the development of clean development mechanism (CDM) projects. The Kitakyushu Initiative demonstration projects provided the ground for the development of these innovative approaches, the examination of their effectiveness and the assessment of their feasibility for wider applications. In some cases, it also showed modalities for scaling up good practices, including by facilitating access to external funds, such as official development assistance.

## **E. Support measures by national Governments**

28. In its implementation, the Kitakyushu Initiative made significant efforts to involve national Governments and mobilize their support for the implementation of local environmental initiatives. It was based on the recognition that the effort of local governments alone cannot solve urban environmental issues; support from national Governments in technical, financial and legislative aspects, and in terms of human resources, is required.

29. The Kitakyushu Initiative facilitated networking among relevant agencies both at the national and local levels. Such networking was particularly successful in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand in the field of solid waste management. Strengthened partnership through a national network was effective not only in mobilizing the necessary support from the national Government in responding to the needs of local governments, but also in putting forward proposals for the development and strengthening of effective support mechanisms through the national legislative process.

30. The Kitakyushu Initiative also facilitated the exchange of relevant information and experiences related to the effective support mechanisms at the national level through regional intergovernmental dialogue, such as the Asia Cooperation Dialogue and ASEAN working groups under the East Asia Summit Process.

#### **F. A model of effective regional cooperation showcased**

31. The approaches and methodologies applied by the Kitakyushu Initiative provide a wealth of ideas for international cooperation on sustainable urban development. Two key factors should be highlighted: (a) an emphasis on the leadership role of local governments; and (b) a holistic approach to urban sustainable development with highlight on the role of local governments in comprehensively addressing environmental as well as socio-economic aspects of the livelihood of local residents. The Kitakyushu Initiative maintained its emphasis on a balanced combination of interrelated actions—such as highlighting the role of local governments while paying appropriate attention to the importance of the role of national Governments, or the use of the Internet in widely disseminating relevant information—associated with an appreciation of face-to-face communication through study tours and workshops. Such a combination contributed to the delivery of tangible results.

32. As the effectiveness of the practical approaches of the Kitakyushu Initiative became more visible, such approaches and methodologies were recognized and even replicated by other initiatives in the region. As reported by the Chair of the ASEAN Working Group on Sustainable Cities at the fourth meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network, a network was established following the model of the Kitakyushu Initiative, while the Environmentally Sustainable Transport Forum of the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) developed its Mayors Network based on the Kitakyushu Initiative Network. Other regional networks, such as CityNet, the International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the ESCAP Energy Forum and the Alliance for Healthy Cities, also benefited in one way or another from the momentum generated by the Kitakyushu Initiative in intercity cooperation in Asia and the Pacific.

### **IV. Future direction and recommendations**

33. The information and knowledge accrued as well as the models and approaches developed through the 10-year existence of the Initiative are common assets for sustainable urban development in the region. As such, full use should be made of them even after the Initiative comes to an end. The Kitakyushu Initiative has not only generated important momentum for urban environmental management in the region, but, by building the capacities of local governments and strengthening collaboration with other relevant regional networks, it has also laid the ground for sustaining its achievements. The

Kitakyushu Initiative will be retained in the form of the Asian City Network for Environmental Improvement, to be led by the City of Kitakyushu in cooperation with IGES, with a special focus on promoting a low-carbon society.

34. ESCAP wishes to express its appreciation to the Government of Japan, the City of Kitakyushu and IGES for their financial and technical support to the Kitakyushu Initiative during its ten years of operation.

35. The fifth and last Kitakyushu Initiative Network Meeting, held in February 2010, reviewed and discussed the achievements and lessons learned arising from the 10 years of implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative, with a view to presenting key messages and recommendations to the sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development.

#### **A. Key messages**

36. In view of the great challenge posed by rapid urbanization and industrialization in the region, there is a need to promote inclusive and sustainable urban development through approaches that are cost-effective, integrated and participatory. Practices identified and promoted under the Kitakyushu Initiative have delivered tangible environmental, economic and social benefits, and should be highlighted in order to maximize their chances of receiving political priority.

37. A wealth of good practices is available throughout Asia and the Pacific, many yet to be promoted. The unprecedented scale and pace of urbanization taking place in the region, however, requires the development of new and innovative approaches that can be quickly replicated and upscaled. In this regard, the Kitakyushu Initiative has generated considerable experience and lessons learned. Key elements for a successful replication and scaling up of practices identified include: (a) leadership and political commitment; (b) policy and regulatory support from the national Government; (c) public participation; and (d) effective partnerships.

38. The fifth and last Kitakyushu Initiative Network meeting called for enhanced regional cooperation in advancing the sustainable urban development agenda, in particular in terms of (a) sharing good practices; (b) identifying policy options; (c) capacity-building; and (d) technology transfer. It was noted that city-to-city cooperation could play an important role, as shown by the experience of the Kitakyushu Initiative. Several members of the Kitakyushu Initiative have been active with other regional networks and initiatives. Such interaction among different networks is greatly needed. Lastly, multilateral and bilateral funding can play a catalytic role, but it is important to match these funds with adequate resources at the national and local levels.

#### **B. Recommendations**

39. The following recommendations have been formulated on the basis of the overall implementation of the Initiative, and the feedback received by members and regional partners of the Initiative during the concluding meeting of the Network.

40. In order to address the challenges posed by rapid urbanization and to promote inclusive and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific, national Governments, together with regional partners, are urged to:

- (a) Institutionalize regulatory and financial support for local governments to implement sustainable urban development practices;
  - (b) Integrate successful local initiatives into national policies and programmes as appropriate;
  - (c) Build the business case for environmentally sustainable practices through a mix of regulation, economic and fiscal instruments;
  - (d) Utilize public funding to leverage private funding and create the necessary business environment;
  - (e) Assist local governments in mobilizing funds from external funding agencies;
  - (f) Promote capacity-building for local governments and exchange of information and knowledge sharing;
  - (g) Accelerate multi-stakeholder participation in policy development, implementation and review;
  - (h) Support national, regional and international networks.
-