

# **Mayors' Asia-Pacific Environmental Summit**

## **May 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

### **Communiqué on Livable Cities**

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As Asia-Pacific region leaders, we recognize the need to accelerate the sustainable development and livability of our cities and municipalities. We have therefore gathered at the Mayors' Asia-Pacific Environmental Summit 2001 to focus on practical actions to address this need, with special concern for the region's poor. Four hundred delegates from 28 countries and 118 cities, including over 100 Governors and Mayors, attended the Summit which was organized by the City and County of Honolulu, USA, and the MAPES 2001 Collaborating Partners.<sup>1</sup> The Local Government delegates were joined by delegates from national government, development agencies, the private sector and NGOs.

This communiqué outlines urgent regional environmental and social needs, some of the opportunities we see to address them, and individual commitments many of us have made to act on specific solutions in our own communities.

#### **I. Background: Facing the Human and Environmental Costs of Unsustainable Development.**

Today, the sustainability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region is threatened by the linked challenges of poverty and environmental degradation.

Seventy-five percent of the world's poor live in Asia. Nearly one in four children under five years of age are malnourished. In South Asia alone, more than 515 million people are living below the poverty line. We believe that failure to provide economic opportunity and basic environmental services to Asia's urban and rural poor could have de-stabilizing environmental, political and economic consequences of global proportions.

Ten of Asia's 11 mega-cities do not meet World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines for particulate matter by a factor of at least three. Smoke and dust in these cities, a major cause of respiratory diseases, are generally twice the world average and more than five times as high as in Latin America. According to WHO estimates, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Indonesia together account for about 40 per cent of the global mortality in young children caused by pneumonia. In China, it is estimated that smoke and small particles from burning coal cause more than 50,000 premature deaths, and in just eleven major cities, 400,000 new cases of chronic bronchitis a year.

Enormous pressures are being placed on coastal ecosystems and fisheries. Nearly one-half of the world's coastal population—477 million people—is housed in an urban agglomeration on Asian shores. Increasing stress is being placed on fresh water supplies. The safety of freshwater supplies is threatened, and there is inadequate access to sanitation and effective waste management. As demand for water increases throughout the region, by 2025 India is

expected to be water stressed, and China will reach the water-stress threshold before 2025. During the past decade, one in three Asians had no access to safe drinking water. At least one in two had no access to sanitation facilities. The World Health Organisation estimates that dirty water and poor sanitation in the region cause 500,000 infant deaths a year.

We, the leaders of the Asia-Pacific region, cannot ignore the impacts of a continuation of these and related conditions. We recognize environmental degradation and poor health will have major impacts on local economic competitiveness and productivity. We understand there will be long-term global economic impacts if clean water supplies in our region fail. We know that social alienation among large segments of the population will affect the ability of our governments to respond to shared environmental challenges such as acid rain, declining fisheries, destruction of habitat and climate change.

## **II. Towards a Livable Cities Agenda for the Asia-Pacific Region**

In consideration of these facts and issues, the Summit produced the following findings.

1. Poverty is a leading barrier to human and economic development and environmental protection in the Asia-Pacific region. Cities require a variety of infrastructure systems and institutional capacities to manage and treat their wastes and pollution effectively. Poverty is a major constraint that cities and municipalities face in their effort to provide affordable waste management, sanitation, as well as water and air pollution control -- and to make these cities livable for all their residents.
2. Poor environmental quality is a leading threat to prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. Unhealthy conditions caused by inadequate sanitation, drainage and air quality undermine the ability of the region's people to pursue economic opportunities. Illness increases family costs and reduces family incomes. Chronic illness in children inhibits child development and education, and can create life-long vocational problems. Inefficient and unsound infrastructure for water, waste management and transport increases time and resources that residents dedicate to these basic needs thus reducing their economic productivity. On a larger scale, floods and drought, air pollution, and traffic congestion reduce the productivity of entire urban and regional economies.
3. Effective local programs can be designed to reduce poverty, increase social inclusiveness and improve environmental conditions—to make our cities livable for all. In many Asia-Pacific cities, waste management alone offers an opportunity for employment and income-generation for our poor residents. In other communities, environmentally friendly management of coastal areas, lakes, rivers and forests is generating income from tourism and sustainable harvesting practices.

### **III. Actions Towards Livable Cities**

These findings compel us to take deliberate local actions towards making our cities more livable. The following list represents some of the opportunities we see to increase the environmental health, economic opportunity, responsible governance, and resulting quality of life of our cities through coordinated local action.

- Build upon local traditions of environmental sustainability as well as technologies that rely on environmental processes. Design livability solutions to specific local conditions, involving the affected communities.
- Establish mechanisms for building social consensus, and foster a mentality of cooperation and partnership among all involved in solving livability problems.
- Expand local autonomy to enable local authorities to implement their local solutions while ensuring national government support.
- Strengthen the mobilization of local financial and human resources.
- Promote the gathering and sharing of sound information as a basis for our actions. Create local, national and regional mechanisms for the exchange of information among all who can provide solutions to problems of livability.
- Create a culture with a vision in our local authorities that will foster integrity, transparency, accountability and responsiveness. Enhance credibility of local authorities by celebrating visible accomplishments and by enforcing local laws.
- Recognize, develop and support local champions of livable cities, especially women and children.
- Invest in information, education and communication so that our evolving communities can reap benefits from change.
- Design cities where people can connect. Avoid decisions that promote exclusion. Create opportunities for cultural events and activities that enhance community ownership and develop local pride.
- Give plans a long-term vision, and give our visions concrete plans of action that are adaptable to changing conditions.
- Develop integrated plans and use each initiative to address multiple social, environmental, and economic problems.
- Assume responsibility locally for the full impacts of local consumption and production.

#### **IV. A Policy Framework for Action: Towards the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio+10)**

We recognize that our ability to take the actions identified above often depends upon the existence of a supportive policy and fiscal framework, in particular at the national level. For this reason, we identified a number of key areas for greater policy dialogue and coordination between the local, sub-national and national levels of government. The following areas were specifically recommended for consideration in the context of Local Government's contribution to the forthcoming UN World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio+10) in 2002.

- National legal and institutional frameworks must reflect the critical role of Local Government in solving national and global problems of sustainability. To increase their contribution to sustainable development, local authorities require legal powers and decentralized jurisdictions that encompass the full range of sustainability issues. Fiscal frameworks must provide sufficient financial mechanisms to local governments to effectively assume delegated local responsibilities.
- National, sub-national and local government must each make greater efforts to coordinate their policies and programs with the other spheres of government in order to achieve the overall goal of sustainable development. In particular, all spheres of government must contribute to specific, coordinated goals, timeframes and budgets to address the needs of poor and dislocated populations.
- National governments must increase their support for citizen empowerment through consultation, dialogue and access to public information, particularly in the formulation and review of government policies and operations.
- Clear legal and policy frameworks are required for the appropriate engagement of the private sector in the management of public sector assets and the provision of public services.
- Education on sustainability should be mainstreamed into our educational systems.
- Strict standards must be established and observed with regards to public sector transparency and integrity (e.g., anti-corruption mechanisms) in all inter-governmental and public-private relationships.
- Assistance should be provided to local governments to develop and apply environmentally sound technologies and systems and to ensure that the adverse social and environmental impacts of development are addressed concretely in policies, plans and investments.
- Development agencies, national governments, the media and the private sector should expand their efforts to promote innovations for sustainable development that are arising daily at the local level. International assistance programs and national governments should renew their commitment to providing technical assistance to local governments through national and international institutions.

## V. MAPES 2001 Mayors' Commitments

Reflecting on the "best practices" of the last decade, the delegates to the Summit highlighted the essential role of local political leadership and personal and professional commitment in achieving urban sustainable development. Therefore, in keeping with the spirit and tradition of the MAPES, Governors, Mayors and other local government officials made individual commitments to implement this Communiqué and accelerate sustainable development in their own communities. The following list represents Commitments registered with the MAPES Secretariat.

Ahmedabad, India      Gurjar (Patel) Himmarsingh

We Shall construct sewage treatment plants to ensure there 100% waste water- We shall put in place a system of solid waste management to cover the entire city with a contaminated system eliminating all open waste storage sites.- To strive hard and improve the quality of life of slum dwellings by providing all essential services

Andheri, India      Jatin Modi

- 1) Conduct training , education, research for Environment Management.
- 2) Conduct regional and national seminar for Sustainable Future.
- 3) Establish Diaster Management Center as Disaster Man-Made or Natural can put on Environment.
- 4) We shall submit the research report on the environment periodically if you desire.
- 5) We shall take up the programmes connected with the " Women in Environment Management".
- 6) Full endorsement to the conclusion of the Summit.

Bangkok, Thailand      Nathanon Thavisin

- 1) Put effort with civil participation - more open space and green area in my city.
- 2) Improve better air quality by implementing various modes of operation (example: green fleet implementation)
- 3) Implement waste water treatment plant in BKK area by 2004 more than half of waste generation in BKK
- 4) Promote Eco-Tourism in BKK area.

Bikini Atoll, Marshall Islands      Eldon Note

- 1) Sustainable Development
- 2) Establish Bikini Atoll as a conservative area for the development of Ago-Tourism
- 3) Sustain our main resources as site seeing, fish, birds, trees to name a few.

Cilegon, Indonesia      Tubagus Aat SyaFaat

- 1) Work continuously to improve the quality of life of the communities of Cilegon by developing a sustainable, healthy environment.
- 2) The local government willll promote and encourage industries as they develop and

- expand to work together with the community to preserve the environment.
- 3) The local government will work in partnership with all the stakeholders of Cilegon (industry, community, business, etc. ) to improve the environment quality of our waters air and land.

Haiphong, Vietnam    Pham Tien Dung

- 1) Establish plans of implemented of sustainable development strategy that intergrates economic, social and environmental issues as one, all under the implementation of the City's Economic and Social Development Plan to the year 2020 that the Government has approved.
- 2) Augment to and specify policies in addition to the governmental administrative systems including financial management systems to carry out environmental protection activities as:
  - a) stabilize, with progressive annual increases, budget expenditures devoted to environmental protection.
  - b) Diversify financial sources for environmental protection activities including: Central, City and City District budgets, and contributions from citizens.
  - c) Training programs in environmental management for relavent government staff at all levels of city government.
  - d) Education for strenthening awareness programs for citizens on environmental protection activities.
- 3) The initial priority is to clean up all the areas in the city that are afflicted with pollution as some residential areas, clear water drainage systems, as creeks, and protect balancing lakes in the center city.
- 4) Engage in regional and international partnernerships on environmental protection, strive to make Haiphong green, clean and beautiful.

Hanoi, Vietnam    Nguyen Quoc Trieu

- 1) Complete the City's Environemtnal Protection Plan up to the year 2010 that is currently being considered for approval by the Central Government and tie this Plan to the process of economic development of Hanoi.
- 2) In a coordinated effort, carry out methods to control and prevent pollution from all sources as much as possible in the City.
- 3) The City of Hanoi commits itself to increasing expenditures for environmental protection activities and at the same time to mobilize enterprises to invest more in emissions control to strive for a green, clean and beautiful city.
- 4) Increase awareness of environmental protection issues for the City's communities, encourage communties to get involved in addition to instituting criminal and civil penalties for environmental violations to reduce environmental problems.
- 5) The City Government will maintain and further encourage the campaign to clean up the City's roadways through the Women's Union and citizens, establishing the City's rightful place as "A City for Peace."

Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam    Dao Van Luong

- 1) Carry out and complete the City's Environmental Management Strategy divided in to phases of 2001-2005; 2001-2010 and 2001-2020.

- 2) Expand the community environmental education program, from the streets and out into the whole society.
- 3) Continue to carry out the following programs: a) Air and ground water quality monitoring, b) Clean up the Nhieu Loca - Thi Nghe canal drainage system, c) Anti-flooding measures, improving drainage during the rainy season, d) Support enterprises to reduce emissions and engage in cleaner production, e) Upgrade the Dong Thanh landfill.
- 4) Launch the Dong Nai - Saigon River Basin Management Program.

Honolulu, USA          Jeremy Harris

- 1) Plant 10,000 trees,
- 2) Invest \$300 Million in wastewater upgrades,
- 3) Increase wastewater recycling to 10 MGD,
- 4) Begin construction of Bus Rapid Transit System.

Hue, Vietnam          Nguyen Van Me

- 1) Apply reasonable policy to stimulate the city's inhabitants participating to environmental protection's programs.
- 2) Continuing to invest some necessary infrastructures such as second landfill in north part of the city, waste water treatment systems, some facilities at Industrial park, etc.
- 3) Helping activities of "green volunteers appreciation" of Thua Thien. Promise to go ahead in different environmental protection's campaigns.
- 4) Increasing annual budget to complete master plan, land-use planning of urban areas, some sensitive places to preserve biodiversity, historical and cultural sites of Hue monuments classified by UNESCO; to develop step by step necessary infrastructures relating to environmental protection's programs, especially reforestation programs.
- 5) Paying more attention to the programs of poverty alleviation, helping people in poorest and remote areas, minorities, inhabitants in urban areas.
- 6) Completing and modifying administrative regulations relating to environmental protection's programming and poverty reduction.

Hyderabad, India      P.K. Mohanty

Improve 50 streams with all aspects in 2 years. Provide 10% of property tax . Plant 100,000 trees.

Indore, India          Kailash Vijayvargiya

Plantation of 100,000 trees within one year. 100% of the garbage of the City will be collected and converted into compost. Rain water harvesting 25,000 pits with filter. 100% school children will start learning yoga. Revival of the river Khan and Saraswati.

Kamakura, Japan      Ken Takeuchi

I would like to commit to reduce the waste by half until 2002 (next year). We have

already achieved to reduce 30% of the waste so we have 20% of the waste to reduce.

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia      Zainol Afriffin Pawaanchee

Reallocating and housing of urban squatters into comprehensive housing schemes by the year 2005 (reduction of 50,000 dwellers to 5,000 dwellers). To provide facility for urban transient/youths/new employees for short term duration of maximum 5 years from existing 1 center to 3 centers with capacity of 500-1,000 units. To enhance recycling of materials (papers/ferrous metals aluminum bottles, etc.) from current 3% to 10% by year 2003.

Likiep Atoll,                  James Capelle

Increase use of solar energy on the Island, thus reducing import and dependence on oil generated energy. Provide adequate quality drinking water to the communities on Likiep Atoll on a sustainable basis. Conduct marine survey for proper planning in establishing marine reserve areas on Likiep Atoll.

Los Angeles, USA      Ruth Galanter

Energy conservation and climate protection. Install at least 2,000 solar roofs. Using loans provided by our City owned water and power utility we will encourage private investment in photovoltaic cells. In partnership with the manufactureer and our community college district, the program will include job training in installation and maintenance offering new careers to residents as a way out of poverty. Accelerate conservation of city-owned vehicle to low emission or new emission fuels. Water conservation: Retrofit an additional 50,000 toilets (1.5 million already retrofitted) with low water use toilets. The program uses NGOs to train and employ people to market the program and install the new fixtures. All NGOs are in low income communities. Establish a similar program to promote waterless urinals in commercial buildings. Establish a similar program to distribute low water and low power use washing machines.

Mahasalra, India      Suresh Patil

Tree plantation all over cities, thousands. Make provision for trees water supplying. Our most critical problem--Sherinala. That could be solved by city cleaning programme staff with citizen. Door to door waste collection systems. Small gardens made by NGOs. Thousands of houses built for poor people, slum rehabilitating. Primary school children's--programme health, culture, academic and developing poor childrens programme.

Nonthaburi, Thailand      Surasak Wichinrotjaral

- 1) Minimizing solid water 10% by the year 2003.
- 2) Increase green area 5% in our city .
- 3) To built the wall along the Bangkruiay canal about 4-5 km to prevent flooding.
- 4) Bangkruiay municipality consist of 8.4 square km with 50,000 population, 15,000 families, we want to maintain sustainable healthy city.

Nothanburi, Thailand                      Somnuk Thanadechakul

Minimizing solid waste by 20% by the year 2003 (now we have 290 t/d). Increase green area 5% in our city decreased 30% of waste water. Climate change protection campaign for Nothanburi city to protect the global warming. Nothanburi city is cover the area 38.9 square kilometers population 270,000. Our city has the goal to develop the city to be the sustainable city.

Pago Pago, American Samoa                      Abe Malae

Establish a division in ASPA reporting directly to the CEO called "Sustainable Development." Responsibility to demand side management (in power) Demand management (in water) recycling (in water and solid waste). Public education in sustainable development and technologies. Targets: reduce per capita consumption of electricity and water by 10%, reduce per capita for sewage by 10%, and 10% of new electricity capacity will be in non-direls.

Phnom Penh, Cambodia                      Chea Sophara

Preservation of our city of Phnom Penh capital kingdom of Cambodia. Experience in trying to improve the environment in the City. Poverty reduction policies and the involvement of support from private sector, people, school education, NGGOs and local and international organizations.

Phuket, Thailand                      Phummisak Hongsyok

To develop integrated solid waste management system consisting of source reduction, solid waste sorting plant, sanitary land fill, and incinerator converting waste to energy within the year 2002.

Rayong, Thailand                      Surapong Putanapibul

Decrease the waste by people participation, revitalize the Rayong river, and develop Rayong beach to be attractive for tourists.

San Diego, USA                      Richard Murphy

- 1) Reduce freeway congestion from 2000 levels. Fund and implement a bus rapid transit pilot project by summer 2004.
- 2) Adopt a new element of the City's general plan that creates a city of villages where walk ability and public transit are fully integrated into land-use policies by December 2001.
- 3) Reduce the City's energy use by 10% over 2000 level.
- 4) Create a 50,000 open acre space/habitat conservation preserve within the City by 2004.
- 5) Reduce storm water runoff, reduce beach and bay closures by 50% by 2004.
- 6) Reduce 50% solid waste stream going into City landfills by 2002. We will have 50 clean air- heavy duty trash trucks by 2001. Liquid filled natural gas by 2002. One half of the fleet will be clean air trucks. Commit to involve over 20 major businesses to partner with the City in sustainability programs.

Seoul, Korea            Kim Seng Kyu

To prepare environment friendly world and to restore ecosystem of the Han river and its tributes and to encourage citizens to be involved in the environmental protection through the Green Seoul Citizens Committee.

Uttaradit, Thailand    Prakaieko Ratananaka

I am committed to transform Uttaradit Municipality (13.49 sq km) to a healthy city of green environment; promoting her tradition and culture improving the educational system that all children regardless of wealth will be educated; promoting the welfare and health of each citizens; renovating her infrastructure to become compatible with world technological advancement; and to assisting all citizens to become self-sufficient.

Vadodara, India        Bharati Vyas

- 1) Solid waste - fertilizer/gas/electricity generation -- the alternative that can work best with technology and local need will be done.
- 2) Computerization -- City Base Maps will be computerized -- water on all basic utilities will be added on computer to provide fast and better services to the people.
- 3) Poverty eradication -- Master plan will be made for slums. Slabwise they will be uplifted for primary services with community participation.

Xi'an, China            Su Chun Zhang

- 1) Green coverage reaches 38% in 2 years.
- 2) Cleaner energy use and gasification rate reach 80%.
- 3) Sanitary land-fill solid waste - 95%.
- 4) Wastewater treatment rate - 40%.