

Asian Mayors' Policy Dialogue for Promotion of Environmentally Sustainable Transport in Cities

-Kyoto Declaration-

We, the Mayors and governmental representatives of Asian cities, having met in Kyoto, Japan on 23-24 April 2007 at the Asian Mayors' Policy Dialogue for Promotion of Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) in Cities, to discuss and address key policy issues on environment and transport from city perspectives under the overall framework of the Regional EST Forum,

Recognizing that cities in the region are faced with a number of critical environment and transport related issues, their implications for human health, economic well-being, and social equity, and the emerging need to define and implement clear goals at the city level in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) adopted at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD),

Reaffirming and building upon the Aichi Statement agreed upon at the First Meeting of the Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport Forum in Asia, held in Nagoya, Japan, from 1-2 August 2005,

Noting the objectives of the Regional EST Forum, an initiative of the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) in cooperation with Asian countries, which is comprised of high-level government representatives and experts in various thematic areas related to EST, and which provides a strategic and knowledge platform for sharing experiences and disseminating best practices, policy instruments, tools, and technologies,

Emphasizing that the Regional EST Forum has identified in the Aichi Statement the need for both national and local governments to develop and adopt integrated policies, strategies, and programmes incorporating key elements of environmentally sustainable transport,

Realizing the importance of strengthening regional cooperation for sustainable cities through the framework of the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC) and other initiatives, such as the International Council for Local Environment Initiatives (ICLEI) and the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment,

Acknowledging the important role that Mayors could play in implementing local-level actions to make cities healthy, green, and environment- and people-friendly in cooperation with key stakeholders, and also addressing local issues which have regional and global implications, such as climate change,

Recognizing the importance of achieving greater synergy between local actions and national strategies and programmes to realize EST,

We, the Mayors, thus hereby declare our intention to:

1. resolve to demonstrate leadership and ownership in promoting EST and setting the vision in Asian cities in motion in close collaboration with the national government, the private sector, civil society, and regional and international communities,
2. commit to implementing integrated policies, strategies, and programmes addressing key elements of EST such as public health; land-use planning; environment- and people-friendly urban transport infrastructure; public transport planning and transport demand management (TDM); non-motorized transport (NMT); social equity and gender perspectives; road safety and maintenance; strengthening road side air quality monitoring and assessment; traffic noise management; reduction of pollutants and greenhouse gas emission; and strengthening the knowledge base, awareness, and public participation,
3. dedicate ourselves to specifically addressing priorities that are often under-emphasized but are nevertheless vital and central to EST, such as the provision of exclusive pedestrian and bicycle lanes, and ensuring safe and comfortable movement of women, children, the elderly, and the physically impaired,
4. dedicate ourselves to specifically address the adverse impact of the growing number of motorcycles in most Asian cities,
5. ensure sustainable financing and equitable pricing structures for implementing EST,
6. resolve to actively collaborate and cooperate through the Regional EST Forum in order to share information and promote the incorporation of EST elements in city master plans and programmes,
7. urge the international and donor community to acknowledge the importance of city-based actions and programmes concerning EST, and strongly appeal to them to actively support the implementation of these actions and programmes by providing financial assistance, and facilitating technology transfer and capacity-building through pilot and demonstration projects,
8. call for city-to-city cooperation to address issues of common concern and to bridge knowledge, policy, and technology gaps in the environment and transport sector, and
9. explore possible opportunities for organizing similar policy dialogues on a regular basis in collaboration with the international and donor community.

We are thus convinced that the concerted efforts of national governments, city authorities, the private sector, civil society, and the donor and international community will contribute to a more profound vision of EST for Asian cities in the 21st century.

We express our sincere appreciation to the organizers, experts, and participants for contributing their ideas, opinions, and experiences which will greatly help us in achieving this milestone.