

APPENDIX E

PROPOSALS AND SUGGESTIONS EXPRESSED BY SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS

i. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

For the past 10 years, ESCAP has taken the leading role in implementing the Kitakyushu Initiative. This project has ended, but the legacy of this project includes the enhanced motivation and capacity of the local governments in Asia and the Pacific and even of the Network Secretariat, IGES, to pursue city-to-city cooperation.

ESCAP is committed to continue its work to help economically, socially and environmentally promote sustainable urban development through a number of activity tracks, including:

- The Sustainable Urban Development Section of ESCAP will continue supporting the capacity building and the networking of local governments by organizing the Asia Pacific Urban Forum in June 2011.
- The Environmental and Development Policy Section of ESCAP will concentrate in the programmes to support development and dissemination of innovative policy options at the national level, in particular. These policy options include the development of East Asian Road Map for Green Growth / Low Carbon Development, which will cover several key areas of potentially effective policy intervention. For example, Eco-tax reform, by helping to internalize the external ecological costs of high carbon activities and products, will effectively stimulate actions in many sectors, such as sustainable urban planning and design, transportation, air pollution and solid waste management; at the same time, it will also improve the economic feasibility and competitiveness of environmentally sound technologies. The promotion of sustainable infrastructure will maximize the lock-in-effects of reducing the GHG emissions from urban economic activities for decades.

ii. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

JICA is willing to support the Models City Program in two ways: 1) preparing feasibility studies and providing capacity development projects to support specific ESC Model Cities, such as environmentally sustainable waste management projects; and 2) providing financial support through grants or ODA loans. While these projects are initiated at the local level, JICA requires national authorization to work with the local governments. JICA is starting a new training programme on low carbon development, which will include capacity building and training support for national and local governments.

iii. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

USAID has a regional mission to support activity around Asia, but it is concentrated in Southeast Asia. Issues presented by the cities at the 2nd High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities are in line with the mandate of USAID. Water and septage management are two focal sectors addressed by USAID. The 'model cities' approach is already being implemented by USAID in its ECO-Asia program. Three or four cities at the seminar are interested in increasing the water supply in their cities and USAID could assist these cities by providing resources, like workshops and training sessions. USAID is starting a new programme in low carbon emissions which may offer potential opportunities of collaboration with the proposed Model Cities Programme.

iv. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Rapid urbanisation is exerting pressure on fresh water supplies, sewage systems, the living environment, and public health, with the largest impacts falling on the urban poor. However, urbanisation also provides many opportunities. Firstly, cities may take the lead in the greening of the global economy. Genuine opportunities exist for national and city leaders to reduce carbon emissions and pollution, enhance ecosystems, and minimize environmental risks.

Integrated design strategies and technologies are available to improve urban transport, the construction of buildings, and the development of urban energy, water, and waste systems in ways that reduce resource and energy consumption and avoid lock-in effects. Hence, well-designed 'Green Cities' can combine greater productivity and innovation with lower costs and reduced environmental impacts.

UNEP thinks that the ESC Model Cities Programme provides a platform for participating cities to develop and share urban strategies relevant to their context and thereby help to localise the Green Economy. We are happy to extend our support to this initiative, which is in line with UNEP's urban environmental strategy for this region. UNEP also hopes to cooperate with partners relating to this initiative.

v. CITYNET (The Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements)

As CITYNET has already been working with many cities present at the 2nd High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities, CITYNET would be able to support the Model Cities Programme in terms of: 1) providing training and capacity building at its training center in Kuala Lumpur; 2) continuing to offer its regular water supply program with the city of Yokohama; 3) giving training at its Seoul Center on Sustainable Transportation; 4) supplying technical assistance under the format of the City-to-City Cooperation program (e.g. CITYNET is currently working with Phnom Penh on a biogas program, which is connected with cities in Indonesia and is bringing more partner cities on for support); and 5) providing resources related to its new programme on climate change adaptation and septic management is probably the best area where the organization can help.

vi. Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia)

CAI-Asia has many partners at the city level and national level in Asia. As a Partnership and Center, CAI-Asia can support the Environmentally Sustainable Cities program in the following ways: 1) organizing the biennial governmental meeting in urban air quality in Asia and informing all senior officials (from national governments) about city efforts; 2) providing tools such as the Clean Air Scorecard and Walkability Index to help cities assess their air quality management capability and the state of their pedestrian areas, respectively; and 3) facilitating the discussion among City Networks through the Network of City Networks of successful replication mechanisms in order for them to collectively reach more cities.. CAI-Asia is behind the efforts of all cities particularly in managing air quality and making their cities livable.

vii. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI wishes to invite all cities that have made a climate action commitment to

join its new project, the Carbon Cities Climate Registry (cCCR). The cCCR is a voluntary reporting system to show a city's achievement and commitment. With national government or international agency support, ICLEI is ready to provide cities with greenhouse gas emissions software and technical support/training to help cities to plan and implement tangible actions for climate mitigation and adaptation.

viii. Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

IGES is highly committed to the ESC Model Cities program. IGES has an office in Kitakyushu, the Kitakyushu Urban Centre, which focuses on urban issues. Additionally, IGES conducts supporting activities including: 1) a study about how to make networking more effective; and 2) a study about how to promote low carbon cities. It is promoting and disseminating good practices across Asia in projects, such as its household composting project in Surabaya, Indonesia. IGES is currently helping develop methodologies to monitor and verify greenhouse reductions that are in conjunction with Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions.

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