



# Asian-Pacific City Summit Newsletter

## No. 44 January 2019 Edition

### Contents

- I. Introduced the Asian-Pacific City Summit at an International Event (Report)..... 1
- II. News from UN-Habitat ROAP (The ninetieth installment)  
UN-Habitat’s Recent Activities..... 3

### I. Introduced the Asian-Pacific City Summit at an International Event (Report)

The twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to the UN Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held in Katowice, Poland, from December 2–15, 2018. The representative of Fukuoka City participated in “Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue for Southeast Asian Cities on the Rise (3): Partnership to increase cities’ readiness for full implementation of the Paris Agreement and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”, a side event co-organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan (OECC) in December 14, 2018.



The venue for COP24



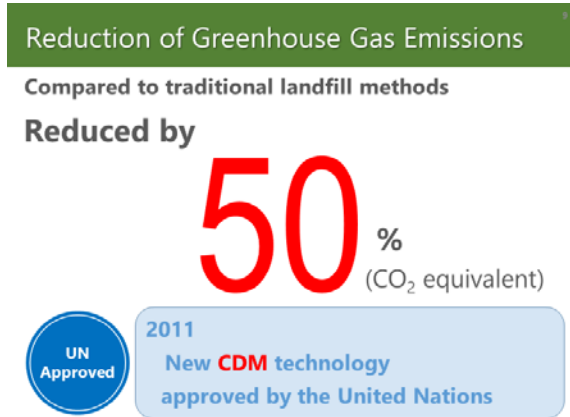
Fukuoka City introduced the Asian-Pacific City Summit and the city’s initiatives to address climate change.

Representatives from Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (TGO), JICA and OECC reported climate actions in Southeast Asia, including Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City. The representative from Fukuoka City made a presentation titled “Fukuoka City’s Initiatives to Address Climate Change”. The presentation included the Fukuoka Method: semi-aerobic landfill structure, water-conscious urban development for the effective use of the limited water resources, and the Asian-Pacific City Summit as inter-city networks for the promotion of SDGs.

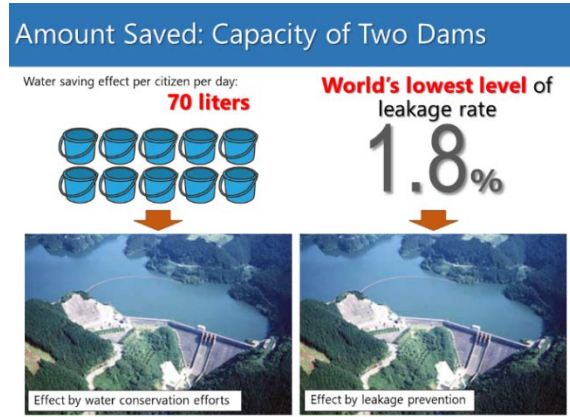
Semi-aerobic landfill structure, known as the Fukuoka Method, can reduce greenhouse gas, including methane, by 50% compared to traditional landfill methods (when calculated in CO2 equivalent). This innovative technology was certified by the United Nations in 2011 as a “Clean Development Mechanism” technology. Fukuoka City has collaborated with Fukuoka University to provide technological assistance to 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, such as accepting trainees and dispatching engineers to improve landfill sites.



Fukuoka City is also focusing on water-conscious urban development, based on the experience of two severe droughts in the past. The city introduced “water distribution control & leakage prevention”, “public relations, education & water conservation”, and “use of reclaimed water”, as effective measures to use limited water resources. These initiatives are also promoted as city’s climate change adaptation (a response to climate change that seeks to avert or alleviate the impact).



Compared to conventional landfill methods, Fukuoka Method can reduce greenhouse gas by 50%.



Water-conscious efforts saved water equivalent capacity of two dams.

Presentations were followed by a panel discussion among presenters. Panelists acknowledged that the role of local governments in addressing climate change is ever more significant, and thus it is important for cities to share their initiatives and learn from each other.

Mr. Kato of the OECC, one of the moderators of the 12<sup>th</sup> Summit’s parallel sessions, commented by saying, “Unlike other forums, mayors are not engaged in a mere formality, but share both of their cities’ successes and failures and have stimulating discussions at the Asian-Pacific City Summit. It is a very unique and significant opportunity for mayors. The Asian-Pacific City Summit serves as an effective platform for mayors to bring home what they learn at the meeting and implement them in their respective cities in a top-down manner.”

City leaders are expected to take the initiative in addressing urban challenges including environmental issues caused by climate change, as climate change has a great impact on cities. The Asian-Pacific City Summit will continue to provide an opportunity for cities to share advanced initiatives and challenges, and learn from each other. We will also showcase the efforts of Asian-Pacific cities in implementing and realizing the SDGs and demonstrate the significance and substantive outcomes of global inter-city partnerships to the world.



Panel discussion by presenters



Fukuoka City reported on the 12<sup>th</sup> Summit and introduced the next Summit in 2020.



## II. News from UN-Habitat ROAP (The ninetieth installment)

### UN-Habitat's Recent Activities

The 9<sup>th</sup> Environmental Technology Expert Group Meeting and the 12<sup>th</sup> Asian City Journalist Conference were concurrently held from November 27–28, 2018.

#### 1. The 9<sup>th</sup> Environmental Technology Expert Group Meeting (EGM): from 27<sup>th</sup> to the morning of 28<sup>th</sup> of November

The UN-Habitat ROAP has held an EGM since 2006 to share information on solutions for environmental problems in the Asia-Pacific region and to address them. The Asian-Pacific region has achieved remarkable economic growth in recent years, and seen improvement in infrastructure and living standards in many cities in the area. At the same time, various environmental issues are becoming apparent due to rapid urbanization. International society on the other hand, adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, and pledged to work for the materialization of sustainable development in every area of society by 2030 and not to leave anyone behind from such developments.

The 9<sup>th</sup> EGM consisted of two parts, and experts discussed topics of waste management in Asian cities on the first day, and SDGs on the second day, respectively. On the first day of the EGM, presenters introduced impacts and challenges of transferring technology, including the “Fukuoka Method” landfill structure, which has been adopted in many developing countries. On the second day, participants spent time considering SDGs. They shared advanced initiatives of local governments and companies toward achieving SDGs and discussed future collaboration and cooperation in Asia based on the SDGs.



Opening remarks by Mr. Koresawa, Director of the UN-Habitat ROAP



Introduction of the “Fukuoka Method” by Dr. Matsufuji, Professor Emeritus of Fukuoka University (Day 1)



Lecture by Mr. Tase of SDG Partners (Day 2)



Mr. Yoshiyasu, Director of International Affairs Department, Fukuoka City explained initiatives of the city.



On the afternoon of Day 1, overseas participants visited an incineration plant and a landfill using the Fukuoka Method in the Fukuoka Metropolitan Area. “This is well managed and so clean that I cannot imagine it as a landfill site”, a participant said. “There is so much to learn from Fukuoka City as it used to face a similar waste disposal challenge but has developed a clean and eco-friendly environment.”



Landfill using the “Fukuoka Method”  
(Green Hill Madoka)



Group Photo

## 2. The 12<sup>th</sup> Asian City Journalist Conference (ACJC): Afternoon of November 28

The 12<sup>th</sup> ACJC focused on waste management and the localization of the SDGs. Journalists from seven countries (China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Nepal and Republic of Korea: in alphabetical order) were invited. Journalists from Laos and Nepal were invited to the ACJC for the first time.

The conference started with presentations by journalists regarding the current situation and future prospects of waste management in each country. Situations and challenges facing cities vary depending on the state of development of each country, however, commonality in how those challenges develop can be found. A journalist pointed out that the time has come for cities to consider not only growth and expansion, but also downscaling and regeneration when they consider sustainable urban development. China has been promoting waste sorting, but it is difficult to nurture the sorting habit among all residents, and sorting categories have become unclear in many places. Cleanup work in India is exclusive to “untouchables”. This information shows that some countries have unique environmental challenges.

There was also a presentation about a unique initiative on waste management in Indonesia. People can get a bus ticket in exchange for a few waste plastic bottles.

Panelists engaged in an active discussion on the role of the media. The UN-Habitat will continue to address various issues in collaboration with the media of each country, as they have a great influence on the society.



Presentation by an invited journalist



Panel discussion



★To all persons of contact for our member cities: We hope to hear from you.

Please feel free to send us articles or information on hot topics and new projects from your city, and your efforts to address urban issues that might be helpful to other cities.

(Newsletters are posted on the Asian-Pacific City Summit website and sent to member cities and other addresses via e-mail.)

### Future Asian-Pacific City Summit Conferences

| Year | Name of Conference                         | Host City           |
|------|--|---------------------|
| 2020 | 13 <sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific City Summit | Fukuoka City, Japan |

The Asian-Pacific City Summit has been building cooperative relations and networks among cities through mayoral and working-level conferences, and other activities that work toward solutions for urban problems in the Asia-Pacific region.

#### Asian-Pacific City Summit Member Cities 30 Cities from 13 Countries

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Auckland (New Zealand)   | Kagoshima (Japan)                     |
| Bangkok (Kingdom of Thailand)  | Kitakyushu (Japan)                    |
| Brisbane (Commonwealth of Australia)                                 | Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)               |
| Busan Metropolitan City (Republic of Korea)                          | Kumamoto (Japan)                      |
| Changsha (People's Republic of China)                                | Manila (Republic of the Philippines)  |
| Dalian (People's Republic of China)                                  | Miyazaki (Japan)                      |
| Fukuoka (Japan)  | Nagasaki (Japan)                      |
| Guangzhou (People's Republic of China)                               | Naha (Japan)                          |
| Gwangyang (Republic of Korea)  | Oita (Japan)                          |
| Ho Chi Minh City (Socialist Republic of Vietnam)                     | Pohang (Republic of Korea)            |
| Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (People's Republic of China) | Saga (Japan)                          |
| Honolulu (United States of America)                                  | Shanghai (People's Republic of China) |
| Ipoh (Malaysia)  | Republic of Singapore                 |
| Jakarta Capital City Government (Republic of Indonesia)              | Urumqi (People's Republic of China)   |
| Jeju Special Self-Governing Province (Republic of Korea)             | Vladivostok (Russian Federation)      |

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February 6, 2019