Dr. Jayaraman S/O Munusamy

Chairman Kuwahara

Next, I would like to ask Dr. Jayaraman S/O Munusamy, Special Advisor to the Mayor of Kuala Lumpur to make his presentation.

Dr. Jayaraman S/O Munusamy, Special Advisor to the Mayor

Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. Now before I proceed with my speech, I would like to inform you that I'll be two, one on the right side will be the transparency where I made my speech shorter, and on the left hand side, we'll have the slides.

Now Malaysia comprises a Peninsula of Malaysia, Salwap, and Subar. Kuala Lumpur, the national capital of Malaysia, is situated about 60km of the west coast Peninsular Malaysia. It is situated at the crossroads of all major forms of transportation systems, and is a natural center for commerce and industry. Kuala Lumpur was raised to city status on the first of February, 1972, and declared as federal territory on the first of February, 1974. It covers an area of 243km².

Before touching on issues on how to harmonize living environment and urban development, here are the main problems facing citizens of Kuala Lumpur. The problems experienced by Kuala Lumpur are not dissimilar to those faced by other developing countries. And the reasons are five main problems.

One, rapid population increase. People from other states are migrating into Kuala Lumpur, and the bulk of the migrants are youths of the 20 to 35 age group, which constitutes the main segment of the labor force of low income group. The reasons for this migration are: economic prosperity, better employment opportunities, better facilities and better environment.

Two, inadequate housing. Due to this migration, there is a shortage for this low income group, and hence the rapid growth of squatter settlements. Whereas the housing supply is adequate for those affordable.

Three, inefficient public transport system. The mainstay of the public transport systems are totally road based, rather than segregated urban transit, or underground subway systems.

Four, insufficient facilities for leisure and recreation. The provision for open spaces for recreation purposes is inadequate. The existing recreational open space land in the Federal Territory totals 1,647 acres, and forms about 2.7% of Kuala Lumpur land. And it is about one third of the western cities. I want you to also consider the excessive development over the past few years.

Five, problems of environmental quality. With the rapid urban development, the negative effects of air and river pollution in 1991 as shown in Chart 1, the projected carbon

monoxide level in the central planning area at the moment is below the standard guideline of 9 ppm in eight hours, but in 1999, it will exceed this line. Whereas in Chart 2, you will find the total suspended particles for 1994 is already exceeding the standard guideline of 150 micrograms per cubic meter.

The concept of harmonizing urban development and living environment. One of the main objectives of Kuala Lumpur is to achieve harmony between urban development and human living environment in this age of internationalization. To achieve this, we would like to make Kuala Lumpur a city of multi-functions. It can be discussed under the following headings.

One, a historical city in urban development, a business city in urban development, a shopping city in urban development, a tourist city in urban development, a green city in urban development and a future city in urban development to come.

A historical city in urban development. Although urban development has given rise to many new modern skyscrapers in Kuala Lumpur, City Hall Kuala Lumpur also tries its efforts to blend the past with the present to create a moral historical city for the future. As a result, works on urban conservation of Kuala Lumpur's finest buildings was started in the year 1980s. Examples are one of Kuala Lumpur's greatest undertakings in terms of urban conservation is the Sultan Abdul Samad Building, the former old Secretariat Building, which was renovated to become the office of the present high court. Religious buildings frequently stand the test of time better than other old buildings, purely because they are places of worship and expression of faith. The Jamik Mosque, built in 1909, the St. Mary's Church, built in 1894, and the Chan See Yuen Temple, built in 1906 are some of the fine examples. Another building worth mentioning is the Central Railway Station.

Number two, a business city in urban development. Kuala Lumpur is set to become a leading international and regional business center in Southeast Asia. Hence, it is our objective to provide more and better infrastructure, and basic amenities, such as to improve the railroad systems and interchanges, to build comprehensive LRT and monorail systems, to provide international conference centers such as the Putra World Trade Center, which was completed in 1986, and can accommodate about 5,000 people. Five-stars hotel facilities and sophisticated and intelligent buildings.

A shopping center in urban development. One of the main difference between Kuala Lumpur and western cities is that Kuala Lumpur is always busy with activities, day and night, as people work, shop and eat. City Hall Kuala Lumpur is keen to promote the concept of a living city by encouraging the creation of mixed development which contains shopping facilities, commercial office, hawker areas and residential accommodation. Here aims to avoid the mistakes of many western cities, where shopping districts are mainly empty at night. Shopping complexes are open right up to 10 PM. Examples

of mixed development are: The Sun I Wun Plaza, the Mall Hail Plaza and Sono Palace, to mention a few.

A tourist city. People from all over the world, and all walks of live are being attracted to Malaysia, mainly through its gateway, Kuala Lumpur. Kuala Lumpur being the national capital reflects the diversity of its culture and lifestyle. Since the promotion of Malaysia in 1990, many tourists have come to know Malaysia as a country of many facets. Tourism has become one of the fastest developing industries, with an annual growth rate of about 7%, and has become the nation's fifth largest foreign currency earner. This year we launch another promotion, Visit Malaysia Year, and we received more tourists than in 1990. Over the past decade, we have built many four and five star hotels, some becoming landmarks of Kuala Lumpur. For example, the Pan-Pacific Hotel, Shangri La Hotel, the Legend Hotel and the Spanner Hotel.

Number five, a green city. The rapid pace of development in the past few decades has meant an underprovision of open public space where the city currently has approximately only one third of the open space available in major cities of the western world. As a result, City Hall Kuala Lumpur realizes its mission to ensure that there are enough greenery and space to breathe by adopting a policy of 'Garden City of Lights' and a 'No Roads Without Trees' program to create a green city in urban development. City Hall Kuala Lumpur has also encouraged its residents to visit gardens and parks. Besides, City Hall Kuala Lumpur has also started 'Team Garden Concept' to attract more city folks to the gardens such as the Orchid Garden, Hybiscus Garden, Bird Park, Mossville Park, Butterfly Park, children playground, lake in Lake Titiwangsa and the jogging tracks in Lake Garden, etc. In short, City Hall Kuala Lumpur always tries its efforts to make Kuala Lumpur a garden city in its urban development.

The future city in urban development to come. Kuala Lumpur a fascinating city in the process of transformation into a major metropolis. The vision of the future city is a framework we work and establish many stages. It is a vision that is more than a dream, as much of it has already started to happen. We will adopt one partnership growth with the people and private sector. Examples are joint venture projects, such as the Pernasur Solgo Development, first phase completed early 1994, second phase is mixed development of shopping hotels, 75 story office and apartment block to complete by the year 2000. Furdalaza Project and the KLC, Kuala Lumpur City Center. It is a vision of City Hall to make Kuala Lumpur a symbol of national pride and a moral city for the 21st Century.

In conclusion, I would like to say that this paper has briefly touched on the problems of urban development in a fast growing city of Kuala Lumpur. It aims to achieve harmonious living environment for its people in this age of internationalization. It aims also to achieve the purpose of sharing and learning from one another.

Thank you very much. (Applause)

Chairman Kuwahara

Thank you very much for your presentation, Dr. Jayaraman S/O Munusamy.

His presentation introduced the city's plans to solve its problems and to provide its citizens with a harmonious living environment, coping with the rapid urban development. I was impressed with his vision aiming to make Kuala Lumpur a multi-functional city, focusing on its history, business, commercial activities, tourism, greenery and future plans.

Chairman Kuwahara

Next, I would like to ask Mr. Keiichiro Kamado, Director General of the General Planning and Coordination Bureau of Kumamoto City to begin his presentation.

Mr. Keiichiro Kamado, Director General of the General Planning and Coordination Bureau

Thank you for the introduction. My name is Keiichiro Kamado, and am responsible for planning and coordination in Kumamoto City. Since the mayor is not available today due to his schedule, I would like to make a presentation on his behalf.

Kumamoto City is located in the center of the Kumamoto Plains, about 100 km south of Fukuoka City. With vast lands stretching to the foot of Mt. Aso, the city is blessed with favorable geographical conditions, and is making steady progress. At present, the city has a population of 640 thousand, is increasing at a rate of about 4,000 to 5,000 annually, making it the 14th largest city among 663 cities in Japan excluding Tokyo. Citizens in 16 neighboring towns and cities commute to Kumamoto City for work and school, and the population of the metropolitan area numbers approximately one million. The city has been recognized as a commercial city as well as an area where government and municipal offices are centered. Therefore, it functions as a so-called "consumer city" where urban type industries such as high-technology, food, beverage and printing related companies are located.

Our city plans, focusing on environmental problems, have been explained in the booklet you have in your hand. Since I have limited time to present my report, I would like to summarize them in the following three points.

First of all, I would like to talk about the inheritance of "City of Trees." Kumamoto City has been called by this beautiful name since Soseki Natsume, one of Japan's greatest novelists, described the city as a forest city. It is said that he was very impressed with the abundant greenery when he came to the city as a teacher of the Fifth High School located in Kumamoto in 1896.

This forest capital, however, has not been easily formed. Summer in Kumamoto is very hot and humid, often said to be close to the climate of the equatorial zone according to certain data. For natural relief from the heat, shade trees and flowers have been planted in the center of the city and even in very small spaces. This is how the forest capital has been formed. The abundant greenery, however, has been gradually decreased due to the city development projects. To combat this situation, the "City of Trees" declaration was announced in 1972. In the name of "City of Trees," we have actively promoted the expansion of greenery and green zones within the city.

I think we should adopt the wisdom of our ancestors based on nature or climate, in future plans to make Kumamoto City more attractive.

Secondly, we need to establish a human-friendly, environmental-friendly urban transportation network.

The number of vehicles in Kumamoto has rapidly increased, and is now almost three times as great as 20 years ago. This has naturally led traffic in the city to increase by 1.2 times at most in the past 20 years, although it has decreased in some areas. I would say that traffic in the city is now paralyzed due to congestion exceeding the capacity of the roads.

To relief the heavy traffic congestion, streetcars have gradually been discontinued. The line which used to cover a total of 25km before has now been reduced to 12km. The main transportation of the city is privately owned cars and buses, which makes the city very inconvenient for some citizens without their own means of transportation. In addition to the traffic congestion, we should consider problems traffic poses for human-beings. In other words, we have to solve the environmental pollution caused by exhaust gas, especially carbon dioxide, which is being increased every year. About 36% of the total amount of carbon dioxide is produced by exhaust gas. This rate is continuing to increase and is leading to deterioration of the living environment.

Under these circumstances, we should deal with urban traffic problems by using railroad type transportation which is less harmful to the environment, such as streetcars and JR. We have actively introduced this European style streetcar with extremely low floor called the Light Rail Transit, LRT in short, to remove many barriers or restrictions for elderly people and disabled people. Basically, our goal is to create a human-friendly and environmental-friendly city.

Heated and active discussions are going on in the Kumamoto City Council over the traffic problems. Some say that the LRT system, railroad type of transportation, should use as much road surface as possible if we really wish to create a human-friendly city. In doing so, the biggest issue we are facing is whether the system should remain on the ground by expansion of the existing line, should be rebuilt as an elevated railway, or should be buried under the ground.

Thirdly, we hope to create a city with an intellectual atmosphere. To be more specific, I would say it can be categorized as a convention city. All of the cities in Kyushu which are participating in this summit today are well equipped with facilities to serve as a convention city. Striving to establish itself as a convention city, Kumamoto is promoting city planning, especially in the downtown area centered around Kumamoto Castle. We hope to promote city planning while emphasizing the history, culture and traditions of Kumamoto. The city planning was initiated about ten years ago.

There is a small river running right next to Kumamoto Castle, but we can not go down to the river bank. It is not only the river, but also woods and grass which we have lost the access to or interest in. The loss of access to nature, I think, is one of the reasons why citizens show little interest in environmental problems. Therefore, I am struck by the need for city planning which makes the bank of the river accessible to the citizens. In other words, I hope we will create a city offering a more pleasant atmosphere full of nature, history and culture. I think this is the best way to help visitors from foreign countries, as well as from Japan, feel the charm of Kumamoto. In the case of Kumamoto city, it is very difficult to build a large-scale convention facility like Fukuoka City has, due to the capacity of the city. I would say we should host small conventions, those requiring space for 500 to 2,000 attendees, by nurturing the hospitality of citizens.

Although Kyushu has been recognized as one unit, I think we should engage in city planning with the unique roles of each city clear in mind.

Please refer to the material you have in your hand for a detailed explanation on our city planning.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to the city of Fukuoka for giving me the opportunity to attend this summit and to present our basic policies. Thank you very much. (Applause)

Chairman Kuwahara

Director General Kamado thank you very much for your speech on the attitude of Kumamoto City to inherit the "City and Tree." I certainly do agree with their stance on environmental ploblems and the promotion of building a more conventional City.

Mr. Alfredo S. Lim

Chairman Kuwahara

Next, I would like to ask Mr. Alfredo S. Lim, Mayor of Manila City, to make his presentation. Mr. Alfredo S. Lim, Mayor of Manila

Mr. Chairman, Mayor Kuwahara, Your Honors, mayor participants in the summit. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

The city of Manila sends to each and every one of you its warmest greetings and best wishes.

Manila is the show window of the Philippines. For centuries, it has remained to be the seat of politics and national leadership; the focal point of commerce, business and industry; the center of education; and the melting pot of Filipino tradition, as well as eastern and western cultures. Before it was a prosperous city in this part of the world. But like all other old cities, Manila has to contend with problems of urban decay and unmanageable migration from the countryside. The lure of the city carries with it some problems that beg for solutions. But today, the present government is committed to make Manila rise again and recapture its past glory and keep its position in the Asia-Pacific marketplace.

The efforts of the City of Manila to provide a people-friendly city environment while it recognizes how a fast growing urban population impacts on the government capability to respond to increasing needs and demands. It spells out some given premises and current initiatives of the City as it balances the gains of development with a peaceful, healthful, and happy human living environment.

This blueprint reflects the City's seven point vision that includes the following: peace and order; education and manpower; health, sanitation, and social welfare; tourism and beautification; sports and recreation; ecology and environment; and economy and business.

The leadership and populace of the City renewed their vision to re-establish Manila as one of the premiere cities in the region. It is ready to meet current demands and challenges as it moves to attain new frontiers toward progress and provide every Manila a place where he can enjoy freedom, unity, peace, security and prosperity.

Unfortunately, rural settlers have been coming to the city. These are the homeless squatters and other transients who compete in sharing for the city's resources for basic services, while they likewise add to the problems of unemployment, health and sanitation, environmental degradation, pollution, housing, traffic, solid waste disposal and delinquency.

The administration is based strongly on the philosophy of restoring decency, honesty, equality, and discipline in serving the people, so that everyone is allowed the opportunity to benefit from the services of government and to improve his quality of life. This government accepts no compromise to clean, efficient, honest and responsive service to the people. To implement the philosophy of governance of the City of Manila, the following principles are strictly enforced: First, quality and justice must prevail in government dealings with the people, so that no one gets exploited in favor of the other. Second, administration must be sensitive to the needs of the people regardless of their situation. Third, rationality must prevail in government operations, emphasizing

practicability, viability, and optimality.

Enjoying the support of the City Council and the private sector, the City Government has succeeded in increasing the awareness, and therefore the cooperation of the community, on the numerous issues and concerns affecting the city.

Developing the city in the context of a people-friendly environment means articulating and translating the vision cited earlier into programs and services.

Safety and security in the City has been in place. The decline in crime rate has been due to the police force being revamped with 60 motorcycles and high-tech communications equipment. The total number of 3,913 police personnel have been re-trained while penalizing 1,363 and dismissing 116 erring and abusive policemen. There is no substitute for a clean, honest and competent police force that should adopt a strong stand against all forms of criminality.

The venue for developing creative, self-reliant, and socially upright citizens receives active support from the City. This responsibility is shared both by the public and private educational institutions. They participate immensely in the development of the young by providing free tertiary education for the less privileged but talented students. Educational institutions extend their services to the community through youth leadership training, assemblies, consultations, dialogues, immersions and other special projects and researches.

Putting high premium on the health and welfare of the people this year, the city government has provided free maternal and child health services to 23,373 prenatal clients, 14,453 post-partum care patients, 11,993 mothers, and 15,281 tetanus immunization cases. These are in addition to the regular medical services in the city-funded Medical Center, two newly upgraded satellite hospitals and 44 health centers. Free dental services have also benefited no less than 275,956 students, while hastening the inspection and issuance of sanitary permits and health certificates to establishments and their personnel to ensure the preventive aspect of public health.

More on the welfare side, the City Government continues to grant P1,000 incentive allowance monthly to no less than 32 thousand City Hall personnel. Among the very poor, 30% received assistance for income generating projects. About 1,134 squatter families have been relocated while equally assisting hundreds of street children. Many tourist sites are now upgraded. Public parks have been rehabilitated, while lighting more streets, face-lifting public buildings and fences, and improving the drainage systems. The city's tree planting program has planted 50,208 trees in government lots and sidewalks. Strictly enforced are the ordinances on anti-littering and illegal dumping of garbage. Active citizen's cooperation and involvement are big help in these beautification efforts. Peddlers of flesh in fun houses and drug trafficking have been eradicated from the city.

Playground facilities in recreational areas in Manila's parks have undergone rehabilitation. The physical fitness and sports development programs of the city have received a big boost with the active leadership and participation of City Hall officials and has also succeeded in conducting sports fests enjoyed by the people. Community leaders are encouraged to hold daily physical exercises, i.e., jogging, walking, aerobics, for continued mental and physical health.

To maintain ecological balance and protect the public from all forms of pollution, efforts in this area are concentrated in improving flood/drainage control systems, cleaning rivers and esteros, and covering manholes and pitholes. Tree planting (mentioned earlier) and cleanliness drive form part of this program, as well as infrastructure and road improvement.

Economy and business are the major lifeblood of all expenditures and operations in the City. The resources generated from these actually determine the magnitude and success of all programs for effective governance and socio-economic development. The City has made efforts to provide a favorable climate to the growth of business and to attract new investors.

The city government is aware that it is not easy to develop the City the way we want but it is willing to do so much to benefit its people and all those whom it serves. The City of Manila wants to give its people what they rightfully deserve. We are giving them a government they can trust, a place they can fully enjoy, and a city they can be proud of.

Given the various programs and services made available to safeguard the environment and health of the people, the only major problem is resource, money. They say money is the root of all evil, but in our problems, money is the solution to our problems. Certainly, it is not enough to finance all projects. Much as what government wants to do, there is always the constraint of money and time. The solutions to the problems in the city give rise to other problems, but these are challenges that the city can overcome if the people and officials believe in, belong to and help each other.

Thank you, and good afternoon. (Applause)

Chairman Kuwahara

Thank you very much, Mayor Lim.

He introduced concrete plans for the "Manila 2000" project, consisting of seven fields; including peace and social order, education and human resources, health and sanitation, and social welfare. It sounds great to foster Manila into one of the largest cities in the area through the human-friendly development.

Mr. Shigemitsu Tsumura

Chairman Kuwahara

Next, I would like to request Mr. Shigemitsu Tsumura, Mayor of Miyazaki City, to give his speech.

Mr. Shigemitsu Tsumura, Mayor of Miyazaki

My name is Shigemitsu Tsumura, the Mayor of Miyazaki City.

It is said that now is the time of prominence for the Asia Pacific area. Its recent success has attracted the attention of the world. I would like to express my respect and gratitude for organizing this summit conference on this timely subject. Our aim is to build cooperation and construct a network system among the Asian Pacific cities. I would also like to thank the good offices of Fukuoka City as well as Mayor Kuwahara of Fukuoka City for offering me this opportunity to speak.

Miyazaki City, located in the southeastern part of Kyushu, is the prefectual capital of Miyazaki-ken. Our population is 295,000 people in a 286km² area, forming 25% of Miyazaki Prefecture. It is introduced in KOJIKI—the oldest historical document in our country—as the origin place for Japanese myths and there are many places whose names come from these myths. Miyazaki has a very warm climate and an abundance of natural beauty such as the Oyodo River running across the city to the Pacific Ocean, Aoshima Island covered with subtropical plants, and the Nichinan Coast, famous for its beautiful scenery and designated as a quasi-natural park in the 1930's. Miyazaki first gained fame as a tourist resort—it was called a mecca for tourists—in the 1940's receiving honeymooners and school excursionist from all over Japan, and encouraged by the rapid economic growth of those days. Though the subsequent international travel boom gradually decelerated, nowadays we are taking steps to become an international resort city with unique features, for example improving city foundations and traffic facilities. We strive to increase citizens' leisure time and promote social conditions that support our policies.

The theme of today's general conference is "Harmony of city development and human residence environments in the Asian Pacific era" so I would like to introduce a part of our city planning policy which aims to harmonize with residence environments. Recently the Asia Pacific area has become one of the most rapidly economically developing regions. Even though it still faces various kinds of city problems including housing, transportation, living environments and comfort of living.

City Planning Projects of Miyazaki, each city has been doing some projects according. Miyazaki City developed a master plan to become a "City filled with vitality and comfort, rich in culture" by the year 2000. This master plan consists of four basic objective: "a city with generosity," "a city where people can live in good health and safety,"

"a city which provides a comfortable life" and "a city filled with vitality and appeal." I would like to introduce some projects to realize these objectives in more detail. Nowadays local government co-operates with a non-governmental enterprises in developing the "Miyazaki-Nichinan Coast resort project" which was first approved in Japan by the resort law.

Fortunately, as I mentioned before, Miyazaki City is blessed with abundant nature. The philosophy of tourism in Miyazaki consists of "beauty of nature," "beauty of artificiality" and "beauty of human nature" which are based on the coexistence and harmony of nature and human being. According to this philosophy, we are striving to promote our resort plan as an effort to restore Miyazaki to major tourist center status, while continuing to promote regional development.

Last July, the Ocean Dome, the main facility of the Phoenix Resort "SEAGAIA" opened. It is the world's largest indoor water park. So far, many people have visited from all over Japan and overseas as well. Moreover, the 45 story hotel—the tallest in the western Japan—whose 753 rooms feature dramatic panorama of the Pacific Ocean, and a convention center equipped with international meeting rooms, with a 5,000 person capacity, will open next month. Then, the international seaside convention resort will open.

Additionally since 1993, we have been promoting the "Flower City Project, flowers reflect our pride" in order to provide Miyazaki with natural beauty suitable for an international city.

We are engaged in this project as a part of one of the three citizen's movements practiced since 1984 in Miyazaki City "to increase city greenery and floral beauty."

This is a ten year joint citizen project to fill the city with flowers according to "Miyazaki flower-city basic plan" decided in 1993. Its basic concept is a "flower city project implemented by citizens."

To put it concretely we are promoting various undertakings, e.g. such as establishing "The flower city corporation," setting up flower city organizations all around the city, and selecting a supporter for the flower city project. We have a future vision to construct a Flower Center which will be a main facility for the project.

In 1993, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Construction evaluated our efforts and awarded us the highest award for cities, towns, and villages section of "the flower city contest."

Additionally the first conference of the "Nation-wide Flower City Symposium" was held in Miyazaki City in May this year.

Regarding these as steps, we are aiming to provide visitors with comfortable feelings by filling Miyazaki with seasonal flowers all through the year and to make a region in which citizens have happy contact with one another through flowers. It is very important to complete welfare in our life. Miyazaki City opened the Welfare and Culture Park (Fureai no Mori) in May which includes a Welfare and Health Center. This park was constructed under the idea of "normalization" which means treating all people equally and preserving that dignity as human. Its themes are welfare, culture, and amenity and it is equipped with a library, a culture hall and an adjacent park. A Welfare and Health Center is the main facility not only for welfare but also for the systematic health policies and has various kinds of facilities which include a heated swimming pool with rehabilitation functions, a multi purpose training room, and a kindergarten for the disabled.

We started a program to aid financially a clinical survey of the brain which is the first action in Japan to promote citizen's health. Also we are enforcing various kinds of projects in a cultural aspect, such as establishing a fund for the development of culture to promote various art and culture policies which include international culture exchanges.

We assume that the local development is based on the education of people so Miyazaki Municipal University was founded by Miyazaki City and its neighboring six towns last April to promote life long education. It has a "Credit Auditors" system in which all people can take lessons and get credit if they pass the examination. There are university lectures for citizens as well. Its fundamental idea is not only to educate students to be humane people well informed with a global view, but also to open the university to the community and try to meet citizens' needs. Moreover, we are planning to build a multi purpose hall, a tea ceremony room and an interchanging center with Japanese gardens this year and still planning to provide places for various interchanges to introduce Japanese culture or to promote international exchanges.

To activate the exchange with the area inside and outside of Japan, it is very important to improve the transportation network especially the sea route and air route for the international exchange. As far as Miyazaki City is concerned, we have the port and airport in the central part of the city. It is very convenient but we have not established international regular routes on the sea and air.

Therefore, we asked the government to complete the C.I.Q. system to improve this situation and we are eagerly making efforts to build up the foundation of various interchange networks in the administration, economy, culture and science, making the most of our local features.

We are organizing the city parks to produce a comfortable living environment and according to a survey conducted in 1990, Miyazaki was ranked fourth for prefectural capitals in terms of the area of city park per capita (11.5m², nearly twice the national average 6.6m²). Now we are trying to complete the public waste water system to improve the living environment. My fundamental policies in the city administration are "Miyazaki

--full of warmhearted people," "a city of sports and culture preserving nature and environment in Miyazaki" and "Miyazaki comfortable city." We are applying our energies towards the realization of these goals.

We have, of course, problems in common with other cities such as the increase of city functions, diversification of citizens' needs and the rapid shift to the society of the aged and so on. It is a great opportunity to learn the cases of advanced cities in a meaningful international conference like this and that will be a good reference to solve the problems.

In addition, we will strive to develop the international exchange and also deepen friendly relations with each city in the Asian Pacific area which is said to be a core of economic growth in the 21st century. On this occasion of participation to this conference, we will make efforts for the systematic development of this whole area.

Finally, I would like to conclude with my hopes for further successful development in the Asian Pacific area.

Thank you very much. (Applause)

Chairman Kuwahara

Thank you very much, Mayor Tsumura, for your presentation.

He explained the city's concrete plans to achieve four basic goals aimed at being the "vital and charming city full of cultural atmosphere." I sincerely wish every success to the "Miyazaki Nichinan Coastal Resort Project," which has been promoted in cooperation with the public and private sectors.

All of the presentations by representatives of the seven cities have been finished. Now, I would like to ask Associate Professor Koga and Professor Hayashi to make their comments. First, I would like to call upon Associate Professor Koga.

[COMMENTATOR]

Associate Prof. Yukihisa Koga, Kurume University

As I mentioned in the first session, one big issue is how to provide citizens with a satisfactory and full life. Certain conditions are required to maintain the quality of life and living environment, which is the establishment of a lifestyle enabling human-beings and nature to coexist together. A city must become more cultural and functional as it develops to establish such a lifestyle. In order to create a cultural and functional city, there are two very important things we should be aware of. One thing is that each citizen should live with interdependence. A strong will driving themselves to create an attractive city is needed. Another thing is that the administration should lay the foundation allowing citizens to be involved in city planning.

The presentations of each of the seven cities indicated that they have made efforts to meet these two conditions.

In Jakarta City, which faces some serious issues such as overpopulation and hygiene problems, various plans for improvement have been conducted based on the Kampung Program from the viewpoint of city planning led by the local community. It is very respectable that the city puts emphasis on making a framework primarily for citizens, in the form of raising leadership of the local community, improving citizen awareness and fostering human resources.

Kagoshima City has been enhancing various exchange programs, aiming to build an exchange network within the Asian-Pacific region. The city is also actively promoting construction of itself as a coastal city for international conferences, tourism and exchange, which indicated that it is striving to appeal to its own unique characteristics.

Kitakyushu City has successfully turned to be an international technological city rich in water and greenery. I had a very pleasant impression of its policies which pay strict attention to the global environment and by its efforts to establish a new lifestyle which allows human beings and nature to coexist.

Numerous urban problems have been caused in Kuala Lumpur due to its population explosion. The city, however, is making policies in harmony with citizens' life and seems to be very enthusiastic to promote city development in harmony with the living environment, as well as planning to serve as a multi-functional city.

Facing some problems such as insufficient roads and traffic congestion, Kumamoto City is actively engaged in improving its infrastructure. The presentation indicated that the city is also making efforts to determine internal environmental projects and to serve as a city emphasizing the preservation of the environment.

Manila City, also suffering various problems such as population inflows, deterioration of urban neighborhoods and spreading poverty, is conducting various detailed plans for health, hygiene, welfare and environment through its "Manila 2000" projects.

Miyazaki City's city planning emphasizes strongly the creation of a cultural atmosphere. It was very interesting that the city is trying to establish its image of being cultural, heartwarming, healthy, comfortable and vital, and that the citizens are taking a leading part in promoting the expansion of greenery and flowers.

Citizens should always play the leading part in city planning. Enhancing its citizens' interdependence is the most important issue when proceeding with city planning. I think it is significant that the administration should take an active approach for that by encouraging citizens to be more conscious, rather than to wait patiently. In order to do that, detailed plans for the short term, mid-term and long term should be carefully made. The presentations implied that each city has made and conducted such plans, and I think this is the time all of us are required to make more effort with detailed and concrete objectives in mind. The government or administration must be determined to solve problems from the citizens' perspective. The administration or politicians should

understand the actual conditions of problems by taking a direct approach on a daily basis, like constantly visiting the site.

Neither local government nor city administration must adopt a negative attitude, like completely depending on the national government. In order to foster its own unique character, and become more cultural and functional, it is most important to create an independent atmosphere and to lay a foundation which allows citizens to take a leading part in city planning.

Thank you for your attention.

Now, I would like to give the floor to Professor Hayashi. (Applause)

Chairman Kuwahara

Thank you very much, Associate Professor Koga. Now, Professor Hayashi, would you please begin?

[COMMENTATOR]

Prof. Kazunobu Hayashi, Kyusyu International University

Since Associate Professor Koga talked about each city in detail, I would like to speak from a different perspective. Jakarta, Manila and Kuala Lumpur-I have noticed that these three cities coincidentally have common problems. These cities have been the capital of their respective countries since the colonial period. They seem to be facing emerging problems because they have continuously served as the capital of a newly independent country. These cities are having a hard time discovering the best way to change their city equipped with the conventional colonial-type infrastructure into the capital of newly born country. During the process, some problems such as population inflows and expansion of city functions have occurred which they must solve.

Since the detailed plans of each city were mentioned by Professor Koga, I will just briefly summarize them. One thing I noticed was that each city is proceeding with city planning which attaches importance to its own history. Another thing is that they consider people and community to be a main part of city development. The presentations revealed that they believe that various problems should be solvable based on awareness of their citizens.

With respect to the four cities from Japan, I have noticed there are some interesting common matters. First of all, each city suffers a population concentration problem within its prefecture. Both Kagoshima and Kumamoto cities, for example, have a population of over 500 thousand, which accounts for a rather large percent of their respective prefectures. Miyazaki City also accounts for 25% of the total population of the prefecture. Thus, concentration in the urban area is one of the problems they share.

Another thing I noticed was that there is a need for new city planning as the regional

structure is changing throughout Kyushu. In the case of Kagoshima, they must recreate the city following its war-time destruction. In addition to the damage caused by the war, Kitakyushu City has lowered its position as the gateway to foreign countries. In other word, the port no longer plays an important role in trade due to development of other transportation systems, especially airways. Since the city is at a transition point between the past material industries and a new industrial structure, the population is not increasing steadily.

Miyazaki, one of the major cities for sightseeing in Japan, has made every effort to develop since it is required to meet new demands for tourism.

These four cities have common features. Located on Kyushu, they are all blessed with beautiful nature, hot springs and sightseeing spots. They also have long histories.

Although they all have a bright potential to develop as new cities, we can not ignore the problems they have. Taking airports as an example, there is no other place in Japan with so many international-class airports equipped with a 3km class runaway. Each airport in Miyazaki, Kumamoto and Kagoshima either is an international airport or has the capacity to serve as one. The airport under construction in Kitakyushu City is also designed to function as an international airport. It is amazing that international-class airports built only at certain locations in other districts in Japan are available in every prefecture in Kyushu.

Most of the cities which attend today seem to have the intention to build a convention hall, however, I am afraid an oversupply of facilities may develop. I think this might be a problem, unless we figure out the best way to divide roles. A large-scale hall will be completed in Fukuoka City in the near future. As mentioned before, it will be an issue how we should fairly assign roles to each other in terms of internationalization. Owing to its geographical advantages, Kyushu is in a favorable position to promote internationalization, especially with other Asian countries. Therefore, each city in Kyushu is eager to enhance internationalization. Similar to Miyazaki University, which was mentioned in the presentation earlier, various universities in Kyushu such as Kitakyushu University, Kyushu International University and Kumamoto Gakuen University have made or are making a curriculum focusing on languages in Asia. I think it is a desirable tendency that all of the cities are paying attention to Asia, however, we might need to have well-organized plans for that in the future.

Thank you very much. (Applause)

Chairman Kuwahara

Thank you very much, Associate Professor Koga and Professor Hayashi.

Together with the valuable presentations from seven cities, we had significant comments from Professors Koga and Hayashi. It was very inspiring to learn the actual conditions

of each city as it tries to solve the various problems it is facing. I was impressed with their enthusiasm and devotion to enhance exchange with the Asian-Pacific region as indicated by various remarks like: "we would like to make an effort to build a network with the Asian-Pacific region"; "we are confident to be a good partner of each city in the Asian-Pacific region"; "we will be actively involved in the international exchange of information and technical support programs"; and, "we will actively promote international exchanges with the cities of the Asian-Pacific region." I hope they will actively proceed with their plans to achieve their goals. Now, we will take a coffee break and the session will begin again at 3:45.

***************************************	COFFEE	BREAK	***************************************

Chairman Kuwahara

Now I would like to begin the afternoon session.

First I would like to ask Mayor Hitoshi Motoshima of Nagasaki City to speak.

Mr. Hitoshi Motoshima

Mr. Hitoshi Motoshima, Mayor of Nagasaki

My name is Hitoshi Motoshima, Mayor of Nagasaki City. I would like to express my appreciation to all of you, and especially to our host Mayor Kuwahara, for this opportunity to participate in the Asian-Pacific City Summit.

I would like to tell you about Nagasaki, which we call the international peace city. Nagasaki was founded in 1570 by Portuguese missionaries. In the same year Portuguese missionaries also founded the city of Santos in Brazil, which is the first place that Japanese emigrants went to, and today Nagasaki and Santos enjoy a sister city relationship. In 1582 a party of 10 men set forth from Nagasaki to study in Europe. The party passed from Nagasaki to Macao, Malacca, Ruteng and Cape Town to reach their destinations in Portugal and Spain. They spent a year and a half in Italy. I believe that they were the first Japanese emissaries to Europe. After that trip trade with China and Europe became common, and for 220 of the 260 years of the Tokugawa rule of Japan, Nagasaki served as the only international port of the nation, thereby playing a pivotal role in the modernization of Japan. Exchange with people from a wide range of other nations, including Portugal, Holland, Germany, England, Russia, China and America occurred at the port of Nagasaki, and Nagasaki was known to the people of the world as a center of trade. Over the four centuries since Nagasaki became a city, it was in fact the only city in Japan where non-Japanese residents have lived continuously.

Since the opening of the port in 1854, there was an accelerating shift from its role

as a local port to a new role as a center of shipbuilding and as a base for fishing operations. Nagasaki began to emerge as a modern metropolis around its central role as a port.

The end of World War II and the dropping of the atomic bomb on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945 not only changed the history of my city, but also the history of the world. Nagasaki was obliterated in an instant in an act of stunning nuclear fury, in what is described in Japanese as "a crisis of unprecedented magnitude and beyond description." Since that day, we have prayed that nuclear weapons would never be used again, and to that end have worked toward abolishing nuclear weapons and establishing world peace. The 62,000 surviving atomic bomb victims in Nagasaki today are growing older, and facing problems such as discrimination, sickness and loneliness, living quietly. During the four months after the bombs were dropped, over 70,000 survivors lost their lives, and there are still some 320,000 former residents of Hiroshima and Nagasaki holding special atomic bomb victim classification.

In spite of this disaster, Nagasaki has been rebuilt, and is once again attracting attention as a center of the shipbuilding and fishing industries, and has developed as an exotic city placing emphasis on tourism.

On July 23, 1982 the city was once again visited by disaster, in the form of torrential rain, at the rate of 111.5 mm/hour, or 448 mm/day. 262 residents were killed or missing, with enormous damage to homes, commerce and industry, waterways and roadways. After that happened, we realized that while we might have three or four days, or even a week of leeway, in programs for education or social welfare, but we had no time at all for disaster, and must put safety as the foremost concern. We believe that we must leave Nagasaki with the facilities and functions that will keep it free of disaster, free of crime and free of violence.

Now I would like to turn to the current state of Nagasaki, and the problems it faces. A look at the historical transition of Nagasaki shows that since the port was opened the city has had continuing growth and development: as a trading city under direct government control, with residential quarters for visitors from other countries; as the site of an iron foundry as part of a government plan to bring industry to the region; the reconstruction following the atomic bomb; the growth of shipbuilding, fishing and tourism industries in the years of high national economic growth; and new national projects. In other words, city growth and development until recently has been to achieve goals imposed from the outside.

Nagasaki originally developed as a port city, but as the major thrust of transportation has shifted to land and the high-speed roadway network, port and harbor functions have steadily declined. The development of the city infrastructure, including roads and parks, is lagging due to a range of geographical and terrain problems, and the industrial

structure is also polarized into the giant shipbuilding firms and very small-scale companies. The economy of the region is strongly swayed by the national economy. Nagasaki faces a variety of problems.

The problems imposed by the hilly city streets are especially severe. The flat land in the center of the city is extremely small in area, with residential districts overflowing into the surrounding hilly regions up as high as the 150 to 200m elevation range. The city has been described as a "hill of people." As existing residences age and the younger generations discover that cars cannot be used in the narrow roadways, they are moving into the suburbs, creating a steady flow of population from the city to the surrounding regions. As a result, the former residential regions are seeing an increase in the average age, a decrease in the number of children and students, and social problems such as the destruction of the local community and retailers. Individual response is required for fields including disaster prevention, social welfare, medical care and education. When viewed in this light, an improvement in the residential environment in this hilly residential region is clearly a critical part of the creation of a future Nagasaki. In this situation the transition to city-type industries, a multi-polar and multi-faceted industrial base, and the creation of an attractive and comfortable residential environment are the keys to attracting a permanent residential population. We are working to utilize our historical and cultural artifacts to best advantage while innovating land and space

At the same time, we are working to make the shift from a tourism city, supported by rich tourist resources, to a city that can meet the requirements of today's leisure time society by providing the functions of an urban resort and a convention center. In preparation for the coming Asian-Pacific Era we are upgrading our conventional facilities in the same way as is Fukuoka City, but through our extensive history of exchange with other lands-including Asia-and our unique culture, as well as our sense of duty as a victim of an atomic bomb, we hope to make ourselves into a convention city that makes best use of our uniqueness. Our key projects are the restructuring of the city environment and the nurturing of city-oriented industry.

use in a way that will be unique and suited to Nagasaki, to create an optimum living

environment.

As we approach the 21st century, we are faced with the necessity of considering improvement in the quality of life and the environment.

My goal for Nagasaki is "a city where youth can work with energy and gentle to the elderly, the handicapped and other groups requiring special consideration." By making the city a place where all can live comfortably and utilizing the unique flavor of Nagasaki, we believe it is possible to promote exchange between people and revitalize the city. Under the name of the "Nagasaki Training Institute," the residents and government of Nagasaki have been involved in a joint research project into city development for

the last eight years. The project has already showed excellent results in the discovery and development of human resources and the formation of a human network, and we hope to continue to expand on its results in the future.

It is also important to pay attention to the dreams and prayers of the residents. The dream of the people of Nagasaki is a rebirth of the port, and the reconstruction of the island of Dejima, which was a symbol of Nagasaki. These dreams are being pursued under the "Nagasaki Urban Renaissance 2001" and the "Dejima Restoration Project," and as I believe that these projects may play key roles in the future of culture and city creation in Nagasaki I hope that they can be implemented after sufficient deliberation and discussion.

The prayers of the people are that there never again be a nuclear war on this planet, and that no city suffer the fate that Nagasaki did. Next year will be the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing, and history is on the verge of forgetting Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The nuclear weapons of today have thousands or tens of thousands times the power of those that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The world is talking of reductions in nuclear weaponry stockpiles, but we of Nagasaki are praying for their total abolition. Next year the World Talks on Global Disarmament will be held in Nagasaki under the auspices of the United Nations, and in preparation I will be departing next month to the United Nations headquarters in New York.

For us, it is a major question how to best convey the horrors of the atomic bomb to the people of the world.

The hardware aspect, which includes the construction of roadways, water and sewage lines and such by the city itself, is unquestionably important, but I also believe that the questions of "software" policy are critical.

We are currently renovating the International Culture Hall Nagasaki, which is all about the atomic bomb, for this reason. It currently receives about 1.1 million visitors annually, and we hope to improve this to 2 million. We feel that it is part of our obligation to help instruct the leaders of the world about peace.

How can the city meet its responsibilities concerning peace, human rights, democracy and internationalism to the same degree that it meets its "hardware" responsibilities? For peace, for example, as I have mentioned, we will work on the international level to resolve how to achieve peace globally and in the hearts of the people of Nagasaki, and how to abolish nuclear weapons.

For human rights, I built the Nagasaki Welfare Center for the Handicapped, and also a Women's Center. We are stressing "peace education" for the children, while I also plan to place additional emphasis on facilities for the elderly. Without improvement in attitudes toward human rights, I do not believe there is a future for Japan in the 21st century.

We must also consider how we will live within this mature society. I believe that the final destination of people will be sports, and culture and the arts. And in this sense, I want to improve and add to the facilities for that purpose.

This has been a simple but adequate description of the approach of the city of Nagasaki, and I would be delighted if it may be of service to you. Thank you. (Applause)

Chairman Kuwahara

Thank you, Mayor Motoshima.

The presentation from Nagasaki covered the historical formation of the city, the current state of city development and key issues, and goals of improving city safety and incorporating convention facilities. In particular, it stressed the desires of the city for peace and human rights, based on their experience of the atomic bomb. Thank you.

Mr. Kosei Oyadomari

Chairman Kuwahara

Next I would like to ask Mayor Kosei Oyadomari of Naha City to talk.

Mr. Kosei Oyadomari, Mayor of Naha

My name is Kosei Oyadomari, Mayor of Naha City. I would like to give you the current situation of Naha City in Okinawa.

Okinawa Prefecture, long known as the Nanto or Ryukyu Islands, is located at the southernmost tip of Japan between Kyushu and Taiwan. The more than 70 islands of the Prefecture cover 2,254.52km² of a broad expanse of ocean stretching 400km north to south, and over 1,000km east to west.

Naha City is located in the southern part of the main island in the chain, on the shores of the East China Sea nearly 603km south of Kagoshima Prefecture, and about 624km east of Jilong on the island of Taiwan. The city limits stretch 8 km north to south, 10km east to west, covering 38km².

The current population is 310 thousand. Among the capitals of the prefectures, Naha has the second largest population density, after Osaka. In our topography, the eastern hills fall gently from heights of 165.5m to the shoreline over a mostly level terrain. In climate, we are the only area of Japan where snow never falls. We have a sub-tropical monsoon season, with a year round average temperature of 22 degrees Centigrade, with summers warmer than 30 degrees and only a few winter days where temperatures fall below 10 degrees. With spring and autumn barely discernible as seasons, we enjoy the greenery of summer throughout the year. We lie in the path of tropical typhoons which generally strike between late summer and the autumn season. The natural environment and cultural norms of a sub-tropical ocean climate led to settlements, and is part of the cultural heritage of our city.

In the 15th Century, when "Naha" referred to a mere gathering of small settlements, it was on an isolated island called Ukishima, or "floating island." Development from "settlement" to "town" and then, to "city" did not occur automatically with population growth or natural development of town functions. In order to overcome the natural handicap of being an island state of small islands surrounded by the ocean, Okinawans began to trade with foreign countries, taking full advantage of their oceanic environment. Naha became a center of international trade, and one of the most important hubs for transit trade in Southeast Asia and East Asia.

From such a historical background, the expansion of Shuri Castle which functioned as the political center, led to a dawning in the architectural heritage of Okinawa as many temples, shrines and structures of stone were erected. This establishing of a tradition in architecture in the Ryukyus was a major facet in the emergence of Naha's role in conducting relations with the major nations of the day, at a time of a golden age of overseas trade.

However, this proud and ancient heritage which marked the culmination of 1,000 years of development, was reduced to ashes in 1945 in the throes of World War II.

The end of the war also brought a period of separation of Okinawa from the rest of Japan. The US government took over the administrative reins, and under their jurisdiction, all access to the City was restricted. The reconstruction of Naha City could therefore, not begin until free access to the former farm and swamp areas was authorized.

Soon after, the returns of former military occupied land began. The northern areas of Okinawa were inundated with a rush of people coming in from mainland Japan and from overseas, creating high population density centers devoid of any city planning, giving rise to sprawling urbanization. Even under such conditions, various enterprises rose from the devastation to initiate operations but endured serious trials and challenges in operating under a unique set of political and financial limitations. The continuing focus of population in urban centers created pockets of high density, and less than pleasant living environments. However, we have now begun to address the postwar rapid concentration of population in urban centers, with plans to renovate and restructure the postwar city development. I believe we have made significant strides in this arena. In 1972, the US returned political administration to Japan, and Okinawa was able to complete its Reversion to Japan. Since then, the continuing concentration of population in urban centers and the resulting sprawl in surrounding areas has lead to a worsening residential environment. Especially in the downtown areas, renovating the minimal roads and parks to improve urban living conditions has been obstructed by the density of adjacent buildings. There are cases where even self-imposed improvement programs have been blocked by such density.

To resolve these disorders, the three principles of "City of Peace," "City of Culture" and "City of Life" were established to underlay the effort to "Hold dear both man and nature, integrating the life of residents with city functions for a more beautiful city." In 1978 the first, and in 1988 the second Comprehensive Naha City Plans were set up, to provide planned renovations to improve urban residential areas. In these, a notable aspect is how former military used lands play crucial roles in the urban renovation plans. Such areas have been returned on the northern and southern boundaries of the city, offering a total 323 hectares of land for use. Integrating these areas is now underway. The distribution of service facilities to service these areas should contribute to halting the negative aspects of sprawl evident in these areas.

On one hand, the renovation of residential areas in the overall urban renewal plans, and planned development of lands use for surface development, the creation of parks and wider access roads is progressing, and hub establishment is underway as a part of urban renewal.

The impact of the success of such work is to bring to the average citizen, an awareness of the joint use of land, and high levels of efficiency in land use.

As an island urban center, and our siting in an enclosed physical space plays a major role in future city planning operations. For example, the balance between maintaining the natural environment and the attractiveness of the city with the requirements of the various life styles of city residents are compounded by the issues of growing internationalization, the needs of information flow, and the gentrification of society. However, 11% of city property is still occupied by military bases. The problems of inadequate housing concentrated in the areas of uncertain status and unclear boundaries which emerged from the wartime devastation, are compounded by the rapidly increasing numbers of older citizens in those areas. With the changes in the urban environment and in core family units, the average household is now 3.1 persons but is even lower in older areas. This leads to an abandoned "doughnut hole" effect in population concentrations. This gives rise to a migration toward better housing conditions. The measures to meet this challenge form a crucial part of city operations.

Okinawa's nickname of "Keystone of the Pacific" derives from the role it plays in Pacific military strategy, making mockery of the former "keystone role" Okinawa played as a hub in Southeast and East Asian trade.

However, we believe we can expect much from the natural environment, our geographical and historical advantages in meeting the challenges of urban centers in the 21st Century. These include internationalization, information access and gentrification issues.

The residential and living environment of the island urban center that is Naha has a long history and cultural tradition, enriched by the unique contributions brought in from so many other nations. These conditions can be used to enhance the living

environment of the people of Naha.

Through the presentations that we heard so far in this City Summit, it was agreed that the internationalization and information and aging and urbanization are the major challenges that we face. And we appreciate this opportunity to exchange ideas among those Asian-Pacific cities. I'm glad to take this opportunity to thank the city of Fukuoka, who oaganized and hosted this Summit. Thank you. (Applause)

Chairman Kuwahara

Thank you, Mayor Oyadomari.

The presentation from Naha City covered the growth and development of the city, and current city development projects.

I would like to express sincere agreement with the opinion that the residential environment must make every effort to uncover and incorporate the unique points of the local culture.

Mr. Keinosuke Kinoshita

Chairman Kuwahara

Next I would like to ask Mayor Keinosuke Kinoshita of Oita City to speak.

Mr. Keinosuke Kinoshita, Mayor of Oita

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the mayor of Fukuoka, Mr. Keiichi Kuwabara, president of the Kyushu Mayoral Association for the efforts he has made in helping to bring about this conference. It is meaningful that representatives of major cities of the Asia-Pacific region gather and discuss actively the theme of urban development in harmony with the environment Fukuoka, Kyushu's leading city. I am delighted to see the chief administrators of many municipalities, some from as far away as Auckland. Also, it is a great honor for the City of Oita to participate in this event.

To begin I would like to speak briefly about the history and status of the Asia-Pacific region. Since the end of the Cold War, predicting the future has become very difficult, as this region has experienced a drastic change. Conflicts, based on nationalism and religion, have become increasingly complicated and the confusion of this transition period may continue for some time. On the other hand, signs of peace, such as those in Palestine are appearing after long periods of stalemate and struggle and are presenting our leaders with great challenges. The world economy is now showing signs of recovery, such as good economic indicators from the United States of America and in Japan, at last, the economy has begun to recover from a long depression. Meanwhile, in contrast to the poor health of the Japanese economy, as a result of the collapse of the bubble economy and the rise in the yen's value, the development and growth of the economies of other Asia-Pacific nations have been remarkable. This region has become the "factory of