

3 Concluding speech and Closing Ceremony

(1) Summary Speech on the Working Level Conference on Transportation Issues

Mr. Koki Inoue

Chief Executive of Fukuoka City

(Asian-Pacific City Summit Secretariat)

As the representative of the Asian-Pacific City Summit Secretariat, I will now give a report on the Working Level Conference on Transportation Issues held last year in Fukuoka City.

The Working Level Conference on Transportation Issues was held on October 26 and 27, 1995. Forty-two people from 20 cities and 10 countries and regions participated. The theme of the conference was Management of Transportation in Cities of the Asian Pacific Region. (Transportation Operation Policy and Traffic Control)

On the first day of the conference, the twenty-sixth, the cities of Guangzhou, Naha, Pusan, Singapore, and Fukuoka each gave a presentation on the current situation in their cities, which became the basis for a general discussion among all the conference participants.

The presentation given by Guangzhou outlined the measures taken by the city to alleviate traffic congestion by improving the existing road network and building cloverleaf-style intersections where important roads met. The report also covered efforts to control the increase in the number of cars in the city by regulating license plate registration ; limiting the use of bicycles ; and promoting the use of buses and other public transportation.

The city of Naha described measures it was taking to make bus transportation more attractive, since the city relies entirely on buses for mass transportation, not having a developed passenger rail system. The presentation also outlined the monorail system that the city plans to build in the future and the Naha City Traffic Demand Management Promotion Conference. The presentation given by Pusan City covered that city's plans to build a light rail system and construct tunnels in order to overcome the inefficient road system that has resulted from Pusan's unique geographic features, as well as the promotion of car-pooling and a "Ten Day Operation System" in order to control the rapid increase in passenger automobiles on the streets. Singapore's presentation, which was titled "Urban Transport Strategy and Management

in Singapore," outlined that city's past history and future plans and it described rational land use; the construction of appropriate, efficient, and good road networks; and the development of efficient public transportation systems. Fukuoka City gave a presentation covering its current situation and topics in traffic management: implementing traffic management policies; how its traffic management system functions; and an outline of the "Smooth Fukuoka Movement," which stressed consensus building among the residents of Fukuoka during the Universiade Games which were held here last year.

The historical, geographical, social, and economic background of each city differs to some degree, but in each situation, it was abundantly clear that a sincere and forward-looking effort was being made to overcome the problems associated with traffic and traffic management. In addition, mutual understanding between the cities was further increased by the active exchange of ideas and opinions by all the participants. A great deal of information was gained by all sides, making it a very meaningful conference.

The tour of traffic facilities on the second day of the conference, the 27th, began at 9:00 am with a bus trip down the Fukuoka City Expressway, the Kyushu Expressway, and the Kitakyushu City Expressway before reaching the Traffic Science Museum in Kitakyushu City. At the Traffic Science Museum, the monorail system was explained to conference participants, following which the participants took a short ride on the monorail. After lunch, participants were taken to the Space World amusement park, which is home to various attractions based on the idea of experiencing space flight. The conference participants returned to Fukuoka City from Kitakyushu City, where Space World is located, via the Shinkansen bullet train and the Fukuoka City Subway. Even though they were only shown the transportation system in the northern Kyushu area, I believe that because the tour included just about every means of transportation, conference participants were able to get a feel for the transportation situation for Japan in general.

Even though it was a short two days, conference participants all came away with new information and definite results. Historical and other differences make it unlikely that the participating cities will be able to immediately take advantage of the information they gained, but conference participants mutually agreed that they should work to incorporate the information into their cities' traffic policies in some manner. Furthermore, it is my pleasure to report that there was also a common notion to take advantage of the opportunity presented by this conference and promote mutual exchange and mutual cooperation in the future in order to work towards solving traffic problems and increasing mutual exchange between administrators in charge of traffic policy.

In closing, I would like to again thank the five cities that gave presentations, and also the city of Kitakyushu, which put a great deal of effort into the traffic facilities tour. I would also like to sincerely thank the leaders of each of the cities for their understanding and support in sending city personnel to the Working Level Conference.

This concludes the report of the Asian-Pacific City Summit Secretariat on the Working Level Conference on Transportation Issues. Thank you very much.

(2) Concluding speech of Panel Discussion

Panel Discussion 1 : Future Urban Planning and Construction

Mr. Prasai Songsuravet

Chairman of Board of Advisor to Bangkok Governor

Mr. Chairman, fellow participants : It is my honor to give a report on the 1st Panel Discussion held this morning, "Future Urban Planning and Construction." The cities of Dalian, Guangzhou, Kagoshima, Manila, Miyazaki, Oita, Pusan, Singapore, and Bangkok each gave a presentation during this panel discussion.

I would like to begin by saying that this panel discussion was a very meaningful meeting. We shared a lot of experiences with one another, and exchanged opinions without reserve. The shape of the meeting was roughly as follows :

The first item discussed was sewer water treatment, which was brought up by Bangkok. In my experience, the City of Bangkok is taking very appropriate measures in relation to sewage treatment. Bangkok has also designed a sewer treatment system to implement these measures. Next, the City of Guangzhou argued strongly about the importance of preserving the biological environment in its natural state. Guangzhou argued that it was important to maintain nature in a good state, and to preserve rivers, mountains, the seashore, and other natural areas. It was also stated that it is essential to work these preservation ideas into urban planning. Participants argued that while the collection and disposal of solid waste is important, it is also necessary for cities to promote its reuse and recycling. The City of Bangkok also recycles solid waste into fertilizer. Other cities also described their city's efforts to retrieve energy from solid waste.

The next item is traffic congestion due to automobiles. This is a condition which can regularly be seen in many cities, but traffic congestion is a problem that is particularly serious in Bangkok. Urban redevelopment projects that are changing the face of the city, including its streets, have recently been adopted in Bangkok. Miyazaki and Manila emphasized that it is important to take proper measures to solve traffic congestion problems. It was also stated that policies must be adopted to alleviate the destruction of the natural environment and the creation of air pollution which arises out of traffic congestion. Pusan City and other cities argued that even while trying to remake a city into an international city, it is very important to preserve the city's various traditional lifestyles. The importance of keeping open spaces for children and the elderly was also championed.

The next major discussion was about revitalizing and redeveloping a city, which was begun by the cities of Oita and Manila. A variety of very interesting arguments about architecture and how amusement and other facilities form an indispensable

part of a city's charm were discussed. These two cities have certainly grown to be culturally attractive cities. Through the statements made by these cities, the subcommittee became aware that these cities possessed a great deal of very important knowledge about preserving buildings and other issues. Also, Singapore and Bangkok argued that private corporations should be included in cities' infrastructure projects. The statement was also made that it is desirable for the private sector to play a more direct role in construction projects as well. Those were the main points discussed.

I would like to add one more thing. That is this: the statements made by the participating cities' representatives in this panel discussion were very lively. Only fifteen minutes were allotted for free discussion, but a very lively discussion was held during those fifteen minutes. I would like to suggest that more time be allotted for free discussion in the future. That concludes my report. I would like to thank everyone for nominating me chairman.

Panel Discussion 2 : Modern Urban Environmental Protection

Mr. Les Mills

Mayor of Auckland City

Mr. Chairman, guests and all those from Guangzhou, thank you. I will now report on the issues discussed in the panel discussion, "Modern Urban Environmental Protection." Representatives from Guangzhou, Ho Chi Minh, Hong Kong, Kitakyushu, Shanghai, Urumchi, and Auckland participated in this panel discussion. The situations of these cities vary widely. There are large cities like Shanghai and on the other hand there are cities like Auckland with only a small population. Auckland's population is a mere one million. However, all the cities have in common the theme of environmental problems and all are faced with such problems. I will briefly summarize the content of the presentations. Firstly, let me say that all the participants commented in a very lively manner, engaged in debate and raised issues. The first topic of discussion was waste disposal. The question of how polluting industries should be moved from city centers to the suburbs was raised. There were comments that as a policy, polluting industries should be suspended, closed down or banned. Improvement of waterways was also discussed and the matter of cost was touched upon. It was also commented upon that environmental problems are not taken seriously enough. We are all charged with the duty of carrying out environmental protection in a way that allows economic development but not at the expense of public interest. There must be clean water and air in the world of the future. The impression that I received during this morning's discussion was that the answer to these problems is to be found in the presentations each city gave. In other words, there are various ways of changing political and economic structures and there are various ways of achieving goals. The path chosen may vary but because there is but one goal, it is extremely important for us to engage in further debate and study one another's experiences. We have just heard the report from Chairman Mr. Prasai from Bangkok and I agree wholeheartedly with his opinion. I believe that when staging such symposiums, as much time as possible should be spent in debate. The final hour was the most profitable. Thank you very much.

Panel Discussion 3 : Urban Modernization and Traditional Culture

Mr. Keiichi Kuwahara
Mayor of Fukuoka City

I will now give the report on the panel discussion "Urban Modernization and Traditional Culture." Participating cities were Guangzhou, Ipoh, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Saga and Fukuoka, making a total of six cities.

Firstly, I will outline the case study presentations. I spoke for Fukuoka City and talked about the "The Seven Waves of Internationalization" in Fukuoka's historical relations with the Asian Pacific region. I also explained about the preservation of historic treasures of traditional culture and introduced the idea that the direction of city development should be considered on the basis of verifying that city's unique history and traditional culture. From Guangzhou, we heard about the various measures being taken to further enhance the superb ancient Chinese tradition and culture and making this useful in the modern age. Specifically, the talk touched upon ; (1) the strong promotion of the preservation of the traditional cultural heritage ; (2) establishing links between tourism and folk culture and creating an attractive city ; and (3) the development of the "five lessons and four beauties" movement and the promotion of spiritual culture etc. From Ipoh we heard that due to humans' limitless greed we have come to enjoy material wealth but on the other hand, alarm bells are sounding as a result of remarkable decline on a spiritual level. Various measures are being vigorously introduced to tackle this problem to ensure the next generation inherits superior moral spirituality in order that modern and traditional culture exist in harmony. From Jakarta, we received an introduction of its current diverse makeup of race, nationality and culture. The talk also included the various policies adopted to preserve and develop traditional culture in such a way that Jakarta's unique culture and arts are established as part of a national identity and adhere to the form of national society, culture and lifestyle. Touching on historical background, Kuala Lumpur introduced its unique architectural style, for example as seen in religious or public buildings and in private houses etc. and explained in detail the measures taken to preserve these traditional and historical buildings. In addition, the method of drawing upon the city's many cultures as part of city development was touched upon. From Saga City we learned about such projects as the "Revive Saga Exhibition" and the "Walk Around Nagasaki's Historical Roads Campaign." These are being undertaken to reconstruct and protect the important cultural heritage of traditional buildings and the cityscape following a reconsideration of the practice of giving precedence to economic efficiency. We also were a broad view of the Saga cityscape regulations which seek to control the social behaviour

of construction, development and preservation. That is all concerning the case study presentations.

In the free discussion which followed there were comments which helped us further understand the case studies and lively exchanges of opinion also occurred. Also, from Mr. Lai of the United Nations we heard that it is very important for cities to develop their own unique features while learning from one another and deepening understanding. To summarize, achieving a fusion of harmony between modern and traditional culture is very difficult and requires great effort and time but in order to create more attractive cities we should not begrudge this effort. We arrived at a mutual understanding to exchange information and cooperate on this matter in the future. With this I finish my report of the panel discussion "Urban Modernization and Traditional Culture."

(3) Concluding Speech of the Plenary Session

Mr. Lin Shusen

Acting Mayor of Guangzhou

City representatives and guests, with the cooperation of the participant cities, the second Asian-Pacific City Summit has seen three days of lively activity and now it is coming to an end. This meeting is the second following the first Asian-Pacific City Summit held in Fukuoka City in September 1994 and has become one of the biggest events in the history of friendship among the cities of the Asian Pacific region. Following the first Summit, there was a great expression of interest from all the cities as to what the themes would be for the next Summit. Following the various suggestions from many participant cities and in particular, repeated discussions with the Summit Secretariat contained in the Fukuoka City General Affairs Bureau International Affairs Department, we adopted "Urban Development in the 21st Century" as the overall theme and chose "Future Urban Planning and Construction," "Modern Urban Environmental Protection" and "Urban Modernization and Traditional Culture" as the panel discussion themes. This meeting is designed to further enhance cooperation and exchange between cities of the Asian Pacific region and promote coexistence and mutual prosperity in the 21st century. With the cooperation of the participating cities we have been able to promote mutual understanding, deepen friendship, achieve consensus and achieve a clear success. We have also established a firm base for the continued development of friendship. We acknowledge that the Asian Pacific region has made excellent contributions to the progress of humankind and scientific culture. At present, on a world basis this region's development is rapid, it overflows with vitality and is abundant with diversity. Its main characteristics include its important strategic location, rapid economic growth and the unique features and culture possessed by each country and city etc. These features create the various political and economic systems and the forms of conceptualization in the Asian Pacific region thus bringing about the overflowing abundance of individuality. The rapid development of the Asian Pacific region is drawing the world's attention.

This development is of great significance and contributes enormously to world peace and development. Cities are the political, economic and cultural centres for their regions and their rapid progress has played a significant role in the prosperity and stability of the region. This position and role will become increasingly important as the Asian Pacific region continues its development into the 21st century. As leaders of cities of the Asian Pacific region we all feel the strong duty of urban management and a self-nurtured historical sense of mission. For the sake of the citizens and prosperity the leaders of the Asian Pacific region accept the duty towards

the citizens, society and the next generation to carry out their work with untiring creativity and resolve to devote themselves to urban development in the 21st century. At this meeting a good base for urban development in the Asian Pacific region as well as much latent energy has been created but there are also indications that we face numerous problems such as environmental pollution, unemployment, traffic congestion and violent crime. If these problems are not solved, it will effect more than just the citizen's welfare, it will act as an impediment to the region's urban development in the 21st century. The leaders of the participating cities have resolved to adopt a series of effective measures to firmly solve the social and economic problems threatening urban development.

For historical and contemporary reasons, the economic conditions and stage of development of the various cities of the Asian Pacific region are different. However, each share the mission of strengthening and solving the problems of their cities and lifting the standard of living of their citizens. On the basis of mutual respect and the recognition that they share more similarities than differences, the cities of the Asian Pacific region should learn from one another, cooperate and develop together. This can be achieved. At this meeting we have come to the realization that strengthening the mutual economic relations of the cities of the Asian Pacific region creates an important base for developing relationships of friendship and cooperation. Because the region's economies are relatively complementary and trade and cultural relations are flourishing, the outlook for inter-city cooperation is extremely bright. Promoting cooperation in the fields of technology, culture and politics etc. in order to utilize our complementariness and our strengths, while simultaneously emphasizing economic cooperation is of benefit to the cities of the region and contributes to the prosperity of the region.

The representatives participating in this summit have taken on the new concept of the sustainable economic development of human society contained in important documents such as the 1992 United Nations "Rio Declaration on Environment and Development," "Agenda 21" and "Statement on Forest Principles." They also appear to me to reflect the political consensus that the nations of the world must cooperate together. I believe that the above-mentioned documents hold much guidance for the cities of the Asian Pacific region and that the cities of this region must also engage in sustainable economic development in the 21st century. The work that we are engaged in includes thinking about the need for current development but also requires us to leave for our descendants room for survival and development. The leaders and representatives of the participant cities have declared that, upon consideration of each cities practical situation, appropriate strategies, plans and policies for achieving sustained economic growth will be adopted and put into action and

effort must be made to meet the mutual challenges facing human society. International society's attention is focused on environmental protection and this is the duty of all humankind. At this summit numerous representatives indicated that at present, many cities in the Asian Pacific region, in particular those in developing countries, are facing grave environmental situations. Therefore, it is the current duty of many cities in the region to decide upon appropriate policies and adopt effective measure to solve environmental pollution problems. In order for cities to achieve continuous development in the 21st century, we must continue to implement international treaties on environmental protection as well as our own related laws and we must accept the consequent duties and obligations. City planning is the basis for promoting city construction and the promotion of city construction is one of the most important aspects of urban development in general. Because each city's situation varies, it is not possible to simply use one model of city planning and construction. Every city begins from a different point, obey's certain objective rules and works to maintain its own unique features. However, they must make the effort to learn from other cities prior experiences. This is the only way to achieve the goal of balanced, sustained economic growth in city construction and social and economic development in the 21st century.

Currently, all the cities throughout the Asian Pacific region are engaged in modernization but at the same time they each possess their own distinctive traditional culture. Dealing with the relationship between modernization and traditional culture is one of the most important issues in urban development in the Asian Pacific region in the 21st century. Modernization is a path which cities must follow. It concurs with the trends of human development and the citizens' interests. However, we cannot sever history or dispose of superb traditional culture. It is a fact that the magnificent traditional culture which is a characteristic of a city exerts a wide and profound influence on that city and this influence will continue into the future. Based on this consensus, the city representatives have confidently declared during this meeting that the vitality and attractiveness of the Asian Pacific region can be maintained even better if its superb traditional culture is passed on, promoted and there is a fusion between modernization and traditional culture. Looking back on the comments and the broad range of exchange which has taken place at this meeting in the last three days, I believe the consensus achieved and the proposals made are contained in the following four points ;

- 1) The cities of the Asian Pacific region have respect for one another and based on the idea that they share more similarities than differences the Asian-Pacific City Summit will continue to be held in the spirit of equal reciprocity and exchange and cooperation will be developed further.

- 2) Based on the great economic diversity within the Asian Pacific region, cities will mutually complement one another and effort will be made to achieve substantial progress in economic cooperation over a short period.
- 3) Thinking and the scope of cooperation will be further broadened and without emphasizing economic cooperation only, relations of exchange and cooperation in the fields of technology, culture and politics etc. will be pioneered. At the same time that administrative level cooperation is expanded, relationships of friendship between citizens will be vigorously encouraged.
- 4) The gateway's to the cities of the Asian Pacific region will be opened. Efforts will be made to increase the number of cities participating in the Asian-Pacific City Summit. Cooperation between the cities of the Asian Pacific region will be deepened and at the same time the exchange and cooperation with cities outside of the region will be expanded.

On closing this meeting I sincerely wish for your good health and for the development of friendly relations among the cities of the Asian Pacific region.

(4) Greeting from the representative of participating cities

Mr. Lim Soo Ping

Deputy Secretary, Ministry of National Development, Singapore

Your Excellency, Mr. Lin, the Acting Mayor of Guangzhou, Mr. Li, the Former Mayor of Guangzhou, and ladies and gentlemen. It is my great honor to have been given this opportunity to extend this greeting on behalf of all the cities whose representatives have taken part in the 2nd Asian-Pacific City Summit.

First of all, I wish to express the gratitude of all participating cities to Acting Mayor Lin Shusen. We offer our deeply felt gratitude to you for hosting this summit and for all the outstanding facilitation. We also wish to thank the people of Guangzhou City for the warm welcome they have given us.

The planning and preparations for this summit carried out by Guangzhou City were a model of efficiency, and the result has been a thorough success. We have been able to learn from each other by exchanging information and opinions on city development. The greatest accomplishment of this summit is that it has made it possible for us to provide opportunities for the residents of our respective cities to live richer and fuller lives, and to welcome the 21st century with the confidence that we can build lifestyles that fulfill the dreams of our citizens. This summit has been a wonderful and limitless chance for us. My dream is to see all of our cities prosper together just like the beautiful full moon in autumn. We are faced with a wide variety of challenges. We must work towards better housing and public facilities, stronger infrastructures, and lifestyles that make the most of modern technology, while at the same time protecting the environment. It is also crucial to preserve our cultural heritage. If we can do all these things, we will truly be able to say that we have realized our dreams. At this summit we shared with each other not only our opinions but also our plans. It is presumptuous of me to speak for the leaders of all the cities represented here today, but I believe that everyone will endorse the declaration presented by Acting Mayor Lin. We must all pursue our dreams for the 21st century together, all the while keeping in mind the special attributes and characteristics of our own cities. At this second summit we have greatly improved the relationships between our cities and raised standards for cities. The exchange of abundant and varied opinions and plans has also served to deepen friendship. Here in this friendly atmosphere, everyone participating has adopted the Guangzhou Declaration out of dedication to building better cities. This declaration apply states all of our common belief's, that is, our responsibility to provide for our citizens an ever improving living environment. The Guangzhou Declaration gives us a wealth of driving force, and an abundance of economic and cultural progress

to our citizens.

Finally, this summit had a special deep meaning as it was held on the night of the Autumn Full Moon in a city of Flowers. Both the beautiful flowers and splendid moon are celebrating this summit's success. I think that this symbolizes a wonderful future. Now I wish to once again offer our thanks to Acting Mayor Lin for the success of this summit. Thanks to you, all of us were able to gather together and contribute to the development of our cities. I also wish to thank all the representatives who participated, and last but not least, Former Mayor Li Ziliu. In closing, I wish for the good fortune of all of your families, the continued prosperity of Guangzhou, and for success in all of your endeavors. Thank you very much.

(5) Greeting from the Host City of the 3rd Asian-Pacific City Summit

Mr. Keiichi Kuwahara
Mayor of Fukuoka City

The 2nd Asian-Pacific City Summit, which began on September 28, closes today having achieved great success, thanks to the help of everyone here. I would like to thank, from the bottom of my heart, everyone from each city for their sincere efforts, especially Acting Mayor Lin Shusen and Former Mayor Li Ziliu from Guangzhou City.

The next summit, the 3rd Asian-Pacific City Summit will be held in Fukuoka. It is a great honor and privilege for my city. It is our intention to make every effort to ensure that the next summit continues the success enjoyed by the 2nd Summit, and becomes a meaningful conference on the topic of achievable sustainable development in Asia in the 21st Century through the further establishment of networking and cooperation between cities in the Asian-Pacific region, as laid down in the Summit's founding principle.

The City of Fukuoka is trying to take every advantage of its historical and geographical features as actively promotes exchange with Asia as it aims to become a city closely tied to the sea that is a focal point of exchange within Asia. In particular, as a pivotal city in the northern Kyushu area, Fukuoka City has been working to build up airport, seaport, teleport and other related infrastructure while it promotes the cultivation of hospitality and other less tangible assets. We are also making efforts to preserve and revive the traditional culture and rich nature that we inherited from our ancestors. Fukuoka City is thought of by its residents as a city of delicious food, a city blessed with a bountiful supply of fresh fish, a city which is good place to live, and as an attractive city. I sincerely hope that when all of you attend the 3rd Summit, you will be able to get a personal feel for Fukuoka City.

On behalf of the 1.3 million residents of Fukuoka City, I would like to ask you all to attend the 3rd Asian-Pacific Summit. Thank you.

(6) Greeting from the Host City of the 4th Asian-Pacific City Summit

Mr. Moon Jung-Soo
Mayor of Pusan City

I am Moon Jung-Soo, Mayor of Pusan City. Here at the 2nd Asian-Pacific City Summit, under the main theme of "Urban Development in the 21st Century," we were able to carry out earnest and lively discussion. The common understanding of city development in the Asian Pacific region in the 21st century thereby reached made this a truly meaningful conference. I extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Lin Shusen, Acting Mayor of Guangzhou City and Mr. Li Ziliu, Former Mayor of Guangzhou City, whose unflagging efforts made all of this possible.

I am deeply honored that it was decided at this summit to hold the 4th summit, scheduled for the year 2000, in Pusan City. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the city delegates who participated in this conference.

Pusan City, South Korea, respects the goals and philosophy of the summit, and pledges to commit diligently to promoting the even greater prosperity of the participating cities. The success of the 4th summit depends on the support and encouragement of all of you, and we respectfully ask for your continued involvement.

In closing I wish for the good fortune of all the cities represented here and the good health of all the delegates. Thank you very much.

(7) Closing Address

Mr. Gao Siren

Secretary, Municipal Committee of Guangzhou, C.P.C.
(Advisor to the Conference Organizing Committee)

City delegates and ladies and gentlemen, today we are gathered to commemorate the successful conclusion of the 2nd Asian-Pacific City Summit. Thanks to the efforts of all the participating cities over the past three days, at this conference we have been able to reach many agreements, achieve positive goals, and strengthen the base of friendship upon which the mutually beneficial relationships between cities in the Asian Pacific region are founded. A while ago Mr. Lin Shusen, a member of the Conference Organizing Committee, summarized the main results in the report of the Plenary Session, followed by the historically significant endorsement by representatives of each city of the "Guangzhou Declaration." This truly represents a milestone in the peaceful co-existence and mutual prosperity of the Asian Pacific region.

The two most prominent themes in the modern world are "peace" and "development." Multipolar trends are steadily advancing, and regional cooperation is more and more vigorous every day. The Asian Pacific region is the fastest developing area in the world today, and is blessed with variety and vitality. In recent years the spirit of cooperation in the Asian Pacific region is constantly becoming stronger, and spectacular economic advances have been made. The prosperity and stability of this area make a large contribution to peace and development throughout the entire world.

Cities are the basis of economic development in the Asian Pacific region, and the heart of political, cultural, and technological activity. Due to remarkable economic growth and rapid urbanization, both the number and scale of cities in the area are increasing. The influence of this region is ceaselessly increasing, and plays an important role. As the cities develop, their role in the region and on an international scale will continue to increase. The modern world is more open than it has ever been before, so it is crucial to the development of countries and cities that they open their doors to the outside world. The past history tells us "Under the closed door policies, no amount of building new cities could lead to true progress." There is a wide variety of economic and political structure, as well as many different ideologies, to be found in the cities of the Asian Pacific region, but in this diversity there is a strong ability to complement one another economically and culturally. This diversity and inter-reliance, as well as international peace and domestic order, create some basic prerequisites for exchange and cooperation between cities in the area. In order to assure the continued prosperity and development of our cities,

we must increase our efforts open our doors and strengthen exchange and cooperation with other cities, especially those in the Asian Pacific region. If our cities exchange with, learn from, and cooperate with one another, making use of strengths to compensate for weaknesses to develop and help each other for mutual gain, the future will be bright and boundless. The consensus of the leaders present at this conference has been to respect each other and facilitate each other's freedom, to provide advantages to one another, and to emphasize merits in order to make up for short-comings. We have the common ideal of strengthening our solidarity, deepening our friendships, and working together towards development. We have combined our efforts to make the most of the opportunity offered by this conference to take substantially effective steps, and raised the spirit of exchange and cooperation between Asia Pacific cities to a new level.

With the 21st century fast approaching, the ways in which cities of the Asian Pacific region can grasp the chances available for progress and overcome the hardships and problems that we face are an unavoidable topic.

Naturally, it is vital to these continually developing cities to ever keep in mind the results of our experience and learning up to the present. Each of these cities has a starting point in its own unique situation, and must search for ways that take into account population, social and economic factors, resources, and environmental harmony, to continue development that can satisfy the people living today without creating barriers to the fulfillment of the people of the future. To ensure this constant development, real exchange and cooperation, especially in the economic field, is absolutely necessary. The process of development must make the most of the unique characteristics of each city, and take special care to protect and assure the continuance of each special traditional culture. This is the way to adapt to the flow of historical development while insuring the basic prosperity of the citizens. For us, this is the driving force behind development in our region, and at the same time a reason why we believe that we can profit from the culture and progress of the entire world. We, the leaders of Asia Pacific region cities, must examine our situations and feel a strong sense of mission and of responsibility, and in response to the history we are responsible for, contribute to the continuing development of our cities.

Guangzhou City, as one of the Asia Pacific cities, is deeply honored to have been the host to this conference, and to have been able to welcome all city delegates and the United Nations staff to this debate-style research into the development of Asia Pacific region cities in the 21st century. Through this conference we were able to acquire a wealth of valuable experience, make many new friends, and establish new friendly relationships with numerous cities. Our goal is to make Guangzhou

a truly modern and international city by the first half of the 21st century. We will encounter many difficulties and problems, but we are filled with confidence for the future. We are well aware that the development of Guangzhou City is inexorably linked to the progress of China and the world, and can not be successful without exchange and cooperation with other cities in the Asian Pacific region. We wholeheartedly welcome investment and projects by other cities both in this region and outside, and we are always eager to hear advice and suggestions on how to improve the structure of our city. We hope that all of you will find occasion in the future to visit us again, and we look forward to deepening our friendships with the leaders and citizens of all of your cities. Thank you very much.