

Mr. Jimmy Leung (Hong Kong): I will answer this question briefly. Citizen participation in Hong Kong has come a long way. We don't use that many consultation programs. But in recent years, people of Hong Kong become more articulate; they want their voices heard. So we have to do more and satisfy public demand. Actually, Hong Kong is a civil society; people are very very articulate in the sense that if they don't like it, they may take the issue to the court to sue the government. This is the way we are. So we will just have to live with it. From the government's point of view we will try to collaborate with the community as far as possible. And we are doing a lot, not just in town planning but in other areas as well.

5) Summary

Coordinator (Prof. Shojiro Araki): Thank you very much. We have run out of our allotted time. We only have about 2.5 minutes, so I would like to make a summary of today's Summit.

Starting from this morning through this afternoon we had presentations, and by listening to these presentations I believe that the condition of the city administration in the Pan-Pacific region, in the Asian region, is in similar situations. We are aiming toward a new direction, and I believe everybody would agree with me after listening to these presentations. The major critical point that I found was also raised as a question, which is as follows: How we can keep the identity of the region, and how we can enhance the identity of that particular area? And in our case in Japan, it is not sufficiently done yet. Another point that I've found was the efficiency of the administration, and also the balance or harmonization of participation of the public. At the time of decision-making, once many people get to be involved, it takes time, and this means a decrease in degree of efficiency. This is another challenge that we are faced with. So from the aspect of considering the efficiency of the administration, and also at the same time we have to consider how to enhance the involvement of the participants, the citizens, we need to develop countermeasures. I believe that some good measures were introduced from Kagoshima City, but still this is a very difficult point, and it is not easy to find the solution. But through this meeting I believe that we identified those challenges, which is a good product of this conference.

Another point that I've found was also discussed during this discussion time, that is, among the participants they are taking activities and they are making their activities by their own funds, and also they look for contributions from the private sector. Those are cases that you may find in your own area.

But at the same time, once the public coordinates or collaborates with public organizations or the public sector, and at the time of sourcing the fund from the public sector, the conscious level of getting the money from the public sector would be different from the case that you get money from the private sector, because the money source is taxes; and once they are supported from the public sector, people tend to think that we need to get the support from the government, and you have to be treated in a fair manner compared with other organizations. So not only from the budget requirement aspect they are calculating the money that they need apparently from the comparison with other organizations supported by the government. There are about 253 organizations among the NPOs, and many of them are requesting money from the government

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because the level of voluntary activities or self-governance level is quite low. In the case where those organizations are asking for donations from the private sector, they do not disclose their eagerness to get the money, but in the case where they are asking for money from the government, such kind of strange ideas comes out.

Maybe this is quite unique in our society, but I was wondering whether you find it to be the situation in other countries as well. In the United States I have seen the similar situation, and many people are giving donations to organizations. It's very rare to ask for money from the government. That is the case in the United States. The custom of donation is well established in society in the United States, and whether such a custom is well established in the society is closely related to how the NPO activities or voluntary activities are promoted.

That would lead to another factor that we have to consider in the promotion of collaborative activities. And that aspect was also pointed out during the conference. So I believe that today's conference has been very productive. I am running out of time, and I thank you for your contributions. With this I would like to conclude this meeting. Thank you very much.

M.C.: Professor Araki and also the speakers, thank you very much for your contributions today. With this I would like to close the program.

6) Closing Remarks

M.C.: Last but not least, on behalf of the organizer, Mr. Michiharu Nakayama, Director General of the Citizens Affairs Bureau of Kumamoto City, is going to share closing remarks.

Mr. Michiharu Nakayama (Citizens Affairs Bureau of Kumamoto City): My name is Nakayama from Kumamoto City. With the

participation of working level staff of each city we could organize the Asian-Pacific City Summit Fifth Working Level Conference here in Kumamoto City. I thank you for your great contributions.



Especially my thanks goes to Professor Araki from the Prefectural University of Kumamoto, and also Dr. Miyakita, who is on the Board of Directors of Civic Meetings for Kumamoto Environmental Partnership. Thank you very much for your contributions.

Also I thank the speakers who introduced case study reports from each city. These are very precious, and I thank you for the detailed presentations. I also thank the participants from the cities and also the general public who are participating. I really am very grateful for your participation. With the great support of many people, I believe that this conference has come to be very productive and fruitful.

The theme of today is “City Planning with Citizen Involvement,” which will be furthermore needed in the future, and the specific ways of how to implement this are different depending on the situation of each city. And, depending on the topic that you are dealing with, there could be many difficulties that arise. But, we are committed ourselves to share this principle, and also to further implement activities.

This meeting started at 10 o'clock this morning, and I am not sure whether you have exhausted your opinions yet, but I am sure you are going to participate in the reception this evening and also the tour tomorrow. I do hope that you can utilize these opportunities to further exchange your opinions. Also, I encourage the public to participate again in the future. The content of this conference will be reported at the Asian-Pacific City Summit Sixth Meeting, which will be held in Bangkok next year. I thank you again for your participation.

M.C.: With this I would like to close the Asian-Pacific City Summit Fifth Working Level Conference. Thank you very much for your contributions.