

### **(3) Session for the theme of the 7th Asian-Pacific City Summit**

#### **Why is “Development of Harmonious City” identified as the Subject?**

Distinguished leaders and representatives:

Many thanks to members of Working-Level Conference of Asian-Pacific City Summit for your confidence in Urumqi city in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China, consequently Urumqi is specified as undertaking city for the 7<sup>th</sup> Working-Level Conference of Asian-Pacific City Summit 2006. After our city studied and with the consent of Fukuoka city, Japan, the secretariat of Asia-Pacific City Summit, I would intent to define “Development of Harmonious City” as the subject of 7<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific City Summit, which is scheduled in 2006 in Urumqi city in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China. In order to assist the members to have a brief understanding and uniform awareness, entrusted by Urumqi Municipal Government, I would offer a brief presentation to why this subject is identified, what is the connotation of the subject and the development of harmonious city so as to provide a reference in representatives’ discussion.

#### **I. Significance of “development of harmonious city”**

Looking back to oriental and occidental ideological histories, sprouts of harmonious concept were all once emerged. Confucius put forwards “man of honour implementing harmony but not all sameness”, Pythagoras said “The entire sky is of harmony”, all comprised the concept of “harmony”. So for thousand years, no matter in the orient or occident, people have been pursuing a kind of ideal society full of political and social harmony.

Objective of “Establishing socialist harmonious society” in China means the advancing strategically in higher level in building socialism with Chinese characteristics, and this will surely impact greatly the development of harmonious city in China.

**The presentation of subject of “developing harmonious city” comprises at least the following significances:**

Firstly, it can exert radiation function of the central city and build harmonious structure between urban and rural areas. Most of Asian-Pacific member cities are the advanced cities, and they all aim at developing harmonious city, and promote the integral development in urban construction by means of developing harmonious city. Mentioning Urumqi city in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China, it is also a city which has characteristics of its own, and a city formed by dualistic social structure, which includes urban area and agricultural and pastoral areas. When considering city development, we have to take the development in agricultural and pastoral areas into considerations; when city

dwellers' income is raised, we have to take the income rise of the farmers and pastors into considerations and establish social security system in agricultural and pastoral areas. Only in this way, can the urban and rural areas be developed harmoniously. I think, this target is not only urban development objectives of Urumqi city in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China, but also the common pursuing purpose of member cities of Asian-Pacific City Summit.

Secondly, it can establish harmony of social structure in the communities. Development of harmonious city shall focus on harmonious development in communities because the communities are basic elements of urban society. Harmonious development in communities shall be implemented in the fields such as health, education and social security etc., especially pay attention to adjusting and controlling scientifically the redistribution of income, straighten out the order of salary and income distribution, minimize poverty and groups of low income and enlarge groups of medium income, and only in this way, can a much fairer, more harmonious and economic community full of vigour be established, and consequently we can talk about harmonious development of the city.

Thirdly, it is helpful to establish a kind of harmony with equality in genders and communication between different generations. Pay especial attention to reeducation, health, employment and social security of women group and aging society, and this will help to resolve social contradictions, raise women's social status and secure aged group to live and work in peace and contentment. Among these, it is essential to establish and improve a social security system of wide coverage with accumulation and sustainable development.

Fourthly, it is favorable to harmonious coexistence between the human being and nature. Since Chinese ancient Zuo Zhuan, the pursue of "Hypostatic union between the nature and human being" has continued in China, which shows the meaning of harmonious development between human being and the nature. China and the other nations of the world are all pay especial attention to the harmony between human being and the nature. The targets of sustainable development, "scientific developing concept", "regarding people as the basis", and building "harmonious society" put forwards in the integral developing objectives including the requirement for human being and nature to develop harmoniously. Ecological balance constitutes a natural foundation for social establishment, if this foundation is absent, nothing of society will not exist. Economic growth cannot be emphasized unilaterally during urban development assessment; indexes in ecological environment protection shall be included too. It is after we have kept a basic ecological balance we are able to produce, grow up and make progress in this environment, and finally make the whole mankind realize a kind of high-level harmony on one foundation of common civilization.

## **II. Connotation of development of harmonious city**

The following contents shall be contained in development of harmonious city:

First of all, harmonious development of urban society should be a social development in which social resources are jointly accreted and shared. Generally, each city is made of multi-ethnic groups, and Urumqi city in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China is a multivariate cultural society, in which dozens of ethnic groups, various religions, different languages and various folk-customs coexist. In this kind of society with concurrent multi cultures, its basic characteristics reflect that cultures among ethnic groups are commonly shared. Harmonious coexistence between various ethnic groups, coexistence of various religions, exchange between various languages and folk-custom of each ethnic group show colourfully and exist jointly in the same city, and this share of cultures among the ethnic groups reflects "I am in your side and you are in my side" and form a resultant force. This provides powerful culture energy for harmonious development of urban society.

Secondly, "development of harmonious city" is a social development of reasonable urban social structure. Reasonable social structure means that each component of the society i.e. sub-systems shall form a reasonable relationship. This includes population structure, ethnic group structure, structure of social stratum, occupation structure, community structure, family structure and so on. Urumqi Municipal Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Committee and Municipal Government always emphasize implementation of family plan, our basic state policy, strengthen unity of nationalities, extend opportunity of reemployment for city dwellers, intensify social morality, professional ethics, and family ethics, and all this intents to establish a relatively well-proportioned, balanced and stable relationship between each sub-system. Only under these circumstances, can the social administration, social integration and social control be conducted and can urban society be developed harmoniously.

Thirdly, harmonious development of urban society requires each group in city and each individual behaves as per criteria. Generally the contents of criteria include the following two aspects: first aspect is statutory e.g. decree, rules and regulations, system, discipline, part of it is morality, the law is mandatory and any party, organization and individual should follow them; the other part is non-statutory, also called common law e.g. folk-customs of various ethnic groups and part of morality, though they are not mandatory, they have restrictive function to social groups' and individual's behaviors. Social criterion is a firewall used for social control, and is the support of social development and the foundation to support TV society.

Lastly, urban harmonious development needs scientific and democratic decision-making and properly operation. The report delivered at the Opening of the 16<sup>th</sup> CCP Party Congress indicates: "Reform and improve the decision-making mechanism. Correct decision-making is an important prerequisite for success in all work. We will improve the decision-making mechanism by which decision-makers will go deep among the people and get to know how they are faring, reflect their will, pool their wisdom and value their resources, putting decision-making on a more scientific and democratic basis. Decision-making organs at all levels should improve the rules and procedures for taking major policy decisions, establish a system of reporting social conditions and public opinion, a system of keeping the public informed and a system of public hearings on major issues closely related to the interests of

the people, perfect the expert consulting system and implement a verification system and responsibility system in making policy decisions with a view to prevent arbitrary decision-making.” The harmonious development of urban society depends greatly on scientific and democratic decision-making of the decision makers. Of course, when scientific and democratic decision-making is conducted, we still have a problem of proper social operation. If there are no prominent social operations, harmonious development of the society shall be very difficult to be available. If social operational mechanism with openness, fairness, and justice is established, a critical point is proper implementation of scientific and democratic decision-making and correct social operations.

### **III. A few issues should be noticed for development of harmonious city**

I’d like to present some proposals for attendees as reference.

(1)What mode shall be in for the development of structure of urban stratum? Some experts point out: The subbase of urban society cannot be the development in shape of “dumbbell”, small in the middle and big in both ends, but as the shape of “olive”, that is big in the middle and small in the both ends. Now the problem is how to solve the issue of “small in the middle and big in both ends”, and enlarge the scale of middle stratum so as to keep this social structure harmonious and stable.

(2)How to offer practical and powerful assistance for urban weakened groups? In cities, poor population, peasant-workers, the unemployed and laid –off staff and workers, disabled persons, persons asking for aid in catastrophe are weakened groups in urban society; they often have many problems just like “difficult to see a doctor, difficult to go to school, difficult to find jobs as difficult to go to court”. How to solve their problems, these shall be listed in agenda of the government and solved by effective measures.

(3)Does it need economic development and cultural development to be mutual prerequisite? If economic development is emphasized only, cultural development is neglected, cultural diathesis of the whole residents in the city is not raised, investment for public cultural undertaking is not increased and integral cultural level of the whole city is not raised, economic development will lose its power, and neither can lead the city along the track of harmonious development.

(4)Can hardware be lack in harmonious development of the urban society? Herein the hardware does not refer to the number of buildings such as office buildings, large halls and guest houses, but the investment to social causes. According to the investment in this aspect put forwards in Copenhagen Conference, this fund shall be secured in more than 30% of the total investment. The problem we have now is: How much do we invest in this field? How to increase fund input in this field so as to make social causes advance effectively? These issues are important for harmonious development of urban society.

Nevertheless, formulating social public policies, reducing the lag between the poor and the rich, democratic vote in subbase etc are important factors in harmonious development of the city, the key point is how we give an overall arrangement and coordinate their development.

### ○ The Themes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific City Summit

- Global Theme: Development of harmonious city
- Background: City harmony has been a goal for cities of all ages and countries. Harmony includes harmony between urban and rural areas, community harmony, gender equality, response to an aging society, and harmony between human and natural worlds.

City harmony requires sharing of social resources, balanced demography, social system consisting of work, community, and family, and various types of legal norms such as laws, ordinances, and common law. Democratic system for decision-making is also indispensable.

In order to develop city harmony, it is necessary to consider how to treat the underprivileged in a city such as the disabled and those receiving a low-income; how to develop the economy in harmony with culture, and what makes public spending effective.

### ○ Sub-session Themes

The following three themes have been approved as sub-session themes in accordance with the global theme above.

#### **1. Social Welfare**

As social and economic development advances, the scope of agenda to be discussed at the Asian-Pacific City Summit has also expanded. Member cities are urged to share their experiences in social welfare for the elderly and the disabled as well as childcare.

#### **2. Urban Infrastructure Development**

The rapid growth in urban population has made it more and more critical for cities to develop urban infrastructure, such as roads, water supply and sewerage system, and housing development to improve living conditions. It is important for member cities to learn from each other how they deal with the issue of population growth under their respective geographical, social and economic circumstances. This will help each city develop urban infrastructure.

#### **3. Development of New Industries**

The rapid progress in integration of global economy has intensified competition between economic players such as corporations. Knowing and learning about new industries promoted by other member cities will actively help facilitate city development.

○ Free discussion

**Fukuoka City:** We are representing Fukuoka City. We have received the proposed themes from Urumqi City for the section meetings, the main points of those themes, and the three topics for discussion at next year's summit. As representatives of Fukuoka City, we think that these three section meeting themes are suitable.

In particular, the first theme, or social welfare, is a theme that was not addressed at past summits. And we believe that social welfare measures will be a critical issue and, in addition to infrastructural (tangible) development and economy, are important for balanced development.

We, as representatives of Fukuoka City, think that the second theme of infrastructure building and the third theme of promotion of new industries are both appropriate themes for the section meetings concerning balanced urban development.

**Miyazaki City:** I'm here to represent Miyazaki City. Basically, I am in agreement with the proposed themes.

I do have two requests, however. The first deals with the administration of social welfare, or the first theme for the section meeting of welfare. If possible, I think it would be helpful if we could discuss issues such as the involvement of local communities in social welfare.

It is said that the debt of the regional governments included with that of the central government and local government of Japan reaches 900 trillion yen, in other words, 7.5 million yen per citizen or approximately 600,000 yuan.

The situation behind the creation of this debt is the continuation of borrowing and the extending of annual budgetary expenditures for social security along with the burden of welfare and healthcare costs. Under these stringent financial conditions, Japan's local governments, including that of Miyazaki City, are grappling with administrative and financial reforms and working to ensure the sound management of public finances.

However, there are limits to governmental administration in the area of welfare. In the future, I think it will be necessary for us to find a mechanism enabling us to support one another. I think the capabilities of the government, of city governments, and of the members of local communities, as well as the systems in each country, vary. But, independent of these systematic differences, I think we can engage in a productive discussion about welfare if we address the question of what kinds of groups are capable of administering welfare programs and the issue of how the government can assist.

My other request concerns the second theme of urban infrastructure building. Earlier someone offered the suggestion of a cooperative investigation of countermeasures for dealing with population issues. However, the population of Japan is currently 127 million. And it is said that we will enter a phase of depopulation after reaching a population climax in 2006. It is already being reported in the press that our population may have started declining. According to a study conducted in 2000 by the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, 30 years later, or 25 years from now, in the year 2030, the entire population of Japan will drop down to 92.6% of what it was in 2000. In 30 years, the number of municipal and regional

governments with declining populations will reach 87%. And so, this suggests that competition between cities, even in Japan, has already commenced.

Population is indispensable for the preservation of urban vitality. Therefore, we are working to develop cities in order to encourage increases in population. I think that the city of Urumqi, which is now positioned among competing regional governments in China, is struggling everyday. And so, even though nations vary structurally, it may be presumed that our issue is not only one of population concerns but also of survival in the midst of competition between cities and the challenge of finding a means to most effectively use the resources of cities. I think infrastructure building is also a part of the strategy. And, I think we can enrich the substance of our discussion if we can somehow cover not only the reality of the competition being faced by the regional governments of each nation but also look at possible countermeasures. Basically, I'm in agreement with everything that has been suggested so far. Thank you very much.

**Kagoshima City:** We are representing Kagoshima City. Basically, we are in complete agreement with the three themes proposed for the section meetings. As the representatives from Fukuoka City stated before, the theme of welfare is a new one; and, because this is a common issue, one about which everyone participating is concerned, I would enjoy hearing the different opinions others hold on this topic. Also, I think Japan and we, the regional cities of Kyushu participating in the Summit, are probably progressing in terms of infrastructure, in particular, in the areas of waterworks and public sewage systems. Public sewage systems are widespread in the regional cities of Kyushu, so I hope our experiences will be of assistance in your own projects.

And finally, concerning the introduction of new industries, actually, we have industrial parks and the like; but, in regards to IT, I think Japan, Korea, and China are progressing dramatically. We, and the city of Kagoshima, would like to learn more about the system for procuring foreign investments in China. At present, China is developing rapidly; and, the procurement of foreign investment is a fundamental part of this development. I think that foreign capital is significantly involved in economic development zones. The situation does not differ from that faced by Japanese businesses. And we would like to better understand how that kind of system functions and how our Chinese counterparts are making use of foreign capital in their own business endeavors.

I hope that we can work together at the summit, benefiting from the presence of our mayors, and gain substantial knowledge on the matters that we, as summit-member cities, are all interested in and hoping to learn about. Thank you very much.

**Bangkok:** I, the representative from Bangkok, am basically in agreement with the three proposed themes. However, I think that the topic of social welfare is quite broad in scope.

I think that the second theme of infrastructure and, following that, the theme of the promotion of new industries are together a good baseline for discussion about the administration of social welfare, the first theme. Therefore, I suggest that we organize the meetings with infrastructure as the first theme, new industries as the second theme, and finally, as the logical outcome of the first two meetings, social welfare administration as the third theme.

Personally, I visualize these three themes as a pyramid-like structure, with infrastructure found at the base. Above that, you have the new industries; and, further up, at the apex of the pyramid, you have social welfare administration. If the pyramid lacks a base, I do not think we will be able to reach the level of social welfare administration.

Each participating city should discuss methods for building and then developing infrastructure, offer ways to expand new industries, then finally, address welfare administration. Thank you.

**Shanghai:** I'm here as a representative from the Foreign Affairs Office of Shanghai City. The Foreign Affairs Office is a division that makes arrangements for various international conferences, sets parameters, and coordinates affairs.

Meetings are held frequently in Shanghai; and, we must take part in countless meetings. And so, every year, our mayor receives many invitations requesting his presence at meetings. For city summits alone, he has already received eight invitations this year. And of those eight summits, one was held by the Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, another in Brazil, then one in America; and, we still have four meetings left to attend.

Even in China, after the summit in Urumqi finishes, he has to attend one in Chongqing. Then after that, there will be another in Changchun. And so, when we receive invitations for this kind of summit, in the Foreign Affairs Office, first we have to decide whether we think the mayor should or should not make an appearance. In other words, we, as members of the Foreign Affairs Office, offer an opinion to the mayor regarding whether we think he should attend a certain meeting or not.

Because the mayor receives so many invitations for summits in a single year, it is difficult for him to participate in each and every one of them.

When we present our opinion to the mayor regarding whether he should participate or not, we, in the Foreign Affairs Office, rank the summits by considering first, the scale of a summit, then its impact, and finally, its probable participants.

I think all summits are beneficial for the purposes of urban development. In regards to the summits at which the mayor appears, we want him to appear at those having varying themes. Of course, we cannot have him appear repeatedly at summits revolving around similar themes. Ultimately, if we and other cities share common ground with the contents of the summit, we want to take part.

I have a suggestion. In ranking the Asian-Pacific City Summit among the summits of various cities, I think that this "Asian-Pacific" title is distinctive. I can recall the somewhat general names of other summits; but, by being referred to as "Asian-Pacific", this summit is unique.

I think more city mayors in China should be able to participate in meetings that are gatherings of mayors of mid-size cities rather than of large metropolises. In this way, the number of participating cities will increase; and, most likely, the scale of the summit can be guaranteed to a certain degree. Then, if a certain scale can be achieved, I think the impact of the summit will be even greater.

Personally, I am in agreement with the three section meeting themes proposed by the city of Urumqi. And I am of the same opinion as the representatives from Japan who expressed their agreement to the theme dealing with welfare. I think I have presented my opinions here fairly honestly.

We, in Shanghai, have already become an aging society. Over 20% of the population is elderly. This is over one-fifth of the general population. Moreover, I think the aging of our society will continue into the future. Until now, we have held a variety of meetings, on over twenty occasions, about the issue of welfare. In particular, in the past 2 years, we, in Shanghai, have been concerned with the problems of the elderly, senior citizens, and people with disabilities. And so, I myself, am very excited about talking with everyone's representatives about social welfare administration at the section meeting.

I am also curious about and would like to know when the summit can start next year. Following our standard practices, we think preparations will take at least a year; and, if we can spend a year on preparations, I think the overall quality of the meeting can be maintained.

Thank you very much.

## **(4) Closing ceremony**

Deputy Secretary-general Chi Weicheng's Closing Address for the Asian-Pacific City Summit 6<sup>th</sup> Working-Level-Conference

I'd like to extend a warm greeting to all participants in the Asian-Pacific City Summit 6<sup>th</sup> Working-Level-Conference.

Thanks to the cooperative representation of all participant cities, the planned proceedings for the conference were concluded in a timely fashion. The conference could not have been held successfully without the active cooperation of the participating cities.

Especially notable were the efforts made by Fukuoka City of Japan, which served to facilitate communications amongst all member cities, offering proactive planning and providing the requisite backing so that the conference could be held in a manner consistent with its planning.

Asian-Pacific City Summit member cities from three countries, totaling nine cities altogether, participated in the conference. These participants were Bangkok (Thailand); Fukuoka, the City of Kitakyushu, Kagoshima, Kumamoto and Miyazaki (Japan); and Shanghai, Guangzhou and Urumqi (China).

The participating cities carried out debates and detailed investigations regarding the conference theme of "To promote City Development through Multi-Culture." There were several lectures consistent with this theme, including "To Promote City Development through Multi-Culture in Bangkok" (Bangkok, Thailand), "The City of Culture and the Arts" (Fukuoka City, Japan) and "Building Multi-culture system, promoting Development of city culture" (Guangzhou, China). Representatives of Urumqi, located in Xinjiang Province, China, delivered the keynote address, titled "The Cultural Dimension of Urban Development" and also provided an explanation regarding the 7<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific City Summit's theme of "Development of Harmonious City."

All of the participating cities offered extremely thoughtful, outstanding and content-rich proposals related to the conference theme. A good foundation was established for the 7<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific City Summit, as well as for the development of, and pluralistic cultural exchanges, among the regions and cities of the Asian-Pacific region. Furthermore, the possibility of joint prosperity and development amongst the cities of the Asian-Pacific region, as well as cooperation covering a more extensive area, were also expanded.

The conference was productive on three broad fronts. First of all, it helped to clarify the fact that the cooperation and development of the cities of the Asian-Pacific region have helped to develop everything from the economy, urban management and infrastructure to the pluralistic culture of urban

areas. As a by-product of this, cooperation and exchanges among Asian-Pacific cities have expanded over a large area. An exercise in mapping pluralistic culture in the development of Asian-Pacific cities was carried out at the event and there was a uniform widespread recognition of the importance of cultural exchanges among the cities of the Asian-Pacific region.

Second, the successful nature of the conference bore fruit in the form of the strengthening of informational and friendship exchange endeavors amongst Asian-Pacific City Summit members. Especially notable was the fact that the speeches by Urumqi City (China), Bangkok (Thailand) and Fukuoka City (Japan) not only hit upon the theme of "Urban Development Through a Pluralistic Culture," but also offered a wealth of constructive information concerning pluralistic cultural exchanges among member Asian-Pacific cities.

Lastly, due to the wide-ranging debate and amicable consultations made possible by this conference, the theme of "Harmonious Urban Development" was decided on for the 7<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific City Summit, with a suitable theme also being established for the subcommittee meeting. This will prove to be a significant benefit when it comes time to carry out preparations for the 7<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific City Summit.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific City Summit will be carried out in Urumqi City, located in Xinjiang Province, China in 2006. With the consent of Japan's Fukuoka City, which holds the secretariat office for the Asian-Pacific City Summit, a theme of "Harmonious Urban Development" was decided on. We are putting all of our energy into preparing for the conference so as to create a relaxed atmosphere and an environment of cooperation for each delegation. We hope that each member municipality and the other cities of the Asian-Pacific region will actively participate and come forward with positive proposals based on the theme of "Harmonious Urban Development." We very much look forward to your attendance.

It is our sincere hope that this Working-Level-Conference will serve as an impetus for the further deepening of interregional friendships among our member cities, with cooperative development being promoted on all sides and in every area.

Let us all cooperate and go forward hand in hand in order that the 2006 7<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific City Summit be a success.

Thank you for being such a gracious audience.

(September 10, 2005)