



BANGKOK DECLARATION
The 6th Asian-Pacific City Summit
30 November – 2 December 2004

We, on behalf of participating cities of the 6th Asian-Pacific City Summit, held between 30 November and 2 December 2004 in Bangkok, to exchange views on our “New Approaches Towards Sustainable City Redevelopment” and to explore possibilities to further cooperation among our cities towards shared prosperity in Asia-Pacific and beyond, hereby present “Bangkok Declaration” summarizing our shared visions on the followings.

1. We reaffirmed our good wills to promote close and cordial relations between our cities. The Summit has enhanced dynamic interactions and forged a forward-looking strategic partnership between participating cities. We agreed to push forward our cooperation in the next Summit to be held in 2006 to work towards a future framework of cooperation with the possibility of establishing a common plan of action, including joint projects and activities.
2. We unequivocally supported the substantive ideas from our previous summits. We concurrently recognized that, as the world constantly experiences dynamism, especially as the result of the on-going process of globalization and interdependence, our cities are growing at unparalleled rates. In view of these we stressed the necessity of continuously refining and revising our approaches towards sustainable city redevelopment. We also emphasized the values of utilizing the comparative advantages of our cities such that their different strengths complement each other.
3. We reaffirmed our commitment to good governance in our new approaches, which accordingly attaches great significance to comprehensive and non-discriminatory public participation in the decision making and assessment processes as well as transparency of the administrations.
4. We stressed the need for the private sector to play an important role in the sustainable redevelopment of our cities. We believe that efficient public private partnership will make our new management effective.
5. We also emphasized the importance of market-oriented methods in our new approaches while integrating these methods with the principles of good governance and public private partnership. Our approaches should apply market mechanism and competition to raise the quality of life of the peoples in various aspects, including provisions of goods and services, education, healthcare, infrastructure and environmental management.

6. We pledged to intensify our own efforts as well as inter-city cooperation towards the common goal of more opportunities and less problems for the peoples. We are to provide the peoples with fair basis of employment, job training, and social welfare.
7. We attached great significance to strategic urban planning and infrastructure investment in our attempts towards better urban living conditions and economic development. Towards this end, we are committed to environmental protection and ecological quality improvement.
8. We aimed to make our cities more and more attractive to both their citizens and visitors. While we are to standardize the quality of tourism industry in each of our cities and integrate tourism strategy with other economic plans, it is in our interests to retain the uniqueness of our cities through elements of our distinguishable tradition and culture.
9. We recognized that different sectors are inextricably intertwined and effective management of each sector and cross-sector issues are crucial for sustainable redevelopment of our cities. We also welcomed future new initiatives of development strategies in other sectors such as sciences and technology, sports, art and culture. We reiterated our common desire to expand our cooperation into these areas and further enhance inter-city exchanges and cooperation in the wider regional and international frameworks.

We adopted today our common views and decisions reflected in this 'Bangkok Declaration', which shall mark another significant step towards closer cooperative relations between our cities. We pledged together to maintain the momentum generated by this Summit, to continue our contacts and dialogues, and to develop our friendship and collaboration network.

We will hold the the 7th Asian-Pacific City Summit in Urumqi in 2006.

Bangkok, 1 December 2004



Closing Statement
by
Mr. Apirak Kosayodhin
Governor of Bangkok,
at the 6th Asian-Pacific City Summit
Sofitel Central Plaza, Bangkok, Thailand
1 December 2004

Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to express my gratitude for the honor accorded to me once again to speak at this occasion of concluding the Summit. Allow me then first of all to take this opportunity to extend my warmest congratulations to all of you on the success of the Summit and its rewarding results

As for our key deliberations, the 'Bangkok Declaration' lays down our 'new approaches' for sustainable city redevelopment. I am confident that our further work can make a difference in managing the allegedly unmanageable urban problems. I am also confident that our further efforts can effectively bring the fruits of globalization and interdependence to our cities, their citizens and beyond.

Distinguished Colleagues,

Allow me to take this opportunity to recapitulate briefly what we have accomplished in the past couple of days of work.

First, we conventionally reiterate the common fact that our cities have all been experiencing rapid economic growth, providing great opportunities for human development alongside. This phenomenon is nevertheless accompanied by the historically unparalleled increase in multi-faceted urban problems related to transportation, housing, environment, public health, education, and so on.

We are also cognizant that, providing globalization and interdependence become the driving factor of 'new urbanism', the problems are not to be solved by each of us alone. Closer cooperation and partnership among our cities and peoples are to bring about equitable growth and sustainable



development of our cities and their surrounding regions, together with improved quality of life for all citizens.

Our concept of 'new urbanism' also reflects our shared values of unique tradition and culture in each of our cities. Traditional ways of life are great sources of wisdom, which should never be dissolved away by the negative impact of globalization and interdependence. Against the interpretation that globalization tends to lead to expansion of universal values, efforts should be made to prevent universalization of ways of life and to preserve the beauty of diversity. Different tradition and culture of our cities are classic indicators as to what go well or be at odd with them.

In enhancing our partnership, we have been sharing our knowledge and experiences in search of 'best practice' code of conduct suitable for each of our cities. Our 'new public management' emphasizes the importance of public private partnership and peoples involvement in decision making process. It emphasizes individual cities' unique opportunities and problems, which can be identified by the administrators with the active involvement of the people, business and community in a wide participatory process.

As I mentioned at the outset of the Summit, much has already been thought through prior to this occasion on how we can best manage our urban cities, not least regarding our previous meetings. I believe, nonetheless, our work today definitely has much added-value to the already existing principles and modes towards solutions to urban problems and our common goal of promoting quality of urban life.

Distinguished Colleagues,

Personally, my experience at this Summit has been both memorable and valuable. It is so memorable for it is timely for me at this yet early stage of my Administration to have the great opportunity to introduce and familiarize myself with all of my colleagues here, with whom I believe, our friendship shall develop as our constructive cooperation shall grow in tandem. It is also much valuable for me to have the great opportunity to exchange ideas with you all with a view to refining my policy as well as fulfilling my promises to the people of Bangkok.

As for Bangkok, it is my vision as I volunteer to take upon this office to make Bangkok more secure, prosperous, clean, and convenient. Much of the conclusion of this Summit adds value to how to follow through this vision of mine. The image of Bangkok is to become an attractive business location. Bangkok is to position itself for a more viable role in the global economy with strategic investment in infrastructure and services in support of entrepreneurial activities, and in better marketing of the many of our comparative advantages. This is to be achieved also through market mechanism, public-private partnership, and active involvement of stakeholders and communities. More fundamental is



the economic well-being of the people, who deserve viable employment and professional opportunities, and access to capital as well as convocational and other training. The Administration should organize its budget and revenues with timely appropriate reform and new funding system or channels.

Apart from the economic sphere, it is equally important to fully and comprehensively sustain social welfare for all citizens without prejudice, discrimination and ignorance. This refers to full and equal public participation in decision-making and assessment processes in a comprehensive manner, that is, covering all areas affecting quality of life namely security, health, education, infrastructure, environment, culture and so on and so fort.

In education, for example, as I have myself been involved in assessing and setting standard of education at the national level, my experience has taught me that it is absolutely crucial to develop and sustain educational opportunities, and quality of teaching, institutions, and personnels at all levels and through time. It is the quality of life-long learning which should be the focus of our policy on education. Technology, especially IT should be exploited to improve teaching and learning quality.

Other areas of priority evident in the policy of my Administration include improving environmental quality, redeveloping tourism and preserving the traditions and culture of Thai way of life. All these areas have indeed been incorporated as central to our 'new approaches' to sustainable city redevelopment.

Distinguished Colleagues,

Before closing, allow me to stress once again why we have been here by summing up with these last few words, which has been reflected clearly in the 'Bangkok Declaration', the conclusion of our work and has direct implications on what is next for our cities and people.

We share our common vision of our cities, the vision of 'healthy cities', cities of opportunities, cities of prosperity, cities of security, and cities of quality.

Thank you.

REFERENCES

PAST RESULTS

Asian-Pacific City Summit (Mayors Conferences)

	DATE	THEME	SUBSESSION THEMES	PARTICIPANTS
1 st Summit Fukuoka	22-25 Sep. 1994	Harmony between Urban Development and Human Living Environment in the Asian-Pacific Era	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ City and Transportation ▪ City and Housing ▪ City and Environment / Public Health 	21 cities from 11 countries and regions
2 nd Summit Guangzhou	27Sep- 01Oct 1996	Urban Development in the 21 st Century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Future Urban Planning and Construction ▪ Modern Urban Environmental Protection ▪ Urban Modernization and Traditional Culture 	20 cities from 11 countries and regions
3 rd Summit Fukuoka	11-13 July 1998	Future Prospects Networking between Cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Future Direction of Education for the Next Generation ▪ Establishment of Health and Medical Systems ▪ Waterworks and Sewer Systems in the Cities 	23 cities from 12 countries and regions
4 th Summit Busan	13-15 July 2000	Economic Development of Asian- Pacific Cities in the New Millennium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhancing Inter-city Exchanges and Trade ▪ Measures to Grow Tourism Industry 	22 cities from 11 countries
5 th Summit Fukuoka	30Aug- 01Sep 2002	New Approach to City Planning for the 21 st Century – from "Governing" to "Good Governance"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ City Planning with Citizen Involvement ▪ Customer-Based & Results-Oriented Governmental Reform ▪ e-Governance – IT & City Planning ▪ Collaboration among Industry, Academia and Local Government 	24 cities from 12 countries
6 th Summit Bangkok	30Nov- 02Dec 2004	Sustainable City Redevelopment : The New Approaches	<p>New Urbanism : Values, City Governance and People Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality of Life ▪ Culture and Tradition Rehabilitation <p>New Public Management : Public Private Partnerships and Creating Opportunities for All</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ City Economic Development : Opportunity for All ▪ Education Development ▪ Tourism 	14 cities from 10 countries
7 th Summit Urumqi	2006			

Working Level Conferences

	DATE	THEME	PARTICIPANTS
1 st Conference Fukuoka	26-27 Oct 1995	Management of Transportation in Cities of the Asia-Pacific Region (Transportation Operation Policy and Traffic Control)	20 cities from 10 countries and regions
2 nd Conference Fukuoka	26-28 Nov 1997	Waste Treatment and Disposal-Striving for a Sustainable Growth Environment	18 cities from 9 countries
3 rd Conference Fukuoka	30Nov- 2Dec 1999	Supply of Safe, Clean Water to the City	18 cities from 10 countries and region
4 th Conference Busan	6-8 Sep 2001	Measures to Enhance Inter-city Exchanges in Tourism in Asian- Pacific	17 cities from 7 countries
5 th Conference Kumamoto	8-11 Nov 2003	Citizen Planning with Citizen Involvement	

THE 6TH ASIAN-PACIFIC CITY SUMMIT REPORT

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