(4) KITAKYUSHU

Environmental Policies of Kitakyushu City for a Sustainable Society

Ms. Chihoko Asada Deputy Mayor of Kitakyushu City

1. Getting Pollution under Control in Kitakyushu

• Kitakyushu City, which had enjoyed prosperity as a chemical and heavy industry region, eventually encountered serious public health problems that arose from this status. These problems were originally brought to light by the Women's Institute. Since then, the City of Kitakyushu has adopted a series of measures to combat air pollution. As a result, within twenty years Kitakyushu reached historic achievements in environmental improvements.

2. From the "Sea of Death" to International Environmental Leadership

- After successfully overcoming its own pollution problems, Kitakyushu actively advanced international cooperation in environmental protection, in order to help other Asian cities that suffer from pollution. Today, this cooperation involves over 5,000 trainees accepted and 130 experts dispatched.
- In addition, "The Construction Project of the Dalian Environmental Demonstration Region" has been implemented between Kitakyushu and Dalian. The environment of Dalian has seen huge improvements through this cooperation. The importance and effectiveness of cooperation between cities received high valuations after implementation of this project. Since then, city-to-city cooperation networks have been established to promote further international cooperation on the environment.

3. Three Threats and Key Challenges

- The Japanese government faces the same problem as the city of Kitakyushu.
- The three threats faced are wasted resources, global warming, and ecosystem threats. The respective challenges are building a sound material-cycle society, achieving a low-carbon society, and natural coexistence. I will focus on how Kitakyushu has done so far in building a sound material-cycle and a low-carbon society.

①The challenge of building a sound material-cycle society

• In July 1997, in order to promote the formation of a sound material-cycle society, Kitakyushu started construction of the Eco-Town Project. Eco –Town is the outpost of what we call venous industry, which reuses and recycles waste collected from households and businesses. Eco-Town has an exceptional resource circulation system, with an efficiency that is rarely seen in other parts of the world.

②The challenge of building a low-carbon society

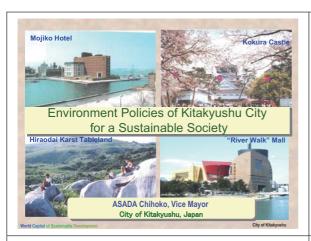
• The Japanese government has approved six municipalities, including the City of Kitakyushu, as

environmental model cities.

• The Kitakyushu City government put forward recommendations that are composed of five pillars. These pillars are: the conversion to a social capital stock oriented city; the construction of industrial clusters that contribute to a low-carbon society; study and action programs equipped with a mechanism to put the acquired knowledge of low-carbon societies into action; the creation of a more affluent society through its development as a low-carbon society; the promotion of low-carbon societies across Asia. Kitakyushu's Environmental Model City plan includes a total of 157 specific measures that are currently being enforced.

4. Aiming to build a world environmental capital

- In October 2004, the City of Kitakyushu set the target of becoming a world environmental capital, and began work to achieve that goal. As the grand plan, three pillars are set on a base of building affluent cities to pass on to the next generation. These three pillars are the creation of symbiosis, the protection of the environment for economic development, and the enhancement of the city's sustainability. The plan aims to create win-win situations both for the environment and the economy. Comprehensive steps have been taken by integrating social policies ranging from those that cover the environment and the economy, to the promotion of employment.
- The implementation of the city's environmental policies has been highly acclaimed. Kitakyushu won first place in the "Environmental Capital Contest" two years in a row. Aiming to build a world environmental capital, we will continue to work toward the community of mutual prosperity of environment, economy and society.



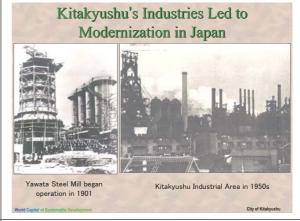
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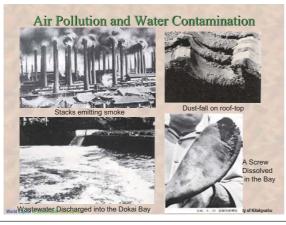
- 2 From "Sea of Death" to International Environmental Leadership
- 3 Three Threats and Key Challenges
- 3-1 Challenge 1 A sound Material-Cycle Society
- 3-2 Challenge 2 A Low-Carbon Society
- 4 Towards the "World Capital of Sustainable Development"

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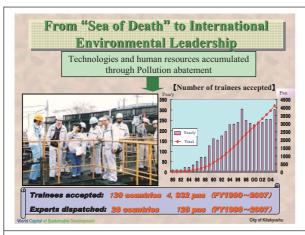




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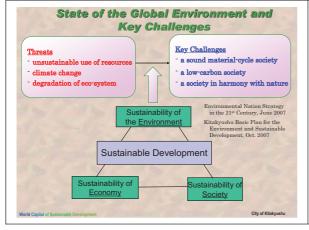










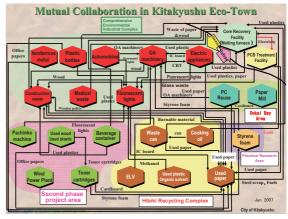


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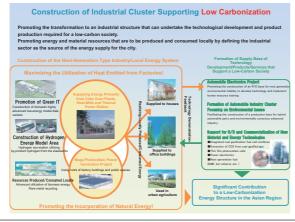


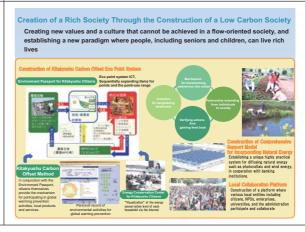








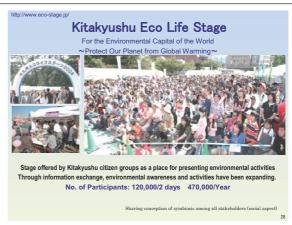








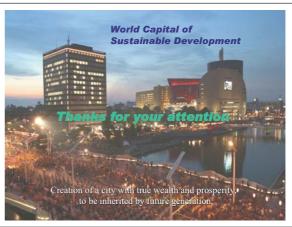












(5) KUMAMOTO

Utilization and Management of Modernized Urban City Resources

Kumamoto Industries Take Full Advantage of their Local Nature, History, Culture and Resources

Mr. Hiroaki Morita Deputy Mayor of Kumamoto City

1. Outline of Kumamoto City

For centuries, thanks to its mild climate and abundant precipitation, the City of Kumamoto has been renowned for its abundance of green. It has earned Kumamoto the nickname of "Capital of Forests". Today our city is equipped with an express transportation infrastructure and, as can be imagined, Kumamoto City allows people to taste the pleasures of city living while enjoying a rich natural environment.

2. Rich Natural Resources - Ground Water

To the east is the volcanic Mount Aso, boasting the world's largest caldera and attracting tourists throughout the year. The temperature on the plateau is cool even in summer. A number of Japan's most highly rated hot springs, resorts, and leisure and golf facilities are located in this area. A unique feature of Kumamoto City is its crystal-clear ground water. As the entire population is supplied with pure subterranean drinking water, Kumamoto has never experienced a water shortage, even when other cities have suffered severely from drought. In order for us to maintain the best groundwater levels with consideration given to both quantity and quality, we enacted the Groundwater Preservation Ordinance and are engaged in groundwater recharging projects. As a result of our long-continuing efforts, Kumamoto City won this year's highest national award for water resource management, the Japan Water Grand Prix.

3. Historical and Cultural Resources - Castle Town -

Kumamoto City developed and prospered as a castle town and its symbol, Kumamoto Castle, is located in the center of the city. The castle grounds cover 1 million square meters. A river running through the city was effectively utilized as a moat and the castle defenses were designed to take advantage of the natural terrain. This year we celebrated the completion of the beautiful Honmaru-Goten Palace reconstruction, the result of an investment of some 5.4 billion yen. The castle is now an exciting major draw for visitors from both inside and outside Japan.

4. Industrial Development: Advantages of City Resources

The major industries in Kumamoto are in the commerce and service sectors. At the same time, our city also enjoys the blessings of thriving agriculture and fishing industries. In addition to our major food crop of rice, we produce a variety of horticultural and agricultural products such as eggplants, mandarin oranges, and melons and

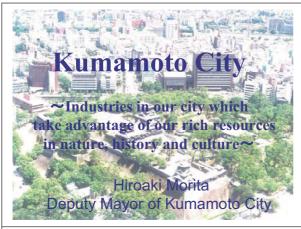
watermelons. In the nearby Ariake Sea, seaweed and clam production are always active. With these primary industries, the food processing business is well developed in Kumamoto City, and includes miso, soy sauce, and sake production facilities.

Taking advantage of food-processing technologies, the biotechnology field has also been growing. Through joint research projects with universities, some companies develope healthful food products.

Kumamoto City established a foodstuffs industry park named Food Pal Kumamoto, where consumers and producers can communicate with each other. Food Pal Kumamoto receives approximately 900,000 visitors annually. Kumamoto City will continue to play a major role on 'Food Island Kyushu,' renowned as a safe and reliable food supplier. The city has been attracting a growing number of companies with advanced technologies as well.

5. City Development and Future Visions

Kumamoto City has developed as a central crossroads for Kyushu by utilizing its rich regional resources. Based on already existing city resources and our extensive transportation networks, including the Kyushu Shinkansen bullet train and highways, and knowing that information and communication networks will be further developed, we see a future in which Kumamoto grows into a city so attractive that people are drawn to it, not only from the Asia-Pacific region, but from all corners of the world.







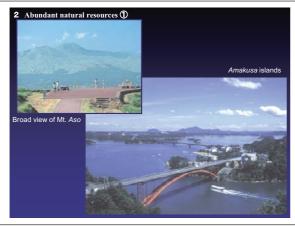








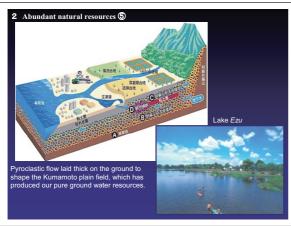








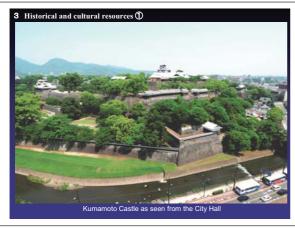








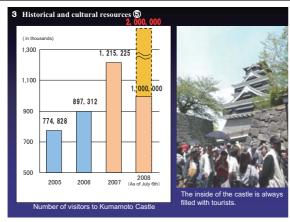


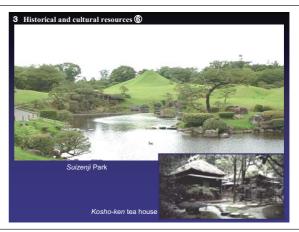


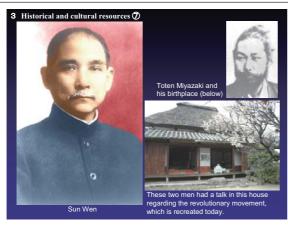








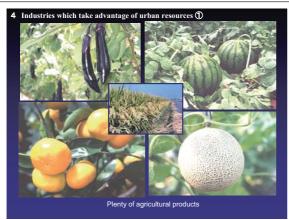




















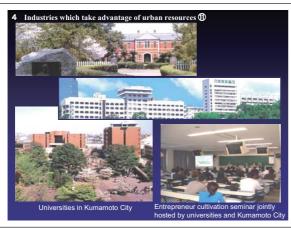
















(6) POHANG

Ways to Facilitate Sustainable Economic and Social Development and Protect the Environment

Mr. Park Seung-ho Mayor of Pohang City

Not too long ago, Pohang was a small fishing village dotted with reed fields. But after POSCO, a major global steel company, was introduced at the end of 1960, Pohang became the center of Korea's steel industry, and now plays an essential role in the modernization of Korea. Pohang City has a population of 510,000, and its land area is 1,127 km², 1.8 times that of Seoul City. Currently, Pohang City is the largest city in Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, with two ward offices and 33 administrative districts, called eups, myeons and dongs.

Although Pohang is well known as a steel city, it also has a beautiful coast line. We are making efforts to revitalize the decrepit urban center and create a new image for the city by redeveloping the waterside areas. The redevelopment projects will be implemented to emphasize the city's history and environmental friendliness.

Success in establishing a green city and a sustainable earth depends on our success in persuading each and every country to achieve common objectives and take appropriate actions. Toward this end, it is vital that all of us recognize the importance of environmental protection, sustainable development and mutual cooperation. Against this backdrop, our politicians, administrators, experts and related institutions in member cities need to establish networks with one another, with an aim to share opinions and exchange information to further cooperation.

It also needs to be noted that the environmental industry can play an essential role in directly resolving various environmental problems. The environmental industry covers areas ranging from water quality and waste treatment to soil purification. It is vital that they share and disseminate required technologies and know-how.

The 21st century has been characterized by globalization and informatisation, and the world has been divided by interests that are unrelated to national boundaries. In particular, for the topic, "Ways to Facilitate Sustainable Economic and Social Development and Protect the Environment", it appears difficult to achieve cooperation at a local government level.

I would like to suggest setting an agenda on how to enlist cooperation and realize development at the local government level through discussions. This should help us facilitate exchanges and cooperation, crystallize the Asia-Pacific economic bloc and emerge as an economic hub in the Asia-Pacific era of the future.

