

**International Cooperation through a Strong Partnership between ICLEI  
and  
Strategies for Climate Change in Kyoto City**

Ladies and gentlemen. My name is Tsutomu Uehara, and I am the deputy mayor of the city of Kyoto. I am here today on behalf of Kyoto Mayor Yurikane Masumoto as a representative of Kyoto city.

Please let me express my sincerest appreciation to all of you who have provided me with the opportunity to make this presentation today.

***Overview of Kyoto***

First, I would like to tell you a bit about Kyoto.

The city of Kyoto is located near the center of the island of Honshu, in the country of Japan, which is in East Asia.

The city has a population of approximately 1.47 million and covers an area of approximately 828 square kilometers. Kyoto served as the capital of Japan for more than 1,000 years, and the city has developed as an important center for politics, economics, culture and arts in Japan.

Kyoto city is one of the world's few historical cities that have been able to maintain its ancient cultural assets and beautiful natural scenery. And as such, Kyoto is proud to serve as host for The World Conference of Historical Cities.

Kyoto city, as a city of history and culture, aims to be a city where the people of the world can come together in peace and freedom, looking beyond differences in race, religion and social systems to freely interact and experience cultural interchange. To that end, our city established the Declaration as a city open to the free exchange of world cultures in 1978, and we are working to promote urban development for the Kyoto City of the 21st century as we strive to become an ideal city that realizes the idea of being a "Perpetually new cultural city that continuously creates outstanding culture."

In particular, our lifestyles that have been supported by social systems of mass production, mass consumption, and mass waste production have, in recent years, placed

great burden on the environment and have brought about environmental problems of global scale, such as climate change. These problems have begun to rock the very foundation of human existence. Our city has long been concerned with these global problems, and we have been working on various projects that utilize the lifestyle culture of Kyoto City, a city that has a history of natural abundance, that has coexisted harmoniously with nature, and which places great value on those things that nature has given us. Kyoto recognizes that one major role for our historical city to play in the world today is to make the world aware of the environment-related efforts we have been undertaking.

At the Third Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Kyoto City in December 1997, the Kyoto Protocol was adopted, and the protocol entered into force in February 2005. In concert with this global movement, Kyoto City is beginning to take action that reaches across the world in response to the serious problem of climate change, an important issue which threatens sustainable development. Through this, Kyoto strives to fulfill its responsibilities as the city where the Kyoto Protocol was born.

Now, I would like to introduce you to some of the various projects we have undertaken in Kyoto.

***One Kyoto City Project -? Local Global Warming Countermeasure Ordinance***

Kyoto city put its Local Global Warming Countermeasure Ordinance into effect in April 2005, becoming the first city in Japan to enact this type of ordinance. The immediate goal for this ordinance is to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in Kyoto City till 2010 by 10% compared with 1990 emission levels. This exceeds the 6% reduction obligation set for Japan as a whole by the Kyoto Protocol. The ordinance defines various climate change countermeasures and activities to be undertaken by the city, its businesses, its residents, and even by tourists visiting our historical city, and the ordinance has been established as an evolving ordinance that will continuously be under review.

For example, the ordinance promotes efforts that the people of the city can make in their daily lives, such as saving electricity by using low-energy products, making use of public transportation and bicycles, and striving to reduce waste output. Businesses of a specific size or larger and building owners must submit plans and reports related to

emission reduction, and businesses that sell air-conditioning equipment must attach a label to the equipment showing the energy consumption of the equipment, and must be able to provide an explanation of the energy efficiency of the equipment. This ordinance is gradually achieving the effect.

***Specific Examples of Kyoto City Projects ? Bio-Diesel Fuel and KES and others***

One specific example of a Kyoto City project is our bio-diesel fuel production project. As you probably know, a popular food in Japan is tempura, which is made by frying shrimp, vegetables, and other foods in cooking oil. The disposal of this cooking oil can be a problem. For example, if it is simply put down the drain, it creates increased burden for sewage processing plants. With our bio-diesel fuel production project, we currently have approximately 1,000 bases for collecting the cooking oil that has been used to prepare this traditional tempura as well as other foods, and approximately 100,000 of our city's residents are participating in the collection effort. The oil is refined at a fuel conversion plant in the city, and the resulting fuel is used to power 220 garbage collection vehicles and 95 of the city's buses. We estimate that the use of this fuel is reducing the annual emission of carbon dioxide by approximately 4,000 tons.

Another project is the KES Environmental Management System Standard. The proportion of small and mid-sized businesses in Kyoto is very large. (the number of small and mid-sized business is 86,836 in total, 99.2% of the entire business number.) The ISO 14001 international standard related to the environment already defines environment management systems, but to help our city's small- and mid-sized businesses introduce their own environment management systems, a standard was needed that would be easier to understand and would require less financial investment. As such, we have worked in cooperation with businesses to develop KES as our own unique environment management system standard for small- and mid-sized businesses. We estimate that by achieving KES certification, one company will reduce its annual emission of carbon dioxide by approximately 10 tons. At present, more than 500 businesses have received certification for KES, and KES-related efforts are spreading throughout the country.

Another effort to promote the new energy development being made by the city is the establishment of a system to encourage the installation of solar electric generation systems for residential homes. We have also established a system by which incineration facilities in the city that burn residential garbage can use the resulting heat to generate

electricity. This electricity is sold to electric power companies, creating an income for the city of approximately ¥500 million, or \$4 million, per year. A part of income resulting from this sale of electricity is then used to finance the system for encouraging the installation of solar electric generation systems.

One of our more recent efforts is the establishment of a system to counter the heat island phenomenon by promoting the planting of greenery on building rooftops and walls. And something that we are researching as a possible future countermeasure to global warming is a system for generating the hydrogen gas used by fuel cells from biomass, such as wet refuse generated in homes.

### ***International Projects***

Through alignments with other municipalities, one municipality is able to interact and conduct exchanges with other cities in the form of information exchanges and network formation, and such interaction need not be concerned with the national interests of the respective countries.

Kyoto City is actively working on such international approaches. For example, Kyoto participates in ICLEI, a council of local governments and municipalities striving for sustainability. Also, on the date on which the Kyoto Protocol was put into effect, Kyoto Mayor Masumoto issued a message to the mayors of more than 500 municipalities around the world asking the municipalities to work together on global warming countermeasures. Thus, thanks to the strong support from ICLEI and from those municipalities that were in agreement with the efforts being made by Kyoto City, the establishment of the World Mayors Council on Climate Change became a possibility.

The inaugural meeting of this council was held in Montreal, Canada, on December 5, 2005. At the meeting, it was decided that efforts would be made to strengthen ties between municipality leaders, to strengthen international cooperation, and to promote the exchange of information related to climate change countermeasures at the local level. Various appointments were also made, with the council founder Kyoto Mayor Masumoto being named honorary chairperson, Barbel Dieckmann, Lady Mayor of Bonn, Germany being named chairperson, and David Miller, Mayor of Toronto, Canada, being named vice chairperson. The second general meeting of the council is scheduled to be held in Kyoto City in February 2007. As a networked organization of the municipality leaders of the world, an organization specializing in climate change countermeasures, the council is expected to play a role of increasing importance in the promotion of the

formation of sustainable societies.

All of us in Kyoto City sincerely hope that all of you will participate in the second meeting of the council.

***Kyoto City as a Leading Environment City***

In order to leave a global environment of rich abundance to future generations, our city of Kyoto is working together with its residents, in the ways I have discussed, with the goal of becoming a leading city in terms of environmental efforts, and doing what we can to contribute to the resolution of environmental problems on a global scale.

To conclude my presentation , I extend a sincere welcome you to the City of Kyoto, the spiritual home of the Japanese people. Thank you very much for your kind attention.