

Declaration at the 6th Ministers' Forum on Infrastructure Development in the Asia-Pacific Region

(August 29, 2007 , Beijing , China)

We, ministers or heads of delegations responsible for infrastructural development and management, coming from the countries in Asia and the Pacific region, have participated in the 6th Ministers' Forum on Infrastructural Development in Asia and the Pacific Region held in Beijing China, from Aug.28-29, 2007. On the basis of sharing experiences of each country, we are fully aware of the importance of sustainable use of water and reform in investment and financing system of infrastructure services. Prompting infrastructure development through the reform in investment and financing system of infrastructure services, in order to raise the level of exploitation, utilization and preservation of water resources in cities of each country and promote the sustainable social and economic development, we hereby make the following statement:

I. Sustainable Use of Water

i. Basic Principle

1. Water, which is indispensable for the human survival, is an essential element for production and improvement of living condition of people. The government in each of our country makes efforts to promote integrated water resource management (IWRM), recognizing that we shall shoulder the fundamental responsibility of protecting water safety of humanity and promoting sustainable use of water. At the same time, local governments at different levels shall be urged to strengthen water management in their jurisdictions.

2. It is decided in the Millennium Development Goals by the UN that, by 2015, reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water; Also, it is decided in the World Summit on Sustainable Development Plan of Implementation that, to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water. To realize these goals, a great deal needs to be done in water environment improvement, including infrastructure development, especially in water and wastewater sectors. We call for each country to make strenuous efforts to meet these goals. Furthermore, the government in each of our country respects the water-related resolutions of the United Nations and respective declarations.
3. We deeply recognize that efficient water usage is the crucial point of sustainable use of water. Controlling water resources integrally through the viewpoint of demand and supply, we make efforts to realize the water demand with low cost. We will dedicate our efforts to the use of recycled water and promote innovation, development and transfer of technologies which are not harmful to the environment.
 - ii. Policy, Process and Measures
4. In the course of policy formulation, we shall fully consider the basic needs and affordability of low-income groups, particularly the poor, and consider the equality between men and women. At the same time, we shall further encourage the involvement of stakeholders and try to improve transparency and identify responsibilities in every aspect.
5. To review the whole process of investment, construction, operation and services of infrastructure with the sustainable use of safe water resources as the general target is essential for water use in urban areas. We recognize that the improvement of management, strengthening of capacity building and expansion of financing channels will be vital to our success.
6. To strengthen water pollution control is extremely important to guarantee

people's health and alleviate hazards to environment. To prevent water pollution, we shall fulfill the following tasks: strengthening of urban wastewater management; raise the effectiveness of wastewater treatment process and reuse rate; strictly implement the system that wastewater cannot be discharged unless meeting the discharging standards and control the overall volume of pollutants in water environment. Therefore, the principle of "polluters pay" should be adopted.

7. We promptly strengthen the comprehensive efforts from both hard and soft sides, based on the recognition that the measure is an important element for integrated water resource management, against water-related disasters, such as floods, landslides, and droughts. We recognize the impact of climate change to water resource seriously, and also recognize that it is important that each country incorporate appropriate countermeasures against climate change into future exploitation for future sustainable development. Therefore, we will further encourage research and knowledge generation on global water cycling prediction and monitoring, including the impact of the climate change.

iii. Research and Information dissemination, International Cooperation

8. We are convinced of the importance of knowledge dissemination. Therefore, we make efforts to raise public awareness in sustainable use of water, such as , efficient water usage and water pollution prevention.

9. We urge each country to evaluate related laws, revise and improve them if necessary with an aim to establish a legal framework which is in favour of sustainable use of water to enhance water saving, water pollution prevention and water resources protection.

10. We propose that government agencies relevant to water resource promote the sustainable water resource by strengthening their collaboration for each other among government of each country.

11. We call for, at the international level, enhancing the sharing and

exchanges of data, information, knowledge and experiences, in order to make water saving and pollution control more effective and minimize the loss of disasters.

12. We welcome the 1st Asia Pacific Water Summit in Japan at the end of this year with the theme of Water Security: Leadership and Commitment and look forward to the results of discussion among the leaders of each country in the summit.

II. Investment and Financing System Reform of Infrastructure Services

13. We must take big actions to bring in various forms of social funds to be used for construction and operation of urban infrastructural services, create an environment beneficial for investment and financing of infrastructure development. Prioritization of infrastructure projects should be implemented and diversified fund provision channels should be established, according to different features of different projects, and public and private, national and international funds should effectively be raised and used.
14. We make efforts for environmental improvement including provision of incentives , such as implementation of governmental assistance and creation of risk management mechanisms in cooperation with financial institutions, to enhance the certainty of infrastructure development projects and promote participation by the private sector to the projects.
15. We encourage building strong partnerships among government, private sector and International financial institution to promote international cooperation for infrastructure development.

III. Continuation of the Ministers' Forum on Infrastructure Development in the Asia Pacific Region

16. We agree that the Ministers' Forum on Infrastructure Development in the

Asia-Pacific Region will continue to provide a platform for future cooperation.

IV. Gratitude to China

17. Finally, we, ministers, vice ministers and delegation heads who are in charge of infrastructural development in the Asia Pacific countries, would like to express our appreciation for the efforts made by the Chinese government for hosting this Forum.