



East Asia Ministerial Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene 2007

Good Sanitation, Good Life

Beppu City, Japan 30 November - 1 December 2007



Declaration of the First East Asia Ministerial Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene

Dated: 1st of December 2007

1. We, the heads of national delegations attending the first East Asia Ministerial Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene (EASAN 2007) held in the city of Beppu on 30th of November and 1st of December in this year 2007 which precedes the UN International Year of Sanitation 2008:

i. *Recognizing that* sustainable access to sanitation is one of the targets stated in the Millennium Declaration and that many governments have set their own targets for both sanitation and hygiene

ii. *And further recognizing that* sanitation, in combination with the means of practising hygienic behaviours, is fundamental to the achievement of many other Millennium Development Goals which our governments have committed to, defining sanitation as the safe collection, transport, treatment or re-use of human waste along with a healthy living environment including the management of domestic solid waste and sullage, and defining hygiene as clean and healthy behaviours

iii. *And further recognizing that* our governments are signatories to the UN General Assembly Resolution number A/RES61/192 which calls for the implementation of the Hashimoto Action Plan including the formation of regional fora to address inter alia the challenges of sanitation and hygiene

iv. *And further recognizing that* the governments of Southeast and East Asian countries approved the Charter of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in August 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand and the work plans of six regional Thematic Working Groups, including the one on water supply, hygiene and sanitation

v. *Acknowledging that* access to basic sanitation and safe water supply and the practice of hygienic behaviours are all necessary for the health and well being of the population and are necessary for people to live in dignity and safety

vi. *Noting that* the burden of disease and death and associated economic costs in East Asia which arise from the lack of such access is heavy and is not matched by commensurate investment in sanitation, and hygiene promotion which would, in addition to direct health benefits, have significant economic benefits

vii. *Understanding that* national and local governments have a crucial role to play in setting policy and steering public investments to promote a rapid up-scaling of progress in access to sanitation and the means of practising hygienic behaviours while recognising the equally important role of other actors including the private sector and civil society

viii. *and further understanding that* the role of households and individuals and particularly women and children are crucial in the realization of effective and sustainable programs for sanitation and hygiene improvement

ix. *and further understanding that* effective programs of sanitation and hygiene promotion require the cooperation and coordination of efforts in many ministries including but not limited to those responsible for health, water resources, education and planning

x. *and further understanding that* there is a growing scarcity of safe water in the region and a linked and urgent need to protect and conserve sources of clean water from both overuse and pollution

xi. *Recognizing* the depth and value of our mutual experience and knowledge, the availability of positive examples within our region and our potential to act together to improve access to sanitation and the means of practising hygienic behaviours



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2. Do hereby commit to

- i. *Take the necessary steps in relevant Ministries of our governments at national and local level to achieve or exceed the MDG target for sanitation in our respective countries and to encourage the private sector to take similar steps as appropriate*
- ii. *Improve the level of investment in sanitation and hygiene promotion in our respective countries while maintaining commensurate investments in domestic water supply*
- iii. *Invest in sanitation and hygiene promotion in ways which specifically benefit the poor and the vulnerable and those with a high incidence of water- and sanitation-related disease as well as those who currently have the most limited access to sanitation and the means of practising hygienic behaviours*
- iv. *Plan investments in ways which promote incremental improvements in all needy areas including in the rural and urban contexts*
- v. *Enable the participation of women, children, poor families, civil society as well as the public and private sectors in the planning and implementation of sanitation and hygiene programs so that they can be scaled to be effective and sustainable*
- vi. *Strive to ensure that access to sanitation facilities and the means of practising hygienic behaviours are available in all schools and that sanitation and hygiene are a focus of education in schools and that children communicate those messages into the wider community*
- vii. *Provide strong leadership through Ministries and local governments responsible for finance and planning so that budgetary priorities are linked to workable practical action plans with clear lines of responsibility between and amongst the various concerned Ministries and local governments*
- viii. *Strengthen regional cooperation between and amongst our countries to facilitate sharing of knowledge to expedite change*
- ix. *Create a regional platform for cooperation in sanitation and hygiene which would include an East Asia Ministerial Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene to be held in the region provisionally at two-yearly intervals and would build on existing fora and which would facilitate cooperation among East Asian countries as well as between our region and other regions of the world*
- x. *Play an active role in all the relevant activities and aspects of the International Year of Sanitation.*

3. We further call on

- i. *Development banks, donors and other governments to support our efforts and provide financial and technical assistance for sanitation and hygiene promotion in East Asia at a level that is commensurate with the challenges ahead*
- ii. *The Asia Pacific Water Forum (APWF), to recognize EASAN 2007 and its follow-up as an integral part of the APWF process, to recognize this Declaration and to provide practical support in operationalising these commitments*
- iii. *The G8 and other intergovernmental groups to recognize the importance of sanitation, hygiene and water for global health, for their close interaction with climate change and for the economic and social benefits that they bring*
- iv. *Other regional fora including the Regional Forum on Environment and Health and the South East Asia Water Forum to also recognize and support this Declaration and assist in converting these commitments into actions*



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v. *Regional and national actors* to make use of the opportunities provided by the UN International Year of Sanitation 2008 to maintain and improve efforts in sanitation and hygiene

vi. *Relevant Ministries* to take strong leadership and to create the necessary environment for effective national sanitation and hygiene programs.

And in recognition of this we make this declaration on the 1st of December, 2007.

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Observers:

UNICEF
UNSGAB
Water and Sanitation Program, the World Bank
World Health Organization

