

Concept Paper on ASEM Eco-City Network

(Proposed by China)

Background

It is the common wish of people of all nations to create a harmonious relationship between humankind and nature, which requires cooperation of all nations. Cooperation among ASEM partners on environmental protection and sustainable development will contribute significantly to the solution of global environmental issues. Since the first ASEM Environmental Ministers' Meeting, ASEM partners have conducted good cooperation on sustainable development.

Urban planning and construction is an important element of sustainable development. Global economic growth has brought about increasing urbanization. The urbanization process, if not properly managed, could endanger the environment and ecosystems on which humanity relies on for existence. Some ASEM countries are undergoing fast urbanization, or re-developing old industrial cities. In the process, some ASEM countries are building eco-cities or incorporating conservation culture into urban planning and development by adopting eco-friendly approach towards land utilization planning, water utilization, waste management, energy utilization, and urban transportation management, in pursuit of harmony between economic growth, urban development and environmental protection.

With the growth of global economy, eco-cities represent the trend for environmentally friendly and resource saving culture and contributes to the protection of environment. To share best practices of sustainable urban development, promote eco-city culture and facilitate cooperation on eco-city projects among ASEM partners, China proposes the initiative of establishing the ASEM Eco-City Network.

Objectives

- To provide a platform for ASEM partners to share knowledge, culture, expertise and best practices on the development of eco-cities;
- To explore the possibility of establishing a capacity-building mechanism for eco-city development;

- To promote eco-city culture and raise public awareness; and
- To encourage international cooperation on eco-city projects.

Theme

Cooperation for the achievement of sustainable urban development

Participants

Government officials, entrepreneurs and representatives from the academia of ASEM partners, including representatives from eco-cities and cities pursuing eco-friendly development are invited to join the Network.

Proposed Activities

- Municipalities of eco-cities are encouraged to organize international symposia or seminars to share experiences and information on various aspects of eco-city development.
- Cities or international organizations with experiences and expertise in eco-city development may conduct training programs and develop capacity building projects in the area.

Launch of the Initiative

The ASEM Eco-City Network will be launched in China in 2010.