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Kitakyushu City is one of the environmental model cities in Japan which has been involved in promoting its experience in, and technology for, waste management and environmental improvement with other cities worldwide, particularly those in Asia through inter-city international environmental cooperation. It has also been designated as one of the 'Green Cities' in the world along with Chicago, Paris, and Stockholm in the Green Growth Study of the OECD. Kitakyushu' experiences demonstrate that economic growth can be compatible with environmental achievement by introducing local policies that combine industrial promotion and environmental protection measures. Evidence also shows the importance of building partnerships among relevant stakeholders in the local development, which can be initiated by the local government.

At the request of Mandalay City in Myanmar, Kitakyushu City has started to provide technical assistance for municipal solid waste management (MSWM) under environmental cooperation since last year. In addition, Mandalay City was selected as one of the model cities in Myanmar under the Environmentally Sustainable City (ESC) Model City Programme in September 2014 by the government of Myanmar and IGES which serves as the secretariat of the programme. In November 2014, Kitakyushu City and IGES organised a workshop on MSWM with the cooperation of Mandalay City to share the experiences of Kitakyushu in implementing environmental education and waste separation and collection activities in the city as well as to identify priority issues in introducing proper waste separation and 3R activities in Mandalay City.

Based on the above previous initiatives, this session aimed to:

- Carry out in-depth discussion towards a particular environmental project formulation, mainly focusing on MSWM based on the Kitakyushu City experience
- Share common understandings on the present situation/challenges, and build a consensus among relevant stakeholders of Mandalay City on pursuing the goal to become an Eco Model City in ASEAN through panel discussion
- Identify the practical implementation of model projects cases based on city-to-city cooperation.

Part 2 of the programme was mainly focused on providing an opportunity for discussion on awareness-raising among various stakeholders in Mandalay City including academics from universities, private business/consultants, and citizens group/NGOs. To facilitate smooth discussion among these stakeholders, interpretation and translation services in the Myanmar language are strongly requested.