



## **Declaration of the Second East Asia Ministerial Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene**

**Manila, Philippines  
January 27 – 29, 2010**

*Whereas*, eight hundred million people in East Asia still lack access to improved sanitation facilities, resulting in the poor health and quality of life of men, women and children and imposing heavy economic burdens to countries in the region;

Whereas the latest statistics for the Region indicate that the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target for sanitation might be missed by 6 percent points if the development trend of the past years persists to 2015;

*Whereas*, this reality highlights the urgent need to undertake the required action to reverse this trend and to attain the MDG target to halve the proportion of people without access to improved sanitation by 2015;

*Whereas*, our governments are signatories to the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES61/192 in 2007 which calls for the implementation of the Hashimoto Action Plan which includes the formation of regional fora to address the challenges of water, sanitation and hygiene;

*Whereas*, our governments approved the Charter of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health and the work plans of the six regional Thematic Working Groups, including one on water supply, hygiene and sanitation in 2007;

*Whereas*, convening the first East Asia Ministerial Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene (EASAN1) in Beppu, Japan on November 30 – December 1, 2007, our countries came together and adopted the Beppu Declaration where Ministries committed to take the necessary steps to achieve or exceed the MDG target by improving the level of investment in the sector and enabling the participation of different stakeholders especially women, children, disabled, poor families and civil society;

*Whereas*, the Beppu Declaration also called for stronger regional cooperation between and among the countries to facilitate the sharing of best practices and knowledge to effect meaningful change;

*Whereas*, in January 25 to 27 2010, there was a follow up conference of the International Year of Sanitation held in Tokyo, Japan, which proposed the creation of International Half Decade for Sustainable Sanitation or “Sustainable Sanitation—the 5-year drive to 2015” as a vehicle to keep the momentum for initiatives taken and catalyst for change;

Now therefore, we, the representatives of government agencies in charge of sanitation and health in thirteen countries who have come together to attend the Second East Asia Ministerial Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene (EASAN2) held in the City of Manila on January 27-29, 2010 hereby:

*Reiterate* that access to basic sanitation and water supply, including drinking water and the practice of hygienic behaviors are all necessary for the health and wellbeing of the population and for people to live in dignity and safety;

*Recognize* that sanitation and hygiene must be viewed from a systems point of view, from toilets to collection, transport, processing, treatment and final use or disposal including hygienic practices considering that an incomplete system would render great risks to the environment and subsequently put public health at risk;

*Believe* that improving water supply, improving sanitation, handwashing, household water treatment and safe storage are integral parts of human development and that heightened public awareness, in the context of local conditions, on handwashing and hygiene is effective in reducing the transmission of communicable diseases.

*Acknowledge* that human excreta, if properly managed, can be a resource which can be harnessed as organic fertilizers to promote sustainable agriculture as we enhance the quality of our soils while lessening our use of inorganic fertilizers;

*Acknowledge* that wastewater, when adequately treated, can be reused for an enhanced development of agriculture and other purposes;

*Believe* that emergency sanitation and hygiene needs special focus and attention given the vulnerability of our region to more extreme weather conditions and other impacts of climate change and that we need experts, researchers, inventors and business enterprises to find dynamic solutions to this extreme challenge so as not to affect the efforts for increased sanitation coverage;

*Realize* that strong political will at all levels is needed to achieve sustainable sanitation and that a regional initiative can constructively focus national attention on this issue;

We reiterate our commitments expressed in the Beppu Declaration and believe that we can achieve sustainable sanitation if we work together.

We commit to:

1. Meet our national Millennium Development Goals (MDG)-based sanitation targets by making sustainable sanitation a part of our national development strategy, committing to specific time-bound targets, formulating national sustainable sanitation roadmaps with the appropriate allocation of human, financial and logistical resources for its implementation;
2. Adopt sustainable sanitation and hygiene policies that protect public health and the environment with specific goals and financial targets and promotes the formulation of national sustainable sanitation roadmaps to accelerate the achievement of the MDG targets on water and sanitation matched to our economic, social, and environmental situations; and guide us towards good governance, institution building, capacity development, infrastructure and investment strategies, financing and strategic alliance building to make our sanitation system work for us;
3. Build regional and multi-stakeholder sustainable sanitation partnerships among governments, different levels of government, civil society, private sector, academe, NGOs and others to raise awareness, mobilize resources and exchange knowledge on sanitation and hygiene development in each of the following: promotion of hygienic behaviors, improvement of household sanitary arrangements, and sewage collection, treatment and safe disposal;
4. Facilitate regional collaboration and support to assist countries in our region to fast track the achievement of the MDG sanitation targets by:
  - (i) holding regional and subnational exchanges like country-to-country or city-to-city cross trainings, sharing of sanitation experts and study tours;
  - (ii) conducting regional studies and researches on good practices in hygiene and sanitation, including excreta management; and,
  - (iii) promoting the sanitation agenda among other regional fora and networks to strengthen regional linkages and cooperation.
5. Ensure the final treatment for septage and septic tank effluents before wastewater is released to the environment to protect public health and the environment.
6. Provide capacity support to subnational and local governments to enable them to effectively and efficiently implement sanitation and hygiene programs and projects.
7. Promote the co-benefits of sustainable sanitation and sustainable agriculture as we address the pressing need for food security and water scarcity;
8. Establish a national multi-sectoral committee to help concerned ministries formulate and implement sanitation and hygiene action plans with quantifiable targets and timeframes;
9. Continue to convene regularly through the EASAN as the regional platform for cooperation in sanitation and hygiene among East Asian countries and between our region and other regions in

the world, with a commitment to hold EASAN 3 to take place in 2012 to assess our country and regional progress against our commitments in the MDGs;

10. Request the Regional Environmental Health Forum to mandate the Thematic Working Group on Water, Hygiene and Sanitation, established by the Regional Forum on Environment and Health, to act as the regional platform for facilitating cooperation in East Asian countries towards the improvement of sanitation and hygiene, to collaborate with the EASAN 3 host country in the planning and organization of EASAN 3, and to support the planning and implementation of follow-up action plans ;
11. Promote the implementation of national sanitation, hygiene and water sector assessment programs as a means to generate crucial information for decision and policy making in our countries.
12. Call on countries that are developed in sanitation and hygiene to support less developed countries improve their sanitation and hygiene status
13. Call on other regional and global forum, and organizations to support the statements, principles and commitments of this EASAN 2 Conference and our efforts in pursuit of this Declaration.
14. Express support for the Creation of International Half Decade for Sustainable Sanitation “Sustainable sanitation—the 5-year drive to 2015”.

**MR. HJ SUHAIMI BIN HJ GAFAR**

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