

### Case 3: Coalition of Local Government for Environmental Initiative Environmental Indicators, Common Targets among the Member Municipalities

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#### Significance of Common Targets

The first reason to hold common targets is because in the era of "Think global, act local," the number of political issues that are common among local governments has increased dramatically. Regardless of where we are located in the nation, we cannot avoid a certain amount of the influence of global environmental changes. We can therefore say that it is a common task for all local governments to modify human activities such as the consumption and disposal of resources and energy, since they all place some degree of load on the global environment.

The second reason is because we have stronger needs to manage the progress of policy measures. The environmental management system—"Plan-Do-Check-Action"—is becoming imperative to local government policy measures. Some of the small governments, however, find it difficult to maintain enough human resources, and the system has not been well established in those areas. Then an idea was brought about that the secretariat of the Coalition of Local Government for Environmental Initiative (COLGEI) should support the management of local policy progress and provide the necessary information and advice for the practices of policies.

With these reasons we decided to hold common targets among the member governments of the COLGEI, and citizens or corporations within the area, who then will work together to achieve the targets. Also, it has been decided that the Environmental Policy Research Center will know and report the progress of the achievement while accumulating the information that is necessary to carry out the activities.

## How Were Common Targets Selected?

In March 1998, the Common Targets Subcommittee was started, and in May of the same year a keynote discussion and sectional meetings were held and the establishment of common targets was approved at the Koga Conference. After the conference, earnest discussions were made about the content of the targets. The survey in August showed that the majority of the member governments wanted to have the common targets and to publish the targets in the annual report. After the discussions of the propositional targets in the Common Target Subcommittee, nine qualitative targets were proposed in March 1999. After the heads of member governments approved the majority of the proposed targets in the survey held in May, the common targets were practically finalized.

The Subcommon Target Subcommittee also discussed an indicators to evaluate the achievement progress, and in June three municipalities cooperated to carry out a pilot assessment to measure the current states. The pilot assessment was repeated with all the member governments in September. The secretariat of the Council analyzed the collected data with additional statistical data it obtained from other sources. The Committee also performed a survey for the member governments to study the current practices of the policy measures itemized in the common targets. In April 2000, the members reported the practical measures they would take in the future to realize each target, and these data were reported in the annual report. In May, the National Convention (Minamata Conference) approved the report.

March 1998

The Common Target Subcommittee was established.

May 1998

The establishment of the common targets was approved in the Seventh National Convention (Furukawa Conference).

August 1998

The survey was conducted on the establishment and reporting method of the common targets and the current practices of the environmental policy.

September 1998

The survey on the current practices of the environmental policy measures was conducted for all the local governments in the nation.

May 1999

The proposed common targets were published in the May issue of the COLGEI News.

May 1999

A survey on the proposed common targets was held for the heads of the local governments.

June 1999

A pilot assessment was conducted with the current status values for Kamakura City, Futatsui Town, and Yasuzuka Town.

September 1999

An assessment on the current status value concerning the common targets was conducted with the member governments.

November 1999

A status survey on the creation of environmentally friendly township was held on request from Minamata City.

April 2000

A survey was conducted on the practical measures the members would take for the realization of the targets.

May 2000

The common targets were approved at the Minamata Conference.

### How Do We Manage the Progress of the Common targets?

Although no numerical target was set, the indicator to measure the achievement of the common targets was decided. Learning and analyzing the indicator annually numerically manage the progress. As for the indicators that individual governments cannot obtain, the council secretariat will independently collect and analyze the statistical data. Each member government will report to the council secretariat on the annual progress of practical measures they have taken to realize the common targets. These will be reported in the annual report of the council.

## The Construction and Progress Management of the Common targets

1. The Layers of Targets
2. Decision-making Process
3. Progress Management
4. The Common targets in the Nine Fields (qualitative)
5. The discussion at the Common Target Committee. The final approval at the Minamata Conference.
6. The indicator used to measure the achievement of the common targets.
7. The discussion at the Common Target Committee. The final approval at the Minamata Conference.
8. Each member government reporting to the secretariat of the numerical information. Or analysis by the Committee secretariat based on the statistical data.
9. Practical Measures to realize the common targets
10. Independently decided by each member government. Report of the result to the Committee secretariat.
11. Report of the achievement progress to the Committee secretariat by each government.

## Common Targets of COLGEI

### 1. Global Environment

We will contribute to prevent the global warming through energy conservation and introduction of environmentally sound energy sources.

[Achievement indicator: The amount of carbon dioxide emissions (electricity consumption) throughout the local area. The amount of energy consumption on business activities at the government buildings.]

### 2. Air Pollution

We will prevent the air pollution to maintain the health of citizens. We promote alternative transportation systems that are more environmentally sound.

[Achievement indicator: The ratio of automobiles to the total transportation system (major cities only).]

### 3. Water Environment

We will maintain and improve the water quality. We preserve and restore the clean environment in and around the water bodies.

[Achievement indicator: The percentage of wastewater treatment from the

households.]

#### 4. The Natural Environment and Hydrometeorology

We will conserve and create green areas in our neighborhood. We conserve and recover the natural water cycle. We will nurture the industry that efficiently uses natural resources while maintaining the public functions of the forests and agricultural fields.

[Achievement indicator: The percentage of the green areas. The percentage of abandoned agricultural fields. The environmental conservation functions, such as air purification function, flood prevention function and soil erosion prevention function.]

#### 5. Waste and Resources

We will reduce waste and promote the effective use and recycling of resources.

[Achievement indicator: The per-capita percentages of incineration, land filling and recycling of general waste.]

#### 6. Harmful Chemicals

We will control the use of materials that can be the source of harmful substances. We will control the generation of harmful chemicals.

[Achievement indicator: The percentage of incombustible materials in the incinerating waste.]

#### 7. Environmental Administration

We will establish a holistic system to enhance environmental administration and assessment.

[Achievement indicator: The enforcement status of the environmental management tools, such as the basic environmental regulations, basic environmental plan and ISO14001.]

#### 8. Environmental Education

We will raise the interest and understanding of environmental issues among citizens in and around the area. We will support their voluntary environmental conservation activities.

[Achievement indicator: Environmental education at school. The number of seminars on environmental issues at public hall, etc. The number of participants in those seminars.]

#### 9. Citizens' Participation

We will promote the participation of the residents in environmental policy

making and the local activities that are led by the residents.

[Achievement indicator: The number of resident participation in committees for environmental policy making or "partnership style" organizations.