

Busan Declaration

We, the leaders of 41 aquapolises gathered together at the 5th International Conference of Aquapolises, held under the theme, "For a Sustainable Aquapolis" in Busan Metropolitan City, Korea, on May 21-22, 2008. At the Mayors' and Governors' Session and at the Experts Group Meetings, we had active discussions about creating a nature-friendly urban environment for the coexistence of humans and nature.

We noted the "importance of global environmental changes and sustainability" through our sincere discussions on extensive themes. We also shared a common understanding that efforts to take joint actions are called for, to place the "value of environment and sustainability" at the core of policies, for everlasting cities and for "sustainable living".

Based on this awareness, we have reached the following conclusions:

1. We recognize that a sustainable water environment and ecological greenery serve as the foundation for biological and cultural diversity. Member aquapolises agree to pursue sustainable urban development models by fundamentally reforming the cities to become a resource-circulating structures so that clean and clear water and public interest will be secured.
2. Member aquapolises need to fight against the threats resulting from environmental pollutions, global warming and desertification of the earth, as well as the subsequent shortages of water and an elevated sea -level. We will combine our efforts to set up an "inter-city ecological network" that will enable citizens to instantly take collective action to cope with urgent problems such as greenhouse gas reduction, to share technology and policy know-hows, and to cooperate in manpower training and education.
3. We, the participating aquapolises, will do our best to create and utilize environmentally-friendly waterside spaces based on the "environment-first principle," so that a quality of healthy life will be guaranteed.
4. For effective management of water resources and to ensure close collaboration, participating aquapolises will actively participate in, and cooperate with, international conventions.

Signed by the participating delegates to the 5th ICAP 2008
May 22, 2008, Busan, Korea