

The Daegu Declaration

1st International Solar Cities Congress,
Daegu, South Korea, November 16, 2004

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Participating Cities

Sapporo, Japan; Goteborg, Sweden; Beijing, P.R. of China; the Hague, the Netherlands; Minneapolis, U.S.; Cape Town, South Africa; Adelaide, Australia; Oxford, U.K.; Santa Monica, U.S.; Hangzhou, P.R. of China; Linz, Austria; Barcelona, Spain; Portland, Oregon; Qingdao, P.R. of China; Gelsenkirchen, Germany; Kaohsiung, Taiwan; Sol Plaatje, South Africa; Gwangju, South Korea; and Daegu, South Korea—Congress Host

Declaration

We, the Mayors and Representatives of cities participating in the 1st International Solar Cities Congress, held in Daegu, Korea, from November 14 to 18, 2004, agree on this day of November 16, 2004, on the following Declaration:

Human activity now occurs on a scale that is interfering with large complex natural systems such as the global climate. Scientists have learned a great deal in recent decades about climate and how it responds to the consequences of human activity, particularly the emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and others.

The term *sustainable development* has become a guiding principle for public policy. However, translating that principle into practical courses of action can be difficult, because of the complex interrelationships that exist between the interests of present and future generations, and between the three dimensions of sustainable development—the economy, social welfare, and the environment.

In order to ensure our common future, we have come together today to commit ourselves to achieving sustainable development and climate protection through the application of renewable energy and the

efficient usage of energy. As a part of any solution to the global climate problem, the importance and role of cities is paramount. Through active collaboration among International Solar Cities, energy efficiency policies and renewable energy technology and industries can be introduced and promoted actively by each city.

On this day, all participating cities confirm a strong commitment to renewable energy implementation in order to achieve a sustainable world. We all pledge ourselves to create active and strong policies and strategies that aim to increase the share of renewable energy in our communities, assisted through international partnerships and exchanges among participating cities. International collaboration can support the implementation of verifiable standards for sustainable development and realistic climate change policies. Exchanges between cities will greatly contribute to the ability of participating cities to identify sustainable development actions that are practical, effective, and politically acceptable.

The specific aims of active exchanges are as follows:

- The introduction of measures and projects consistent with a gradual reduction of per capita emissions by 2050 to levels consistent with long-term climate sustainability as estimated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- A common understanding that each city will set its own target for renewable energy adoption with a specific timetable most appropriate for its geographical, economic, and political circumstances.
- The establishment of partnerships between institutes and centers in developing and

developed countries, with the assistance of UN and other international agencies, that promote the mutual development of renewable energy implementation techniques and capacity building in cities, and the sharing of expertise with regard to integrated development and climate change policies.

- The encouragement of sisterhood relationships between participating cities

in the fields of renewable energy implementation, end use efficiency, and climate change policy, through personnel exchanges, city-to-city peer review of programs, and information sharing.

We shall endeavour to achieve the above-mentioned goals with the assistance of the International Solar Cities Initiative (ISCI).