

The 3rd International Conference on Green Purchasing in Suwon

Suwon Declaration

The Earth is at a critical turning point – a fact accepted by world leaders who have reached the decision to limit global warming to 2°C above pre-industrial levels. Strategies and tools are being implemented in many parts of the world to fight climate change, resource depletion and other environmental issues. Green Purchasing is now well recognised as an effective tool for environmental protection, and can be greatly strengthened with commitment and involvement of key stakeholders.

The Asia-Pacific region is now the world's economic growth centre. The region has also seen huge and rapid population growth, and its increasing environmental impacts cannot be underestimated. We must also bear in mind that all countries will be affected by the consequences of climate change and developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region will be particularly vulnerable. With the lessons learnt in developed countries, together with the local traditions and cultural knowledge, the Asia-Pacific region is better equipped to pursue a path of environmental sustainability together with economic growth. Green Purchasing must be an integral part of Green Growth and low carbon strategies.

Green Purchasing is a vital tool in tackling climate change. We, the delegates of the 3rd International Green Purchasing Conference call upon all stakeholders around the world, including international institutions, central, regional and local governments, multinationals and SMEs, NGOs and every consumer to cooperate more closely and commit locally as well as internationally to:

- Put in place strong policies, strategies and regulations in support of green purchasing
- Assist private and public buyers to identify green products and services. For example, by providing product-specific purchasing criteria and guidance
- Encourage networking and exchange of information on best practices and experiences at the regional and international levels
- Promote eco-innovation to overcome the challenges to environmental sustainability and economic growth and ensure a growing supply of eco-products in the market
- Provide accurate information on the environmental performance of products and services to allow purchasers to make informed decisions. For example, through eco labels and the development of database systems
- Raise awareness of green products and services among all stakeholders, for example,

through eco-products exhibitions, education and publicity

- Buy responsibly, buy green for our sustainable future.

23rd October 2009

Suwon, Republic of Korea