



Environmental Purchasing Bulletin International Conference on Green Purchasing

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- 2008 Annual Report
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Introduction

On October 21st, Karen Hamilton, King County Environmental Purchasing Program Manager, delivered a presentation at the 3rd International Conference on Green Purchasing, held in Suwon, South Korea.

The conference provided an exciting opportunity to share the great work done by King County agencies and to learn from other governments around the world.

Thank you to ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, and the International Green Purchasing Network (IGPN) who helped organize sessions for the conference and sought out King County to share its experiences with others in Korea.



International Conference on Green Purchasing



Former Vice President Al Gore was the keynote speaker at the

3rd International Conference on Green Purchasing

Suwon, South Korea
October 21st, 2009

Theme: Tackling Climate Change Through Green Purchasing

Karen Hamilton, who attending this conference last month in Suwon, South Korea, said "What an incredible experience. Not only was Korea beautiful, but the people were fantastic." The Korean government was gracious hosts, sharing traditional Korean drumming and customs, and are committed to a "green growth" economy in their country.

"ICLEI's European Secretariat has been working on the topic of sustainable procurement for over 10 years, and we are of course aware of the impressive achievements made by King County in this field, including very clear objectives and impressive monitoring data on your achievements"
Simon Clement, ICLEI (from invitation to speak at event)

Karen presented at the session "Sustainable Procurement – Entry Points and Systematic Implementation" attended by 100 participants.



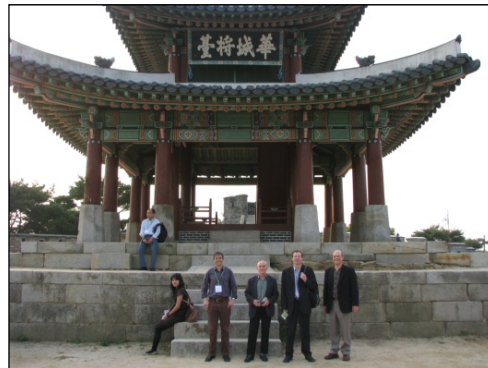
Speakers:

Seung-hyun Kang, Korea
Karen Hamilton, King County, USA
Hironao Hayata, City of Sendai, Japan
Hugh Wareham, ECO-Buy , Australia

Moderator: Konrad Otto-Zimmerman, ICLEI

In the United States, we often refer to Environmentally Preferable Purchasing as "EPP" or "Green Purchasing." Worldwide, they often use the term "GPP" for Green Public Procurement or "Sustainable Procurement." It all seems to translate, though, as many governments expressed similar barriers to full adoption of green procurement practices. Many countries have government support, sometimes mandates and even their own eco-labels. There were many great examples of various programs at the conference.

Al Gore was very well respected as the keynote speaker. He gave a rousing speech and ended by imploring us to work cooperatively, quoting an African proverb: *"If you want to go quickly, go alone. But if you want to go far, go together."* Adding that the challenge right now is that we need to go far and quickly.



Hwaseong Fortress, Suwon



Traditional Korean drumming

ICLEI Conference summary:

"Reasonable Purchasing is Green Purchasing"

Additional Resources

- 3rd International Conference on Green Purchasing
- International Green Purchasing Network (IGPN)
- ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability Sustainable Procurement
- Japan Green Purchasing Network (GPN)
- Green Procurement, Taiwan
- Mayor of London’s Green Procurement Code
- Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) Task Force, Marrakech Process, United Nations Environment Programme
- Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN – United States)
- US EPA Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
- Global Ecolabelling Network
- Green Public Procurement, Swedish Environmental Management Council, Sweden
- ECO-Buy, Australia
- Green Public Procurement (GPP), European Commission
- GPPNet The Green Public Procurement Network (Italy)
- GPPInfoNet The Green Public Procurement Information Network (Europe)

Environmental Purchasing Program

The King County Environmental Purchasing Program assists County agencies in implementation of King County [Executive Policy CON-7-1-2](#), which requires agencies to use recycled and other environmentally preferable products wherever practicable.

The program assembles information about these products and makes it available to specific agency users who can evaluate them and develop applications in County projects.

These environmental purchasing bulletins contain information about the results of product evaluations and other accomplishments of County agencies. We hope this information will help you find ways to use environmentally preferable products in the work of your agency and that you will contact us if we can help you with further information or if you have suggestions.