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KK City Hall, JICA Join Hands To Boost Waste Management

KOTA KINABALU, Jan 12 (Bernama) -- Kota Kinabalu City Hall today signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to further improve municipal waste management in the city.

City Mayor Datuk Abidin Madingkir said the MoU aimed to enhance household solid waste management and formulate sorting and domestic waste collection guidelines in Kota Kinabalu (KK).

"KK is seeing a rise in the amount of waste it produces due to poor adherence to the collection and sorting of solid waste system. With the MoU, City Hall hopes to learn from other developed nations the development of an efficient domestic waste segregation and collection system in the city," he said in his opening address at the signing ceremony of the MoU, here Tuesday.

The MoU was signed by Abidin and JICA Malaysia's senior representative, Fukazawa Shinsaku and witnessed by executive director of the Department of Environment in Akita City, Osamu Nakajima, CEEA's director general, Mariko Fukuoka, state Local Government and Housing's permanent secretary, Datuk Matius Sator, and Daisy Aloysius who represented the director of Sabah's Environmental Protection Department.

The partnership programme with JICA will be implemented by the General Incorporated Association Conference of Earth Environment from Akita (CEEAA) of Japan's northern city of Akita for three years until December 2018.

The project will be based on Akita's experience, know-how and systems of sorting and collection of household solid waste.

A committee made up of representatives from City Hall and Akita city, Malaysian and foreign environmental non-governmental organisations, Sabah's Environmental Protection Department, University Malaysia Sabah along with Japanese experts will formulate the guidelines in the programme.

Meanwhile Head of Consular Office of Japan in KK, Shinji Urabayashi, said the launching of the MoU was timely given ongoing efforts by City Hall to deal with the litter problem currently beleaguering the city.

"I hope this programme would help improve environmental protection in the city and forge closer ties between the CEEA and KK City Hall," he said.

CEEAA project manager Takuro Shogi on the other hand said that **based on Department of Statistics Malaysia report in 2002, the volume of domestic waste in KK was projected to grow from 371.7 kg per resident in 2000 to 647.1 kg per resident last year.**