

APPENDIX D

Summary of Plenary Session 1

ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme – Phase 2

In Plenary Session 1, eight ASEAN Member States presented the progress made on promoting Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) in respective countries, as well as proposed directions for implementing Year 2 of the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme. Presenters introduced key national and nationwide programmes and explained how they could be linked to support regional initiatives on ESC by ASEAN. They also highlighted the potential means of collaboration with supporting organisations who are interested to help expand and enhance the existing national initiatives on ESC.

The session's speakers were:

1. ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally ESC (AWGESC) – Dr. Vann Monyneath, Chairperson;
2. Indonesia – Mr. Sudirman, Assistant Deputy for Solid Waste Management, Ministry of Environment;
3. Cambodia – Mr. Chiek Ang, Director, Department of Environment, Phnom Penh Capital City (DoEPP);
4. Lao PDR - Mdm. Keobang A Keola, Director General of Pollution Control Department (PCD), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment;
5. Malaysia - Mdm. Chua Rhan See, Principle Assistant Director, Town and Country Planning Department, Ministy of Housing and Local Government;
6. Myanmar - Dr. Ni Ni Aung, Director, Pollution Control Division, Environmental Conservation Department, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry;
7. Philippines - Ms. Corazon Davis, Assistant Secretary for Administration and Finance, Department of Environment and Natural Resources;
8. Thailand - Dr. Wijarn Simachaya, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment;
9. Viet Nam - Mr. Do Nam Thang, Vice Director, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

AWGESC

Presently, most ASEAN cities still lack guiding frameworks, capacity and resources to meet the challenges of sustainable urban development. Hence, in 2003 ASEAN Environment Ministers established the AWGESC to address these challenges. Furthermore, EAS Environment Ministers have also prioritised collaboration on ESC since 2008.

The ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme is one of AWGESC's key initiatives to support capacity building for promoting ESC development. It was specially designed based on recommendations from the 1st High Level Seminar on ESC as an umbrella initiative to support EAS Environment Ministers' priority area for regional collaboration on 'ESC'. This programme was initiated for one year, and then extended for a second year with funding from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund.

The extension of this programme brings it into a new phase, allowing ASEAN Member States to build on Year 1 achievements and develop this programme into an ASEAN-led and collaboration-driven, multi-donor platform for realising clean, green and sustainable cities in ASEAN. Taking a broad and strategic view, the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme is perceived as an 'umbrella' platform as well as core network hosted within AWGESC for connecting the best of ASEAN's model cities with each other, national governments as well as supporting stakeholders who can assist cities to achieve their goals and visions. It is expected to provide the regional frameworks to help synergise and enhance existing national ESC programmes and networks by ASEAN Member States, as well as provide a mutual learning platform for ASEAN Member States which have yet to develop national ESC criteria, frameworks and programmes to learn from others' experience and lessons.

Cambodia

Cambodia is experiencing rapid urbanisation. For Phnom Penh city, the population size has grown 5 times over two decades from 1980 – 2010. This growth rate is unprecedented and is evoking many challenges for the city government, especially the management of solid and liquid waste. To address these challenges, efforts need to be directed developing a vision, proper mechanisms and regulatory framework as well as improving awareness towards behaviour change. The city also needs to implement adequate facilities in collections, transport, disposal and other technologies for waste management. Fees and taxes to recover costs of services will be vital.

In Year 1 of the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme, Cambodia has worked on reducing the use of plastic bags in Phnom Penh city and improving overall municipal waste management in

Siem Reap city. Regional frameworks, such as the ASEAN ESC Awards and the ASEAN ESC Indicators, as well as resources from programmes of supporting organisations are appreciated as they help to strengthen these initiatives towards a nationwide approach which will spread good practices and policies from 'Model Cities' to other Cambodian cities. Looking forward, Cambodia is interested in other key aspects of ESC, such as wastewater treatment, eco-housing, greenery, low carbon city and renewable energy in the future phase of the Model Cities Programme. There is also a plan to establish a national competition for ESC linking to programmes under ASEAN.

Indonesia

For Indonesian cities, SWM remains the foremost concern of local governments. The existing waste management practices of SWM are not based on environmentally sound principles and techniques, causing severe negative impacts to public health and the environment. The Adipura Awards programme is one of the government's strategic programmes to promote ESC by improving local government performance and encouraging public participation in creating a clean and green city. The programme prescribes and rates performance criteria in SWM, green open space management as well as air and water pollution control. Indonesia has identified the Waste Bank model as a replicable good practice that should be spread to Indonesian cities, and pilot projects on Waste Banks were implemented in Surabaya and Palembang under ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme Year 1.

For the next phase of the Model Cities programme, Indonesia plans to enhance the implementation of the Waste Bank model towards becoming 'Community 3R Centres' to include the two additional components of composting and public education centres. Indonesia is hoping to work with supporting organisations to expand assistance to more sectors in a coordinated manner besides SWM, such as in water supply, wastewater treatment, greenery, low carbon city, renewable energy and others. Indonesia also sees opportunities to expand and add value to existing national platforms like Adipura through regional collaboration. The areas for collaboration are in research, policy design, technical and financial assistance, as well as the replication of proven successful practices and city-to-city exchange between Indonesian cities with other countries.

Lao PDR

To promote the realisation of ESC, the Government of Lao PDR has developed several National Urban Sector Development Strategies in 2012, with action plans focused on town greenery, solid waste management (SWM), wastewater management, sanitation and hygiene, as well as infrastructure, housing and public services. In support of this, the government has been

establishing National Guidelines for Environmentally Sustainable Cities under the JICA-LPPE project for ‘Clean, Green and Beautiful’ cities, which may be elaborated to suit the specific contexts and needs of different towns and cities. An important activity is the annual meeting of key urban management officers of central and local authorities from provinces and towns, which provides the opportunity for networking and the regular exchanges of experiences. The LPPE programme may be developed into a fully comprehensive national urban forum, and is in line with the government’s decentralisation policy to delegate more central responsibilities to the local authorities since 2010. Under ASEAN ESC Model Cities Year 1, pilot work in the City of Xamneua has been successful in terms of having vacant land replaced with public parks in principal cities, promoting the integration of ‘green city concept’ in urban design as well as instilling positive civic attitudes for green areas and waste collection.

Particular challenges for urban development in Lao PDR include the domination of investment-driven development, underdeveloped capacity for urban planning and design and uncontrolled expansion of urban development into agricultural land and water surfaces. To drive the ESC agenda and to help address these challenges, Lao PDR will establish linkages and collaborate with regional programmes such as the ASEAN ESC Awards, ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme, ASEAN Architect Council, UNDP, Government of Japan (on urban design), as well as participate in training programmes and information sharing. In parallel, the government will continue efforts to integrate and mainstream ESC concepts through regulatory interventions (i.e. ESC concepts in building codes) and capacity building to improve the overall town administrative functions of local authorities.

Malaysia

Malaysia’s government has been conducting preliminary studies on sustainable cities studies since 1998, of which findings went into operationalising the MURNInets (Malaysian Urban-Rural National Indicators Network on Sustainable Development) in 2012. The MURNInets programme assesses the sustainability of Malaysian cities based on comprehensive criteria covering 6 dimensions, 21 themes and 36 indices. Cities rated as ‘less sustainable’ are identified to receive further support and strengthening in weak areas. Subsequently, another programme, ‘Green Neighbourhood Initiatives’ was launched to help realise the Malaysian government’s pledge to reduce CO₂ emissions by up to 40% by year 2020 compared to 2005 levels, subject to assistance from developed countries. The programme focuses on encouraging local authorities to promote pedestrian walkways, bicycle lanes, rainwater harvesting and reuse, composting and neighbourhood farming. Top performing cities in both MURNInets and Green Neighbourhood Initiatives programmes are rewarded with certification, monetary awards and publicity.

A new programme, 'Malaysia Sustainable Future Cities', is planned to be implemented from 2015 – 2018. The programme will promote sustainable development in cities based on the theme of green economy through inclusive social and environment initiatives. Planned activities include: (i) provision of expert advice on urban planning; (ii) installation of environmentally-friendly equipment and appliances; (iii) construction of basic infrastructure related to ESC; (iv) promotion of green technologies; and (v) development of government-community-business partnerships for technology transfer, product marketing, financing and education. Malaysia hopes that these three national programmes could be showcased in the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme and their lessons shared with other ASEAN cities and Member States. Supporting organisations are welcomed to collaborate with the government on these three initiatives.

Myanmar

Yangon City is introducing various initiatives to move towards being an environmentally sustainable city. The city is striving to implement more efficient environmental protection activities, especially in SWM activities. It sees the need to combine a basic strategy of developing waste management capacity (both institutional and human) along with the promotion of international cooperation to enhance existing SWM policies with 3R principles, as well as developing closer cooperation with communities and businesses.

Current major initiatives are focused on improving SWM, and the key projects include introducing sanitary landfill design and a waste-to-energy (WTE) facility at the Htайнbin and Htawechaung final disposal sites in the Yangon City area. These projects employ foreign direct investment procedures and various public-private partnership models, such as build-operate-transfer (BOT) and build-own-operate (BOO). Environmentally-sound disposal facilities and technologies are required in Yangon city's 24 industrial zones with 3,562 factories. Yangon City is also participating in the ASEAN-German Technical cooperation for Clean Air for Smaller Cities in the ASEAN Region programme, which has supported work for monitoring urban air quality. Other development partners on ESC include ADB (on developing waste water quality standards), JICA (monitoring the sampling points of Hlaing River of Yangon and Dohtawady River of Mandalay for pollution control) and the Republic of Korea (on waste management strategies). Myanmar is looking forward to working more closely with the international development community to make further progress on ESC.

Philippines

The Government of Philippines has launched the ECO Friendly and Healthy Cities as a national programme for promoting the ESC concept, and through it aims to groom 17 'Model Cities' –one

for each of the Philippines' 17 regions – by 2016. In line with this, the programme has organised national orientation workshops on ESC in 2011, and then on SWM and disaster risk reduction practices in 2012. Also, an online course on SWM was implemented jointly with the Philippine Open University which has trained four batches of officials from 28 local government units (LGUs) in the formulation of SWM plans. Other relevant nationwide programmes include the National Greening Program (tree planting for urban greening as well as the rehabilitation of mangrove forests and areas hit by Typhoon Haiyan), Environmental Compliance Assistance Center (ECAC) (an information and advisory centre to help LGUs comply with environmental legislation), the National Search for Environmentally Sustainable and Eco-friendly Schools. These programmes are implemented in partnership with donors, other line ministries, the Philippine League of Local Government, the private sector and civil society.

Under ASEAN ESC Model Cities Year 1, Puerto Princesa and Palo, Leyte were selected as the two pilot 'Model Cities' in recognition of their outstanding initiatives to achieve 'clean air', 'clean water' and 'clean land'. In the next phase, the government plans to endorse cities (from major island groups) as 'Model Cities' and will continue to sustain the programme by providing assistance to the LGUs through national or regular activities to include additional thematic areas, such as climate change as well as gender and development (GAD). Topics for capacity building and technical assistance demanded by Philippines cities include: the 'Bokashi' and 'Takakura' method of composting, styro plastic densification, integrated watershed management, air quality management, sanitation, waste-to-energy, greenhouse gas inventories etc. Supporting organisations are encouraged to work and support Philippine cities in bottom-up activities to help realise their aspirations for ESC and to comply with national legislation related to SWM, such as the Ecological Solid Wastes Management Act of 2000 (RA 9003).

Thailand

The Government of Thailand has implemented a nationwide "Sustainable City" programme to help motivated Thai cities move towards greater sustainability by strengthening their capacity in natural resources and environmental management, supporting self-assessment using ESC indicators and promoting public participation in ESC activities. The programme adopts 8 implementation strategies, namely: promoting public participation, learning development process, developing standards and measurement tools, city-to-city learning, establishing pilot projects, enhancing knowledge management, networking as well as public relations and communications. So far, a total of 15 local governments administration organizations as well as pilot sites in 485 local governments administration organizations are participating in the programme. The 'bottom-up' approach is encouraged, with local governments administration organizations being encouraged to set their own visions and plans with public participation.

Meanwhile, the national government provides guidance, technical support, facilitation, monitoring and evaluation as well as help to disseminate lessons learnt and knowledge among all local governments administration organizations.

Thailand sees the opportunity to link various existing programmes related to ESC implemented by various national agencies (such as the Pollution Control Division (PCD), Department of Environmental Quality Promotion (DEQP), Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Management and Planning (ONEP) and the Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organisation (TGO)) to ASEAN's initiatives and programmes on ESC, such as ASEAN ESC Indicators and ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme. The idea is to coordinate and integrate parallel efforts in a concerted manner towards a common desired outcome of realising green and sustainable cities.

Viet Nam

The Government of Viet Nam's national programme to promote ESC consists of three main components: (i) development of national criteria for ESC; (ii) enhancement of awareness on ESC; and (iii) development of legal framework on ESC. Since March 2013, work on formulating the national ESC criteria has progressed, with the draft criteria being announced in January 2014.

The national criteria are derived from ASEAN's ESC indicators, but with some differences. It takes into account Viet Nam's national urban development policies and strategies and has been tailored to suit Viet Nam's governance context and local conditions. For example, there are a fewer number of indicators, and 'responses to climate change' is treated as a separate category. To encourage a high level of participation, the indicators are being promoted for application on a voluntary rather than a mandatory basis. The government aims to apply the criteria in about 70 large cities, out of about 700 cities and towns in Viet Nam.

On local-level activities, the national government is interested in helping local governments developing 'model' environmentally sustainable residential areas and raising awareness in schools.

In the coming years, the national programme is looking to broaden the application of the national ESC criteria to a larger number of cities. It will also consider introducing some forms of rewards as incentives for participation, as well as to enhance the comprehensiveness of the ESC framework to cover not only environment factors, but also socio-economic factors. Since

city development is a multi-sectoral issue, the programme will also aim at promoting closer integration with projects in other development sectors.