

# OUTPUT DOCUMENT

## **10<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit (EAS) High-level Seminar on Sustainable Cities**

*(formerly the 'High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities)*

### **– Sustainable Cities: Sustainability and means of implementation for successful initiative –**

The Tenth EAS High-Level Seminar on Sustainable Cities (HLS-SC) was organised by the Government of Indonesia, the Government of Japan, the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC) and the ASEAN Secretariat under the framework of the EAS Environment Ministers' Meeting (EAS EMM). The meeting was held in Bali, Indonesia, on 21-23 January 2019, and attended by more than 220 participants comprising representatives of 10<sup>[1]</sup> national governments, 33<sup>[2]</sup> local authorities and 18<sup>[3]</sup> supporting organisations, including international/regional organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), research institutions/academia, and businesses.

Globally important agreements and goals are now in place, which include the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including SDGs, the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement of Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Regionally in East Asia, the Framework for Action on the Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 has also been developed. This new global and regional policy setting has made regional cooperation even more important in supporting and enhancing the critical role of cities to achieve relevant goals and objectives. For example, proper localization of SDGs is a key to achieving relevant goals through introducing policies and actions reflecting different local features. Taking into account the six SDGs<sup>[4]</sup> to be reviewed at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July, 2019, the 10<sup>th</sup> HLS-SC has shared practical knowledge and experiences learned from various initiatives, and discussed necessary actions to be taken by cities, with support from or in partnership with national governments, development partners, and businesses in their efforts to achieve sustainable cities in Asia.

Over two days, a series of Plenary and Thematic sessions were held, which enabled the participants to capture various ideas, and to exchange useful lessons. The key messages extracted from discussions are set below. The participants noted and agreed to take actions, wherever appropriate, along the lines indicated by these messages. The key messages of this seminar will be reported to the EAS Environment Ministers, and at other relevant ASEAN meetings.

#### **I. Overall key Messages**

- The vital role to be played by cities to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been reaffirmed so that humankind can remain within planetary boundaries;
- Partnership, mutual support, and peer-learning have again been recognized as the driving-force for promoting SDGs at the local level, and hence international, regional, and national support to such activities continues to be vital;

- Indonesia's initiative to promote policy integration and policy coherence at all levels is welcome in realizing the concept of sustainable and competitive cities under the Sustainable Urban Development Policy 2015 - 2045;
- A new concept of the "Circulating Ecological Economy (CEE)" introduced by Japan last April in its Basic Environment Plan is also welcome as an attempt to simultaneously address de-carbonization, material circulation, and ecological conservation in an integrated manner;
- The ASEAN SDGs Frontrunner Cities (FC) Programme, launched at the 9<sup>th</sup> HLS-SC, has demonstrated its initial positive impacts, creating a space for collaboration amongst national and local governments, and local stakeholders;
- Outcomes of this seminar should be delivered through the network of seminar participants, to important platforms and meetings, especially related to environmentally sustainable cities and marine litter in the region, such as ASEAN+3 EMM, 2019 G20 Summit and its ministerial meetings in Japan, EAS EMM, and CBD COP 15 in October 2020 in China.

## II. Specific Key Messages

### 1. Localization of SDGs

- SDGs provide critical common guiding principles of sustainable policies and actions for cities, thereby creating new opportunities for local partnership and co-production with wider stakeholders;
- Ongoing actions towards sustainable, resilient and low-carbon/zero-carbon society initiated by participating cities have promoted mutual learning and encouraged further actions through city-to-city collaboration;
- Changes in mindset and behavior are critical to enable cities to promote the localization of SDGs. Hence, scaling-up of ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) and other awareness raising efforts is important to nurture broad-minded 'SDGs champions' at all levels.
- Consolidation of existing reporting mechanisms and policy processes by utilizing the SDGs framework is essential to monitor progress made by various local governments to make their cities sustainable. This will stimulate replication by secondary and tertiary cities through, amongst others, improving access to relevant finance.

### 2. Interlinkages among Goals under Reviews at HLPF

- Interlinkages among SDGs are more visible at the local level, at which they are in fact highly relevant not only to the environment, but also to economy and society. Local governments having localized SDGs for the private sector are increasingly aware that SDGs not only help stimulate innovative, green, and decent businesses, jobs, and livelihoods today, but they also help expand future demands for eco-friendly and socially responsible goods and services.
- Strengthened partnership with local leaders, volunteers, university students, and local media is considered effective in maximizing the effects of education on SDGs and other awareness raising efforts.

### 3. Sustainable Infrastructure

- Infrastructure could be a driver for sustainable urban development. It provides multi-faceted benefits across different goals as well as long-term values for cities and surrounding areas. The Indonesian approach, “SDG Indonesia One”, demonstrates the creation of a flexible and adaptable financing mechanism for sustainable infrastructure by overcoming so-called silo-based investments.
- City-to-city collaboration is instrumental in addressing complex challenges facing recipient cities as well as in generating synergistic economic opportunities on both sides. It provides not only technology and investment needed for sustainable infrastructure but also capacity development, thereby enabling the cities concerned to sustain and replicate specific projects realized under city-to-city collaboration.

### 4. Marine Plastic Litter

- The issue of marine plastic litter is critical and should be urgently dealt with as a part of efforts to build sustainable cities. Residents, communities, and local governments have a respective vital role to reduce marine plastics, especially those from land-based sources. 3Rs including elimination of the use of plastic bags and straws by local restaurants and supermarkets, and other waste management practices, are the basis of source reduction.
- At the same time, coast clean-up campaigns are equally important, particularly in cases where they are carried out in partnership with various stakeholders including both national and local governments, community organizations and local businesses.
- A clear goal to address marine plastic pollution such as quantitative reduction targets, where appropriate, comprises key intimal policy interventions. An effective mechanism to achieve such a goal should be in place, which include technical and regional cooperation, wider participation of stakeholders, and an effective review system to enable evidence-based feedback for potential policy revisions.
- Financial gaps faced by local governments for proper waste management remains significant. If local governments concerned are equipped with appropriate financial resources, poor and insufficient waste management infrastructures could be improved, thereby addressing marine plastics pollution more properly, even with associated co-benefits regarding human and ecological health.

**Based on the above, the participants agreed to recommend to the EAS Environment Ministers the following practical actions:**

- a. Encourage and support local governments to further promote localization of SDGs through providing necessary guidance and framework of actions, as well as sharing good policies and practices, such as Indonesia’s “Sustainable Urban Development Plan 2015-2045” and Japan’s “Circulating and Ecological Economy”;
- b. Continue to support relevant ASEAN sustainable cities initiatives, such as the ASEAN Smart Cities Network, and the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanization Strategy (ASUS)<sup>[5]</sup>, including the utilization of ASUS toolkits;

- c. Continue to support HLS-SC as a platform to share and monitor progress made by local governments on SDGs including the ASEAN SDGs Frontrunner Cities Programme;
- d. Support the ASEAN Secretariat and IGES as the Secretariat of the next HLS-SC to take actions to report the key messages of this seminar at important regional and international meetings on sustainable development including the 2019 High Level Political Forum, the SDGs Summit held in New York, and the Asia Pacific Urban Forum;
- e. Provide support and guidance to the next HLS-SC to be held in 2020.

**The seminar also requested the ASEAN Secretariat and IGES to report the key messages of the 10<sup>th</sup> HLS-SC to upcoming relevant ASEAN meetings including:**

- a. 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AWGESC, 13-14 June 2019, Vientiane, Lao PDR ;
- b. 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN), 8-12 July 2019, Thailand; and
- c. EAS Senior Officials Meeting for the EAS Environment Ministers Meeting (EAS-OM), in July 2019, Thailand (tbc).

**Annexes:**

- 1. Concept Note & Programme
- 2. Participants List
- 3. Summary of Key Takeaways

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[1] China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam

[2] Cambodia – Kep, Pursat; Indonesia – Bali, Bangli, Jembrana, Tangerang, Banjarmasin, Bandung, Banjar Baru, Banyuwangi, Buleleng, Gianyar, Jembrana, Klungkung, Malang, Surabaya; Japan – Higashi-Matsushima, Nagano Prefecture, Toyama, Kawasaki, Yokohama, Shizuoka, Maniwa, Kitakyushu, Oguni; Lao PDR Xamneua; Malaysia – Kuala Langat; Philippines – San Carlos; Thailand –Ban Sang Municipality, Udon Thani Municipality, Phuket Municipality, Takhli Municipality, Wiangthoeng Municipality

[3] ASEAN Secretariat, Conservation International, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), JICA Inodnesia, PT SARANA MULTI INFRASTRUCTURE, UCLG-ASPAC, ICLEI East Asia, Prince of Songkla University, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), WAHANA, Carbon Disclosure Project, Merry Rianna Corporation, AUSTVENT-IMPACT Investments, Green Power Investment Corporation, JFE Engineering Corporation, Another Geumsan Ltd., PEMS Technologies, INC, Green Amity Co., Ltd.

[4] These goals are SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and SDG 17 (partnerships for the Goals).

[5] an initiative under the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025.