

APPENDIX 4

SUMMARIES OF ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL NETWORKS

Plenary Session 4: Tools Promoting ESC (2) - Regional frameworks and intercity networks

In this session, regional organisations and intercity networks shared their regional and intercity activities, implications for promoting ESC in the region and possible collaborative activities. Speakers and their talking points are summarised as the following.

1. Ms. Liana Bratasida, Chairperson of the **ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC)**; Assistant Minister for Global Environmental Affairs & International Cooperation, Ministry of the Environment, Indonesia, explained that the AWGESC's primary concern is urban environmental management while its focus is on improving the quality of the urban living environment since its establishment in 2002. Activities under this working group are focusing on clean land, clean water and clean air. Several ongoing programmes under the working group are the establishment of indicators for clean air, clean land and clean water, ASEAN ESC Award, sharing information through city to city network, 'Cool ASEAN, Green Capitals Initiative' and also the newly-proposed Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity. In running its activities, the AWGESC is also being supported by partner organization such as GTZ – Clean Air for Smaller Cities Project, USAID – Water Supply and Sanitation Priorities and Twinning Partnership, and UNEP support on Climate Change Adaptation Project.
2. Mr. Arie Istandar, Deputy Water and Sanitation Team Leader, Environmental Cooperation – Asia (ECO-Asia), a program of the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** shared his experience in running WaterLinks, a regional environmental cooperation programme to improve water services delivery in Asia. Founded in 2008 by the Asian Development

Bank (ADB), International Water Association (IWA) and the USAID through its ECO-Asia program, WaterLinks is a regional network that supports water operator partnership in Asia to strengthen operators' capacity in improving access to safe water and sustainable sanitation. WaterLinks' principal activity is to support the establishment and facilitation of twinning partnerships. In support of partnerships, WaterLinks facilitates practitioner-based training programs and development of knowledge products. It also fosters networking and knowledge sharing to help develop twinning partnerships. All WaterLinks activities draw on a range of partner resources and capabilities to achieve tangible results in terms of expanded and improved access to safe water and sanitation and increased capacity to deliver services.

USAID ECO-Asia, through WaterLinks, also cooperates with regional partners, such as the ASEAN Initiative on ESC (AIESC), on knowledge sharing, training and networking activities to scale-up capacity building of water services operators. Since 2007, ECO-Asia has provided targeted technical and financial support to improve water services delivery in AIESC members through twinning partnerships, regional training and workshops, and knowledge product development. Through the activities, more than 100,000 people have benefited while at least 10 water operators in AIESC cities have strengthened their capabilities to provide services.

3. Mr. Roland Haas, Principal Advisor of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (**GTZ**) introduced the ASEAN-German Technical Cooperation Project on "Clean Air and Climate Change Mitigation for Smaller Cities", implemented by GTZ, aiming at both better air and less greenhouse gas emissions. Together with local and national governments, Clean Air Plans, focusing on transport, industry, and other sources of pollution, shall be established and implemented. Up to 12 smaller cities in 7 countries in South East Asia will benefit directly from the project. He underlined that public participation, ownership by the cities, use of local expertise from universities and "the harvest of low-hanging fruits", i.e. immediately implementable actions by the cities are important pillars of project implementation.
4. Ms. Aisa Tobing of **Regional Network of Local Authorities for the**

Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET) shared the experience of CITYNET, which was established in response to the needs of local governments and local actors in the Asia-Pacific region. CITYNET's mission is to create people-friendly cities that are socially just, ecologically sustainable, politically participatory, economically productive, culturally vibrant, and globally connected. CITYNET has been successful in playing a role in ensuring the best practices and their transfer in other cities and up-scaling in regional and national levels. It has also promoted ESC with the means of advocacy, partnership development, capacity building, clearing house, business matching to develop networks between the members, building local information base and capacity building using tools and methods to access carbon emission data and help to prepare the road map for greenhouse gas reduction for local governments.

5. Mr. Masaru Tokuhara from Division of International Environment Cooperation, Environment Bureau of Kitakyushu City, Japan introduced the city's latest initiative for regional collaboration on sustainable and low-carbon development. Kitakyushu City is preparing for the launch of the "**Kitakyushu Asian Center for Low-carbon Society**" scheduled in July 2010. The City aims to promote low-carbon living not just within Japan but also across Asia through active operation of this soon-to-established center. Kitakyushu City aims to reduce about 150% of carbon-dioxide emissions of the city with a baseline year in 2005 in other cities in Asia by the year 2050.
6. Ms. Glynda Bathan, Policy and partnership Manager of **Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia)** shared her experience in tackling air pollution in Asian cities. The CAI-Asia promotes better air quality and livable cities by translating knowledge to policies and actions that reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in transport, energy and other sectors. CAI-Asia works with cities and various sectors (national government, nongovernment organizations, academe, the private sector, and development partners) which support cities in reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. CAI-Asia assists cities through knowledge and networking activities such as the Better Air Quality conferences, the newly-launched Clean Air Portal (www.cleanairinitiative.org) and the Network of City Networks; and

assessment tools such as the Clean Air Scorecard and Walkability Survey.