

2nd High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities
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Regional Cooperation and Networking for promoting Environmentally Sustainable Cities in Asia and the Pacific



Masakazu Ichimura
Chief, Environment and Development Policy Section



Overview

1. Urban challenge and need for regional cooperation
2. Lessons learnt from the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment
3. Current ESCAP programmes



1. Urban challenge and need for regional cooperation

The urban challenge in Asia-Pacific

Rapid urbanization

In 2030 2.6 billion people will be living in cities in Asia-Pacific. This means adding a new city of the size of Singapore every month for 20 years



Urbanization of poverty

Approximately 30% of urban residents in Asia-Pacific live in slums, without basic services



Growing ecological footprint

Cities occupy 3% of the Earth's land surface, house half of the human population, use 75% of the resources, and account for 2/3 of all energy and greenhouse gas emissions



Action required

- Under the current development paradigm urbanization and urban development in Asia is unsustainable. There is a fast closing window of opportunity to make them inclusive and sustainable
- The cost of inaction will be massive: increased poverty, social instability and environmental degradation for decades to come
- Making Asian cities ecologically sustainable on the one hand and equitable on the other will require considerable innovative thinking and action
- It would also require innovative approaches to financing of urban infrastructure and services to meet the needs and demands of the growing urban populations

Regional cooperation

- The scale, magnitude and nature of the challenge requires regional cooperation to:
 - Share good practices
 - Identify policy options
 - Develop capacities
 - Transfer technologies
- Important role of City-to-City cooperation
- Important role of networking
- The region should build on existing networks and initiatives (e.g. CITYNET, ICLEI, CAI Asia, UN-HABITAT, UNCRD EST, UNEP, AWGESC, etc)
- Catalytic role of bilateral and multilateral funding – but need for local and national to match funds



2. Lessons learnt from the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment

Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment



- 10-year programme (2000-2010) adopted at 4th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development held in Kitakyushu, Japan in September 2000
- Promoted city-to-city cooperation and replication of good practices
- Network of > 60 cities



Replication and scaling-up: Lessons Learnt from the Kitakyushu Initiative

- A wealth of good practices are available, throughout Asia and beyond - some yet to be promoted
- The unprecedented urbanization of Asia-Pacific requires to quickly move beyond demonstration projects and pilots
 - Need to identify, adapt, replicate and up-scale good practices
- The complexity of the challenges require innovative thinking
 - Need to develop new and innovative approaches
- Essential elements for replication and scaling up
 - Leadership and political commitment - national and local
 - Role of central government - Policy and regulatory support
 - Public participation
 - Partnerships

3. Current ESCAP programmes

ESCAP Urban Programmes

- More than 20 years promoting urban agenda in Asia-Pacific
- ESCAP activities
 - Normative and analytical work
 - Identifying, testing and replicating innovative solutions
 - Policy dialogue
- Wide array of national and regional partners

ESCAP Urban Programmes (2)

- Low Carbon Green Growth Roadmap
- Eco-efficient and Sustainable Infrastructure
- Asia-Pacific Mayors' Forum on Environmentally Sustainable Urban Infrastructure
- Decentralized Solid Waste Management
- Integrated Pro-poor Water and Wastewater Management in Small Towns
- Housing the Urban Poor
- Pro-poor Housing Finance
- State of Asian Cities Report
- Asia-Pacific Urban Forum

Low Carbon Green Growth Roadmap



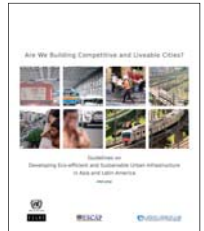
- Concrete blueprint for policy makers in the region to implement specific policy options to pursue a Low Carbon Green Growth development pathway, identifying the barriers, opportunities, expected impacts, as well as required financial, technical and institutional capacities necessary to operationalize these policy options
- One of the 5 focus areas is sustainable infrastructure, and in particular: (1) Urban planning and design, (2) Transport and (3) Green buildings
- First draft in June 2011, second draft in September 2011, publishing in December 2011



Eco-efficient and sustainable urban infrastructure



- Developed a methodology to integrate eco-efficiency in urban infrastructure development and conducted case studies
- Publishing of Guidelines for developing eco-efficient urban infrastructure (ESCAP, ECLAC, UN-HABITAT and Columbia University, June 2011)
- Preview available on ESCAP website
- Training course in collaboration with UN-HABITAT at the International Urban Training Centre, Republic of Korea
 - Next course in November 2011



http://www.unescap.org/esd/environment/infra/documents/UN_Sustainable_Infrastructure_Guidelines_Preview.pdf
<http://www.unescap.org/esd/environment/infra/>

Asia-Pacific Urban Forum



- Bangkok, 22-24 June 2011
- Organized regularly to discuss pressing issues
- Attended by ministers, Parliamentarians, mayors, senior officials from national and local governments, representatives from NGOs and civil society, academics, private sector, international organizations
- ESCAP will be presenting outcomes of the Kitakyushu Initiative and other programmes
- Other regional partners are invited to join the programme and participate with dedicated sessions, side events, etc.



CONTACT

- Masakazu Ichimura
 Chief, Environment and Development Policy Section
 Environment and Development Division
 UNESCAP
 E-mail: ichimura@un.org

Environment and Development Division	http://www.unescap.org/esd/index.asp
Kitakyushu Initiative	http://kitakyushu.iges.or.jp/

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