

APPENDIX D

Summary of Plenary Session 1

ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme: Lessons Learnt and Way Forward

In Plenary Session 1, eight ASEAN Member States presented the progress made on ESC promotion in respective countries building on the achievements of Year 1 ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme. Presenters reviewed and discussed key national actions/initiatives, particularly national city awards programmes, which represent a core layer of support for regional initiatives such as the Model Cities Programme, as well as the future directions and supporting roles of external stakeholders.

1. Introductory remarks by ASEAN Working Group on ESC (AWGESC) – Mdm. Masnellyarti Hilman, Chairperson, AWGESC;
2. Cambodia – Mr. Chiek Ang, Director, Department of Environment, Phnom Penh Capital City;
3. Indonesia - Mr. R. Sudirman, Assistant Deputy for Solid Waste Management, Ministry of Environment;
4. Lao PDR - Mr. Sengdara Douangmyxay, Deputy Division Head for the Department of Housing and Urban Planning, Ministry of Public Works and Transport;
5. Malaysia - Ms. Ling Ling Chui, Environmental Control Officer, Department of Environment;
6. Myanmar – Mr. U Nay Aye, Director General, Environmental Conservation Department, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry;
7. Philippines – Ms. Corazon Davis, Assistant Secretary, Administration and Finance, Department of Environment and Natural Resources;
8. Thailand – Mr. Somsak Bundao, Director, Urban Environment and Area Planning Division, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning;
9. Viet Nam – Dr. Do Nam Thang, Deputy Director, Environmental Science, Institute of Science of Environmental Management, Vietnam Environment Administration.

AWGESC:

By 2020, the ASEAN community wishes to become clean and green, with a high quality of life for its people. For this, green, clean and liveable cities, which are the hubs and drivers for the sustainable growth, will be absolutely crucial. Yet, 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 – generously supported by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund – is one of AWGESC's key initiatives. In just one year (from 2011 – 2012) it has managed to extend assistance to 7 national governments on enhancing national ESC frameworks, as well for capacity building in 14 cities on key areas of ESC.

The key lessons learnt from Year 1 were: a) Several ASEAN Member States have already established effective national sustainable city frameworks, definitions, indicators and programmes to encourage bottom-up actions for ESC, which are being expanded and strengthened further. These programmes are the core elements for supporting a regional programme like the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme, and could serve as reference for mutual learning among ASEAN Member States; b) Priority capacity building areas in ASEAN cities are: solid waste management, wastewater treatment and sanitation, air quality management, urban greenery as well as on emerging issues relating to climate change, including overall low carbon city development and adaptation; and c) City-to-city partnerships are effective and much appreciated. Cities want to exchange knowledge, and be recognised for their good achievements, serving as 'models' to inspire others. A regional platform enables this. The ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme is perceived as an 'umbrella' platform and framework within AWGESC for connecting the best of ASEAN's cities with each other, national governments as well as supporting stakeholders who can assist them to achieve their goals and visions. It is also the 'seed' for growing to a wider East-Asia wide platform and network of cities and their supporters.

Cambodia:

Cambodia's Clean City Program aims to promote clean cities in Cambodia through the dissemination of ESC indicators, a Clean City Award programme and a National Action for Plastic Bag Reduction. Indicators have been improved through the translation of the ASEAN ESC indicators and ongoing work to implement the indicators to assess environmental department performance. The Clean City Award takes place every two years and assesses cities across a variety of indicators including environmental management, cleansing, waste management, awareness raising, green land, health, social security, tourism and infrastructure. Major successes have included establishing the clean city concept at the local and grassroots level, improving the waste disposal infrastructure,

awareness-raising through printed and broadcast media, improved public awareness and actions in city cleanliness. Nevertheless, there are remaining challenges such as improving the legislative framework, strengthening cooperation, improving awareness (particularly through the education system) and boosting funding. In the future, greater links will be created with regional initiatives such as ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme as well as improving citizenship involvement across all sectors such as youth, academia, the elderly and women, creating contests and updating legislation and improving enforcement. It is hoped that international funders, private sector funding and technical assistance will further support and these initiatives.

Indonesia:

Indonesia has had a long standing issue with solid waste management in terms of collection, transportation and final disposal. To ameliorate this situation, two main strategies have been established. First, the Adipura Award scheme has been created to incentivise cities to improve environmental management focusing on four indicators – solid waste management, green open space management, water pollution control and air pollution control. Second, waste banks have been established where people are paid to take deposit waste which is then used to make handicrafts, as well as for raw materials in recycling industries. These waste banks generate income, reduce landfill and combat negative views of waste.

Through these two programmes, Indonesia has had success in reducing waste going to the landfill by 7%, increase green open space, decreasing incidents of disease and building the economic value of waste through 3Rs. The replication of waste banks is being fast tracked. It is estimated that by 2013 there will be nearly 1,400 waste banks in 65 cities handling 2.5m tonnes of waste per month. Key success factors have been the commitment of leaders, institutional capacity, public participation, establishing effective laws, adequate funding and data management and information systems. The main challenge is changing people's mindset concerning waste. These programmes have been linked to ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme, and it is hoped that waste banks can be further spread across the country to help Indonesia meet national waste reduction targets. Indonesia hopes that international stakeholders can assist through expanding assistance to other environment sectors and support further city to city exchange

Lao PDR

Urban administration and service delivery has been transferred to local authorities. This, in addition to the programme 'Development of Guidelines for Environmentally Sustainable

Cities' supported by JICA, are viewed as vital policy tools to establish a strong local network and increase external resource support to achieve much demanded green urban services. Despite some prominent successes in last decade in urban sustainability and environmental improvement, planning and implementing capacity lags far behind actual demand while several other challenges remain unsolved. Urban sprawl has become widespread at the cost of the natural environment. The shortage of vacant land in business centres often leads to the approval of projects that favour commercial benefits over the preservation of existing town ecosystems. While resource constraints have often been listed as a main obstacle, inadequate local capacity as well as ensuring the involvement of all local stakeholders are the other issues deserving attention.

It is recommended that there be further elaboration of ESC guidelines to meet the specific needs of towns and cities and integration of ESC concepts in area planning and building codes. Capacity building is needed for local community and professionals on ESC concepts through collaboration with NGOs and international agencies. Improved green infrastructure and areas are the first prerequisite for ESC at town level and increased ESC pilot projects in regional centres can support further development in nearby towns. Moreover, wider partnership and support from communities and the private sector are sought, while adequate links between ESC goals and action plans with government socio-economic development plan and projects funded from other sources need to be developed.

Malaysia

Malaysia presented an overview of its Sustainable Cities program, known as Sustainable Cities-Environment Award (Anugerah Alam Sekitar – Bandar Lestari) which gave recognition to the local authorities and urban centres for their overall commitment and efforts towards environmental sustainability. Malaysia nominated City of Kuching North, which won the Sustainable Cities-Environment Award in 2006/2007 and 2009/2010, to participate in the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme Year 1 as an incentive to the city, and to motivate more cities to participate in the Sustainable Cities-Environment Award.

In this programme, the city achieved notable results in producing their own Effective Microorganisms (EM) solution, increasing the production of compost and a high reduction of waste generation in the participating households (62%). Further to that, the Department of Environment (DOE) tried to motivate other local governments move towards environmental sustainability by promoting Kuching North's achievements. However, there have been difficulties faced due to limited budget availability and lack of awareness among the local

governments. To address these challenges, DOE will continue to conduct more roadshows/workshops/seminars/ to promote the Sustainable Cities-Environment Award which will promote and share City of Kuching North's successful practices to other local governments as well as enhance networking with the private sector and international organisations.

Philippines:

The Philippine government has launched several projects related to good governance to cities such as 'Clean and Green Awards', 'Galing Pook Award' and programmes that deal with building partnerships involving local government units (LGUs) and national department agencies with the private sector such the 'adopt a estero (waterbodies) programme', the national greening programme and the search for ECO Friendly Schools and Offices.

The Philippines ECO Friendly and Healthy Cities, a national programme in line with the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme, is intended to promote the ESC concept, replicate good practices and have 17 model cities covering all major island groups and regions by 2016. Phase I recently concluded and discovered that good, replicable practices already exist, with solid waste management being key to many local governments. ESC needs to be mainstreamed in both government institutions and schools and there is a need to better document local environmental initiatives. Capacity is being raised through online courses, including the e-course on SWM (eSWM4LGUs) and networks for information exchange established through social media. Further to this, local governments are being assessed for their level of compliance with environmental laws and the sustainable cities issue will be linked to sustainable tourism. International stakeholders, such as UN organisations, international development agencies, NGOs, universities, research institutions, private sector etc. were encouraged to continue to provide technical and financial assistance to LGUs.

Thailand:

Thailand's National Economic and Social Development Plan and Environmental Quality Management plan running during the period 2012 – 2016 is based on His Majesty the Kings philosophy of Sufficiency Economy. Challenges mainly revolve around the need to raise capacity in integrated environmental management. Regional linkages are through the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme and also Laem Phak Bia. Future plans include creating appropriate criteria, capacity building and knowledge transfer. ESC requires the inputs of all the relevant stakeholders from public to private sectors, local and national

governments, academia, NGOs and volunteer groups.

Viet Nam:

The main objectives of Viet Nam's National ESC programme are the development of nationally appropriate ESC, enhancing awareness of ESC development and the development of an ESC legal framework. Recent developments at the national level have focused on reviewing the existing legal framework, researching and specifying the concept of ESC in Viet Nam as well as drafting the initial 24 criteria. The national government has further organized the 1st National consultative workshop on ESC in Vietnam with 60 participants across relevant stakeholders.

Currently a number of cities in Viet Nam have assessed the ESC model such as Cao Lanh City, Da Nang City, Ha Long City, Hoi An City and Hue City. Local governments are concentrating on enhancing awareness of people about ESC through workshops and communication activities, especially focusing on schools and self environmental protection groups as well as practical projects. Nevertheless, in the process of developing ESC, Viet Nam has to face a number of challenges including weak participation and cooperation of relevant ministries and branches, a lack of a legal framework specifically for supporting and promoting the development of ESC and a limited awareness of environmental issues and ESC.

In the future, Viet Nam will focus on finalising and promulgating the ESC criteria, providing specific guidelines for ESC awards as well as revising and supplementing regulations related to environment in urban planning policies, towards the development legal frameworks for ESC in Vietnam. Viet Nam plans to continue cooperation with ASEAN-Japan ESC-relevant organisations and develop international collaboration to promote ESC. Viet Nam believes that potential collaboration areas are on the development of ESC criteria and legal framework, public awareness raising on ESC, promoting ESC through ESC awards and establishing pilot ESC cities, starting with small and medium towns.