

APPENDIX E

Summary of Plenary 2 ESC Promotion in Other Countries

In this session, five EAS participating countries presented key national ESC programmes and initiatives, highlighted successes and challenges faced, and also shared how these programmes could be linked to the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme.

1. Australia - Mr. Bruce Edwards, Assistant Secretary, Environment Quality Division, Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities;
2. China – Mrs. Wang Xiaomi, Official, Department of Pollution Prevention and Control, Ministry of Environmental Protection;
3. Japan – Mr. Kotaro Kawamata, Director, International Cooperation Office, Ministry of the Environment;
4. Republic of Korea - Mr. Kahng Byungseon, Programme Coordinator, Korea National Park Service, Jirisan National Park, Southern Office;
5. United States - Mr. Alfred Nakatsuma, Regional Environment Director, Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA), United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Australia:

In May 2011 the Australian Government released a sustainable population strategy, Sustainable Australia – Sustainable Communities, which aims to ensure that future population change is compatible with the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of Australia. This includes a blueprint for creating a nation of sustainable communities which have the services, job and education opportunities, affordable housing, amenity and natural environment that make them places where people want to work, live and build a future.

The \$10.1 million Measuring Sustainability program aims to improve access to information about our economy, environment and society, and the linkages between them, to better inform decisions and policy making. The National Waste Policy sets the direction for Australia over the next 10 years to produce less waste for disposal and manage waste as a resource to deliver economic, environmental and social benefits. The Suburban Jobs initiative is about encouraging new employment precincts in the outer areas of our major cities to help provide jobs closer to residential areas, and reduce long commuting times.

Australia also released the Our Cities, Our Future National Urban Policy for a productive, sustainable and liveable future. Programs include studies into making outer suburbs of Australia's major cities more productive, sustainable and resilient; planning for urban renewal in several major city centres; planning for improved access to selected city centres, encouraging more people to walk or cycle; researching improved public transport options in selected areas, including rail and light rail; the creation of Australia's first large scale low carbon trigeneration energy network in the City of Sydney, which aims to reduce emissions by around 40,000 tonnes per year. The Smart Grid, Smart City project is a three-year, \$100 million project to deliver Australia's first commercial-scale smart grid.

China:

China has witnessed rapid urbanisation since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, and also the adoption of opening-up and reform policy in 1978. China implemented a set of initiatives to improve the urban environment, such as Environmental Protection Target and Responsibility System, Urban Air Quality Reporting System, Quantitative Examination on Integrated Treatment of Urban Environment (QEITUE), National Model City for Environmental Protection (NMCEP), Pilot City for the Construction of Ecological Civilization (NPCCEC) etc. Furthermore, an index system has been established to create national environmental model cities in China with a multi-stakeholder participation framework. These initiatives have helped cities to significantly improve environment, strengthen local capacity and attract investments for green development.

China's experience shows that the key elements for the improvement of urban environment include the establishment of a scientific and practical evaluation indicator system, a step-by-step approach to implement the evaluation indicator system, good planning of urban environmental protection, clear division of responsibilities and sufficient funding support.

Japan:

Japan is planning to expand its ESC programme through the use of the Joint Credit Mechanism (JCM). Japan creates a package of support using technology transfer, action plan legislation, capacity building to partner cities to create ESC. One of the objectives of the JCM is to utilise low carbon technology, and the reductions in emissions could then be credited to Japan. Japan gave three main examples of their package support in waste management, water management and energy saving. In each case, Japan provides support for planning, training workshops to build capacity and Japanese local government support.

Waste management assistance enables the development of the 3Rs and waste to energy, water management assistance helps with the efficient use of water and production of biogas, while energy saving is focused on buildings and the effective use of ventilation and photovoltaic panels. Finally, Japan invited delegates to Yokohama Smart City week which will be held from 21st to 25th October 2013. It plans to gather together approximately 7,000 participants, including governments (central and local), international organisations, businesses, academia, NGOs, civil societies to share the latest information and best practices on Smart Cities.

Korea:

Jirisan National Park is the largest national park in Korea and has considerable biodiversity. In the past, the relationship between the National Park Service and residents of the nearby Gurye Town has been poor due to a perceived authoritarian attitude on the part of the Service, and also a lack of community spirit. Reforms have therefore taken place to ensure that the voices of the local community are heard through stakeholder meetings and signing Memorandums of Understanding between relevant bodies. Local festivals were organised and eco-tour programmes have been established. Furthermore, Jirisan National Park College has started hosting courses for local residents as well as an international youth programme. There have been further focused efforts on the preservation of the local black bear population as well as community assistance for elderly people living alone. Moving forward, funding considerations as well as fostering local coordinators will be crucial. Networking is important to learn best practices and to develop a sense of international community.

United States:

USAID recognises the vast scale on which urbanization is occurring and the importance of ensuring water, food, sanitation, and livelihoods for the world's growing urban population. Very recently, USAID released a draft policy on Sustainable Urban Service Delivery. This policy provides practical approaches and guidance to USAID Missions to support the development of urban programs in host countries, including in regard to sustainable water, sanitation, energy, and health services. The policy is available for public comment through 26th March 2013.

Three key USAID activities related to ESC were introduced.

The objective of the Mekong Building Resilience in Asian Cities to Climate Change (M-

BRACE) activity is to develop and apply practical methods for building resilience to the impacts of climate change among stakeholders in medium-sized cities in Thailand and Vietnam. This 3-year \$1.9 million activity, implemented by the Institute for Social and Environmental Transition, has a regional scope and perspective, and is positioned to assess the regional implications of urbanisation, as well as opportunities for building urban climate resilience at city level and across the region. The project develops and applies practical methods for building resilience to the impacts of climate change among stakeholders in medium-sized cities in Thailand (Phuket, Udon Thani) and Vietnam (Hue, Lao Cai).

M-BRACE combines action-oriented research, public dialogue, testing resilience interventions, documentation and dissemination. The program is supporting Vulnerability Assessments and Shared Learning Dialogues in each city to inform urban resilience planning. City Working Groups involving key stakeholders have been established in each city to ensure effective implementation, ownership and participation.

The Asia-Pacific Adaptation Project Preparation Facility (ADAPT Asia-Pacific) helps governments in Asia and the Pacific accelerate their access to the existing pool of international climate change adaptation funds through technical assistance and training, knowledge sharing, and twinning partnerships. The project's primary targets are national governments and cities. As an example of ADAPT's support to the region, the program will be developing a training course dealing with climate change adaptation (CCA) in an urban context.

This morning Ambassador Carden announced the CityLinks Pilot Partnership between the US and ASEAN Member States, an 18-month technical exchange programme aimed at improving climate adaptation readiness in ASEAN cities. This activity is designed to directly address ASEAN priorities in supporting city-to-city learning on environmental sustainability and climate change adaptation, building on the ASEAN ESC-Model Cities Programme by sharing best practices, providing practitioner-to-practitioner assistance on innovative approaches, and using an online knowledge network to develop a community of practice and promote technical exchanges.

Finally, we believe science and technology can be more effectively applied to support sustainable urban development. To further progress in this area, USAID RDMA is planning an Urban Adaptation Futures Conference that will bridge science to action knowledge gaps, and help catalyse partnerships between cities and the science and technology community.

We welcome your input on what you see as priorities for use of geospatial data analyses and other science and technology to inform decision-making and practice.