
Lao PDR

National Actions/Initiatives to Support the Development of Environmentally Sustainable Cities

Plenary 1/Day 1
4th High Level Seminar on ESC
21 – 22 Mar. 2013
Hanoi, Viet Nam



Overview and Background



National initiatives and actions :

- National Urban Sector Development Strategies, 2012, with action plans focused on:
 - Town greenery
 - Solid waste management
 - Waste water treatment
 - Sanitation and hygiene,
 - Infrastructure, housing and public services
- Strategic plan at town level with development objectives to foster:

Overview and Background



- Cleanliness;
 - Greenery;
 - Safety;
 - Full electrification
 - Livability, and
 - Visitor attraction
- National Guidelines for Environmentally Sustainable Cities (JICA-LPPE project)
 - Clean, green and beautiful cities
 - Annual meeting of key urban management officers of central and local authorities from provinces and towns;
 - Opportunity for regular exchanges of experience and networking ;

Overview and Background



- Can be developed into a full form of urban forum.
- Government program for delegations of responsibilities from the central to local authorities, 2010
 - To increase more responsive and more dedicated urban management
 - To ensure wider people participation and bottom up approach in urban development activities ;

Successes and Challenges



Major successes:

- Public parks replaced vacant land in principal cities ;
- Integration of green city concept in urban design
- Caring for green areas and waste collection have been significantly improved ;

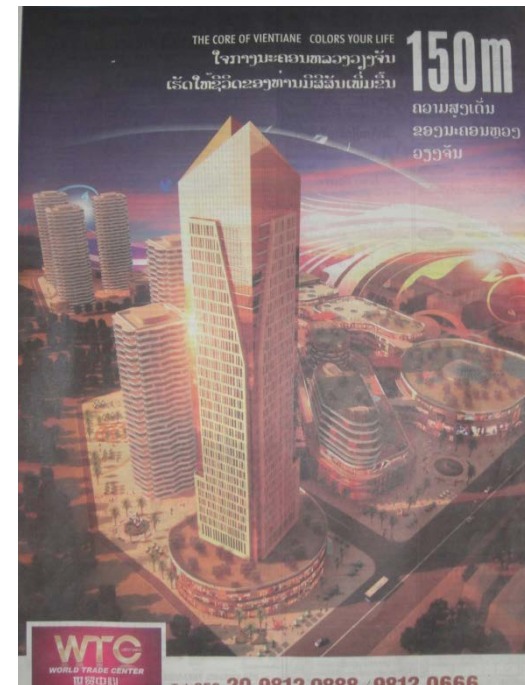


Successes and Challenges



Challenges:

- Investment driven development dominates sustainable urban planning practices;
- Actual development demand outweighed urban planning and implementation capacity;
- Uncontrolled urban expansion over farm land and natural water surfaces.



Linkages to Regional Initiatives



- ASEAN ESC award and the launch of Model Cities Programme in Xamneua are one of major impetus for ESC concepts;
- Regional collaboration in urban planning and design (Japan, UNDP and other);
- Participation in regional training programmes by authorities and professionals;
- Maintain a close connection with ASEAN Architect Council, and
- Information sharing with regional and international professional associations.

Way Forward



- Further elaboration of ESC guideline to meet the specific needs of towns and cities;
- Integration of ESC concepts in area planning and building codes;
- Capacity building for local authorities and professionals on ESC concepts and green urban development;
- Improving waste management, waste water treatment facilities, protection and expansion of green areas and urban administrative functions as the first prerequisite for ESC at town level.

Way Forward



- Increasing ESC related demonstrative projects in regional centers to support further development in nearby towns;
- Seeking a wider partnership and support from communities, private sector in realisation of ESC goals;
- Securing an adequate link between ESC goals and action plans with government socio-economic development plan and projects funded from other sources;

- Seeking supports from international stakeholders in the following aspects:
 - NGOs in disseminating ESC knowledge and practices to local communities;
 - UN agencies, regional or international donors in capacity buildings for central and local professionals and staffs;
 - International financial organisations in considering the inclusion of ESC concepts in their loan and aid packages.

Way Forward



Thank you for listening

