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;
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;
Way Forward

• 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