

6th High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities

- Date** : 9 - 10 Feb. 2015
- Venue** : Thistle Hotel, Johor Bahru, Malaysia
- Organisers** : Government of Malaysia
Government of Japan
Government of Cambodia
ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities
ASEAN Secretariat
- Framework** : East Asia Summit Environment Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM)

The 6th High Level Seminar on Environmental Sustainable Cities (6HLS ESC) takes the pulse of ASEAN’s 2015 ‘One Community’ aspiration through the advancements of ASEAN’s local champions and change makers. This year, the 6HLS ESC looks back on achievements over five years since 2010, and beyond. ASEAN, East Asian countries and key stakeholders discuss the way forward for growing an emerging ‘ASEAN ESC Community’ post-2015, while Asia’s outstanding cities present their achievements under the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme (Year 2).

Background

At the East Asia Summit Environment Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM) inaugurated in Hanoi, Viet Nam in October 2008, the Ministers agreed that **Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) was an immediate priority area as an initial step of EAS environmental cooperation.** Following this, it was agreed that the 1st High Level Seminar (HLS) on ESC would be held to formulate concrete collaborative activities on ESC.



1st HLS ESC. The 1st HLS ESC was jointly organised by the Governments of Indonesia, Japan, Australia and Singapore from 2 – 4 March 2010 in Jakarta, Indonesia, under the framework of EAS EMM. The seminar produced key messages and recommended five specific practical activities to promote ESC in the region, which were presented to and noted by the 2nd EAS EMM held in Brunei Darussalam in October 2010.



2nd HLS ESC. With the success of the 1st seminar, the 2nd HLS ESC was organised by the Governments of Japan, Australia, Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand on 15 – 16 March 2011 in Kitakyushu, Japan. The seminar welcomed the implementation of the ‘ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme’ in April 2011, which had been designed as an umbrella initiative to realise the five recommended activities arising from the 1st HLS ESC.



3rd HLS ESC. Subsequently, the 3rd HLS ESC was organised by the Governments of Cambodia, Japan, Australia, Thailand and the ASEAN Working Group on ESC (AWGESC) on 6 - 8 March 2012 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Combined with the Regional Seminar of Year 1 of the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme, the seminar showcased the programme’s achievements as well as generated consensus for sustaining the HLS platform and extending the Model Cities Programme into the Year 2.



The **4th HLS ESC** continued the tradition of providing a high-level and inclusive forum to gather East Asian stakeholders for reviewing progress and discussing priority issues on sustainable urban development in the region, as well as welcoming a new EAS participating country, United States. It fostered networking for new concrete activities among governments, international organisations, the private sector, research institutes, universities and other key stakeholders, as well as expanding inter-city cooperation for ESC development. In addition, the seminar shared the lessons learnt and way forward for the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme and generated specific messages to Ministers which were reported to preparatory meetings towards the 4th EAS EMM.



The **5th HLS ESC** announced the extension of the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme into Year 2 of implementation and highlighted the latest developments in national strategies for ESC promotion ASEAN and EAS countries. Specific recommendations were made to EAS Environment Ministers on how to accelerate the ‘spread’ and ‘scale’ of good ESC practices and policies.

The 6th HLS ESC will be held back to back with the International Forum on “FutureCity” Initiative in Malaysia: Building the sustainable city and the “FutureCity” which is being held

on Sunday 8th February and sponsored by the Cabinet Secretariat, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan and co-sponsored by the Ministry of Housing and Local Administration of the Federal Government of Malaysia; National Land Agency; Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA); Johor State; Johor Bahru; Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

The objective of the "FutureCity" initiative is to develop the successful showcases unparalleled in the world through the effort to realize the "FutureCity" and the Forum aims to build a coalition between the cities and to stimulate the related business opportunities.

Objectives:

1. Present and review the **outputs and achievements of the past HLS ESC seminars** and the **ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme (Year 2)** (a practical output from the 1st HLS ESC);
2. To highlight **notable initiatives** as well as **discuss common opportunities and challenges** in core/emerging ESC sectors, including:
 - a. Creating/enhancing **'enabling policy frameworks'** for ESC actions, including:
 - Articulation of specific **goals and targets** in ESC sectors, as well as the **monitoring and evaluation** of progress made on these goals/targets;
 - **Action Plans** linked to timeline and implementing resources;
 - **Enforcement** of relevant laws, environmental standards and other legal instruments.
 - b. **Public participation** and **multi-stakeholder cooperation** (educational institutions, youths, civils society organisations (CSOs), private sector and other key players) in implementing good ESC practices/policies;
 - c. **Application of appropriate and innovative technologies**, in cooperation with the private sector;
 - d. Promoting the **scale-up and spread of good ESC practices/policies** through:
 - i. Financing mechanisms (both domestic and international);
 - ii. 'Peer-to-peer learning' (city-to-city cooperation and exchange)
3. To promote **networking, cooperation and knowledge exchange among key ESC stakeholders** by sharing information on :
 - a. Assistance schemes of international organisations;
 - b. ESC initiatives and requirements for external assistance and international cooperation by national and local governments;
 - c. Expertise and technologies of the private sector

4. Based on (1), (2) and (3), develop a **Chair's Summary** which will provide inputs to the **5th Environment Asia Summit (EAS) Environment Ministers Meeting (EMM)** and other relevant meetings on the **way forward for advancing ESC promotion through regional EAS cooperation**, considering the vision of ASEAN Community 2015.

Participants:

National and local governments, bilateral and international development agencies, city networks, NGOs, private companies, academia and community groups.

Programme (2 days) (see next page):

- **Day 1:** Keynote presentation; Stocktaking, outputs and achievements of the ASEAN Model Cities Programme Year 2;
- **Day 2:** Thematic Sessions on key and emerging ESC Issues, Discussion and adoption of the Chair's Summary

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