APPENDIX D

Summary of Plenary Session 1 - The ASEAN ESC Community: Beyond 2015

In Plenary Session 1, nine ASEAN Member States presented the progress made on promoting Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) in respective countries, as well as proposed directions for strengthening regional cooperation activities on ESC, particularly under the 18-country EAS EMM framework, by building on the achievements and synergies of: (i) the High Level Seminar on ESC; (ii) ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme; and (iii) core initiatives of the ASEAN Working Group on ESC, such as the ASEAN ESC Indicators and ASEAN ESC Awards. The session was chaired by Prof. Ryokichi Hirono, Professor Emeritus, Seikei University, and YBhg. Datin Paduka Dr. Dahlia Rosly, Director General, Federal Department of Town and Country Planning, Malaysia. The session's presenters were:

1. ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC) – Dr. Vann Monyneath, Chair
2. Lao PDR – Mr. Sengdara Douangmyxay, Deputy Director, Urban Planning Division, Department of Housing and Urban Planning, Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT)
3. Malaysia

- Dr. Shamsaini Shamsuddin, Director, The National Land Use Information Division, Federal Department of Town and Country Planning and
- YBhg. Datuk Ismail Ibrahim, Chief Executive, Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA)

4. Thailand – Mr. Suphot Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment
5. Viet Nam – Dr. Do Nam Thang, Vice Director, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

The session also received comments from:

6. Brunei Darussalam – Mr. Shahrom Suhaimi, Commissioner of Town and Country Planning, Department of Town and Country Planning, Ministry of Development
7. Philippines – Ms. Corazon Davis, Assistant Secretary for Administration and Finance, Department of Environment and Natural Resources

8. Singapore – Mr. Tan Junyuan Christopher, Deputy Director, Environmental Policy Division, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources
9. Cambodia – Mr. Pak Sokharavuth, Deputy Director of the Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Environment
10. ASEAN Secretariat – Ms. Natalia Derodofa, Senior Officer, Environment Division
11. Japan – Mr. Nobuhiro Kino, Director, International Cooperation Office, Ministry of the Environment

Prof. Ryokichi Hirono, Professor Emeritus, Seikei University explained the session objectives and discussion points.

2015 is pivotal year for the global community's reflection. Key milestones of major international processes will be reached to define the post-2015 development agenda for the next few decades, such as the establishment of the ASEAN Community 2015, the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris (COP21), new global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), HABITAT III (2016), and the conclusion of the 'Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)' (2005-2014).

Common opportunities and challenges of ESC that have been highlighted in the past five HLS seminars include:

1. 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; long-range plan and annual Action Plans linked to timelines and implementing resources; and enforcement of relevant laws, environmental standards, and other legal instruments;
2. Public participation and multi-stakeholder cooperation (educational institutions, youth, civil society organizations (CSOs), private sector and other key players) in implementing good ESC practices and policies;
3. Application of appropriate and innovative technologies, in cooperation with the private sector; and
4. Promoting the scale-up and spread of good ESC practices/policies through financing mechanisms (both domestic and international) and 'peer-to-peer learning' (city-to-city cooperation and exchange).

The session discusses proposed directions for strengthening regional cooperation on ESC (particularly under the 18-countr EAS EMM framework); synergize and build on the achievements of existing initiatives, such as the HLS ESC, AWGESC (e.g., ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme, ASEAN ESC Indicators and Awards, etc.).

Discussions will focus on the progress made on regional ESC cooperation and national ESC initiatives, as well as what lessons were learnt and the ideas and opportunities for synergy and further enhancement beyond 2015.

ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC)

The ASEAN Vision 2020 envisions a clean and green ASEAN with fully established mechanisms for sustainable development to ensure the protection of the region's environment, the sustainability of its natural resources, and the high quality of life of its peoples.

An ASEAN ESC community with great potential has been emerging over the past 10 years, building on past and existing achievements and projects. ASGESC can help this emerging community grow by developing a Draft Action Plan for the ASEAN ESC Community.

The AWGESC was established in 2003 by the ASEAN Environment Ministers to help address the challenge of the lack of guiding frameworks, capacity and resources of ASEAN cities to meet the challenges of sustainable urban development through regional cooperation. The AWGESC is currently involved in three areas of work: (1) measuring and recognizing good efforts/performance on ESC, (2) strengthening national ESC frameworks and local capacity, and (3) networking, partnerships and community building. The ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme is framed under the second area of work, and the annual High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (HLS ESC) is framed under the third area of work.

A total of 68 cities have taken part in AWGESC initiatives from 2003 to the present: three in Brunei Darussalam, 12 in Indonesia, four in Malaysia, 15 in Thailand, three in Singapore, four in Cambodia, five in Lao PDR, four in Myanmar, nine in the Philippines, and nine in Viet Nam. In the first and second years of the Model Cities programme, 31 cities have received awards.

The proposed “Draft Action Plan for an ASEAN ESC Community 2030” will include time- and goal-based approaches to guide and accelerate the realization of green, clean, liveable, and low-carbon and resilient cities in ASEAN, as well as a fund-raising and donor coordination tool to clarify the priorities of AWGESC for future projects and activities. The action plan shall be pragmatic and oriented at scaling up existing achievements at the regional, national, and local levels.

In Year 3, the Model Cities programme aims to further strengthen national frameworks, especially in CLMV countries and will elaborate the concept of Model Cities by extending the seed funding modality to key ESC sectors and will develop commonly–applicable voluntary indicators for model cities. In order to further develop the ASEAN ESC community, city-to-city exchanges will be increased by facilitating study visits based on compiled recommendable good practices in years 1 and 2, partnerships will be increased and strengthened between supporting organizations and cities, and website will be enhanced to disseminate regional ESC data on ASEAN ESC activities.

Lao PDR

Currently, there are no specific initiatives or well-coordinated actions among concerned government agencies in promoting environmentally sustainable cities and Lao PDR needs to catch up with other member states in various aspects. The Urban Sector of the 7th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) 2010-2015 prioritised the focuses of city development in risk reduction and climate change adaptation, creation of economic growth promotion centres to accommodate rural migration and job opportunities. The country’s National Urban Sector Development Strategies to 2030 envisaged the action plans with main targets in supporting town greenery, solid waste management, wastewater treatment, sanitation and hygiene, infrastructure, housing, and urban administration and services.

The JICA-LPPO programme aims to narrow the development gap towards ASEAN integration, strengthen institutional and technical capacity of the national and local governments towards ESC, build community spirit and establish national and local government links. The programme consists of three components: agriculture, environment, and tourism.

Under the environment component, ESC national guidelines have been established, and 17 provincial capital cities have been trained in creating ESC visions, strategies, and action plans. Three cities have been assisted in improvement of waste collection and disposals, including the improvement of landfills, installation of waste incinerators, promotion of the 3Rs, demonstration projects in composting and waste separation, and the organization of exchange visits in other ASEAN cities and with Japan.

Under Year 1 of the ASEAN ESC Model Cities programme the Northern provincial capital cities in Lao PDR promoted the delivery of sound urban administration and services, disseminated simplified household wastewater treatment approaches, and a small demonstration project on waste composting, town cleanliness and greenery was carried out in Xamneua. In Year 2, two towns, Luang Prabang and Xamneua, implemented demonstration projects in using decentralized wastewater treatment systems in addition to peer-to-peer exchange between Da Nang of Vietnam and Luang Prabang.

Despite certain challenges in the years to come Lao PDR will need to 1) fine-tune the responsibilities and cooperation of efforts among government agencies at the central and local levels, 2) share the already identified ESC visions and strategies in provinces with all relevant sectors, 3) offer support for more ESC oriented programmes (clean air, water, land), institutional reforms and community empowerment, 4) extend city-to-city networking within ASEAN, East Asia, and cooperation with other donors.

Malaysia

The Green Neighbourhood Initiatives in Malaysia support the ASEAN ESC Model Cities programme. The initiative focuses on the development of bicycle lanes and pedestrian walkways, and encourages community farming, rainwater harvesting systems, and waste composting.

Under the Action Plan for Green Neighbourhood Development, there are six strategies including legal aspects, policies and guidelines; green urban planning; training and promotion; incentives; and reduction of waste and strengthening of recycling activities. The Green Neighbourhood Incentive Award has seen the participation of 30 local authorities in 2012, 30 in 2013, and 36 in 2014. Participation in 2014 included 13 cities for the establishment of bike lanes, 30 cities for the establishment of pedestrian walkways, 18

cities in community farming, 21 cities in rainwater harvesting, and 18 cities in waste composting.

Malaysia aims continue to promote green initiatives to local authorities through impact studies, teach-in sessions, seminars and workshops; enhance further initiatives to be more effective and sustainable through new technologies, new innovations, and new initiatives; conduct more programmes for existing initiatives by improving sources and providing exposure to other implementation methods; and facilitate local authorities to establish networking for green initiatives by exchanging experiences and implementing projects.

Iskandar, Malaysia

Iskandar aims at a 58% reduction of GHG emissions on intensity by 2025 and a 40% absolute reduction of emissions from BaU by 2025, using 2005 as a base year through integrated green transportation. The Iskandar Malaysia Mobility Management System (MMS) promotes sustainable transport and manages the demand for car use by changing the attitudes and behaviours of travellers. The MMS coordinates information, services, and activities to optimise the effectiveness of urban transportation and provides innovative approaches in managing and delivering coordinated transportation services.

Green Economy Guidelines for Iskandar provide a comprehensive guidance manual for the nine sector pillars being promoted in the area. GEG offers ways for companies and the public to go green by adopting green practices in business and factory operations, freight transportation, services, and procurements. This will help transform Iskandar into a low-carbon and green growth economy and region.

In Iskandar, 198 primary schools have taken part in the eco-life challenge programme, which focus on energy household accounting. School children track energy consumption, waste generation and management, travelling choices, frugal consumption and utilization of renewable energy resources.

The Low Carbon Village Felda Taib Andak started in 2012 and uses the LCSBPIM 2025 as a platform to formulate “a dozen actions” document for areas to achieve a combined vision of creating a low-carbon village.

Thailand

In Year 1 of the ESC Model Cities programme (2011-2012), three municipalities in Thailand took part: Muang Klaeng sub-district municipality, Phitsanulok municipality, and Mae Hong Son municipality. The project in Muang Klaeng sub-district municipality aimed to develop as a low-carbon small city by reducing domestic organic waste, promoting alternative fuels for household use, reducing CO2 emissions, and promoting green space and agricultural land. Phitsanulok municipality aimed to develop community-based solid waste management through public participation, efficiency in disposal management, and mechanical biological treatment. Mae Hon Song municipality aimed to become a living museum through the conservation of the natural environment and traditional practices, and producing organic fertilizer from household waste.

Chiang Rai municipality has best practices in the establishment of an urban biodiversity learning centre, application of technical knowledge on urban biodiversity surveys, sustainable wastewater management, promotion of organic agriculture, increasing the size of green areas and townscapes, and managing haze and PM10. As a model city in year 2, Chiang Rai moved towards becoming a low-carbon city by setting up local networks, establishing a municipality strategic plan for low-carbon cities, promoted low-carbon temples, schools, and communities, facilitated evaluations and awards, and moved to establish low-carbon communities and city knowledge management.

Panusnikom municipality has best practices in initiating and providing communities with sustainable livelihood assets, including stakeholder awareness on sustainable cities, integrated solid waste management projects, clean and green city project, public awareness on global warming, and waste resources conservation activities. As a model city in Year 2, Panusnikom municipality aimed to promote clean and green city scheme implemented by communities and schools, which included stakeholder meetings and consultations, trainings and coaching, seed funding, and evaluations and awards.

Phichit municipality has best practices in community-based solid waste management, waste separation and management, recycling waste bank projects, a local curriculum on biodiversity, increasing green areas and townscape management, and promoting green offices. As a model city in year 2, Phichit municipality established waste management knowledge-hub and training centre on solid waste management, created media and publications, and transferred knowledge. The municipality also promoted community-based

solid waste management, and organized training on piloting community-based waste segregation and management.

Renunakon municipality has best practices in wetland wastewater treatment in slaughterhouses at standard levels, community-based solid waste management, increasing green areas, and promoting energy savings. As a model city in Year 2, Renunakon municipality promoted organic plantation through trainings and coaching, piloting organic planting in schools and communities, and monitoring and evaluation.

Nongten municipality has best practices in community waste recycling projects, building up effective micro-organisms and earthworm-farming composting for organic waste, expansion of green spaces and biodiversity. As a model city in year 2, Nongteng municipality carried out a water supply and agricultural water management project aiming to increase green space, reduce energy consumption, and restore the environment.

The implementation procedure towards becoming an ASEAN Model City starts with creating public participation, developing monitoring and evaluation tools, upgrading to a model city, and networking. The competition process includes performance indicators with five core components: healthy city, happy people, sustainable environmental programme, learning organization and development, and good governance and management. There is a strong emphasis on sustainable environment performance indicators.

Thailand will focus on changing the behaviours of cities and people, effectively integrating environmental instruments, creating resilient cities and communities, ensuring good environmental governance, applying the concept of sustainable use, and strengthening networks through city-to-city cooperation.

Viet Nam

Viet Nam, as a country which is still in the process of implementing ESC, very much appreciates the opportunity to participate in seminars such as in order to learn from the experiences of other countries. Viet Nam feels that there are three main areas which the region should concentrate on in order to further the ESC agenda.

1. Public Participation. Viet Nam has increasingly realised that the creation and proclamation of regulations is insufficient for achieving ESC. As the ultimate target of

ESC work is to improve the lives of the citizenry, it is vital that there is sufficient participation from the citizens to ensure the success and sustainability of activities. Community should lead on some activities and programmes.

2. City-to-city exchanges. Lessons learned by cities within countries and the region should be shared as widely as possible. For example, Viet Nam is interested in creating city award schemes and Thailand's experiences in city-to-city collaboration and award schemes could be of great use. Viet Nam has learned from Philippines and Indonesia that developing ESC indicators was an iterative process.
3. Coordination. There are currently many different types of related frameworks such as ESC, smart city, green city, green economy, low carbon city and so on. It is important that overlaps between such frameworks and related projects are fully exploited for the benefit of the cities.

Viet Nam feels that the HLS ESC series of seminars and the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme has been an excellent platform for learning and knowledge exchange. Viet Nam thanks the funders, organisers and secretariats of these programmes for this assistance and opportunity.

Comments:

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam is glad to see that regional partners are all in agreement with the need for further efforts for ESC. Within the Brunei Vision 2035 which aims for Brunei Darussalam to be known for the accomplishments of its well-educated and highly skilled people, high quality living and dynamic sustainable economy there are nine strategic thrusts. One of the thrusts is land use, which alongside the environment, is an increasingly important aspect. Like other regional partners Brunei Darussalam is increasingly facing the issue of decoupling economic growth and environmental degradation and is looks to incorporate the natural environment into its economic development. In this regard information exchanges with partners are very much beneficial.

Philippines

The Philippines noted the important role of the national government agencies in assisting local government units (LGUs) in implementing projects.

1. Scaling up. National governments can assist in scaling up opportunities through providing opportunities for other LGUs to learn through internally organised national forums.
2. Academe. The role of the academe is important as a resource and repository of knowledge. In the Clean Air for Smaller Cities programme, a university was used as a training hub. This could be done for ESC.
3. Funding. LGUs should be linked to funding institutions through seminars such as this. Such funding opportunities could then be further leveraged through national forums.

Singapore

Singapore recently published an update of the Sustainable Singapore Blueprint which looks to 2030 and beyond. From this there were several areas that Singapore wished to share:

1. Public participation. As other countries have noted, public participation is vital to ensure that sustainability can be incorporated into everyday lives and thereby ensure that it is meaningful to the man-in-the-street. In order to create communities where people are gracious towards each other, local community involvement is essential.
2. Long term view. When considering plans, a long term view is essential particularly when considering environmental policies as well as public goods such as parks. Such developments will have an effect on multiple generations and should be carefully considered.
3. Inter-ministerial coordination. It is important that all ministries are aware that the environment is their responsibility, not simply the responsibility of the environment ministry, and incorporate it into their plans.

Cambodia

The regional consensus towards clean air, land and water is very positive and it is hoped that 2015 will be a starting point for further achievements. Within Cambodia a steering group has been set-up which is developing ESC guidelines and awards schemes. Clean City Contest is being established with three flowers being awarded for first tier cities, two flowers for second tier and one flower for third tier. Cambodia also participated in both years of the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme with Phnom Penh and Siem Reap being involved in year one and Phnom Penh and Pursat in year two. Cambodia has found the experience of being involved in both HLS ESC and the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme highly beneficial.

ASEAN Secretariat

The Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009 to 2015) includes the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint (2009-2015). That blueprint contains 11 priority areas: global environmental issues, transboundary environmental pollution, environmental education, environmentally-sound technology, environmentally sustainable cities, harmonisation of environmental policies and databases, coastal and marine environments, natural resources and biodiversity, freshwater resources, climate change, and forestry.

In the priority area of environmentally sustainable cities, ASEAN promotes the quality of living standards in ASEAN cities and urban areas with a strategic objective to ensure that cities and urban areas in ASEAN are environmentally sustainable, and meet the social and economic needs of the people. This priority area includes the following actions: (1) expand the existing network under the ASEAN Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Cities; (2) intensify individual and collective efforts to improve the quality of air and water within ASEAN through regional or national initiatives to reduce industrial and transportation pollution; (3) share experiences, expertise, and technology in areas such as urban planning, including transportation, green building, water management, urban greenery, and urban biodiversity conservation, sanitation and waste management, 3Rs, and air, noise, water, and land pollution control, through among others, the twinning cities programmes; (4) work towards initiatives such as “low carbon society,” “compact cities,” “eco-cities”, and “environmentally sustainable transport; (5) develop internationally comparable measures for environmental sustainability for major cities in ASEAN by 2015; and (6) introduce and implement and ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) Award by 2008 as an incentive to promote ESC practices.

There are eight working groups and committees under the institutional framework on the environment, including multilateral environmental agreements (Thailand), nature conservation and biodiversity (Myanmar), water resources management (Malaysia), coastal and marine environment (Philippines), environmental education (Brunei Darussalam), climate change (Viet Nam), and environmentally sustainable cities (Cambodia). The ASEAN Secretariat works on other environmental activities.

The ASEAN ESC Network includes 25 ASEAN participating cities in 10 countries (as of Nov 2008). The ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC) develops key indicators for clean air, clean water, and clean land, which are developed and

endorsed through workshops and meetings. AMS is currently pilot-testing proposed revised ESC Key Indicators for Clean Air, Clean Land, and Clean Water on the Network of Participating Cities of ASEAN Initiatives on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AIESC) and has agreed to include the application of the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity (SI) as part of the ESC Clean Land indicators to raise awareness on biodiversity in urban areas.

Key indicators for clean air include, among others the number of days in a year that pollutant standards index exceeded 100 days using USEPA standards; number of days in a year ambient four key parameter levels exceeded USEPA air quality standards; percentage of gasoline and diesel-fueled vehicle meet city/national standards during roadside inspections; percentage of industries that fulfil national standards and requirements; and percentage of alternative fuels used.

Indicators used for clean water include, among others, percentage of households with access to potable water infrastructure; percentage of households with tap water that meets WHO drinking water standards; percentage of households and industries linked to sewerage systems or equivalent where discharge meets national standards; percentage capacity of city in supplying water to meet average consumption; percentage of available freshwater from ground and surface water extracted for use; and percentage of schools at all levels with water conservation education programmes.

Indicators for clean land include, among others, percentage of waste at source that is stored in dedicated holding areas/receptacles before being disposed promptly; percentage of waste collected from door to door or collection points; percentage of waste transported in covered vehicles on a daily basis; overall recycling rates; percentage of reduction in total waste generated a year; percentage of green area from total area of the city; and percentage of areas that comply with stipulated spatial plans of the city.

The ASEAN ESC Award started in 2008 and is held every three years. Cities are nominated by the AMS based on ESC indicators and criteria. The award aims to recognize the efforts of cities, as well as their experience, and development of different models and paths to urbanization and environmental stewardship. The award also confirms that local solutions and participation of the people are the best way to deal with local issues and settings.

The ASEAN-German Technical Cooperation for Clean Air for Smaller Cities in the ASEAN region targets 12 cities in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam, to help smaller cities develop clean air plans and support the implementation of these plans. To date, 10 emission inventories have been implemented, six clean air plans have been developed, and five training courses have rolled out, with 35 trainings delivered. ASEAN and GIZ are targeting the sustainability of the project by institutionalizing the "Train for Clean Air" or T4CA beyond the project duration and aim to establish regional and national training hubs.

The ASEAN ESC Model Cities programme provides seed funding, technical assistance and other forms of support to raise local capacity for implementing innovative and voluntary bottom-up initiatives, and strengthens national ESC frameworks and actions that facilitate the replication and scaling up of good practices and policies within and across countries. The programme also promotes city-to-city collaboration and provides a broad an inclusive platform matching ASEAN cities with interested resource partners. ASEAN is also implementing the CityLinks Pilot Partnership between the U.S. and ASEAN member states.

The outcomes of the 6th HLS-ESC will be input to the 14th Meeting of ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC), the 26th Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN), the 13th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment, the 13th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting (EMM), and the 5th EAS Environment Ministers Meeting.

The post-2015 vision for the ASEAN community is based on the ASEAN Vision 2020, which envisions a clean and green ASEAN with fully established mechanisms for sustainable development, in order to ensure the protection of the region's environment, the sustainability of its natural resources, and the high quality of life of its peoples (ASEAN Vision 2020, 15 December 1997).

The Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration includes the following central and community elements: political and security community, economic community, socio-cultural community, outward-looking community, physically, institutionally, and socially well-connected community, and ASEAN community with less development gaps. The Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision at the 25th ASEAN Summit

endorsed the central elements as the basis to develop the Post-2015 Vision of the ASEAN Community, and noted that the work on the Vision is an ongoing process.

Japan

Since the 1st HLS ESC there has been great progress and many good practices have been established. This has been achieved through strong city leadership and more importantly, knowledge sharing between cities. The HLS ESC also has promoted cooperation between central governments, international organisations and other HLS stakeholders by enhancing partnerships. In this regard, Japan is very honoured to support HLS ESC and the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme. JCM is also another tool which has been established by Japan for ESC and low carbon development. Japan would like to support such activities into the future.