

## **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:

- Establishment of the **ASEAN Community 2015**
- United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris (**COP21**)
- New global Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**)
  - Goal 11 of the current draft goals has been proposed to specifically target cities and urban development.
- **HABITAT III (2016)**
  - High-level Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia-Pacific (to be held back-to-back with Sixth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF-6) (in May 2015)
- Conclusion of the '**Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**' (2005-2014).

## Common opportunities and challenges of ESC highlighted in the past five HLS seminars:

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;
- Long-range plan and annual Action Plans linked to timeline and implementing resources;
- Enforcement of relevant **laws, environmental standards and other legal instrument**

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:

- **Financing mechanisms** (both domestic and international);
- **‘Peer-to-peer learning’** (city-to-city cooperation and exchange)

## Session Objective:

To discuss **proposed directions for strengthening regional cooperation on ESC** (Particularly under the 18-country EAS EMM framework);

- **Synergise 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.)

## Discussion Points:

- What is the **progress made on regional ESC cooperation and national ESC initiatives?**
- What are the **lessons learnt** and **what are the ideas and opportunities for synergy and further enhancement beyond 2015?**

Thank you