

SUMMARY OF PLENARY SESSIONS 1, 2, 3 & 4

Plenary Session 1 “Way Forward for ASEAN ESC Cooperation, ‘New HLS ESC’ and Related Initiatives towards the 2030 Agenda”

a) List of Speakers

No.	Name	Title	Affiliation
Chairs			
1	Prof. Ryokichi Hirono	Professor Emeritus	Seikei University, Japan
2	Dr. Do Nam Thang	Deputy Director, International Cooperation Division	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Viet Nam
Panelists			
1	Dr. Vann Momyneath	Chairperson	ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC)
2	Mr. Lorenzo Santucci	Economic Affairs Officer	ESCAP
3	Mr. Bruno Dercon	Senior Human Settlements Officer	UN-Habitat
4	Ms. Natalia Derodofa	Senior Officer, Environment Division	ASEAN Secretariat
5	Mr. Nobuhiro Kino	Director, International Cooperation Office	Ministry of the Environment, Japan
6	Mr. Saengroaj Srisawaskraisorn	Climate Change Adaptation Specialist, Regional Environment Office, Regional Development Mission for Asia	United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

b) Summary of Discussion

1. Urbanisation in ASEAN Member States and the rest of East Asia is expected to progress steadily. Donors and international agencies will intensify their support to help cities develop in a more sustainable manner, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UN agencies (ESCAP and UN-Habitat), Japan’s Ministry of the Environment and ASEAN (through the AWGESC) all have respective frameworks, programmes and platforms (including international conferences and events) targeting cities, which are aimed at helping local governments contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. All of these platforms provide common services and opportunities to cities, such as networking, knowledge sharing, recognition of ‘frontrunner’ cities and facilitation of city-to-city cooperation and learning. Achieving greater harmonisation and synergies among these initiatives would be helpful and meaningful. High potential areas of collaboration among stakeholders include providing awards to outstanding cities, development of knowledge products, indicators for tracking progress and scaling up successful pilot projects. Assistance to cities should as far as possible enable actual implementation (not just provide theories and frameworks), as this is a common challenge faced by all cities.
3. Cities continue to demand more opportunities for city-to-city cooperation and learning. They are interested to learn ‘how it is actually done’ from their peers. In this regard, designing ‘deeper’

approaches is recommended, going beyond merely knowledge sharing and lectures at seminars. An example in Japan is Musashino City, where other cities not only visit for a study trip, but are invited to work alongside Musashino City officials for a deeper experience of learning.

Plenary Session 2
**“Deepening East Asia’s Synergies for ESC Regional Cooperation
to Realise the 2030 Agenda”**

a) List of Speakers

No.	Name	Title	Affiliation
Chairs			
1	Dr. Vann Monyneath	Chairperson	AWGESC
2	Prof. Ryokichi Hirono	Professor Emeritus	Seikei University, Japan
Panelists			
1	Dr. Xiaomei Tan	Senior Climate Change Specialist	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
2	Mr. Eric Sidgwick	Vietnam Country Director	Asian Development Bank (ADB)
3	Ms. Claudia Hermes	Programme Director	Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA)
4	Mr. Roland Haas	Programme Director	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
5	Mr. Takahiro Ikenoue	Acting Director, Office for Climate Change, Environmental Management Group, Global Environmental Department	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
6	Mr. Saengroaj Srisawaskraisorn	Climate Change Adaptation Specialist, Regional Environment Office, Regional Development Mission for Asia	USAID
7	Mr. Ken Aoo	ICANS Project Manager (ad hoc), Group Leader/Program Officer, Group for International Grants	Toyota Foundation
8	Mr. Amit Bhatt	Director-Transport, India	World Resources Institute (WRI)

b) Summary of Discussion

1. High level commitments and frameworks need to be operationalised on the ground. This means the SDGs need to be enshrined in national policies/laws, and then implemented with effective multi-stakeholder coordination as concrete projects. International agencies such as the GEF, ADB, CDIA, GIZ, JICA and others have programmes to support cities, especially in terms of policy advice, technical assistance, capacity development, project preparation and financing. Collaboration among agencies still needs to be enhanced.
2. City-to-city cooperation is evolving from ‘shallow’ (e.g. bilateral, ‘sister city’ modality) to ‘deeper’ and more complex forms of collaboration (e.g. multilateral and multi-stakeholder modality). An interesting phenomenon is the growing activity by relatively new actors such as private foundations and emerging stakeholders (e.g. China).

3. Local governments are beginning to realise they cannot effectively achieve local goals by themselves. People need to be involved in implementation and it is important for establishing meaningful partnerships with diverse stakeholders. Cities may learn from each other on common challenges, such as how to meaningfully involve the private sector (beyond the framework of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)), effective coordination of stakeholders (since city projects often involve cross-cutting issues) and smart utilisation of existing networks to achieve their goals.

Summary of Plenary Session 3 “Day 1 Summary”

a) List of Speakers

No.	Name	Title	Affiliation
Chairs			
1	Dr. Nguyen The Chinh	Director General	Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment (ISPONRE), Vietnam
2	Mr. Nobuhiro Kino	Director, International Cooperation Office	Ministry of the Environment, Japan
Panelists: Thematic Session Moderators			
1	Ms. Ying Gao	Habitat Partners Coordinator	UN-Habitat
2	Ms. Milag San Jose-Ballesteros	Regional Director for Southeast Asia and Oceania	C40
3	Mr. Sengdara Douangmyxay	Director, Urban Planning Division	Ministry of Public Works & Transport, Lao PDR
4	Mr. Roland Haas	Programme Director	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

b) Summary of Discussion

1. Thematic Session Moderators presented key messages and recommendations from respective sessions. (Summary Powerpoint slides can be viewed at <http://hls-esc.org> under ‘Programme’ of the seminar)

Plenary Session 4 “The ‘New HLS’ in 2017”

a) List of Speakers

No.	Name	Title	Affiliation
Chairs			
1	Prof. Ryokichi Hirono	Professor Emeritus	Seikei University, Japan
Panelists: Thematic Session Moderators			
1	Dr. Bernadia	Secretary-General	UCLG-ASPAC

	Tjandradewi		
2	Mr. Lorenzo Santucci	Economic Affairs Officer	ESCAP
3	Dr. Tadashi Matsumoto	Senior Policy Analyst	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
4	Dr. Junichi Fujino	Senior Researcher	National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan
5	Mr. Saengroaj Srisawaskraisorn	Climate Change Adaptation Specialist, Regional Environment Office, Regional Development Mission for Asia	USAID

b) Summary of Discussions

1. Thematic Session Moderators presented key messages and recommendations from respective sessions. (Summary Powerpoint slides can be viewed at <http://hls-esc.org> under 'Programme' of the seminar).
2. Local governments may consider more comprehensive forms of urban planning. An example from Japan is moving from 'input' planning (budget, measures invested, etc.) to 'outcome' planning (what has been really achieved), in order to evaluate the success level of implementation.
3. City-to-city cooperation should not be seen as the 'ends', but as a means (tool) for improving sustainability. However, ultimately cities need to take ownership and sustain their own vision and goals for sustainability. Most cities are constrained by limited funds and authority. Capacity to raise funds (especially property taxes, which are still uncommon and unevenly implemented in most developing countries) is a key factor that may help boost funds for local sustainable development activities.
4. Smaller and secondary cities are less equipped to handle the challenges of urbanisation, yet it is harder for them to have opportunities in international cooperation because international agencies are more attracted to work with bigger cities. However, smaller cities may have particular strengths in certain issues and they may lead thematic networks, such as forest (an example from FutureCities network in Japan). Furthermore, decentralisation has not fully progressed in most ASEAN cities, so cities cannot engage freely in international cooperation without going through the national government.
5. Since SDGs is a very broad agenda, the 'new HLS' in 2017 could focus on the environmental aspects of city development. Also, it can be organised to involve more cities and the local non-government stakeholders, whose awareness and the appreciation of the importance of SDGs are still low.