



7th High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities

Redesigning toward the 2030 Agenda

HA NOI, VIET NAM ♦ 3-4 MARCH 2016

A1. Environmental Education in the Wired Age

Summary of Discussions

- Recent **improvements and cost reductions** in IT infrastructure have created a **vast opportunity** for **networking and collaboration** between the citizens (particularly the youth), private and public sectors
- **Barriers such as literacy and access to technology remain**, nevertheless there is **enormous interest in technological solutions** and once initiatives are started, private and public sector support can be achieved.
- The **youth represent a large proportion of the Asian population**. They are easily interested, active and engaged in environmental activities. Through the use of **IT and their energy, effective collaboration** between the youth and government **can be achieved**.
- **Cities can lack both capacity and mandate** to implement environmental education. Nevertheless the **non-government sector can play a leading role** in initiating such activities.
- **IT can help facilitate a change in the relationship** between citizen and government from citizens as **recipients of services** to **citizens as active stakeholders** assisting in the work of the government.
- **City to city cooperation** is an effective way of **disseminating environmental education** through an increased understanding of different approaches.



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Key Challenges & Recommendations to Stakeholders

- Cities are aware of urban challenges they're facing but often lack the capacity and mandate to develop and implement technology based solutions.
 - Bottom-up approaches like CityAPP are excellent examples of stakeholder engagement and crowdsource technical solutions (apps) for urban challenges
 - Government is an important stakeholder; however non-government actors can play a leading role
- Environmental Education is often not a political priority.
 - Raise environmental awareness, show opportunities of green growth, share examples of sustainable projects
- ICT infrastructure can be a prerequisite for e-learning and/or bridging the information gap. However, local areas in developing countries/small cities generally do not have ICT infrastructure.
 - Broadband local loop by using wireless network and additional digital learning material and contents, wherein.



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Key Challenges & Recommendations to Stakeholders continued

- Environmental education is difficult to implement in developing countries where the concept of environmental education is new
 - City to city exchanges can be established to give exposure to different methods of environmental education
- Urban and environmental challenges are more interconnected and complex than ever, requiring a new mode of partnerships. But building sustainable partnerships has its own set of challenges and a key area is how to engage the region's next generation as proactive stakeholders.
 - a) Mainstreaming of youth at the heart of sustainable development in Asia-Pacific, and being people-centered in approach, b) innovative participatory projects or technological tools that trigger new dialogues and transform stakeholder interactions or trigger behavioral change, c) partnership, partnership, and more partnership (including with new types of partners such as startups)