Introduction to Seminar

Opening Session

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How did the HLS begin?

1. HLS seminars and Model Cities in parallel
   - MAR 2011 2nd HLS Welcomed the implementation of the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme (Year 1) (2011/12).
   - MAR 2012 3rd HLS Shared the achievements, analysis of lessons learnt of Model Cities Year 1 and preparation for Year 2 activities.
   - MAR 2013 4th HLS Welcomed the implementation of the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme (Year 2) (2014/15).
   - FEB 2014 5th HLS Shared the achievements of ASEAN ESC Model Cities Year 2 and future directions.
   - FEB 2015 6th HLS Agreed to re-design of HLS (‘new HLS’), in line with the 2030 Agenda and other global trends (including the SDGs). Launched ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme Year 3 (2016/17)
   - MAR 2016 7th HLS FEB 2017 8th HLS Discuss how to bridge policy and implementation on the ground and how to localise the SDGs effectively?

2. How to bridge policy and implementation
   1. Must link policy, training and implementation of projects on the ground.
   2. Continue to support the implementation of the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme and the High-level Seminar on Sustainable Cities.
   3. Scale up the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme to Year 4, with clear link to SDGs and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2016 – 2025.
   4. In addition, more creative mutual learning/capacity development opportunities should be continued (combination of ‘classroom’ and ‘site visits’).

What can we do more?

1. Cities want to learn from each other. How can we better facilitate it?
2. Cities want to learn how to effectively engage multiple stakeholders (including the private sector, youths, academia, civil society etc.), including for environmental education and city branding. How can we help them?
3. How can (1) and (2) be streamlined with the global agenda, including the SDGs?