Knowledge Platforms for Cities & City-to-City Cooperation

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Aim & Structure of today’s session

Aim:
- Explore cities greater role in global development
- Importance of city-to-city cooperation increased
- Online platforms important role in linking cities & other stakeholders

Structure:
Presentations:
- Introduction, Natalja Wehmer, UNESCAP
- Urban SDG Knowledge Platform, Felix Kalkowsky, CityNet
- Toolbox for Localizing the SDGs, Arief Mulya Ramadhian, UCLG-ASPAC
- The Cities Clean Air Partnership – online knowledge-sharing experiences, Katharine, CCA
- Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN), Augustine Kwan, IGES
- City perspective, Jarupong Pengglieng, Bangkok Metropolitan Authority

Discussion
Survey on knowledge platforms and session

Cities & the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- Cities are central to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Dedicated goal on cities: Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient & sustainable
- Implementation of all goals depends on local action
- 65% of targets relevant to cities (UCLG)

Habitat III: Cities take center stage

- Renewing political attention on & commitment to way cities planned & managed
- New Urban Agenda (NUA) complementary to 2030 Agenda, & other global mandates – e.g. Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, & Paris Agreement
- NUA provides tremendous opportunity to advance agenda of cities in the region but also to drive implementation of other landmark global commitments at the local level

Key role of cities recognized at regional fora

- The key role that cities play in the pursuit of sustainable development was recognized at key regional fora organized by ESCAP, including:
  - Oct 2015: Sixth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF-6) in partnership with Government of Indonesia back-to-back with Habitat III Regional Meeting for Asia-Pacific – adopted the ‘APUF-6 Jakarta Call for Action’
  - Apr 2016: Third Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)

Importance of knowledge sharing

- Cities concentrate development challenges, but they are also best placed to develop solutions
- Collaborative efforts & city-to-city cooperation can go a long way in enabling cities to develop & adopt innovative solutions to shared challenges
- As cities seek to find solutions to persistent & emerging issues of sustainable development, important to highlight & share such initiatives among cities - to facilitate knowledge sharing & cooperation
- Cities’ best practices can be basis for crafting national policies to address specific issues: imperative to learn from such best practices & to up-scale & replicate them
Background research

- To inform development of the platform, a user needs survey was conducted to assess the needs of the main target users – local government representatives.
- A benchmark review of other existing platforms was also undertaken by ESCAP to inform development of this platform and its content.
- Many forms of offline city-to-city knowledge sharing already exist (UCLG, CityNet, ICLEI, CLGF, among others) & there are many online platforms.
- But, there is a gap for an online platform that focuses on sharing the knowledge acquired by local governments related to planning, financing, implementing, monitoring & evaluating progress against SDG targets.

Existing platforms: explicitly SDG related

Localizing the SDGs

- Recently launched by UNDP, UN Habitat & UCLG.
- Provides guidance & resources for localizing SDGs.
- Arief introduce it in today’s panel.

Partnerships for the SDGs

- SDSN Knowledge Platform
- Good SDG resources
- Users can upload any initiative related to SDGs

World Urban Campaign

- UN Habitat + 136 partners
- Advocacy & partnership platform to raise awareness about positive change in cities
- Focus on New Urban Agenda

Existing platforms: User-generated content sites

PreventionWeb

- Participatory web platform for DRR community
- Provides news, views, tools for exchange & collaboration
- Includes resources on
  - Sendai Framework
  - Events
  - Publications
  - Op-eds/ articles

ACCCRN

- Asian network on urban climate change resilience
- Well-established community online & has some user-generated content such as op-eds, articles, good practices
- Members gain
  - Knowledge on inclusive UCCR
  - Resources – access to funds, people, networks
  - Advocacy
Existing platforms on Sustainable development

Global Platform on Sustainable Cities
https://collaboration.worldbank.org/groups/global-platforms-for-sustainable-cities
- Partnership of GEF & World Bank
- Recent
- Information & resources linked to offline knowledge sharing

Existing platforms on the market: Sustainable development sites

The Cities Clean Air Partnership (CCAP) http://cleanairasia.org/ccap/
- Core of CAAP development of certification scheme
- Online platform supports offline work & partnerships
- Contains tools, resources & case studies - for members only

Other existing platforms:

Seoul Solutions - https://seoulsolution.kr/en/content/seoul-solution
100 Resilient Cities - http://www.100resilientcities.org/
Global Platform to End Violence Against Women - http://evaw.unwomen.org/en
IISD - SDG Knowledge Sharing - http://sdg.iisd.org/
Green Growth Knowledge Platform http://www.greengrowthknowledge.org/

Associated events

- Work around the Platform will be linked to other events related to the SDGs, including key regional fora organized by ESCAP such as:
  - The Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF)
  - The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) to be held 29 – 31 March 2017 in Bangkok
  - The International Forum on Urban Policy for the SDGs hosted by Seoul and organized together with SMG and CityNet
- The Platform will also help partners:
  - Identify cities that are leading in SDG implementation
  - Identifying speakers for events & facilitating potential side events of forums and events such as APFSD & APUF
  - Inform future research and publications
- The platform will also facilitate the regional follow-up & review of progress in implementing SDGs

Thank you
http://www.unescap.org/our-work/environment-development/urban-development