



**8TH EAST ASIA SUMMIT HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR
ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES**
8-9 FEBRUARY 2017 • CHIANG RAI, THAILAND

SUMMARY OF PLENARY SESSIONS 1, 2, 3 & 4

PLENARY SESSION 1

“LOCALISING THE SDGS IN ASIAN CITIES: CONNECTING POLICY WITH IMPLEMENTATION”

List of Speakers

No.	Name	Title	Affiliation
Chair			
1	Dr. Vann Monyneath	AWGESC Chairperson and Deputy Secretary General of the General Secretariat of National Council for Sustainable Development of Cambodia	Ministry of Environment, Cambodia
Panellists			
2	Mr. Andi Kusumah	Deputy Director for Solid Waste Management Performance Evaluation	Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia
3	Atty. Zuleika T. Lopez	City Administrator	City of Davao, Philippines
4	Mr. Toshiyuki Yamazoe	Senior Advisor, International Business Relations	City of Toyama, Japan
5	Mr. Thit Sinn	Committee Member	Mandalay City Development Committee, Myanmar
Commentators			
6	Mr. Sengdara Douangmyxay	Division Head, Department of Housing and Urban Planning	Ministry of Public Works and Transport
7	Dato’Dr. Dolbani Mijan	Director General, Federal Department of Town and Country Planning	Ministry of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government

Summary of Discussion

1. As national governments begin the process of integrating the SDGs into long-term national plans and policies, the default stance of the sub-national level governments (e.g. cities) is to await instructions from the ‘top’. However, highly-motivated cities may consider the SDGs as a comprehensive roadmap for steering local development in a balanced manner. Aligning city development with the SDGs helps leaders to pay equal attention to the multi-dimensional issues of sustainability and establish the link between environment, health and the economy in a cross-cutting manner. In addition, as the SDGs is a globally recognised agenda, cities who can clearly articulate their commitment to the SDGs may elevate its international profile and hence, indirectly attract greater investments, assistance and opportunities, as seen in the case of Toyama City, Japan.

2. In the case of Indonesia, the Ministry of Environment actively supports a step-wise approach to achieve 'sustainable cities' through its renewed national 'Adipura' Sustainable Cities programme. It recommends cities to begin with a focus on the two basic issues of solid waste management and public greening. Once cities have improved their capacity in these two areas, they may advance to issues such as health, air quality, water quality and biodiversity, and subsequently to climate change and infrastructure. The City of Davao, Philippines showed that it has mapped its local initiatives and outcomes to all 17 SDGs and to develop local quantitative indicators. In developing countries, it is very important for leaders to be able to re-frame the benefits of pursuing the SDGs in a way that is understood and appreciated by the local people.

3. In developing Asia, the city development planning and implementation process is still limited in terms of public participation and inclusiveness. Since the SDGs are very broad and ambitious in scope, the public sector alone cannot accomplish it effectively. Every stakeholder may add value by bringing unique perspectives, resources and ideas to the table. Two stakeholders in particular – community-based NGOs and international organisations – may play 'catalyst' roles by linking previously unconnected entities, such between the government and civil society. Local governments who are serious about sustainable development may actively organise networking platforms (both formally and informally) to encourage interactions of multi-stakeholder that otherwise would not occur under normal circumstances.

PLENARY SESSION 2

"PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND THE SDGS: GOING BEYOND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)"

List of Speakers

No.	Name	Title	Affiliation
Chair			
1	Dr. Preeyaporn Prompitak	Director and Environmental Expert, Department of Environmental Quality Promotion	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand
Panellists			
2	Mrs. Kamariah Ibrahim	Director, Research and Development Division, Federal Department of Town and Country Planning	Ministry of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government
3	Mr. Numpol Nimprasert	Representative	The Siam Cement Group Limited
Commentators			
4	Hon. Darel Dexter T. Uy	Mayor	City of Dipolog, Philippines
5	Dr. Do Nam Thang	Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation and Operational Focal Point of Global Environmental Facility Viet Nam	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam

Summary of Discussion

1. CSR in its most basic form is a 'soft', charity-based approach for the private sector – particularly the larger companies – to 'give back to society' by re-distributing profits and contributing staff time to the less fortunate. In Malaysia, the government has required publicly-listed companies to disclose CSR activities and there are also several CSR awards programmes. In Thailand, the SCG has adopted a more advanced model for CSR, which goes beyond general support and short-term engagement with stakeholders. SCG's model is concerned with the three pillars of sustainability (society, economy and environment), and also covers the full chain of company operations. CSR is applied from suppliers (upstream) to communities around its factories (downstream), and to improve long-term issues such as education and water conservation.

2. New forms of private-public partnership (PPP) going 'beyond CSR' are emerging in innovative business models which allow co-creation, co-delivery and co-management of public good, services and assets by diverse stakeholders, such as social entrepreneurship and cooperatives. These do not necessarily involve arrangements between private companies and the government – a 'traditional' PPP model. Governments may consider what kinds of public services/agendas would be better served through these new PPP models and then actively develop relevant policies, legal frameworks and incentives to encourage the spread of these new models.

PLENARY SESSION 3

"NEW INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE THE SDGS AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"

List of Speakers

No.	Name	Title	Affiliation
Chair			
1	Mr. Phudiphong Suraphruk	Deputy Secretary General, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy Planning (ONEP)	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Panellists			
2	Mr. Ryuzo Sugimoto	Principal Deputy Director, International Strategy Division, Global Environmental Affairs Bureau	Ministry of the Environment, Japan
3	Mr. Eri Honda	Principal Urban Development Specialist, Urban Development and Water Division, Southeast Asia Department	Asian Development Bank (ADB)
4	Ms. Julia Nagel	Advisor, Transport and Climate Change Project	GIZ
5	Mr. Tetsuji Goto	Senior Advisor, Infrastructure and Peacebuilding Department	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
6	Dr. Tadashi Matsumoto	Senior Policy Analyst, Sustainable Urban Development	Organisation for Economic Development Cooperation

			(OECD)
7	Ms. Mariko Sato	Bangkok Chief	UN-Habitat
8	Dato' Dr. Dolbani Mijan	Director General, Federal Department of Town and Country Planning	Ministry of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government

Summary of Discussion

1. International supporting organisations (including UN agencies, development banks and aid agencies) are in the process of reflecting the SDGs (especially SDG-11) and key pieces of global frameworks into existing and upcoming initiatives targeting cities.
2. A good number of regional initiatives are related to online knowledge platforms for collecting and disseminating good practices/policies at the city level. Supporting organisations also foresee more activities to promote regional multi-stakeholder networking and to encourage voluntary commitments by cities, especially on mitigating and adapting climate change (e.g. low-carbon city and climate-resilient cities).
3. Developing ASEAN and East Asian cities will still require significant assistance and investments to move towards a path of 'green growth'. They need to develop infrastructure and scale up basic urban services, while also taking care to safeguard the environment from pollution. They will also develop project proposals and learn from each other.

PLENARY SESSION 4

"RECAP OF HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR KEY MESSAGES AND OUTCOMES"

List of Speakers

No.	Name	Title	Affiliation
Chairs			
1	Mr. Robert Steele	Lead Facilitator	IGES / Sustainability Asia
Panelists			
2	Dr. Tadashi Matsumoto	Senior Policy Analyst, Sustainable Urban Development	OECD
3	Ms. Milag San Jose-Ballesteros	Regional Director for Asia-East, Southeast and Oceania	C40
4	Dr. Harin Sachdej	Professor	Mahidol University, Thailand

Summary of Discussions

1. There are three important factors for localising the SDGs. Cities are already working on significant plans and actions to address sustainability challenges, even before the adoption of the SDGs and the latest global agenda. Therefore, it is a matter of policymakers being able to articulate the global frameworks in a manner that is convincing and understandable to the local people, who are more concerned with local issues and daily experiences. National governments in particular may assume leadership on this task. Second, there is much room to innovate and experiment with different approaches – motivated cities do not have to wait for permission or instructions from

- anyone, including for gathering data to support policymaking and decision making. Third, promoting collaboration among diverse stakeholders is important – if not imperative – for success.
2. Cities need to pay attention to both the 'soft' (human capacity, institutional mechanisms and organisational culture etc.) and 'hard' dimensions (infrastructure, technologies of SDGs. Inclusive planning processes will enable cities to accommodate the unique perspectives of different stakeholders, so that any solutions arrived at will be as holistic and technically sound as possible, More needs to be done to help cities explore 'alternative' funding sources to finance their initiatives.
 3. In developing countries, environmental improvement projects (such as 3R's) will be much more appealing to local people if they are presented with emotional appeal and also clearly linked to the basic needs for human security, such as food safety, health, jobs and self-sufficiency. Advanced technologies from developed countries often need to be adapted to suit the contexts in developing countries. Every country and city need tailor public participation and implementation to suit their unique local economy, culture, governance systems and stakeholder dynamics. In reality, different stakeholders do not have shared objectives; hence, a 'win-win' mindset is critical for integrating the agenda of all levels and all groups.