

Profile

SESSION 3:

From Vision to Reality:
Aligning the Global
Agenda with Local
Benefits

WORKSHOP 2:

Future of Coastal Cities

Workshop Presentation: Sustainable Coastal Cities: Green, Resilience and Competitiveness Agenda

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Introduction

Cities are the country's socio-economic growth and development centers, where there is growing population and increasing demand for buildings, infrastructure, transportation, basic necessities and other services. Compared to other areas, people in the cities enjoy higher income and better comforts, albeit at a higher cost of living. With rapid urbanization comes string of issues that cities grapple with such as traffic congestion, pollution, wastes, informal settlers, housing, unemployment and environmental degradation.

Coastal cities are in a graver situation with the constant threat of tidal flooding, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, disasters and extreme weather events brought about by climate change. They are also home to the poor people who, because of poverty, were forced to live dangerously along the coastal areas. The IPCC report recognizes that coastal areas are most vulnerable to climate change.

Objective

This paper aims to present a business case for mainstreaming a green, resilience and competitiveness agenda in the sustainable coastal cities framework. It will also explore some of the best practices and distill the critical elements to promote sustainable coastal cities.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Every city has the capacity to adapt, and through a strong political will and concerted efforts of all stakeholders, can move towards a sustainable coastal city that is green, resilient and competitive. Greening requires the adoption of measures that will enhance environmental quality, promote energy, water and materials efficiency, effectively manage wastes and pollution, as well as contribute to GHG emission reduction. Strengthening resilience should be a priority of every city, which should put in place disaster reduction and management plan, an appropriate response mechanism, and adaptation strategies such as food, energy and water security measures and coastal defenses. Competitiveness will require the city to enhance its investment climate and provide support infrastructure, leverage technology and innovations, and contribute to global production.

A sustainable coastal city will attract population and businesses that essential to grow the economy, increase local revenue, generate jobs and in general, offer a better quality of life for the people.



THE EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS 2015
16-21 November 2015 • Danang, Vietnam

Global Targets

Local Benefits

Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for
the Seas of East Asia beyond 2015