



THE EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS 2015

Global Targets

Local Benefits

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

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

Workshop 2 Conclusions and Recommendations: Future of Coastal Cities

Prepared by the following Chairs/Co-Chairs and Facilitator based on workshop presentations, panel discussions and interactions among participants:

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Workshop Highlights:

1. Presentations from cities and local governments in the region demonstrated visions, strategies and action programmes towards sustainable development and combating climate change and emphasized the importance of local actions.
2. Global networks of cities and local governments in promoting sustainable development showcased the roles and effectiveness of concerted efforts of local alliances through various initiatives being implemented at city level around the globe with significant success.
3. Different assessment tools and indicators for a sustainable city are being developed and implemented to contribute to the decisionmaking process of local governments.
4. The application of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) and Integrated Urban Coastal Management (IUCM) as a management framework and platform for action has yielded progress, achievements and good practices in sustainable development and climate change mitigation and adaptation among local governments/cities in the region.
5. The benefits and opportunities for strengthening PNLG initiatives in sustainable development and climate change adaptation through linkages with other international networks of local governments and their programmes were explored.

6. The role of networks in coordinating and collaborating among cities in addressing the sustainable and resilient city agenda was examined.

Workshop Conclusions:

7. The countries of the East Asian Seas region are experiencing rapid urbanization and population growth in coastal areas and commonly facing serious challenges to sustainable development and environmental management in growing cities.
8. Notable challenges include providing clean environment and affordable housing, securing safe drinking water, building effective sewerage systems, reducing carbon and energy footprints and providing convenient and affordable public transportation.
9. The cities and local governments of the region have shown some success and directed their visions and policies toward sustainable development at local level using integrated management frameworks such as ICM and IUCM.
10. Global and regional initiatives for sustainable cities, including those of ICLEI, C40, UCLC, ASEAN and The World Bank, demonstrated various tools and resources available for assisting cities and local governments move towards sustainable development. These initiatives have also demonstrated that forging alliances of cities and local governments are effective.
11. Clear and time-bound targets and commitments adopted by the members of city and local government networks are useful benchmarks and indicators of progress, which can be used to monitor and compare meaningful results at local level, from country to country, region to region, and globally.
12. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are good reference targets for cities and local governments to pursue. In particular, Goal 11 Sustainable Cities and Goal 14 Oceans provide good examples to follow.
13. Various solutions for sustainable development at local level are available but application of the success stories should be locally tailored to accommodate the localities.
14. Measuring sustainability at city level requires reliable assessment tools. Examples include Singapore's Index on Biodiversity, PEMSEA's State of the Coasts (SOC) report, and ICLEI's Sustainable City Index, or similar instruments.

Workshop Recommendations:

15. A platform for sharing experiences from success stories and lessons learned from network members should be established within the existing network of local governments such as the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG). The experiences of ICLEI, UCLG and other city networks can be shared through such a platform.

16. SDG targets, in particular, Goal 11 and Goal 14 targets are good references that can be used to set sustainable development targets for cities and local governments. Targets should be clear. , Measurable indicators of progress and impact should be agreed upon and adopted among PNLG members, which align with the SDGs, and serve as a means to measure the performance of local governments (e.g., Singapore’s Index on Biodiversity; PEMSEA’s State of the Coasts reporting system).
17. Global networks of cities and local governments need to enhance collaboration and coordination. In particular, PNLG should consider signing the “Compact of Mayors”, which is a commitment to climate change actions at the city level.
18. PNLG should scale up efforts for citizen engagement in sustainable development issues, such as climate change and blue economy development. Social media is a powerful tool that the PNLG can and should be using to facilitate public support for the adoption and implementation of innovative policies and investments in support of sustainable and healthy and resilient cities.
19. ICM, as a proven ecosystem-based management system to addressing complex coastal development challenges, should be further replicated and scaled up across the EAS region, facilitated by incentive mechanisms such as ICM certification. National governments, international organizations, the GEF, donors/development agencies, and the business sector are urged to invest in the replication and scaling up process within their respective capacities and means.