



# Global Targets Local Benefits

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

**16-21 November 2015**

## Session 3

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

## Workshop 2

### Future of Coastal Cities

CO-CONVENING AGENCY:



**Co-Chairs:** **Mr. Prak Sihara**  
President  
PNLG  
**Dr. Karenne Tun**  
Deputy Director  
National Biodiversity Centre,  
National Parks Board, Singapore



Hosted by the Government of Viet Nam  
Organized by PEMSEA, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Viet Nam Administration of  
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The East Asian Seas Congress 2015  
Global Targets, Local Benefits: Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for the  
Seas of East Asia Beyond 2015  
16-21 November 2015, Da Nang, Viet Nam

**Session 3: From Vision to Reality: Aligning the Global Agenda with Local Benefits**

**Workshop 3.2: Future of Coastal Cities**

19 November 2015

**Co-convening Agencies:**

National Parks Board, Singapore  
Ansan City, RO Korea  
PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG)

**Session Chair:**

Dr. Zhang Zhanhai  
State Oceanic Administration  
PR China

**Workshop Co-Chairs:**

Mr. Prak Sihara  
President, PNLG

Dr. Karenne Tun

Deputy Director, National Biodiversity Centre, National Parks Board, Singapore

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The 5th East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress, co-organized by the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands (VASI), and the City Government of Da Nang, was held during 16 to 21 November 2015 at the Furama Resort in Da Nang, Viet Nam. Carrying the theme “Global Targets, Local Benefits: Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for the Seas of East Asia beyond 2015,” the EAS Congress 2015 delved on the issues and challenges of coastal and ocean governance in progressing the sustainable development agenda in the East Asian Seas region as well as the progress and achievements in the region.

- 1.2 The EAS Congress 2015 featured the International Conference on Sustainable Ocean and Coastal Development, the Fifth Ministerial Forum, the Fourth EAS Youth Forum, the Senior Government Officials' Meeting, the Special EAS Partnership Council Meeting, the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG) Annual Forum, an Environmental Exhibition and many other special events.
- 1.3 The International Conference of the EAS Congress 2015 was comprised of three major sessions, namely: (1) A Decade of Partnerships in Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia: Synergies and Achievements; (2) Accelerating Actions for Sustainable Development and Climate Change; and (3) From Vision to Reality: Aligning the Global Agenda with Local Benefits.
- 1.4 The Workshop on Future of Coastal Cities was included in Session 3. The workshop aimed to: (a) highlight the need for, and critical role to be played by cities and local governments in the region to lead the way in sustainable development including combating climate change; (b) increase awareness on the progress, achievements and good practices in sustainable development and climate change mitigation and adaptation among cities and local governments in the region using ICM as the management framework for action; and (c) explore the solutions and opportunities for sustainable development at the region's local settings by strengthening PNLG initiatives in sustainable development and climate change through linkages with other international networks of cities and local governments and their programs.

## **2. SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION AND KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

- 2.1 The workshop co-chairs, Mr. Prak Sihara, and Dr. Karenne Tun, provided a brief introduction to the workshop. Mr. Sihara welcomed the participants to the workshop which was organized as a part of PNLG technical workshops and encouraged active participation and discussion. In her introduction, Dr. Tun underscored that urbanization becomes an unstoppable trend especially at coastal cities as the coastal cities provide immense opportunities to migrants who are looking for better jobs and higher living standards. She mentioned that growing cities must seek solutions to balance the growth and maintaining quality lives of the citizens through sustainable environmental management. It was stressed that through the sharing of good examples and solutions, the primary objective of the workshop is to seek ways to further improving the sustainability of the growing coastal cities.
- 2.2 As the keynote speaker, Dr. Jong-Geel Je, Mayor of Ansan City, RO Korea, shared the local initiatives in his city towards building a sustainable city in response to the impacts from various issues caused by rapid industrialization and urbanization. He introduced that urbanization is a global trend, which is adversely affecting the sustainability of cities due to influx of people beyond current carrying capacities. It was noted that coastal cities are at the center of population migration and economic growth. For this reason, various efforts to foster sustainable development at the city level have been initiated around the world such as ICLEI, C40 Cities, UCLG, ASEAN, PNLG and others. In particular, the Goal 11 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were adopted in September 2015, is considered as a milestone achievement in moving the issue of urbanization forward for the sustainable development of cities and communities.

- 2.3 Responding to the challenges of growing urban cities, Dr. Je elaborated the efforts of Ansan City. As Ansan City was developed as an industrial complex along the Shihwa Lake, deterioration of water quality due to pollution from its industries during the 1990s and sharp drop of marine fisheries products due to coastal habitat destruction by the dike construction spurred the local community to undertake efforts to transform Ansan City through coastal conservation and management. Fueled by Ansan City's Sustainable City Development Plan, the environmental conditions of the Sihwa Lake have now been significantly improved through the rehabilitation of the ecosystem and designating the Lake as a special management sea area. The Mayor launched a bold and ambitious plan this year to develop the Daebu Island as a center of eco-tourism and carbon zero town. The Daebu Island was also designated as an ICM site of PEMSEA. Dr. Je stressed the importance of policy and programmes backed by a strong leadership in moving the sustainable development agenda forward at the local level. He hoped that creating economic value through improving ecosystem services will enable Ansan City to realize its vision to become a sustainable city in the near future.
- 2.4 Mr. Kouji Matsuzaki, Mayor of Obama City, Japan, discussed the sustainable development initiatives that integrate the city's rich historical and cultural heritage in food production with coastal development. These activities have addressed the environmental degradation of Obama Bay, which has served as the core engine of the local seafood processing sector. He informed the workshop that the integrated coastal management (ICM) process started with an Ocean Health Check during 2012-2013. The resulting Study Group on ICM reported back their findings that served as the basis of Obama City's Coastal City Development Plan, which emphasizes involvement of the Coastal City Development Council and the Future Conference for Coastal City Development, representing the younger generation, to establish ownership in efforts to revitalize the sea. As an initial step, the Future Conference has conducted visits to fishing villages and an investigation of the biodiversity in shallow sea areas as part of the ICM plan. The mayor hoped that the City will create a new chapter of seafood culture of the City, adding to its deep historic food culture through the implementation of an ICM programme in the City.
- 2.5 Ms. Pei Rong Cheo, National Biodiversity Centre, National Parks Board, Singapore, provided an overview of the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity (Singapore Index). She highlighted that Singapore, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity, led the development of a self-assessment tool that helps cities evaluate and monitor their biodiversity conservation efforts in an urban context. It was noted that establishing a baseline and continued measurements for biodiversity is crucial for the effective management of ecological resources. She then outlined the different components and indicators of the Singapore Index. She also shared examples of the implementation and results of the 25 city governments which have applied the Singapore Index, as well as the application of the Index by academics to a further 14 cities. She emphasized the collection of data and information for the Singapore Index contributes not only to the evaluation of biodiversity conservation efforts but also to sharing of good practices and provides a basis for decisionmaking on the conservation and management of urban biodiversity. A Users' Manual on the Singapore Index is available online (<https://www.nparks.gov.sg/~media/nparks-real-content/biodiversity/singapore-index/users-manual-on-the-singapore-index-on-cities-biodiversity.pdf?la=en>).

## **Open Discussion**

- 2.6 A panel discussion with three keynote presenters was held. Atty. Maria Teresita Lacerna, The World Bank Philippines, asked about the scoring methodology of the Singapore index, particularly if cities are ranked against each other and if submissions are validated. Ms. Cheo explained that the Singapore Index is a self-assessment tool that cities use to measure and track their progress over time, as ranking between cities is difficult because of their differing contexts. She emphasized that establishing a baseline is essential because cities will be measuring their progress on the indicators over time against their own individual baselines. There currently is no validation process, but she accepted the suggestion for future consideration.
- 2.7 Mr. Emani Kumar, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), asked the two mayors on the panel how they are addressing areas like employment generation, sustainable development goals and food security. Dr. Je replied that the main goal of SDGs is happiness and wellbeing, which would include providing employment, for which Ansan City has been implementing job creation programs. He added that ICM and developing ecological services can address the challenges of reconciling resource conservation and job creation. Mr. Matsuzaki said that food is the basic element of health and human being. In Obama City, it is very important to consolidate and preserve the food production industry in a sustainable way that maintains environmental quality. Another participant asked how the cities manage issues related to population growth. Mr. Matsuzaki said that the city is implementing plans to keep its population growing. Dr. Je shared that Ansan City will implement a plan for developing coastal zones focusing on the ecological services that will bring in more value to the residents and accommodate more residents in a sustainable way.
- 2.8 A participant working in the local government in the Philippines inquired about how to sustain the long-term ICM vision faced with challenges such as raising funding and changing government officials. Mr. Mitsuzaki said that the ICM council in his city, comprised of representatives from government and civil society, aligns ICM initiatives with local development plans as well as to support various government agencies to avoid duplication of work and secure support. Dr. Je explained that ICM activities in his city are funded by the central and local government as well as the private sector. Dr. Je stressed that to ensure the continuity of ICM implementation despite changes in elected government officials, there should be a clear vision, effective policy and demonstrated results of ICM. The legacy of good leadership and experiencing the benefits of ICM will drive citizens to convince their local leaders to maintain the ICM approach.

## **Panel Discussion**

- 2.9 A panel discussion on the critical issues and challenges to the future of cities in coastal areas of the region and the good practices that can be applied to address them was held.
- 2.10 Mr. Zhou Lumin, Ocean and Fishery Bureau, Xiamen, PR China, discussed that coastal cities face three major issues and challenges, namely: (1) ocean related disasters; (2) the degradation of marine environment as a consequence of economic development; and (iii) exploitation of coastal resources. He stressed that ICM is a useful tool for cities to achieve sustainable development as

ICM involves the government and civil society in providing an integrated and coordinated system established to improve coordination and resolve marine use conflicts among industries and government agencies. Local governments of coastal cities need to implement ICM to improve governance and management of their coastal and ocean resources.

- 2.11 Mr. Emani Kumar, ICLEI South Asia Secretariat, mentioned that governance is a major concern for local governments. The role of city government networks like ICLEI is to encourage succeeding local leaders to continue programs like ICM, even if it was started by previous administrations. He identified areas of collaboration between ICLEI and local governments in the region such as the Local Action for Biodiversity and addressing the impacts of climate change.
- 2.12 Mr. Rex F. Montebon, Conservation International Philippines, explained that initiatives lodged in the lower offices of the municipality, with more permanent non-elected officials, experience more stability. In response to the challenge of ocean-related disaster, he shared his organization's activities that combine green and grey architecture to address the damage of Typhoon Haiyan through mangrove planting reinforced by concrete. He stressed that addressing poverty, poor land use and degraded coastlines can alleviate the impact of catastrophes.
- 2.13 Mr. Sihara shared his experience gained through the implementation of ICM since 2001 at Sihanoukville, Cambodia, that both the central and local level governments' roles to sustain the implementation of the ICM programme are equally important. He added that thanks to the collaborative efforts of both, much has been achieved towards the sustainable development framework that has already contributed to the community's improved quality of life and increased income.
- 2.14 When asked how cities can address these shared problems in an integrated manner, the panelists stressed the importance of collaboration. Mr. Kumar explained that networks of cities need to work together to find appropriate solutions. He underscored the significance of prioritizing action plans and then linking it to funding. The goal would be to take these plans forward to the implementation phase and make it self-sustainable. He illustrated an example of a project that replaced street lights with LED bulbs to reduce carbon emissions. If networks of local government commit to such projects, they can collectively meet regional or even global targets. Private companies can be involved by offering LED lights at a good price.
- 2.15 Mr. Montebon shared that his organization is in the process of setting up MPA networks as a way forward to formalize alliances. He expressed that setting up of networks for collaboration would be easier if there is mutual understanding among local governments. He emphasized that government agencies need the support of the academe as a trusted catalyst for change and source of technical support.
- 2.16 The panelists shared their insights on how networks like the PNLG can contribute to addressing these critical issues to coastal cities. Mr. Zhuo said that the PNLG has been very helpful, particularly in enhancing the capacity of local government, facilitating linkages to share experiences and promoting linkages to international organizations for financial and technical support.

- 2.17 Amb. Mary Seet-Cheng, Chair of East Asian Seas Partnership Council, expressed her appreciation of the value of PNLG for promoting collaboration at the local level. She emphasized the importance of citizen empowerment and participation in ensuring that the community accepts the sustainable development vision. Social media is a powerful tool that citizens can use to create a buzz, get involved and ensure the continuity of local initiatives. Dr. Tun agreed with her and shared that public engagement is an important element in Singapore's sustainable development activities.
- 2.18 Echoing the importance of citizen involvement, Mr. Kumar shared the 100 Smart Cities program that facilitates citizen engagement and prioritization. Citizens are invited to select the projects to fund through social media and crowdsourcing. He recommended that the PNLG links with other local government efforts like Compact of Mayors and C40.
- 2.19 Mr. Victorino Aquitania, ICLEI, stressed that engaging the youth and women is important in citizen engagement. He said that the engagement is not an immediate process, as extensive explanation is needed before citizens can understand and act. Dr. Tun shared that people tend to be initially suspicious with public engagement efforts and getting their buy-in is an extensive process.

### **3. SESSION 2. GOOD PRACTICES OF CITY/LOCAL GOVERNMENT/NETWORK**

- 3.1 Session 2 focused on the good practices of cities, local government and local government networks in the implementation of global commitments on sustainable development across the region.

#### **City and Local Government Presentations**

- 3.2 Dr. Nhung Nguyen, National Biodiversity Centre, National Parks Board, Singapore shared the lessons from the implementation of Integrated Urban Coastal Management (IUCM) in Singapore and how it is used to achieved sustainable development. She presented how the coastline of Singapore has developed and transformed from a mudflat into a metropolis. Singapore has pockets of coastal and marine habitats with rich biodiversity remaining where various industries are sharing with different and occasionally conflicting uses. ICM was adapted and applied to Singapore's unique context as a heavily urbanized coastal city with multiple conflicting high-value land use and multisectoral jurisdictions. IUCM provides a framework that can enable coordination between the multiple stakeholders, ensure the conservation of sensitive biodiversity and optimize the use of coastal resources in a sustainable manner. Initiatives related to IUCM include developing action plans and strategies, establishing institutional arrangements to enable a holistic government approach, enabling active partnership with different sectors of civil society, and promoting science-based decisionmaking through research projects, data integration and information sharing. The highlight of IUCM implementation is the establishment of Singapore's only marine park, the Sisters' Island Marine Park in 2014. Dr. Nhung stressed that Singapore will strive to ensure the City's sustainable biodiversity management through continuing implementation of IUCM activities.

- 3.3 Mr. Takashi Oshima, Climate Change Policy Headquarters, Yokohama City, Japan, introduced the major achievements of the Yokohama Blue Carbon (YBC) Project. He recounted that while Yokohama has overcome past challenges that include natural and war-time disasters, it is now striving to become a sustainable Future City and a low carbon Eco-Model City. Blue Carbon is defined as carbon captured by ocean and coastal ecosystems. While there is increasing international visibility of blue carbon, scientific knowledge of carbon dioxide capture by Blue Carbon is still lacking. The YBC framework integrates blue carbon, utilization of marine biomass and energy and promotion of a sea-friendly society. The YBC Project is driven by the principles of applying local rules, promoting participation of citizens and co-benefit assessment. Based on these concepts, social experiments were conducted in 2014 and 2015. In 2014, initiatives promoting CO<sub>2</sub> reduction through carbon-offset activities like an organized triathlon games was implemented in 2014. In 2015, the focus of the activities was scientifically based CO<sub>2</sub> fixation through rehabilitating seagrass. He then detailed the methodology and results of the seagrass survey conducted primarily through the participation of the community. Challenges to the YBC Project include enhancing accuracy of quantity of CO<sub>2</sub> fixation by Blue Carbon and engaging more citizens and companies to join YBC Project. Citizen involvement to support CO<sub>2</sub> targets is long drawn and complicated, but it facilitates a sense of ownership and ensures the sustainability of initiatives. Mr. Oshima envisioned that through the YBC Project, coastal ecosystem health and awareness on carbon reduction among the citizens will be enhanced while efforts in assessing the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction using blue carbon methods will be continuously explored.
- 3.4 Mr. Nguyen Dieu, Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DONRE), Da Nang City, Viet Nam, shared Da Nang's progress in becoming an environmental city. The achievements of the city include steady economic growth, improving infrastructure and transportation system, and near universal access to electricity, health, and education. The city faces challenges that include high population growth, pollution, resource depletion, biodiversity decline, disaster risk and impact of climate change. The implementation of the project to transform Da Nang into an environmental city aims to solve inundations and waste collection and processing. Activities of the project include cleaner fuel, hourly garbage collection and investment in waste recycling plants, and awareness campaigns. The project has resulted in addressing 12 to 13 environmental hotspots, prevention of urban wastewater, collection of 93% of waste and improved air quality. Da Nang has received national and international awards that recognize its efforts to become an environmental sustainable city. Future initiatives will include controlling the sources of emissions and establishing green areas, implementing biodiversity conservation and enhancing international cooperation. Making significant strides in urban planning, waste and pollution management, Da Nang is living up to its name as an ICM demonstration site of PEMSEA since 2000.

### **Open Discussion**

- 3.5 Dr. Karenne Tun commented that at the time that the Singapore River project was implemented, ICM was a new concept that yielded the innovative results. PEMSEA articulated ICM into a framework that has benefitted countries and encourages sustainability through these lessons learned. Dr. Tun asked Yokohama City how threats like climate change and sea level rise are incorporated into the blue carbon project. Mr. Oshima answered that they consult with



academics and blue carbon specialists and then accommodate their recommendations to the projects.

### **Network Presentations**

- 3.6 The next set of presenters discussed the initiatives of city and local government networks on sustainable development in the region.
- 3.7 Atty. Maria Teresita Lacerna, The World Bank Philippines, discussed the Green, Resilience and Competitiveness Agenda which World Bank is promoting in various countries. She recommended that the green, resilient and competitive agenda should always be mainstreamed in all activities to achieve sustainable cities and communities. The Agenda addresses the four pillars that sustainable cities are built on: (1) social development; (2) economic development; (3) environmental management; and (4) urban governance. She then detailed the related initiatives in the Philippines as a good practice. The activities promoting green buildings aim to improve efficient resource use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. One example is a green building code, which has the potential to amount to significant reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, energy use and waste. Transforming the building sector would require similar guidelines to be extended to all types of buildings. The EDGE software, which analyzes building parameters and provides solutions for carbon reduction and cost-savings, has been applied to public housing in the Philippines. The private sector has also been involved through building private banks' capacity and confidence to lend to investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy. The need for a revised National Building Code was highlighted after the destruction caused by Typhoon Haiyan. In response, the World Bank Group is working with the national agencies to revise the building code to be resilient to the frequent and intensifying climate hazards. Atty. Lacerna reiterated as a take-home message that in all our social, economic and environmental undertakings, the "green, resilient and competitive" agenda should always be considered.
- 3.8 Mr. Victorino Aquitania, ICLEI Southeast Asia Secretariat, introduced the local sustainability initiatives in Southeast Asia. Rural-urban migration is a key issue in the region that has spawned the growth of slums and informal settlements in urban areas, expanding demand for housing, transportation, water and energy services. While local governments contribute to the issues related to urbanization, they can also create the solutions in achieving sustainability because of their responsibility in planning, management and governance and their on-the-ground approach that brings them close to the communities. He listed local government initiatives to green the urban economy such as transforming waste into biogas, transforming biogas into electricity, ecotourism and sustainable urbanization policies, like bike paths and rehabilitating ecosystems. Lessons learned from these activities have shown the need for collaboration with other local governments and higher levels of government as well as private and non-government stakeholders to gain authority, technical expertise and funding to meet sustainable development goals. He then listed political commitments, reporting and technical tools that local governments can use to help them achieve their sustainable aims. Mr. Aquitania stressed the important roles of global networks and various initiatives on climate change mitigation and adaptation and other environmental issues and suggested local governments and cities join global networks such as the Compact of Mayors.

- 3.9 Dr. Do Nam Thang, MONRE, Viet Nam, introduced the ASEAN's Environmentally Sustainable Model Cities (ESC) initiative. The environmental ministers of the region have adopted the ESC as a priority area for regional cooperation in 2008. The push for a clean and green ASEAN with fully established mechanisms for sustainable development is supported by the ASEAN Vision 2020 and ASEAN Community 2015. Building on national awards and networks, the project on ASEAN ESC aims to highlight the cities in the region that have implemented a range of activities towards environmental sustainability. One of the key achievements of the project is seed funding to raise local capacity to achieve self-declared environmental targets. This has resulted in the emergence of many innovative practices that include plastic bag use reduction (Cambodia), riverside greening (Philippines); and pesticide waste management (Viet Nam). National frameworks to support the development of sustainable cities were either strengthened or established in Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam. City-to-city learning and networking among key stakeholders was also promoted in the region. Moving forward, the project will be working to develop criteria and legal frameworks, raising public awareness, rolling out more incentives and pilot ESC. Dr. Thang expected that the ASEAN Working Group on ESC will develop criteria and legal framework for ESC, raising public awareness, develop incentives such as ESC awards and eco-town images, and designating pilot ESC cities in the region in the near future.

### **Open Discussion**

- 3.10 The floor was opened to questions for the three presenters. Mr. Montebon asked about features that prevented the destruction of some buildings during Typhoon Haiyan. Atty. Lacerna replied that based on consultations with technical experts, the buildings that were left standing were porous that allowed wind or water to pass through.
- 3.11 Dr. Tun inquired if ICLEI's initiatives in transforming waste to biogas have been documented as best practices or manuals. Mr. Aquitania replied that there are case studies available, which need to be updated. They are also in the process of releasing a youth and women manual that is undergoing technical review.
- 3.12 Dr. Tun raised a concern that there are many different programs that are addressing the challenges for sustainable cities that may be replicating activities and outputs. Atty. Lacerna replied that while there are many frameworks for sustainable cities, it is possible to just have a unifying sustainable city effort with SDG11. Organizations working towards urban sustainability are encouraged to come up with an SGD taskforce that can bring all relevant groups together and create a single framework. There is a need to integrate potentially overlapping programs instead of replicating work and reducing the confusion of local governments.
- 3.13 A participant from the local government of Bataan, Philippines, asked if there are concrete examples of programs that facilitate local governments to collaborate at a province level (or higher administrative division above city governments) to address specific challenges. There are currently no programs that feature collaboration on a provincial level, but learning from the challenges of smaller initiatives is crucial. Mr. Aquitania discussed that local government units in the Northern Philippines had met and planned to address a common environmental problem.

Their initiative did not push through because the Commission of Audit had barred using a pooled fund. This example showed the impact of prohibitive financial jurisdictions and the importance of involving national agencies in dialogues between local governments. Networks like ICLEI or organizations like the World Bank would be a welcomed partner that can assist with dialogues with national financial agencies. Possible long-term sustainability plans of such projects can involve World Bank loans, International Finance Corporation equity investments or private financing.

#### **4. SESSION 3: PANEL DISCUSSION AND WRAP UP**

- 4.1 The workshop chairs Mr. Sihara and Dr. Tun moderated the panel discussion that focused on global targets in achieving sustainable development at the city level and how cities responded to those targets.
- 4.2 Dr. Jong-Geel Je stressed that the region is facing environmental issues that have significant impacts on human activity. Ecosystems and ecological services can play an important role in promoting economic development and mitigating the impact of these challenges. He stressed that while people choose to live in coastal cities to enjoy good living conditions, these areas are also vulnerable to the impacts of global warming and climate change. He emphasized the need to work together and share experiences and lessons in the PNLG framework to develop sustainable and resilient cities in line with the global targets such as SGDs and Compact of Mayors.
- 4.3 Mr. Nguyen Dieu highlighted the need to respond to the global challenge of sustainable development at the city level. Da Nang has implemented ICM to address the challenges to urban sustainability. The local government recognizes the importance of ICM as its implementation has resulted in economic growth, environmental conservation, social progress and security. The city is committed to achieving sustainable development with its priorities indicated in the Da Nang Environmental City strategy. In response to emerging threats, Da Nang has developed an action plan to address climate change, which includes initiatives such as climate-resilient housing.
- 4.4 Mr. Montebon stressed the importance of learning from the priorities that cities in the region have set. In cases with significant investments, committed leadership and engaged citizen participation, sustainability was achieved and biodiversity was preserved. At present, development organizations are the main drivers of these measures, but cost sharing from other stakeholders, particularly government, can be explored. Science-based research is needed to guide decisionmaking and get definite results. He observed that because the number of urban sustainability frameworks is increasing faster than the progress of meeting the commitments, there is a crucial need for an all-encompassing framework.

## **5. PART 4: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 Mr. Sihara and Dr. Tun summarized major discussions and findings of the workshop. The following conclusions and recommendations were generated from the presentations and discussions.

### **Workshop Conclusions**

- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 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.
- 5.8 Various solutions for sustainable development at local level are available but application of the success stories should be locally tailored to accommodate the localities.
- 5.9 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**

- 5.10 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.

- 5.11 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).
- 5.12 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.
- 5.13 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.
- 5.14 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.

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**ANNEX 1**  
**LIST OF RESOURCE PERSONS**

Mr. Prak Sihara  
President  
PNLG  
Sihanoukville  
Cambodia

Dr. Karenne Tun  
Deputy Director  
National Biodiversity Centre  
National Parks Board  
Singapore

Dr. Je Jong-Geel  
Mayor  
Ansan City  
RO Korea

Mr. Kouji Matsuzaki  
Mayor  
Obama City  
Japan

Ms. CHEO Pei Rong  
Manager  
National Biodiversity Centre  
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Dr. Nhung Nguyen  
Manager  
National Biodiversity Centre  
National Parks Board  
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Mr. Oshima Takashi  
Assistant Manager  
Project Promotion Division  
Climate Change Policy Headquarters  
Yokohama City, Japan

Mr. Nguyen Dieu  
Director  
Department of Natural Resources and Environment  
Da Nang, Viet Nam

Ms. Maria Teresita Lacerna  
Legal Adviser  
GP on Trade and Competitiveness  
The World Bank Group  
Manila, Philippines

Dr. Do Nam Thang  
Deputy Director General  
Department of International Cooperation  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment  
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Mr. Victorino Aquitania  
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Mr. Emani Kumar  
Deputy Secretary General  
Regional Director  
ICLEI South Asia Secretariat  
New Delhi, India

Dr. Zhou Lumin  
Deputy Director General  
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Xiamen  
PR China

Dr. Rex F. Montebon  
Program Manager  
Coastal, Marine & Fisheries  
Conservation International, Philippines  
Quezon City, Philippines

**ANNEX 2  
WORKSHOP PROGRAMME**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity/Presentation</b>	<b>Possible Speaker/Panelist</b>
<b>Part 1</b>	<b>Opening</b>	<b>MC: Dr. Won-Tae Shin, PEMSEA</b>
<b>10:30–10:40</b>	Welcome remarks	Workshop Co-chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Prak Sihara, PNLG</li> <li>• Dr. Karenne Tun, NPARKS, Singapore</li> </ul>
<b>10:40–11:00</b>	Keynote Presentation: Coloring the City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Jong-Geel Je, Mayor, Ansan City, RO Korea</li> </ul>
<b>11:00–11:20</b>	Sustainable development Initiatives in Obama City, Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Kouji Matsuzaki, Mayor, Obama City, Japan</li> </ul>
<b>11:20–11:40</b>	Singapore Index on Cities’ Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. CHEO Pei Rong, NPARKS, Singapore</li> </ul>
<b>11:40–12:30</b>	Panel discussion:  What are the critical issues and challenges to the future of cities in coastal areas of the Seas of East Asia?  What are good practices that can be applied by “sustainable cities”?  What are the challenges and how are they being addressed?	Panelists:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Zhou Lu Min, Ocean and Fishery Bureau, Xiamen, China</li> <li>• Mr. Emani Kumar, ICLEI</li> <li>• Mr. Rex F. Montebon, CI Philippines</li> </ul>
<b>1230 – 1400</b>	Lunch break	
<b>Part 2</b>	<b>Good practices of cities on implementing the global commitments on sustainable development</b>	<b>Chairs: Dr. Karenne Tun and Mr. Prak Sihara</b>
<b>1400 - 1500</b>	City/Local government Presentations  ➤ Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrating city’s projects and programme on ecosystem management with regard to the global commitments such as Aichi Targets</li> <li>• Sharing information of good practices at local level</li> </ul> Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Singapore, Integrated Urban Coastal Management (IUCM)</li> <li>• Blue Carbon Challenges of Future City Yokohama</li> <li>• Good practices of cities in implementing global commitments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Nhung NGUYEN, NPARKS, Singapore</li> <li>• Mr. Oshima Takashi, Yokohama City, Japan</li> <li>• Mr. Nguyen Dieu, DONRE, Da Nang, Viet Nam</li> </ul>
<b>1500 - 1600</b>	City/Local government Network Presentations  Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing city/local government networks’ projects and programmes on climate</li> </ul>	

Time	Activity/Presentation	Possible Speaker/Panelist
	<p>change issues with regards to the global/regional commitments such as Mayor's Compact; Changwon Declaration etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrating operational modalities of the networks at local level</li> </ul> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Coastal Cities: Green, Resilience and Competitiveness Agenda</li> <li>• Local Sustainability Initiatives in Southeast Asia</li> <li>• ASEAN experiences on Sustainable Cities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atty. Maria Teresita Lacerna, The World Bank, Philippines</li> <li>• Mr. Vic Aquitara, ICLEI Southeast Asia</li> <li>• Dr. Do Nam Thang, MONRE, Viet Nam</li> </ul>
<b>1600 – 1615</b>	Coffee break	
<b>Part 3</b>	Panel discussion	Chairs: Dr. Karenne Tun and Mr. Prak Sihara
<b>1615 - 1715</b>	<p>➤ Suggested topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the global targets in achieving sustainable development at city level and how cities responded to those targets?</li> <li>• Challenges and gaps in implementing those global targets at city level</li> <li>• Effective ways of coordinating and collaborating among cities in addressing those agenda</li> <li>• Way forward</li> </ul>	<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Nguyen Dieu, DONRE Director, Da Nang, Viet Nam</li> <li>• Mr. Rex F. Montebon, CI Philippines</li> <li>• Dr. Jong-Geel Je, Mayor, Ansan City</li> </ul>
<b>Part 4</b>	Wrap up and recommendations	Chair: Dr. Karenne Tun and Mr. Prak Sihara
<b>1715 – 1800</b>	<p>Chairs will summarize the results of presentation and panel discussion to come up with recommendations to the Session Chair</p> <p>➤ Expected outputs of the workshop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good practices and lessons learned on the use of ICM as a platform for sustainable development at city level</li> <li>• Enhanced awareness of similar initiatives being undertaken through other international networks of local governments/cities</li> <li>• Lessons learned from cities in implementing global commitments and recommend setting the targets for PNLG</li> </ul>	