ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2018

"Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies in Asia and the Pacific"

28-30 March 2018 | UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE CENTRE . BANGKOK, THAILAND

WEDNESDAY 28 March 2018

Integrated approach to ensure resource efficiency and transformative impact: the case of SDG 11 and SDG 12

Date: **Wednesday, 28 March 2018**
Venue: **Conference Room 2, 2nd floor UNCC**
Time: **12:00 – 13:30**
Organizers: **SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility together with Thailand, India, and Mongolia / UN 10YFP/One Planet Network / Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) / APRSCP**

Key Questions?
o   Necessity of system approach for SDGs implementation;
o   SCP as a "structuring framework" for the SDGs;
o   Cities, a "recipient" for most of the SDGs in terms of implementation;
o   Governance challenges and Partnerships opportunities;
o   Opportunities for decoupling in cities, resource efficiency and recycling;
o   Framing needs & means for contributing to resource efficient and resilient cities through SCP.

Why People Matter in Implementing the 2030 Agenda: Community best practices and lessons in building resilience towards the SDGs

Date: **Wednesday, 28 March 2018**
Venue: **Meeting Room H, 1st floor UNCC**
Time: **12:00 – 13:30**
Organizers: **Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM) / United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangkok Regional Hub / UN ESCAP Social Development Division (SDD) / Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Societies**

Key Questions?
o   What are the systemic barriers to achieve sustainable development and to have active, resilient societies that engage meaningfully in the sustainable development processes in local, national as well as regional and global levels?
o   What are the best practices of communities' and civil societies initiatives and campaigns that lead to structural change for development justice, i.e. adoption of progressive laws, new collaborations between civil societies with governments and UN agencies, etc.
o   What are the enabling environment needed for civil society and peoples' movements? What are the lesson learned and how can these best practices be scaled up and replicated in different contexts?

Safeguarding indigenous resource management systems for sustainable and resilient societies

Date: **Wednesday, 28 March 2018**
Venue: **Meeting Room G, 1st floor UNCC**
Time: **12:00 – 13:30**
Organizers: **Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) / Indigenous Peoples Constituency – APRCEM / Food and Agriculture Organization – Asia Pacific / International Labour Organization – Asia Pacific / International Land Coalition (ILC) - Commitment 5 members**

Key Questions?
o   How are indigenous peoples' practicing their customary resource management systems in their respective countries?
o   How are their customary resource management systems contributing to building sustainable and resilient societies, with particularly focus in achieving Goals 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15?
o   What are the entry points for engagement and collaboration of indigenous communities with relevant UN agencies in protecting and promoting their customary resource management that contributes to sustainable development?

Launch of the Asia Pacific Faith-based Coalition for sustainable development (APFC)

Date: **Wednesday, 28 March 2018**
Venue: **Meeting Room F, 1st floor UNCC**
Time: **12:00 – 13:30**
Organizers: **World Vision International / ACT Alliance, Islamic Relief / Soka Gakkai International, Arigatou International / APSD Partners**

Key Questions?
o   Role of faith in making communities resilient and socially cohesive to achieve sustainable development
o   How Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) can work together and address issues at the regional levels
o   What will be the complimentary role FBOs to achieving sustainable development agenda in the region.
o   How can various Faith Based Agencies coordinate their efforts and work with UN and Civil Society Organizations in addressing the common issues instead of working in isolation.

High Level Launch of the 2018 Annual Regional SDG Report under the ESCAP/ADB/UNDP Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership

Date: **Wednesday, 28 March 2018**
Venue: **Cafeteria, 1st floor UNCC**
Time: **18:15 – 19:30**
Organizers: **UN ESCAP / ADB / UNDP**

THURSDAY 29 March 2018

Pacific Sustainable Development Roadmap – A collective Pacific Journey

Date: Thursday, 29 March 2018
Venue: Meeting Room A, 1st floor UNCC
Time: 12:00 – 13:30
Organizers: Pacific Islands Forum featuring Samoa, Kiribati and Australia and the Pacific Sustainable Development Working Group (Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat / Secretariat of the Pacific Community / UNESCAP / UNDP

Key Questions?

o Why a Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development? Isn't the Roadmap just another additional framework to add to the complexity of the global and regional policy architecture? Doesn't it duplicate what the Asia Pacific Roadmap intends to do? What is so different and special about the Pacific Roadmap?

o What are the benefits and challenges of Voluntary National Reviews? Aren't these additional burdens of reporting and distract government from their own accountability responsibilities? What have been the lessons learned so far?

o What are the benefits of a 'regional collective approach' to supporting sustainable development efforts? Isn't working on your own more efficient and effective? Do regional coordination mechanisms such as the Sustainable Development Working Group really work?

o Has the Pacific Roadmap process been inclusive? Or is engagement of civil society a tick the box exercise?

o Is South - South cooperation really that useful? Or aren't they expensive and a waste of time?

o Many of the priority SDGs for the Pacific such as climate change and oceans have a limited number of indicators that can be measured. How will the Pacific tell their story about oceans management and climate change action (when data availability is also an issue)?

o This is the first time that developed countries are reporting, how is Australia approaching its reporting process? Are there any similar lessons learned with the SIDS in the Pacific?

o How is the regional report going to tackle the inclusion of Australia and New Zealand in the Pacific Sustainable Development Report?

Making cities resilient: for sustainable and resilient communities

Date: Thursday, 29 March 2018
Venue: Meeting Room F, 1st floor UNCC
Time: 12:00 – 13:30
Organizers: UNISDR / UN-Habitat / Local Authorities from selected cities in South and South-East Asia

Key Questions?

o How does coherence across multiple international frameworks work at the local level?

o What are the city experiences in using tools, to establish baselines and gather profiles of risk and resilience building data and information? How do these inform the development of local strategies (Sendai Target E, and SDG Target 11.b.2)?

o What are the essential steps needed to successfully engage multi stakeholders for the implementation of SDG 11 and Sendai Framework at the local level in Asia and the Pacific?

Georgian Reforms for Sustainable Development

Date: **Thursday, 29 March 2018**
Venue: **Conference Room 4 1ˢᵗ floor UNCC**
Time: **12:00 – 13:15**
Organizers: **Georgia**
Key Questions?
o   What are the main goals of these Reforms?
o   What were the main success stories in Georgia?
o   What are driving factors for successful reforms?
o   What are main preconditions for future reforms? Endless process.
o   How did Georgia attract investments for infrastructure development?

Human rights and the 2030 Agenda: Unleash the potential of Goal 17's focus on partnerships and participation to promote human rights and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals

Date: **Thursday, 29 March 2018**
Venue: **Public Foyer, Ground Floor UNCC**
Time: **12:00 – 13:30**
Organizers: **Government of Denmark, UN Development Group Asia-Pacific Human Rights Network / Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) / Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) / Indigenous Peoples' Major Group for Sustainable Development (IPMG)**

Key Questions?
o   What are the emerging experiences and good examples of partnerships and participation in establishing multi-stakeholder partnership to SDG-human rights implementation?
o   How can human rights frame and guide partnerships to ensure that no one is left behind, including through collaboration around SDG and human rights monitoring, data collection and analysis among national partners?
o   How can human rights contribute to ensuring an enabling environment to strengthen partnerships and meaningful participation of stakeholders in the implementation of the SDGs?
o   What practical tools are available for supporting integrated approaches to human rights and SDG implementation and follow up?

EAEU sustainable development and its experience of the SDG implementation at sub regional level

Date: **Thursday, 29 March 2018**
Venue: **Meeting Room E, 1ˢᵗ floor UNCC**
Time: **13:00 – 14:00**
Organizers: **Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)**
Key Questions?
o   How regional integration helps countries to achieve the SDGs. The EAEU became the first regional integration organization prepared a volunteer report on the SDGs implementation at

supranational level which was presented at the HLPF in New York in 2017.

o   Evaluation of integration cooperation for the SDGs implementation. The Eurasian Economic Commission has defined a System of Integration Indicators (SII) evaluating the level and quality of the member countries' integration cooperation within regional integration blocs/groupings. This System allows comparing regional integration blocs/groupings worldwide to define common features and specific aspects/trends including potential areas for deepening integration cooperation in the global context of "Integration of Integrations."

o   EAEU sustainable and inclusive growth. Economic growth evaluations via GDP indicators do not always correctly reflect the whole spectrum of country's economic and social developments. In this regard the Inclusive Growth Concept becomes more and more popular. The Concept focuses on comprehensive life quality improvement for all population groups by creating environment of equal opportunities for everyone (Goal 8). The Eurasian Economic Commission aims to implement this Concept and prepared a Report on Inclusive Growth of the EAEU Member States.

Building Resilient Societies in the Face of Climate Change and Disasters: Experience with Participation and Partnerships from the Mountains and beyond

Date: **Thursday, 29 March 2018**
Venue: **Meeting Room G, 1st floor UNCC**
Time: **13:00 – 14:00**
Organizers: **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) / Embassy of Sweden**

Key Questions?

o   What are the key principles of engagement and enabling factors in building resilience of mountain women and men?

o   What are the challenges/barriers and how these can be overcome by multi-stakeholder participation to co-create and implement resilience building solutions?

o   How can meaningful multi-level participation contribute to resilience building?

Empowering scientists in the Asia-Pacific region to support the SDGs

Date: **Thursday, 29 March 2018**
Venue: **Meeting Room H, 1st floor UNCC**
Time: **13:00 – 14:00**
Organizers: **Asian national science academies/ Association of Academies and Societies of Science in Asia (AASSA) / Inter academy Partnership (IAP)**

Key Questions?

o   How can scientists/academics better play their part in supporting the implementation of the SDGs in the Asia-Pacific region?

o   How can the science-policy interface be strengthened at national and regional levels?

o   Where can science/academia help plug gaps in knowledge (the "evidence base") for the regional implementation of the SDGs, including supporting follow-up and review of the SDGs, and monitoring processes?

o   How can partnerships between policymakers and academia best support the implementation of the regional road map and 2030 agenda in the Asia-Pacific?

> ### *Launch of: "Partnering for Sustainable Development: Guidelines for Multi-stakeholder Partnerships to Implement the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific"*
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> **Date:** Thursday, 29 March 2018
> **Venue:** Theater, Ground Floor UNCC
> **Time:** 17:15 – 18:30
> **Organizers:** UN ESCAP / United Nations University – Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU – IAS)

FRIDAY 30 March 2018

Accelerating the Transition Towards Low Carbon Development in North-East Asian Cities in the Context of SDGs

Date: Friday, 30 March 2018
Venue: Meeting Room H, 1st floor UNCC
Time: 08:30 – 10:00
Organizers: UN ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office / Innovative Green Development Program (iGDP)

Key Questions?
o What progress has made in transiting to low carbon development and achieving SDGs in cities?
o What kinds of institutional frameworks and policies are critical for the transition, and what are the barriers?
o What valuable experiences and lessons can be learned from existing synergies and trade-offs on sustainable development and low carbon development at the local level?

ICT for transformation and resilience

Date: Friday, 30 March 2018
Venue: Meeting Room G, 1st floor UNCC
Time: 08:30 – 10:00
Organizers: UN ESCAP ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction (IDD)
Key Questions?
o How ICT can help enhance resilience and societal transformation?
o How ICT can foster cross-sectoral collaboration at country level?
o How ICT can enhance cross-countries collaboration?

Accelerating Deployment of Renewable Energy and Improving Energy Efficiency in Asia and the Pacific

Date: **Friday, 30 March 2018**
Venue: **Meeting Room F, 1st floor UNCC**
Time: **08:30 – 10:00**
Organizers: **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) / Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) / UN Environment, Deutsche Gesellschaft Fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) / United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) / Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) / Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)**

Key Questions?
o Role of the Green Climate Fund in accelerating innovation in clean energy technologies, energy efficiency and financial options;
o Clean technology research, development, testing and demonstration: how to increase and secure investment in energy research in developing and emerging economies;
o Innovative financing for renewable energy projects and risk mitigation mechanisms: loan guarantees, partial risk guarantees, partial credit guarantees, and other credit enhancement approaches and instruments intended to reduce project and investment risks;
o Renewable energy policy, projects and database management;
o National championships. Stories from Thailand and Fiji.

Leaving no one behind: what will it take?

Date: **Friday, 30 March 2018**
Venue: **Engagement Space, 1st floor UNCC**
Time: **08:30 – 09:30**
Organizers: **Overseas Development Institute (ODI) / Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) / Asia Civil Society Partnership on Sustainable Development (APSD) / UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub**

Key Questions?
o *Measuring progress*: what are some good examples of policies to measure progress on Agenda 2030? What are some good examples of systems and mechanisms used to implement and monitor progress? Where and how can CSOs contribute and strengthen the monitoring process?
o *Data and the potential of technology*: what are some of the challenges involved in getting access to reliable, timely and sufficiently disaggregated data? How can CSOs contribute to data collection and analysis? What is the potential of ICTs and technology to achieve the 'leave no one behind' agenda?
o *Addressing inequalities*: what are the key factors of rising inequalities? Are the existing policy frameworks adequate to reverse the process of wealth accumulation in few? What mechanism and policy suggestions you have to address not only income inequality but also other forms of inequality e.g. gender, caste-based inequality and marginalization of the indigenous countries? How effectively CSOs can intervene to reduce inequalities?

Social Entrepreneurship: A Pathway for Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies

Date: **Friday, 30 March 2018**
Venue: **Engagement Space, 1st floor UNCC**
Time: **09:30 – 10:30**
Organizers: **Social and Community Enterprises Constituency of Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM) / Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA) / United Nations Economic and Social Commission on Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) / Oxfam and Government of Sweden**

Key Questions?
o   What are social enterprises/ social entrepreneurship?
o   What are the various social entrepreneurship models in Asia-Pacific that are engaging the poor and marginalized as stakeholders in transformation towards resilient and sustainable societies?
o   What are the features of a policy environment and ecosystem that would assist the process of enabling social enterprises and social entrepreneurship to contribute significantly to the acceleration and achievement of the SDGs?

Voluntary National Review – Learning Café

Date: **Friday, 30 March 2018**
Venue: **Engagement Space**
Time: **10:30 – 11:30**
Organizers: **UN ESCAP Environment and Development Division (EDD)**
Key Questions?
o   Ongoing or planned national-level follow-up and review, and challenges;
o   Processes and tools to facilitate preparation of VNRs;
o   How to undertake meaningful stakeholder engagement in follow-up and review. Regional commonalities and lessons learned from VNR preparations undertaken so far

Opening a Decade on Water for Sustainable Development (2018-2028) Commemoration of the World Water Day 2018 and the Regional Launch of the World Water Development Report 2018 on Nature-based Solutions for Water and the SDG6 Synthesis Report

Date: **Friday, 30 March 2018**
Venue: **Meeting Room H, 1st floor UNCC**
Time: **10:30 – 11:30**
Organizers: **UNESCO Bangkok / UN ESCAP**
Key Questions?
o   How can we tackle water challenges using nature-based solution?
o   What impactful policy levers would help address SDG 6 in Asia Pacific, to ensure improvement of human livelihood and ecosystem health?

Partnerships on Online Platforms for Sustainable Development

Date: **Friday, 30 March 2018**
Venue: **Meeting Room A, 1ˢᵗ floor UNCC**
Time: **11:00 – 12:30**
Organizers: **UN ESCAP Trade, Investment and Innovation Division (TIID) / The Asia Foundation / Google Asia Pacific**

Key Questions?
o   How can online platforms be leveraged to achieve the SDGs?
o   What policies and programs are needed to realize the opportunity?

Participatory Approaches for Resilience – Ideas and Experiences from a Meeting of Regional Partners in the Asia-Pacific

Date: **Friday, 30 March 2018**
Venue: **Engagement Space, 1ˢᵗ floor UNCC**
Time: **11:30 – 12:30**
Organizers: **Swedish Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) / Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok and The DO School**

Key Questions?
o   Decision-making which build or influence the resilience of people is often made without involvement of the people most affected - which is not sustainable. How can this be change so that the people affected are included in the decision-making processes?
o   The Regional Workshop generated ideas, messages and commitments - how to takes these forward during the coming year and into the APFSD 2019?

Towards resilient societies: Health and well-being of women and young people

Date: **Friday, 30 March 2018**
Venue: **Meeting Room F, 1ˢᵗ floor UNCC**
Time: **12:00 – 13:30**
Organizers: **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Asia and the Pacific Regional Office / Bangladesh**

Key Questions?
o   What are key factors of sustainability and resilience in relation to the health and well-being of women and young people?
o   What are priorities to ensure that health systems are resilient and able to respond to the needs of women and young people?
o   What are strategies for building resilience of women and young people in the context of natural disasters and emergencies?
o   What types of investments in young people are necessary for resilience and sustained development gains?

CSO participation in the VNR process and Follow up Mechanism

Date: **Friday, 30 March 2018**
Venue: **Meeting Room C&D, 1st floor UNCC**
Time: **12:00 – 13:30**
Organizers: **Asia Development Alliance (ADA) / TAP Network Partners, Asia Civil Society Partnership for Sustainable Development (APSD) Partners / Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD)**

Key Questions?

o What are the challenges and opportunities for an inclusive and meaningful CSO engagement in the VNR process and other SDG follow-up mechanisms in this region?

o What can we learn from CSO alternative reports, and submissions on VNR reporting, for instance VNR guidelines prepared by CSOs such as IFP, ADA and others?

o Are the governments of 2018 VNR reporting countries prepared to fulfil the principles of the UNDESA Handbook for Preparation of VNRs regarding the role of civil society in this process?

o How can UN agencies support CSO engagement in SDG implementation at the country level? What tools and platforms can the UN create and promote to advance CSO engagement in this context?

Social Innovations for Social Change: An Alternate Pathway for Creating an Enabling Environment for Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Date: **Friday, 30 March 2018**
Venue: **Meeting Room E, 1st floor UNCC**
Time: **13:00 – 14:00**
Organizers: **Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) / TU Dortmund University - Social Research Centre / UNDP Thailand – Thailand Social Innovation Platform / UN ESCAP Environment and Development Division (EDD)**

Key Questions?

o   How can we look at development alternatives or alternatives to development which is more people centric? Can Social Innovation/Grassroots Innovations provide an answer?

o   How to set up supporting ecosystems and governance structure to unfold the potential of the whole society solving societal challenges and social demands through sustainable social innovations?

o   How do we understand the challenges, pedagogy and implementation pathway of transforming marginalities in the South Asian region?

o   How do we understand, and Centre stage the concerns of local and marginalized communities at the grassroots to enable building of resilient and sustainable communities?

o   How do we foster an enabling and innovative multi stakeholder partnerships for creating sustainable impact and transformative change with local communities?