2nd Regional Partners Forum @Quito+5: Accelerating Action for Sustainable Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific

**Deep Dive session
"Smart Cities Innovation Lab"
29 October 2021, 15:00-17:00 hours (Bangkok)**

Background

Asian cities are home both to some of the world's most dynamic innovation hubs, as well as concentrations of urban poverty exposing the most vulnerable populations to pollution and disasters. Smart cities have the potential to accelerate SDG implementation. Smart city policy goals and action plans are becoming mainstream in Asia, but still lack a robust supply of innovative smart city business models, products and services, especially in the region's secondary cities. A wide spectrum of innovation programs exists to stimulate the development of smart cities solutions, particularly among multilateral institutions, yet uptake is still lagging. Two barriers are the untapped engagement of large private sector stakeholders, and a fractured innovation ecosystem that makes it difficult to establish a pipeline for smart cities solutions to reach markets. Development agencies and technology companies in the region need to collaborate on supporting entrepreneurs to address smart cities solutions that respond to the different levels of ICT readiness in the region's cities. This event will be the launch of the Smart Cities Innovation Lab, conducted by UN ESCAP with the support of the People's Republic of China and in cooperation with the ASEAN Smart Cities Network.

Objectives of the session

Launch of the Smart City Innovation Lab: a new project that channels innovations to secondary cities and strengthens innovation ecosystems in support of Asian cities developing smart city action plans

Expected Outcomes

Information will be shared about the Smart Cities Innovation Lab, while at the same time different stakeholders will come together to discuss how Smart Cities innovation can be accelerated by leveraging the strengths of different partners.

Programme

1. Welcome - ESCAP
2. Opening - People's Republic of China

3. Presentation - Smart cites: a rapid overview on existing guidelines and frameworks, and a snapshot of smart city action plans in ASEAN
4. Interactive panel discussion – "How can a community of practice support an innovation ecosystem for smart cities?" This panel discussion will invite representatives of different innovation stakeholders to discuss what is needed for the creation of an innovation ecosystem; where start-ups at different stages of development can receive mentoring from financing institutions, partner with tech companies to harness the experiences of the region and pilot their business in cities involved in existing development projects.
5. Discussion with audience
6. Closing – ASEAN Secretariat

Participants

ASEAN Secretariat, Cities, National Governments, Asian Development Bank, Private Sector representatives, Entrepreneurs, Innovation stakeholders, UN Agencies, Development partners