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

Localization of SDGs and Voluntary Local Reviews in Asia and the Pacific

1. NO POVERTY
2. ZERO HUNGER
3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4. QUALITY EDUCATION
5. GENDER EQUALITY
6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7. AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
9. INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES
11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
12. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13. CLIMATE ACTION
14. LIFE BELOW WATER
15. LIFE ON LAND
16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
17. PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

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However, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) remarked: “an estimated 65% of the 169 targets behind the 17 SDGs will not be reached without engagement of local and regional governments”.

This highlights the importance of local governments in delivering the SDGs.
In 2018, four local governments presented the first ever VLRs at the HLPF. 3 of them co-authored by IGES.
A Voluntary Local Review (VLR) is a process in which local and regional governments (LRGs) initiate voluntarily an assessment of their progress of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. This makes it possible for LRGs to share experiences, challenges, and lessons learnt as well as to open their door for new partnerships, filling the gap of means of implementation for their local vision.

— Ortiz-Moya et al. (2020), p. 2
1) Background: 2019, Expansion

VLRs Published in 2019
1) Background: 2020, Consolidation

VLRs Published in 2020
1) Background: IGES’ role on the VLR movement

+ Conducted 4 Japanese VLRs in partnerships with local governments.

+ Launched the first ever online VLR lab – a one-stop site centred on the VLR movement.

+ The Shimokawa Method for VLRs – How to conduct a VLR (before UN-made official guidelines).

+ The State of the VLRs 2020 – First comprehensive report analysing the VLR movement.

+ The State of the VLRs 2021 – Comprehensive report exploring the VLRs published in 2020.

+ Mayors Academy – We are one of the partners.

+ ESCAP’s Regional Guidelines for VLRs – Contributed to the drafting.
2) Why VLRs? The Benefits of Conducting a VLR

+ A VLR allows the local government to listen to the needs of its people and reflect them into local policymaking.

+ A VLR invites self-reflection, by diagnosing the state and pointing to pathways for a better localisation of the SDGs.

+ A VLR provides for a process that is data-driven and can be used to plan for action to achieve the future we want.

+ A VLR gives a local take on the global conversation on sustainable development.

– Ortiz-Moya et al. (2020)
2) Why VLRs? Supporting SDGs Governance Structure

+ Cities understand the **VLR as a process** rather than as a one-time exercise resulting in the production of a report.

+ Cities strive to make use of the VLR to **advance horizontal coordination** across units of government.

+ The holistic and integrative approach of VLRs might position them as an ideal instrument for local policymaking to **support responses to complex issues**, such as planning for a **post-COVID-19** world or fighting climate change.
2) Why VLRs? Supporting VNR-VLR Integration

+ As a new frontier in both the VNR and the VLR processes, this represents additional challenges for national and subnational levels of government.

+ **VNR-VLR integration takes many forms.**

+ While there are promising examples of cooperation between countries and cities, there is limited evidence of significant, long-lasting integration between VNRs and VLRs in the 2020 group.
Thank you so much!

If you want assistance with your VLR journey, please contact me at:

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