

**FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE: LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE INTEGRATION OF THE THREE
DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CITIES**

**LUNCHEON SIDE EVENT ON URBAN NEXUS AT THE ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Bangkok, Thursday 21 May 2015, 12:00-13:30 hours
Public Foyer, United Nations Conference Centre**

Host: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Description:

Managing rapidly growing cities and their urban regions is one of the most critical challenges facing Asia and the Pacific, and this is especially so with regards to the relationship of urban development policy and natural resources. Of all natural resources, energy, water and food are the most essential to sustain development efforts – but they are also the most vulnerable to future demand. The 2012 report of the United Nations Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability, for example, has warned that by 2030 the world will need at least 50 per cent more food, 45 per cent more energy and 30 per cent more water. Much of this demand is being driven by cities, and their urbanising regions. The Asia-Pacific region faces specific problems resulting from its energy and resource-intensive growth patterns.

In Asia-Pacific it is evident that managing the resource footprint of cities across various ecosystems calls for institutional coordination and other forms of collaboration - which has rarely been evident. The majority of cities/municipal administrations in Asia-Pacific continue to plan and manage along sectoral lines and within municipal boundaries, and rarely in a coordinated and integrative manner. Consequently they are not able to fully utilise the interaction and synergies between water, energy and food security and the potential co-benefits arising from integrated resource management.

The “nexus” approach aims at integrated planning and management processes of the key sectors of energy, water and food, and this can contribute substantially to the long-term sustainable development of rapidly growing cities in their regions. It is crucial, in this context, to involve municipal, subnational, national and supra-regional actors and utilities towards more integrated planning and management of the nexus sectors.

Against this background, the project on “Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities: the Urban Nexus” is assisting cities and countries in Asia-Pacific to adopt a nexus approach, developing nexus projects and integrating the nexus approach into urban planning. The project is implemented by GIZ in partnership with ESCAP and ICLEI and with funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The project supports ten cities in six countries, namely: China, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Key Issues:

The luncheon side event will share and discuss the results, lessons learned and policy recommendations arising from the project and will illustrate how the three dimensions of sustainable development can be integrated in practice, drawing from examples from cities across Asia-Pacific.

Key presentations will focus on the concept of 'Urban Nexus', governance mechanisms and policy planning across three critical sectors to support inclusive, sustainable and resource-efficient cities. Following the presentations, a panel including city representatives and national policymakers will discuss challenges and opportunities in integrating urban nexus into policy planning and urban development processes, and aim to draw key recommendations to enable urban nexus initiatives to thrive in the countries at the local level and for the institutionalization of the nexus approach into urban planning and management.

Programme:

Time	Topic	Presenter
12:05 -12:10	Opening Remarks	Mr. Donovan Storey, Officer-in-Charge, a.i., Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
12:10-12:30	Integrating the Three Dimensions of Sustainable Development in Cities - From Policy to Practice: the Urban Nexus	Mr. Lorenzo Santucci, Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Urban Development Section, EDD, ESCAP
12:25-12:45	Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities: the Urban Nexus	Ms. Ruth Erlbeck, Project Director, the Urban Nexus Project, GIZ
12:45 -13:30	Panel Discussion	Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Chanakod Chasidpon, Policy and Plan Analyst, National Economic and Social Development Board, Thailand Ms. Mila Raquid-Arroyo, City Councillor, City Government of Naga, Philippines

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