

International Consultation Workshop on Gwangju's Low Carbon City Development



22 October 2019, Gwangju Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea

Organized by UN ESCAP and Gwangju Metropolitan City

INTRODUCTION

Cities have a dominant role in the course of climate change as the major source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as well as the frontline for implementing climate mitigation policies in key sectors including energy, land use, transport and building. In this regard, a large number of cities around the globe have initiated bold GHG mitigation policies with or without national targets. During recent years, such initiatives have been rapidly scaled up from sectoral policies to city-wide strategies, in particular, under the concept of low carbon city (LCC). This approach is also gaining momentum in the North-East Asian subregion which accounts for a quarter of people on the planet, one-fifth of world economic outputs, and one-third of global greenhouse gases emissions.

North-East Asian countries are at a mixed pace in LCC development with the subregion's rapid urbanization and substantial urban population which continues to grow. North-East Asia is therefore where supply and demand of LCC meets. Cities and communities as implementing units are facing challenges in formulating individual approaches tailored to each city's unique setting and characteristics, as well as simultaneously addressing changes across multiple sectors. It is therefore key to support cities directly and respond to their specific needs.

NEA-LCCP Peer Review

In this context, East and North-East Asia Office of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP-ENEA) in the capacity of the NEASPEC¹ Secretariat launched the North-East Asia Low Carbon City Platform (NEA-LCCP) in 2015. This platform is designed to promote low-carbon policy knowledge sharing and peer-learning among experts from government, academia, and research institutes. A series of consultations and reviews through workshops with experts identified two major activities of the Platform at two levels: peer review at municipal level to support improving carbon city plans and programmes, and comparative study at national level to review government policies.

As the figure shows, peer review can facilitate low-carbon policy knowledge sharing and peer learning among peers from government, academia, the private sector and research institutes of different cities. In this context, NEA-LCCP conducted the pilot peer reviews for Wuhan (June 2018) and Guangzhou (January 2019), to better understand the low-carbon development



¹ North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) was launched in 1993 as a comprehensive intergovernmental cooperation mechanism comprising all six North-East Asian countries, namely, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation.

of Chinese cities and to facilitate sharing of experiences with other cities in North-East Asian countries, including Gwangju Metropolitan city.

The peer review for those cities consisted of three stages: (1) analysis on the city's low carbon development, (2) consultation with key stakeholders, and (3) assessment and production of the report. The final peer review report for each host city includes recommendations on the best practices for promoting low carbon policies. The Report also encompasses the identification of barriers for the effective implementation of the action plans and recommendations in a wide range of subjects, such as institutional framework, goals and strategy, data collection and monitoring. Once the Peer Review Process has been finished, the Final Report will be published on the NEASPEC website (www.neaspec.org).

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP FOR GWANGJU'S LOW CARBON CITY DEVELOPMENT

In connection with the NEA-LCCP initiative, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office (ESCAP-ENEA) in collaboration with Gwangju Metropolitan government will be organizing a half-day consultation workshop, **focusing on cities' policies and initiatives that were effective in reducing carbon emissions.**

In the Republic of Korea, the Framework Act on Low Carbon, Green Growth enacted in January 2010 provides the legal basis for implementing policy measures that address climate change and energy issues and promote low carbon development

Gwangju is one of the metropolitan cities in the Republic of Korea with population of more than 1.5 million. Since the City signed the Agreement on the Climate Change Model City with the Ministry of Environment in 2008, Gwangju city has pioneered low carbon policies and practices. Gwangju developed a GHG inventory tool named *GHG Projection and Diagnostics Program (GPD)* integrating sectoral inventory, emission parameters, emission calculation and estimation formula. Later the GPD was strengthened further to integrate a GIS based policy making tool named the Urban Carbon Management System (UCMS) for municipal planning of buildings, urban transport and green space infrastructure. UCMS allows the local government to adopt a science-based climate change policy development.

Gwangju also introduced the Carbon Bank Programme in 2008, which provided subscribers with carbon points to promote low carbon lifestyle in consumption of energy and water services. Based on the experiment of Gwangju carbon credit system, the Ministry of Environment set a nationwide carbon credit system in 2014, which has a key role in GHG reduction at individual household level.

Objectives

Against this background, the workshop is expected

- a) to showcase key initiatives in low carbon development and identify obstacles and challenges in low carbon practices

- b) to receive views from various stakeholders on Gwangju's initiatives on low carbon development
- c) to facilitate experience and knowledge sharing among cities in North-East Asia for transforming into low carbon cities

- **Expected Participants (around 35 pax)**

- City officials from Gwangju and cities in North-East Asia
- Experts from research institutes and academia
- International organizations and Civil Society Organizations

Provisional Programme

Time	Programme
09:00 – 09:10	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gwangju Metropolitan City Government ➤ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
09:10 - 09:30	Introduction to the NEASPEC NEA-LCCP
09:30 – 12:00	Progress and Prospects of Gwangju's Low-Carbon Development Policy and Practice
09:30-10:00	Presentation 1: Comprehensive Review of Gwangju's Low Carbon Strategies and Policies (institutional setting, sectoral approaches)
10:00-10:20	<i>Tea Break</i>
10:20-10:50	Presentation 2: GHG Roadmap Development and Evaluation Plan
10:50-11:20	Presentation 3: Carbon Management System
11:20-12:00	Open Discussion and Closing
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:30 – 16:30	Site Visit
	To be announced