IGES: Regional Cooperation on SDGs and Cities

Workshop on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asian and Pacific Cities

(30 Nov – 1 Dec 2016)
United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand
Today’s sharing

IGES activities in response to 2030 Agenda in cities:

- Incorporated SDGs into the selection criteria of, and gathered the voices from ASEAN’s ‘frontrunner cities’ (ASEAN ESC Model Cities; 20 cities/8 countries)

- Established ‘Localising SDGs and Cities’ as the focal theme of renewed regional seminar for cities (8th High-Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities) (8 – 9 Feb 2017, Chiang Rai, Thailand)
Summary: Early Reactions toward SDGs by ASEAN’s ‘Frontrunner Cities’ (about 20 cities, 8 countries surveyed – not only governments)

1. Awareness on SDGs still extremely low.

1. Cities prefer to ‘cherry pick’ (prioritising approach) as 17 Goals are ‘too many’.
   o Unsure whether cities can reliably ‘trace’ their actions specifically to 17 goals, 169 targets, 200++ indicators. And should they?

1. ‘Frontrunner cities’ are willing to be pro-active (instead of waiting for instructions from the national level) with support from external/international organisations.

4. Existing status of decentralisation limit the scope of actions especially in transforming transport and building patterns.

5. Prevailing popular culture still aspires towards material and energy-intensive lifestyle (e.g. ‘use and throw’ goods, food wastage, luxury goods, car-dependent lifestyle etc.). Need to truly make sustainability ‘cool’, ‘mainstream’ and relevant to the fears/hopes of the ‘every man/woman’. (Are our methods ambitious, challenging the ‘norms’ and creative enough?)
**Assistance to Frontrunner Cities**

15 ASEAN’s Model Cities will set up a ‘Model Cities Team’ (with multi-stakeholder members including NGOs/CBOs, academia/schools, private sector, artists, media etc.) to transform at least one ‘Model Site’ (e.g. Model Schools, Model Markets, Model Communities etc.) within their city.

- Will conduct research how cities **localise the global SDGs indicators** in a real manner, focusing on goals 11 and 12, as well as 3, 4, 6, 7, 13, 14, 15 and 16.
(Updated) framework and criteria for selecting ASEAN’s ‘Model Cities’

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUALITIES</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>RESULTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASPIRATION</td>
<td>ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION</td>
<td>QUALITY LIVING &amp; WELL BEING for citizens.</td>
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<td>Visions are unique. Goals either meet or exceed expectations. Resources are allocated to meet goals.</td>
<td>Teach environmental issues and sustainability in schools/institutes of learning and also involve the general public</td>
<td>to other cities and visitors (tourists etc).</td>
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<tr>
<td>INNOVATION</td>
<td>INNOVATE &amp; EXPERIMENT</td>
<td>IMPRESSIVE &amp; INSPIRING</td>
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<td>ESC Practices/policies in the ‘Model Cities’ have some aspect of novelty/creativity’</td>
<td>‘Establish Islands of Excellence’ within the city, such as Model Homes/Villages, Model School/University, Mode….I Green Private/Public Building, Model Public Spaces (Park, Museum, Library etc.)</td>
<td>for citizens.</td>
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<td>CONTRIBUTION</td>
<td>NETWORKING</td>
<td>IMPRESSIVE &amp; INSPIRING</td>
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<td>‘Model Cities’ reflect their contribution to addressing national, regional and global issues into local actions.</td>
<td>Government, citizens, businesses, academic, artists know each other and work together to overcome challenges. Specific committee tasked with oversight.</td>
<td>to other cities and visitors (tourists etc).</td>
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<td>COMMUNICATIONS</td>
<td>IMPRESSIVE &amp; INSPIRING</td>
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<td>Effective and beautiful PR services and systems for citizens and non-citizens (tourists, international organisations etc.)</td>
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GREEN CITY → TOURISM/LEARNING → GREEN ECONOMY

- **Gothenburg, Sweden**
  - (1 million population)

- **Kitakyushu, Japan**
  - (1 million population)

- **Todmorden, UK**
  - (15,000 population)
  - 60 tours/1,000 visitors/ year
Conclusions

• Reflect on how the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform can add value to these activities?; and

• How IGES could get engaged in the Platform?