



SDG in Action

HOW TO UNLOCK THE POTENTIALS OF ASEAN CITIES TO ADVANCE LOCALISATION OF THE SDGs 2030 AGENDA?

Multifunction Hall 1st floor
International Congress Centre (ICC)
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2.30-4.00pm

Organised by
Ministry of Housing and Local Government, Malaysia
Urbanice Malaysia

Introduction

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is the home of more than 640 million people. It is the sixth largest economy in the world today and is expected to become the fourth largest by 2050. ASEAN cooperation over the past 50 years has enabled the region to benefit from continued peace, stability and security. ASEAN region has provided for rapid economic growth and social development. Investments in social development have produced tangible results, such as an educated workforce and increased life expectancy. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development marked a paradigm shift in global development at a time when the ASEAN region experienced high economic growth. Today, more than half of ASEAN people live in urban areas and an additional 70 million people are forecast to live in ASEAN cities by 2025, making sustainable and inclusive urbanisation a key priority to achieve the objectives of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and to raise the living standards of local communities.

Objective of Discussion

- a. To highlights the development context and challenges localising SDGs in ASEAN cities;
- b. To clarify an integrated programming framework that is applicable across all three pillars (social, economic and environmental) of sustainable development in ASEAN cities;
- c. To underlines the challenges that ASEAN Cities face in establishing an appropriate policy and institutional framework for the SDGs, strengthening the stakeholder involvement and financing the SDGs;
- d. To enable local governments to become the catalysts of change, negotiate and balance local needs and aspirations with the sustainable development agenda.
- e. To present ASEAN cities innovation and capacity building as a cross-cutting programming priority and factors that can mainstream innovation into all other programming components; and
- f. To shares case studies to offer a glimpse at what ASEAN Cities to address challenges and develop more localized and integrated approaches to sustainable development.

Localisation SDG in ASEAN Cities

Localisation was defined as the “process of designing and implementing local development strategies to achieve the SDGs. This involves promoting local ownership, understanding local needs and trends, and allocating resources to achieve targeted outcomes at the local level. The important role of subnational and local governments in shaping and achieving the SDGs which states that many of the investments to achieve the sustainable development goals will take place at the subnational level and be led by local authorities. The sustainable development agenda explicitly recognizes the importance of inclusive and responsive governance systems for achieving the three strands of sustainable development. Governance is seen as both an “enabler” for achieving SDGs, as well as being a “goal” in and of itself. Local actors need to fully participate, not only in the implementation, but also in the agenda-setting for, and monitoring of, the SDGs. In other words, the whole policy chain needs to be shared between all levels of government. All relevant actors should be involved in the decision-making process, through consultative and participatory mechanisms at the local and national levels. This discussion will present a range of challenges faced by city leaders and some of the new approaches to manage localisation of SDGs. It is expected that the discussion outcomes will guide policy makers in addressing the current and future sustainable urban development in ASEAN Cities.

Panellists

Moderator

Dr. Azmizam Abdul Rashid, Deputy Chief Executive (CEO) Urbanice Malaysia, Ministry of Housing and Local Government

Panellists

- a. **Mr Chze Cheen Lim**, Director, ASEAN Connectivity Division, Office of the Secretary-General ASEAN Secretariat.
- b. **Hon Dato' Johary Anuar**: Mayor Subang Jaya City Council, Malaysia
- c. **Dr. Ninik Suhartini**, Senior Lecturer School of Architecture, Planning and Policy Development Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) Indonesia
- d. **Mr. To Van Hung**, Director Department of Natural Resources and Environment Danang City, Vietnam
- e. **Base Bahay Foundation, Inc**, Philippines

Discussant

- a. **Datin Paduka Dr Dahlia Rosly** – Board of Director, Urbanice Malaysia
- b. **Mr. Bruno Dercon**, Senior Human Settlements Officer, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Guidance Questions

- a. What policy and implementation pathways have been undertaken so far that can lead countries towards sustainable development?
- b. What challenges do cities in ASEAN face to achieve the localisation of SDGs and development context?
- c. What is required for cities to adopt and integrated programming framework that is applicable across all three pillars (social, economic and environmental) of sustainable development?
- d. What the challenges that cities face in establishing an appropriate policy and institutional framework for the SDGs, strengthening the data ecosystem, supporting meaningful stakeholder involvement, and financing the SDGs?
- e. How cities in ASEAN can present innovation as a cross-cutting programming priority, and factors that can mainstream innovation into all other programming components?
- f. How cities can share to address challenges and solutions to develop more localized and integrated approaches to sustainable development?

Proposed Outcome of Discussion

ASEAN is blessed with so much diversities across many socio-economic dimensions. As such, it is necessary for us to have a balanced and sustainable growth path, a necessary condition to ensure development is equitably shared across ethnic groups, income classes and regions, if a harmonious and peaceful nation is to be realised. The discussion will establish multi-stakeholder eco-system and platform for knowledge sharing and policy development. which involve:

- a. **Connect:** Discussion will enhance connectivity and increased engagement and partnerships between AMS, cities, and relevant stakeholders to advance the implementation of sustainable urbanisation and foster collaborative and constructive approaches across ASEAN cities;
- b. **Share:** Discussion will provide a platform to disseminate knowledge and share best practices and lessons learned on urban development in ASEAN to support the development of sustainable and inclusive in ASEAN cities;
- c. **Learn:** Discussion will provide guidance to ASEAN cities and interested urban practitioners to implement localisation SDGs and build capacity in developing viable, sustainable and inclusive urban projects.

In moving forward with the SDGs, ASEAN cities recognises that the social complexity of resolving sustainable development problems will require coordinated action by a range of stakeholders. This will include government agencies at different levels of government, non-profit organisations, the private sector, academia, organised civil society and individuals. ASEAN cities have put in place an institutional framework to facilitate the operationalisation of the SDGs at all levels.

*Prepared by
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