

**UCLG ASPAC 17TH EXECUTIVE BUREAU MEETING
16-17 APRIL 2012, CHENGDU, CHINA**



The UCLG ASPAC Executive Bureau meeting and Asia Pacific Forum were successfully held in Chengdu, China, on 16-17 April 2012, and attended by 97 participants who represent 38 members.

The Asia Pacific Forum on “Strengthening of Programming and Financing of Strategic Urban Infrastructure Investments” was held on the first day, with the support of CDIA as the co-organizer of the event. The first session of the forum emphasized on overcoming capacity deficits in cities for urban infrastructure decision making and financing, and improving city’s financing on urban infrastructure, with speakers such as Joris van Etten (CDIA), Soetanto Soehodho (Jakarta Capital City Government), Liu Hanyong (Shanghai Municipal Finance Bureau), Adolfo Guerrero (CDIA), Liangqi Zhou (Chengdu Financial Affair Office), and Lian Yuming (International Institute for Urban Development, Beijing).

Adolfo Guerrero in his presentation explained that cities are the main economic drivers. But, currently there is \$100 billion/year funding needed to build urban infrastructure, while cities are only able to cover \$40 billion, leaving \$60 billion gap that needs to be covered. Therefore, public private partnership is important.

In the second session, the participants were divided into smaller groups to discuss questions prepared by CDIA, such as how to ensure better projects in terms of quality and “investability” to improve the cities, and how to prioritize urban infrastructure investments under limited financial resources. Group discussions allowed participants to exchange experiences, share ideas, and present their results to other participants.

The Executive Bureau meeting was held on the second day and endorsed new members which are Dangjing City, Pakistan Local Councils Association of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, City of Shenzhen, Fuzhou, Kunming, Xi’an, Petaling Jaya, Korean City Federation, City District Government Lahore and City District Government Gujranwala.

Jakarta Capital City Government as the host of the next UCLG ASPAC 2012 congress delivered their presentation on the preparation of the congress. The UCLG ASPAC 2012

congress will be held on 2-5 October 2012, with the main theme Resilience: Rethink, Rebuild, and Revitalize.

The meeting was also attended by UCLG ASPAC partners such as CDIA, MIPIM Asia, GIZ, and PFD publication. Joris van Etten representing CDIA, and Peter Woods representing UCLG ASPAC signed a supplemental agreement for deepening collaboration between these parties.



**THE 4TH UCLG ASPAC CONGRESS
RESILIENCE:
RETHINK, REBUILD, REVITALIZE**

The 4th UCLG ASPAC Congress will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 2-5 October 2012 at Borobudur hotel, with the main theme, Resilience: Rethink, Rebuild, Revitalize.

The host plans to invite experts and participants to discuss topics such as experiences in innovative ways to enhance the ability of city administration to deal with social, political changes, and disaster, and to discuss how to create resilient administration, building resilient infrastructure system, and collective responsibility as a prerequisite of resilience. The congress will be divided into panel discussion and breakout sessions.

Along with the congress, the host will have an exhibition where they provide 50 booths for local governments, private sectors and international organizations to promote their programmes, products, and services.

The host will launch the official website of the congress in June 2012 where the participants can register online.

In conjunction with the congress, UCLG ASPAC will have its regular statutory meetings that consist of Executive Bureau and Council meetings, as well as General Assembly.

The main agenda of the meetings will be the election of members for UCLG ASPAC governing bodies that consist of UCLG ASPAC Council, Executive Bureau, and Presidency for the period 2012-2014. Based on UCLG ASPAC rotation principle, the next President of UCLG ASPAC should come from South and Southwest Asia sub-region.

**STRENGTHENING DECENTRALIZATION
AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE
CAMBODIA, 3-4 MAY 2012**

The regional conference on “Strengthening Decentralization and Local Governance in ASEAN Countries Through a Multi-Stakeholder Approach” jointly organized by local governments and civil society was held in Phnom Penh on 3-4 May 2012, with the support of two



European Union funded projects “Supporting Decentralization in Developing Countries” (led by United Cities and Local Governments – Asia Pacific, (UCLG ASPAC)) and the “Partnership for Democratic Local Governance in Southeast Asia” (DELGOSEA) (led by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)).

More than 70 participants from local government associations and civil society organizations in the South East Asia region such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Laos, Cambodia, Philippine, Thailand, and Vietnam, as well as representatives from the ASEAN, EU delegation for Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam and ASEAN, KAS, UCLG World, and UCLG ASPAC, attended the forum.

The constructive discussions during the forum resulted in the communiqué where the parties involved in the forum agree to continue working towards common objectives in improving local governance, people-oriented activities and regional integration. Furthermore, decentralization and democratic ideals for the ASEAN region should be built on people empowerment and participation, and the promotion of a legislative framework to support the reform process, including fiscal mechanisms to improve capacity and motivation of local governments in playing their role in local development.

The forum also calls for a greater collaboration within the ASEAN framework and consolidate the principle of PARTNERSHIP between national, regional, and local institutions.



CITIES AND REGIONS TOGETHER TOWARDS RIO+20

A High-level Local and Regional Authorities' delegation presented eight recommendations to the United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, to achieve sustainable cities and regions.

On 23 April, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and UN-Habitat, with the support of Cities Alliance and UNACLA, gathered local and regional governments leaders and networks together to a meeting in New York where they presented the key messages of these groups for Rio+20 to both United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, United Nations officials and the Group of Friends of Sustainable Cities.

Local and regional authorities engaged in a dialogue with the Group of Friends of Sustainable Cities on how to ensure that the views of local and subnational governments are included.

The document "Joint Messages of Local and Sub-national Governments", signed by UCLG, ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability), Metropolis, C40 Cities, NRG4SD, FOGAR, with the support of the Ford Foundation and UN-Habitat, put forward eight recommendations to reach a sustainable urbanization, metropolization and regionalization.

The agreement emphasizes urbanization as a driver for economic world growth and development. Local and Regional governments highlight that it is in the cities around the

world that the pressures of globalization, migration, social inequality, environmental pollution, climate change and youth unemployment are most directly felt. And, on the other hand, urban areas have for centuries been cradle of innovation and they produce currently above 75% of the worlds of GDP. In this regard, cities and regions stress the need of achieving cities that are environmentally sustainable, socially responsible and economically productive.

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**UCLG ASPAC INTERVIEW WITH H.E. JULIAN WILSON
HEAD OF EU DELEGATION TO INDONESIA,
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, AND ASEAN**



1. What do you think about the strategic role of ASEAN in creating partnership with the EU in the South East Asia region?

ASEAN and the EU are natural partners, different, but similar (or the other way round). We share the same "DNA", because we believe both in regional integration and pursue regional integration persistently and very seriously. We have a very substantive agenda together, the EU and ASEAN. At the ASEAN-EU Ministerial in Brunei (on 26 and 27 April) we agreed to an ambitious Plan of Action 2013 – 2017 mapping out our joint activities in the next five years in many areas: political and security, economic, trade, education, people-to-people etc.

2. What kind of initiatives have been supported by the EU for the further development of ASEAN?

Over the years the EU has supported ASEAN development and integration with a wealth of support programmes. ASEAN integration is supported with programmes worth an average of 10 million euro per year. Specific programmes for support to economic integration have been APRIS I and APRIS II (12 million euro together), which is followed by a programme which will come on stream in the fourth quarter of 2012 ARISE (ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU), worth 15 million euro. Support will be given to technical issues of customs integration and transport facilitation and also, very directly to the functioning of the ASEAN Secretariat, the "nerve centre" of the ASEAN integration process. This said, both the EU (as the Community) and its individual Member States support ASEAN MS bilaterally with development programmes worth something like 300 million euro per year. Details can be found in the attached brochure. In addition, a number of ASEAN Member States benefit from favourable treatment in their trade relation with the EU (General System of Preferences).

3. What kind of programs or initiatives have been initiated by the EU to support north-south and south-south cooperation? What are major achievements so far?

There are many such programmes, too many to mention in the context of this short interview – and also not all of them are well known. The EU is the largest provider of official donor funds so it is natural we support North-South and South-South cooperation. Areas of such cooperation are mediation and conflict prevention and dialogue on international common areas of concern.

4. What strategic role can be plaid by ASEAN within the framework of nurturing north-north and north-south cooperation, especially in collaboration with the EU?

This question is rather for ASEAN and its Member States to reply. However, ASEAN deserves praise for its very active pursuing of what it refers to as "Regional Architecture", its ASEAN+ process in which it engages with giant neighbour China and with Japan and Korea. This is political engagement, but also an economic engagement through free trade agreements and the Chiang Mai initiative. In addition to this ASEAN established the East Asia Summit where it engages with a wider ring of countries (the three plus Australia, New Zealand, India and since last year also the US and Russia). And then it has, in addition, the ASEAN Regional Forum with an even wider circle of partners, including the European Union (as EU). This is an impressive achievement of "multilateral reaching out" or confidence building and preventive diplomacy as ASEAN puts it itself. I don't think we should frame this in terms of north-south or south-south, it is global and forward looking and very impressive. And it is both political (not least the EAS and the ARF) and economic (a plethora of free trade agreements).

5. EU has supported two projects in partnership with UCLG ASPAC: "Supporting Decentralisation in Developing Countries" and "Partnership for Democratic Local Governance in Southeast Asia" (DELGOSEA). These projects aim to raise the voice of local governments on the regional level, support decentralisation measures and promote local democratic development in SEA countries. How do you assess the progress of these projects, and what kind of impacts do you expect for the participating countries?

Both EU funded projects, I am told by my colleagues, i.e. 'Supporting Decentralisation in Developing Countries' led by UCLG ASPAC and 'Partnership for Democratic Local Governance in Southeast Asia (DELGOSEA) led by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung' create synergies. They have so far been quite successful aiming at tangible results. Their "empirical" approach makes sense. Learning from better peer practices across cities in the ASEAN region and jointly reflecting upon decentralisation knowledge across the various levels of governments: locally, nationally, regionally. Conclusions are more solid, if built on successfully tested examples. These two projects nicely complement our successful regional cooperation programmes supporting ASEAN integration. Impact is at the heart of EU cooperation.

6. A conference on "Strengthening Decentralisation and Local Governamce in ASEAN Countries through a Multi-Stakeholder Approach" will be jointly organised by the two mentioned EU funded projects ("Supporting Decentralisation in Developing Countries", and "Partnership for Democratic Local Governance in Southeast Asia" - DELGOSEA) in Phnom Penh firing the first week of May 2012. The objective of the conference is to start a permanent dialogue among local government associations (LGAs), high level government representatives , ASEAN, and civil society organisations. How to you appraise this event and what are the possibilities of the EU to support the sustainability of this permanent dialogue in the future?

Unfortunately I was not able to attend this conference myself. However, I sent a colleague to attend on my behalf. I am glad to hear that the conference attracted high level attendance including ASEAN Deputy SG Bagas Hapsoro and Secretary of State Sak Setha from the Cambodian Ministry of Interior. The meeting was very productive covering such critical issues as the role of local authorities in disaster management and economic development but also important process issues as reflected in the key outcome of the conference: the document promoting a multistakeholder approach for local development ("The Phnom Penh Statement"). This can potentially lead to an important further debate in ASEAN, if the region so wishes. In Europe, we acknowledged the vital role of local authorities in the integration process with the establishment of a Committee of the Regions in 1992.

7. The EU funded DELGOSEA Project is intended to create a network within Southeast Asia for the replication of success stories in local governance between cities and municipalities. Currently the project is implemented in Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. What would be your recommendation regarding a potential expansion of this project on a larger larger scale while also involving additional ASEAN member countries?

Demand driven high quality work provides clear direction and is the best route to success, specifically if it is inclusive.

8. How do you think UCLG ASPAC as the lead association of local governments in Asia Pacific could support collaboration efforts between EU and ASEAN member countries in the future?

For almost a decade the EU launches dedicated call for proposals in support of sound initiatives of local authorities. Whilst Non State Actors have very enthusiastically embraced it, as again evidenced in recent info sessions, and participate in this contest in great numbers local authorities have so far been far more restrained. Perhaps UCLG ASPAC could increase awareness of it's members about this instrument? For instance, in Indonesia a call is ongoing (deadline for application 30 May) with a focus on economic development and public finance management initiatives.

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RIO+20
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) is being organized in pursuance of General Assembly Resolution 64/236 (A/RES/64/236), and will take place in Brazil on 20-22 June 2012 to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg.

The Rio+20 Conference It is envisaged as a Conference at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government or other representatives. The Conference will result in a focused political document.

At the Rio+20 Conference, world leaders, along with thousands of participants from governments, the private sector, NGOs and other groups, will come together to shape how we can reduce poverty, advance social equity and ensure environmental protection on an ever more crowded planet to get to the future we want.

The Conference will focus on two themes: (a) a green economy in the context of sustainable development poverty eradication; and (b) the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Governmental and non-governmental stakeholders planning to participate in the Conference and its preparatory meetings must be accredited to the United Nations.

The following participants may attend or be represented: Member States, Major Groups, UN System, Inter-Governmental Organizations, and Media.

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URBAN GOVERNANCE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

A number of distinct 'modes of governing' are being employed by municipalities to address climate change in the urban arena. The approaches used appear to fall into four categories namely self-governing, provision, regulation and enabling. These are not mutually exclusive; rather municipalities tend to deploy a combination of these modes at any one time. Given the cross-cutting nature of climate change as a policy issue, it is perhaps not surprising to find that there is no single recipe for success – leading to a 'patchwork' of approaches being adopted. Nevertheless, the self-governing mode remains the dominant approach adopted by municipal authorities in response to climate change.



In the self-governing mode, there are three principal means through which municipal authorities have sought to reduce their own GHG emissions. The first is through the management of municipal buildings, fleets and services. The second is through procurement policies, including purchasing renewable energy for the municipality, or in the transport sector, buying alternative low-carbon fuels. Third, local authorities may aim to lead by example, establishing best practice principles, or demonstrate the use of particular technologies or social practices to facilitate their widespread adoption by other local actors.

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MIPIM ASIA 2012, HONGKONG

The 7th Annual MIPIM Asia - The world's property market in Asia Pacific, 7-9 November

2012, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Center

Since 2006, MIPIM Asia has been the premium commercial real estate event dedicated to high-profile real estate professionals in Asia. As always, we aim to bring you the latest trends, projects and opportunities to make contacts and spark deals.

For 2012, we offer a new format that allows you to customize your MIPIM Asia experience. More than a typical real estate fair, our 3 dedicated events, Investment Summit, Retail Summit and Sustainable Property Expo let you explore the subjects that interest you most and gain a deeper understanding of real estate in Asia.

MIPIM Asia has been used by national and local governments for attracting foreign direct investment and for promoting their countries and cities.

Recognizing that the real estate industry has a large role to play in urban development, we strive to incorporate this into MIPIM Asia, by including in our conference, sessions which address this.

In 2011, UCLG ASPAC co-organized a session titled "Liveable cities: Eco-friendly infrastructure and housing for building a sustainable future" moderated by Dr Rudolf Hauter, the UCLG ASPAC Secretary General. In addition, there were other sessions addressing ageing population and impacts on real estate, discussions on creating smart cities and public and private sector's roles in creating resilient cities, the main theme of the UCLG ASPAC 2012 October congress.

For MIPIM Asia 2012, MIPIM is continuing to work closely with UCLG ASPAC on enhancing our collaboration efforts to bring the public and private sector together to foster discussions aimed at alignment of interests and creating more effective public & private sector partnerships.

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WORLD CITIES SUMMIT 2012 HOW LIVEABLE AND SUSTAINABLE IS YOUR CITY?

The World Cities Summit will be held on 1-4 July 2012 in Singapore. Under the theme "Livable and Sustainable Cities-Integrated Urban Solutions", global leaders and experts will converge to discuss the world's most pressing urban issues and challenges. The summit will explore how cities can build resilience and improve their quality of life by adopting sustainable solution to increasingly complex city challenges.



Participants can explore high quality and high value urban development projects with senior government decision-makers, project consortiums and technology companies. City leaders, industry experts and financiers would also be sharing invaluable insights on emerging trends in city development, urbanisation and project financing.

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