



DELGOSEA Final Conference: The Journey Towards Democratic Local Governance Continues

The DELGOSEA network is calling for a more permanent dialogue on decentralization and local governance to be established between ASEAN member states and for expanded collaboration with local authorities (LAs), as well as civil society, in a multi-stakeholder approach. The importance of regional cooperation on local governance with the aim of securing better living conditions for the people of Southeast Asia has been recognised by ASEAN and support for a joint approach by the member states is growing.

The final conference of the Partnership for Democratic Local Governance in Southeast Asia (DELGOSEA), will concentrate on the further integration of local governance into the ASEAN framework. Signaling the end of the EU co-financed project activities, it will take place on Tuesday, August 7 and Wednesday, August 8, 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Hosted by the Municipal League of Thailand (MLT) and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) on behalf of the DELGOSEA network, the conference brings together over 150 participants, representing the project partners and Local Government Associations (LGAs), pilot cities, best practice cities, academia, media, national governments and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

The focus of the conference will be on sustainability of the project results and future possibilities for the network. The aim is to develop a strategy for a permanent dialogue on democratic local governance on the regional level. The participants will also be looking to develop an exit strategy to secure sustainability and project results.

Another important aspect is to look at the organisations and institutions that are able and willing to offer a support system to cities and municipalities: the Local Government Associations (LGAs) and associations on a regional/global level, such as United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and, on the European level, the Committee of the Regions (CoR). The conference will explore the role of these institutions and how they can contribute to good local governance in the Southeast Asian region.



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www.DELGOSEA.eu

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The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

“The ‘final conference’ will not be final at all, more the end of a chapter and the beginning of a new one”, project manager Susanne Stephan said while finalising the conference preparations. She added that “the conference will be an opportunity to look at what we have already accomplished and at the same time to discuss the roadmap for further learning and exchange amongst local governments in Southeast Asia as well as their stronger role at the regional level in the future”. The project manager concluded that “two and a half very successful years lie behind us and even more fruitful years are ahead!”

END

About the project

DELGOSEA is a network of 32 cities from five Southeast Asian countries – Indonesia, Cambodia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam – aiming to share knowledge and replicate best practices on good local governance for improving living conditions of the people. This network is supported by 11 LGAs, five partners and other stakeholders from government, civil society, academia and media. They all play a crucial role in making the process of replication a success. The network is managed by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, with financial support from the European Union and the German Ministry of Development Cooperation.

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Results of the conference will be available on the DELGOSEA website:
www.DELGOSEA.eu



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