



Congress Report

The 2nd Asia-Pacific Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation
 in conjunction with
 The 16th International Convention on Melaka Twin Cities
 02 March - 04 March 2016 | Melaka, Malaysia



Organised by



In Association with



Programme Overview

| | | Day 01, Tuesday March 01, 2016 | Day 02, Wednesday March 02, 2016 | Day 03, Thursday March 03, 2016 | Day 04, Friday March 04, 2016 | Day 05, Saturday March 05, 2016 | |
|-----------|-------|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Morning | 08:00 | Arrival of delegates / Check in at hotels | 1 st IMT-GT Green Council Meeting Seminar on Urban Resilience to Disaster Risk | Plenary 1 : UN Outcomes 2015 | Plenary 3 : Financing Plenary | HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT | |
| | 09:00 | | | | | | |
| | 10:00 | | | | | | |
| Afternoon | 11:00 | Pre-Registration | Cycling Event | Coffee/Tea break | Coffee/Tea break | Press conference Coffee/Tea break | |
| | 12:00 | | | Theme Sessions (A1 - A4) | Theme Sessions (C1 - C4) | Theme Sessions (D1 - D2) | |
| | 13:00 | | | Lunch | Lunch | Friday Prayer & Lunch | |
| Evening | 14:00 | Arrival of delegates / Check in at hotels | Cycling Event | Theme Sessions (B1 - B4) | Plenary 4 : Youth and Resilience | CLOSING PLENARY | |
| | 15:00 | | | Coffee/Tea break | Coffee/Tea break | | Coffee / Tea break |
| | 16:00 | | | OPENING CEREMONY | Plenary 5 : SDG Implementation | | Special Meeting with Hon. Chief Minister of Melaka |
| | 17:00 | | | Plenary 6 : ICLEI's Initiatives for Resili-ence in Asia-Pacific | Visit to Green Exhibition | Launch of Rural Transformation Centre at Sungai Rambai, Melaka | |
| | 18:00 | | | | | | |
| | 19:00 | | | | | | |
| | 20:00 | | | Welcome dinner | Official dinner | Dinner | |
| | 21:00 | | | Venue: Kampung Morten | Venue: Ballroom, Hatten Hotel | Venue : Pool side, Equatorial Hotel | |
| | 22:00 | | | | | | |
| | 23:00 | | | | | | |
| | | Melaka Green Exhibition (Venue : Mahkota Parade, Melaka) | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Parallel Events Melaka - ICLEI Golf Classic Site visit organised by MBMB Training session: ecoBUDGET |

Message from Prime Minister of Malaysia

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Warm Greetings and Salam 1Malaysia!

It has been a great pleasure to welcome our guests to Malaysia and Melaka for the 2nd Asia-Pacific Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation, being organized in conjunction with The 16th International Convention on Melaka Twin Cities - “Building Local Resilience Towards Liveable Cities 2016”. Issues of urban resilience and adaptation have now become a new challenge to our region. Malaysia is considered one among the more urbanized countries of East Asia, and its urban population continues to increase rapidly. Malaysia is breaking free from the conventional wisdom of “development at all costs” to green growth, which is a more sustainable path of growth. This will see Malaysia enter the ranks of advanced economies with high income in 2020 with an economy resilient to the adverse impact of climate change and with secure and sufficient supply of natural resources. The climate resilience focus of the 11th Malaysia Plan will help achieve this goal.

I am glad that participants of the conference took this opportunity to discuss local and regional issues on urban resilience and adaptation and share knowledge and experiences to reinforce capacities to address climate change challenges in our region. My hearty congratulations to ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, Melaka State Government, Melaka Historic City Council, Melaka Green Technology Corporation, and all personnel involved in organising the event.

YAB Datuk Seri Utama Hj. Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak
Prime Minister of Malaysia



Message from Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia

As a pioneer green city and UNESCO World Heritage City, we are proud to have hosted international delegates from all over the world, to attend the Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific 2016 Congress. Malaysia's vision is to become an advanced economy and inclusive nation, while ensuring resilient, low-carbon, resource efficient and socially sustainable development. The country is ranked among East Asia's more urbanized countries and its urban population has continued to increase rapidly from 27 per cent in 1970 to 74 per cent in 2014. The country has been witnessing an increase in frequency and intensity of floods, coastal erosion and landslides, with significant impacts on economic activities, livelihood and safety of people, especially the poor and vulnerable. Climate change is now perceived more as a development challenge than an environmental one.

It is these challenges that Malaysia would like to tackle through its climate resilient action plans, embedded within the 11th Malaysia Plan. There are no resilient cities without resilient people. To build resilient cities, we must start from people.

Therefore, I am sure that opportunities like this forum have allowed delegates to exchange ideas on how resilience can be made more integrated and inclusive.

YAB Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid bin Hamidi

Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia



Message from Chief Minister of Melaka, Malaysia

It gives me great pleasure to say that Melaka, the historic state, successfully hosted the conference organised by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, in collaboration with the Melaka State Government, Melaka Historic City Council and Melaka Green Technology Corporation. The city-state that has established her vision to become a Green Technology City State since 2011 is greatly inspired by the pledge made by the Right Honourable Datuk Seri Utama Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties 15th Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2009, to reduce Malaysia's carbon intensity per Gross Domestic Product to 40 percent by year 2020. We are proud that we are already the first state in Malaysia to prepare the GHG emissions inventory and implement the Green cities Action Plan to contribute to the national climate change mitigation target.

While the city-state strongly moves towards its goal of being more sustainable, who could have imagined a better exchange than seeing representatives from more than 30 countries, joining forces in the workshops to solve problems on topics of green and resilient urban future - building local resilience towards liveable cities.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all speakers, facilitators, and others who participated in the 2nd Asia-Pacific forum for their contributions to make the conference a success. I also congratulate all parties involved in ensuring a well-organized conference. Let us continue to together boost our efforts to transform Melaka, Malaysia and the Asia-Pacific into a green and climate resilient region.

YAB Datuk Seri Ir. Hj. Idris bin Hj. Haron
Chief Minister of Melaka



Message from Secretary General, ICLEI

The 2nd Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific forum came at a most opportune time for local governments in the region. The landmark Paris Agreement approved at COP21 last year reaffirmed the importance of engagement of all levels of government – in particular for adaptation and capacity-building, vital challenges within the Asia-Pacific – and committed technical and financial support that shall capacitate local and subnational governments to act boldly, swiftly, and purposefully on climate change. The new Sustainable Development Goals, adopted in September 2015, include an urban-specific Goal 11 to “make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.” These frameworks – along with other 2015 outcomes such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development – present new concepts, tools, and opportunities for local action on resilience and sustainability. RCAP 2016, therefore, served as the first major platform in the Asia-Pacific region where these features were elaborated and defined.

All the efforts at the congress contributed to the process of learning, localizing, and linkage-building. The efforts dovetail with the ICLEI Strategic Cornerstones 2015-2021 of developing regional approaches and fostering new sustainability alliances as the key to moving towards sustainable cities, under the initiative and guidance of local governments. As ICLEI’s work within the global policy arena has helped secure many of the advances in support of local and subnational action, I am hopeful that our work in RCAP 2016 will help translate these global gains into local realities.



Gino Van Begin
Secretary General, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

Message from Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI

ICLEI, in the Asia-Pacific region, is very pleased to have collaborated with Melaka State Government and The Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle-Centre for IMTGT Subregional Cooperation (IMTGT-CIMT) in organising the 2nd Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific 2016 Congress on 02 - 04 March 2016 at Melaka, Malaysia. The event brought together representatives from local, regional and national governments, researchers, international organisations, bilateral and multilateral agencies, NGOs, and civil society. Just like the first Congress in Bangkok in February 2015, we designed this event as an ideal opportunity for all participants to interact in an open and inclusive forum, to debate the challenges faced by cities in becoming resilient, learn about path-breaking solutions for climate adaptation, and develop partnerships to work together to strive for sustainability.

ICLEI along with like-minded organisations have been striving for several years at the global, regional, national and local levels for local and subnational governments to be recognized and supported for the significant and tangible contributions that they make in advancing towards a sustainable future. We are now at a turning point, a position of significant opportunity for affirmative action.

I am thankful to all the participants since the event turned out to be a unique platform for dialogues to forge partnerships, in order to identify implementable solutions that are inclusive, equitable and which create lasting impacts for cities and their citizens, while contributing to regional and global sustainability.



Emani Kumar
Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific 2016: An Introduction

The Congress builds on the success of “Resilient Cities - The Annual Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation” series, held annually in Bonn. Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific was first held in 2015, in Bangkok, Thailand and proved to be a platform aimed at providing an Asia-Pacific platform where dialogues were conducted to forge partnerships, with the ultimate goal of identifying implementable solutions and creating lasting impacts for cities.

The overwhelming response from the first Congress brought us to the 2nd Asia-Pacific Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation, organised in conjunction with The 16th International Convention on Melaka Twin Cities and hosted by Melaka State Government – in collaboration with Melaka Historic City Council and IMTGT-CIMT in Melaka, Malaysia.

The event was graced with presence of dignitaries like Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Chief Minister of Melaka and Secretary General of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability. The Congress was attended by about 500 representatives, including representatives of local governments in the region, UN organisations such as UNEP, UNDP, UNISDR, UN-HABITAT and UN ESCAP, bilateral and multilateral funding agencies such as ADB, World Bank, GIZ, Rockefeller Foundation, OECD, USAID, and others. The 2016 Congress consisted of a number of plenary and parallel sessions on urban resilience and development, while at the same time provided an opportunity to selected organisations to exhibit their products and services in a special exhibition space.

Some key themes covered at the Congress:

- Implications of UN Outcomes and Sustainable Development Goals
- Resilience and Informality
- Financing Urban Resilience
- Youth and Resilience
- Resilience and Biodiversity
- Resilience and Gender
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Small Island Nations and Resilience
- Resilient Infrastructure, Research and Transfer of Knowledge

The event was a great opportunity to:

- Connect with local decision makers from all over Asia-Pacific
- Demonstrate leadership and expertise in innovative urban strategies
- Discover new business opportunities and chances for collaboration
- Link urban poor with urban service providers to address key knowledge and technical gaps in improving resilience of urban poor
- Join the Resilient Cities community and be part of the largest global partnership on urban resilience and climate change adaptation



**Resilient Cities
Asia-Pacific 2016**

MELAKA • MALAYSIA

Congress in Numbers



500 Participants
31 Countries
98 Cities



48 Mayors
19 International Organisations



>30 Universities and NGOs



>75 Speakers

Media Outreach



OVER 1,000 VISITORS TO BLOG:
[HTTP://TALKOFTHECITIES.ICLEI.ORG/](http://TALKOFTHECITIES.ICLEI.ORG/)



OVER 30 TWEETS FROM
@ICLEI_ResCITIES

TWEET IMPRESSIONS:
29000

OVER 100 TWEETS WITH
#RESILIENTCITIES TAG

The High-Level Segment at the Congress

At the High-Level Segment, all political levels reinforced the importance and relevance of the 2nd Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific Forum. The Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia YAB Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid bin Hamidi, presided over this session, in which YAB Datuk Seri Ir. Hj. Idris bin Hj. Haron, the Chief Minister of Melaka State, mayors from Bhutan and United States, as well as senior UN and ICLEI representatives participated.

The dignitaries had clear and unanimous messages that emphasised that resilience cannot be built without involving communities with a specific reference to the critical role of locally driven solutions in the implementation of the various global agreements that had emerged in the previous year.

Noting the global trend where cities are being seen as epicenters of change, the Deputy Prime Minister stated that Malaysia's 11th Plan has decided on developing competitive cities as one of the game changers. These plans for national development will take into account each city's competitive advantages such as geographic location, presence of skilled labour, good infrastructure, strong economy, cohesive social structures and inclusivity.

The Chief Minister supported these statements by sharing the efforts and success of the Melaka city-state in implementing adaptation strategies with strong community engagement. He also shared the city's mitigation actions, most notable of which is the completion and publication of their GHG Inventory Report, making Melaka first among the 14 states of Malaysia to achieve this.

Mariko Sato, Chief, UN Habitat, Bangkok agreed with the political perspective and stated that global agreements will have no meaning unless they touch upon the lives of ordinary people and in particular, improve lives of the marginalized. "Community is immunity," she reiterated.

Finally, Gino Van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, highlighted the organisation's relentless efforts for local governments to be duly acknowledged at the international and national levels, and lauded the multi-level political support that was amply demonstrated at this high-level session.



Highlights and Outcomes of the Congress

Implications of UN Agreements of 2015 for Local Governments and Challenges and Opportunities in Localizing SDGs

A number of global agreements and frameworks were adopted in the year 2015, including the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Conference of Parties Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development. While the adoption of the frameworks is in itself a landmark, it is important to recognize that it is in linking these with development agendas and implementing them at the local level where the success lies.

In 2015, nations committed to far-reaching and comprehensive Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that aim to reshape our future and transform our world. As the SDGs are comprised of 17 Goals with 169 targets, there is much work to be done to make them relevant and achievable at the local level. Notably, the “Urban SDG” (Goal 11: “Sustainable Cities and Communities”) aims to catalyse change so that cities and human settlements are “inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. Goal 11 includes targets on provision of adequate, safe, and affordable housing, access to basic services, slum upgrading, participatory settlement planning, and implementation of policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, as well as resilience to disasters, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific provided a vital platform for discussing the implementation of SDGs at the local level, with a focus on the resilience dimension. The session brought together representatives from different parts of Asia and the Pacific to discuss challenges and opportunities that might arise from implementation of Global Frameworks and improve understanding of implementation of the SDGs at the local level.

Key Takeaways:

- The points for action set out in the four agreements should be seen as synergetic rather than as isolated agendas whose success can be realized if appropriately transmitted and interpreted and successfully implemented at the local level.
- While the Agreements present a myriad of opportunities, there are also challenges to their implementation; with limited capacities and lack of financial resources being critical ones.
- Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) provide local governments with the opportunity to contribute to national planning.
- To achieve the SDGs, local governments need to break down their priorities and targets into actionable elements.
- Presently, there is no dedicated financing for SDG implementation.
- A shift to decentralized decision-making will help empower local communities to achieve the SDGs.
- Communication will be key to popularize the message of SDGs.

City Realities: Tackling Challenges and Leveraging Opportunities

This session on tackling challenges and leveraging opportunities focused on the panel members representing various cities sharing their experiences as well as perceived challenges and opportunities in implementing the agreements in their respective cities. The panel members representing city networks, NGOs and academia shared their insights on the agreements from their own perspectives and engaged with the cities thus enabling both parties to explore future networks and collaborations.

Key Takeaways:

- Panelists cited concerns ranging from lack of communication, coordination, funding, and technical capacity that hamper resilience building processes.
- It was highlighted that many local governments do not have the technical capacity to fully utilize the funds that are received for adaptation. This lack of capacity of local governments to absorb funding is a major challenge in implementing the international agreements; shifting national and local level funding from disaster relief accounts to adaptation accounts can allow for building resilience.
- Local governments must partner with other stakeholders (like private sector, universities, etc) to enhance their technical capacity.
- International agreements and research by academia should be used as supporting tools for adaptive planning by local governments.
- Top-down, bottom-up, and non-linear communications can help raise the voice of local governments more effectively.

“Financing is a barrier to the implementation. Leveraging UN agencies and ICLEI to lobby with funders for local sustainability financing may be the answer to this. Maybe a more unorthodox approach is a recommendation: Always have ready-made resilience programmes to give to the donors when a disaster strikes. Disaster is also an opportunity to build-back-better.”

– **Timothy Wilcox**, Sub Regional Coordinator (Pacific), UNISDR

“Inclusive development is the way forward to implementing the SDGs.”

– **Farhad Suri**, Councillor, South Delhi Municipal Corporation & Ex- Mayor, Delhi

“City buildings create their own micro-climates”

– **Jessica Dator Bercilla**, Senior Advocacy and Policy Officer, Christian Aid



Financing Urban Resilience

In light of the new Sustainable Development Goals and climate commitments, the session curated the evolving perspectives of people and institutions responsible for financing and delivering projects that build urban resilience. Financing options that promote green and inclusive growth in cities were explored in detail. A panel comprising of international funders, NGOs, private sector, and project implementers shared lessons learned in adaptation finance, experiences in managing and accessing international and local funds, tools that assist with project preparation, leveraging private and public funds, and opportunities to establish new working relationships in light of emerging fiscal and implementation roles and responsibilities.

Additionally, potential new sources of capital were identified along with how they can be structured to best meet the urban resilience needs in an effective, efficient, and equitable manner.

Key Takeaways:

- Good governance (transparency, accountability) is the key to accessing financing for resilience and adaptation activities.
- Presently, mitigation is easier to finance than adaptation; however, financing adaptation would mean enhancing resilience.
- Cities must report their emissions and participate in global engagements in order to reach out to, enhance their credibility, and gain the trust of potential financiers.
- The private sector must be encouraged and incentivised to invest in resilience-based activities and projects.
- Big communication gaps between financiers and fund seekers exist. Platforms that help bridge these, based on common interests, and encourage multi-sectoral partnerships will play a crucial role.
- Cities must develop the ability to develop bankable resilience projects and funders must showcase success stories to encourage investments.

“Having your own house in order is crucial to get funding from multilateral organisations!”

– Joris van Etten, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Asian Development Bank

Youth and Resilience

Young people in Asia and the Pacific are increasingly exposed to the effects of climate change and disasters. However, they can play a critical role as catalysts for resilient and sustainable development if properly sensitised and supported. The plenary presented a unique opportunity for dialogue from both sides – today’s city leaders and decision makers and tomorrow’s new urban champions- to discuss the potential of youth to build urban resilience across Asia-Pacific, best practices in the region, and how to design and scale true partnerships of empowered stakeholders. Hon. Datuk Seri Ir. Hj. Idris bin Hj. Haron, Chief Minister of Melaka stated that future partnerships need to be developed between government, inter-government, non-government and youth organisations for joint initiatives, with an aim to build the capacity of youth as future leaders to drive a new climate change regime.

Cases shared by Youth Ambassadors from the Solomon islands, the Philippines, Nepal and Indonesia on integrating youth in resilience strategies through volunteering, sports, rapid employment projects for skill training, youth forums and in disaster relief activities were presented.

Key Takeaways:

- To build resilience across this region particularly in urban areas, it is imperative that current inequalities be addressed and that the capabilities and insights of all stakeholders, particularly young people are harnessed and supported into the future.
- Youth play a crucial role in helping in disaster preparedness and youth focused disaster preparedness plans should be developed.
- Information disseminated in youth preparedness programmes can be used by youth to help communities prepare for disaster.

“Indonesia is located on a ring of fire. We are now trying to educate youth about disaster management through evacuation maps and infographics. They have to be involved more intensively.”

– **Muhammad Rafi Al Hariri Nasution**, *Youth Representative*, Indonesia

Balancing Efficiency and Redundancy for Urban Resilience

The session discussed the integration of urban disaster resilience into urban green growth, climate change and sustainable urban development goals. Southeast Asia’s Mayors and urban decision makers are constantly reflecting on how to best make use of their cities’ limited resources in order to balance rising demand for better urban services and the need for economic development, with increasing disaster risks. The long-term benefits of investing in disaster resilience is not always recognized as an essential to local and national economic policy goals. They are often not prioritized, compete with a city’s short-term priorities, and fail to be addressed within the context of wider urban development. At the same time, increasing disaster risks threaten cities’ long term urban development goals, and necessitate targeted policy measures, investments, as well as the rethinking of current business as usual practices. The session discussed the need for and opportunities to align disaster resilience with urban policy and planning and highlighted the co-benefits of urban disaster resilience.

Key Takeaways:

- Urban disaster resilience can and should be integrated into routine developmental planning and sectoral developmental schemes.
- Development of tailor-made solutions in cities of Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam, like the Disaster Recovery Framework, should be studied in detail to customize them for application elsewhere.
- Linkage between spatial planning and socio-economic planning needs to be strengthened.

“Targeted and embedded legislation, institutions and financing contribute to the enabling environment required for investments to strengthen disaster resilience.”

– **Arghya Sinha Roy**, *Disaster Risk Management Specialist*, Asian Development Bank



Resilience and Informality: Issues and Solutions

This theme was divided into two workshop-like sessions. The first one focussed on discussing the problems and the second one laid emphasis on the development of solution baskets. The overall aim of both the sessions was to bring together global experts, government officials as well as representatives of NGOs on a common platform in order to discuss ways and means to develop climate resilience in urban informal settlements. In the first session, focussing on the problems, case studies developed by ICLEI, through detailed interactions with informal settlement dwellers, city government officials as well as literature review for the cities of Bidhannagar and Nashik in India, Quezon city in the Phillipines and Denpasar in Indonesia were discussed extensively. Problems with regard to urban informal settlements and building resilience were discussed across the four dimensions of physical, social, economic and governance. The second session led to discussions on potential solution baskets, with experts first presenting some successful case studies from across the globe. This session brought to fore the need to organise communities and find connections between urban development and socio-environmental issues: a point echoed by Ruth Erlbeck Project Director at GIZ, while presenting the benefits of the NEXUS approach that seeks to develop integrated resource management solutions. These discussions led to streamlining possible city-specific solutions for each of the four cities.

The “Nexus” Approach that explores synergies of water, energy, food security, and land use in achieving integrative development could provide a feasible solution. Experience and know-how is available with GIZ that has, for example, been facilitating discussions between technology providers and cities to tackle their municipal solid waste using the Nexus approach.

Key Takeaways:

- The informal settlement dwellers are not equipped to adapt to climate change due to the subsistence challenges that they face on a daily basis.
- Land rights, lack of basic services, economic backwardness, financial instability and lack of awareness on community rights and lack of access to municipal officials were identified as the major problems in all the four cities, across the three countries.
- The present dilapidated conditions and deprivation in urban slums will get further aggravated in the wake of climate change.
- City frameworks should have dedicated measures for involving the “urban working class” and the “urban poor”.
- Community involvement, beginning from communities mapping their resources is the first step to building awareness and capacities of informal settlement dwellers on climate resilience.

“Relocation is not the only solution. There are several options as well such as site upgrading. City-wide and demand-driven processes should be adopted for inclusive and relevant delivery of services to the informal sector.”

– Chawanad Luansang, Architect and Coordinator for Community Architecture in Asia ACHR, Thailand



Resilience and Biodiversity

Urbanization creates new challenges for biodiversity conservation. As a large part of the world's population moves from rural to urban areas, natural resources are subjected to greater pressures in order to cater to ecosystem services in the cities. It is thus essential to integrate biodiversity conservation with urban planning to ensure sustainable development. This session focused on developing and strengthening the linkage between sustainable infrastructure and biodiversity in order to make cities more resilient.

Thomas S K Tang, Director, Sustainability Asia, AECOM highlighted the importance of integrating blue green infrastructure that supports the principles of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) into modern living. Some strategies include green roofing and water management activities.

Key Takeaways:

- The importance of community and stakeholder engagement can be explained using a 3Ps approach: people, public, private. This approach needs to be adopted.
- Transformative Actions Program (TAP) is a recommended platform where cities can report projects looking for funding, thus providing a common interactive space for city investment projects as well as funders.
- The principles of EbA need to be imbibed into planning and development. EbA will help address crucial links between climate change, biodiversity, ecosystems and sustainable natural resource management.

“People believe that there is dearth of financial support for sustainable infrastructure, but what is actually lacking is investable urban-level infrastructure projects that could show how a city can deliver sustainable benefits to its people.”

– Carina Borgstrom Hansson, Expert, Ecological Footprint, WWF – Sweden

Resilient Infrastructure and Mobilizing Transfer of Knowledge

Resilient and adaptive infrastructure, together with sound local government decisions are critically needed in the face of climate change impacts and urban development. The session featured strategies for utilizing urban design, public spaces and showcasing examples of smart, adaptive, disaster-proof, and integrated infrastructure. Discussions also focused on how to develop better knowledge dissemination plans to arrive at a more successful transfer of knowledge among key actors.

Key Takeaways:

- All new urban structures should target reducing the greenhouse emissions and arresting carbon foot prints.
- Resilient cities from the perspective of infrastructure should include: ecosystem preservation, water-sensitive urban design, sustainable mobility and smart construction/buildings.
- Project appraisals are a useful tool in decision making as they help to make comparisons of available options in urban design.
- Roles and capacities of governments to encourage and implement such designs are a challenge and need to be improved.

“The idea is to have a common language for project owners, public sector and investors.”

– Katharina Schneider-Roos, Deputy Executive Director, Global Infrastructure Basel (GIB) Foundation

Implementing Resilience: Strategies in cities: ACCCRN experience

Building urban climate change resilience is what matters to cities and should be implemented not just in vulnerable cities. Its implementation takes time. Ongoing operations, participation and creation of a sense of ownership amongst local stakeholders, government, private and civil sectors, which, as a result, leads to mutual learning and plan drawing to enable the cities to create resilience efficiently. Mutual learning plays a considerable part in building processes of urban climate change resilience, as well as engagement of stakeholders, at local, provincial and national levels. All this ultimately results in a sustainable network of cities, practitioners and associated people, including knowledge and best practices. This, in essence, is what the Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN) experience is about.

The theme-based session, highlighted the lessons learned from the implementation of urban climate change resilience in Asian cities. ACCCRN is a programme financed by the Rockefeller Foundation with the aim to help cities build resilience. Representatives from six ACCCRN cities presented their respective city initiatives to implement urban climate change resilience programme, the impact it had on the improvement of city resiliency and how the most vulnerable of urban actors (the urban poor) were included in the planning and benefits from this initiative.

Key Takeaways:

- Communication and better collaboration with all relevant stakeholders helps in achieving sustainability/resilience goals.
- Pertinent policies and ordinances must be established to implement any project properly; strong leadership is an added advantage.
- Networking and peer-to-peer learning from cities has helped to build capacities.
- The six ACCCRN case studies illustrated the benefits that cities can expect from being a part of the network.

“We need to have a strong leadership to achieve results! It’s also important though to include the community. It’s not only about who leads, but about who’s impacted. The sense of ownership from the community has to be built.”

– Gloria Buenaventura, Head Environment, Marikina city, the Philippines



Resilience action in East Asian Cities

Urban Resilience has been valued as one of few key aspects for sustainability in the UN SDGs. As the engine for global economic growth, the East Asian region is experiencing unprecedented urbanization and transformation. While cities are growing in East Asia, more attention needs to be paid on urban resilience as these cities are facing crucial challenges brought by climate change, urbanization and industrialization. Actions have been taken at both the national and local level to address the challenges such as urban floods, heat islands, air pollution, industrial disasters. This session facilitated the exchange between East Asian local leaders and experts on their actions and strategies to improve urban resilience. It helped to facilitate city-to-city learning on urban resilience in the East Asian region, showcasing the efforts and actions taken by these cities.

The session looked into the main challenges and shared good practices to serve as a foundation for future city-to-city cooperation.

Key Takeaways:

- Pioneering schemes such as awards to recognize innovation in improving social, economic and environmental sustainability in cities and regions help to support action on resilience.
- Solid waste management, water pollution, air pollution and climate vulnerability are the major challenges faced by cities in the East Asian region; however, there are opportunities in the form of new growth models regionally and globally and common strategies both nationally and locally.
- Stakeholder involvement and partnerships are key to creating a sustainable city. Inter-city partnerships are also critical to support innovative measures for sustainability.

“Cities must increase people’s awareness and participation by promoting environmental education, encouraging green movements strengthening environment friendly behaviors using social and economic incentives.”

– **Bolormaa Gambold**, Ulaanbaataar City, Mongolia



Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change

The session focused on discussing linkages between climate change and disaster risk reduction. ICLEI presented case studies on the same that the organisation has developed for six cities (Ratnapura and Balangoda in Sri Lanka; Kampong Cham and Prey Veng in Cambodia and Banda Aceh and Surabaya in Indonesia). These case studies also included city specific action plans on DRR-CCA. During this session, city government authorities and international experts deliberated on the need to develop such action plans for other cities as well across the globe.

Key Takeaways:

- Trends of natural hazards at the national and subnational levels were found to be similar to those at the city level; cities should thus be encouraged to access and use the database to undertake planning.
- Data collection from the city is as critical as that captured at the national level and must include data related to city level service disruption due to disasters.
- It is essential to assess and include projected climate risks in local level planning and for national databases to facilitate the access to such data for city governments.
- There is a need to develop a city level data collection DRR-CCA template, which will feed information into the national database.

“Impressed by the resilience intervention supported by ICLEI, through ACCCRN small grants, the city government has decided to invest an additional INR 10 million through AMRUT scheme to ensure project success.”

— Prashant Sirkek, Assistant Commissioner, Shimla Municipal Corporation, India



Resilience and Small Island Nations

This session aimed to inform potential partners and stakeholders of the climate and disaster risk status of Pacific countries and identify opportunities for partnering resilience building programmes. The Pacific region is one of the most vulnerable regions of the world, in particular to the growing effects of climate change. This session built on earlier sessions on resilience-building in small island states, held at the first ICLEI Asia-Pacific Congress in Bangkok, the ICLEI World Congress in Seoul and Resilient Cities Congress 2015 in Bonn. It provided an update on recent work in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands to understand climate and disaster risk and develop greater resilience to the associated stresses and shocks.

Key Takeaways:

- Islands are more prone to climate change events, therefore their challenges are bigger too.
- Inhabitants of these areas are not prepared enough to deal with disasters, the city plans need to be more inclusive and holistic.
- Disaster risk management should be of prime concern to all stakeholders and partners in island nations. Each organisation should have a disaster risk management plan in place.
- A greater emphasis should be laid on capacity building of all stakeholders through extensive trainings on disaster risk management.
- Reconstruction should be aimed at “build back better”.

“An assessment tool developed by AECOM and UNISDR for local governments could be a great help for island cities as it helps measure level of preparedness and resilience and develop resilience plans and strategies.”

– Timothy Wilcox, Sub Regional Coordinator (Pacific), UNISDR

Resilience and Gender

The session on resilience and gender focused on understanding and recognizing the term “gender”, determining the vulnerabilities, needs and capacities of women in resilience-building, identifying challenges and opportunities in gender mainstreaming and implementation of policies and budgets across different ministries. Partners shared their experiences. For example, Indah Wibinastiti, Deputy Secretary General, APEKSI, Indonesia, said “APEKSI was able to integrate gender mainstreaming into climate risk assessment and strategy development. Drawing ideas from the process, in 2014, APEKSI initiated the development of guidelines in this area through a gender lens.”



Research and Technology

Research and technological interventions on various subjects contributing to urban resilience, from climate science to communication with communities to design of urban resilient infrastructure, is key to developing new approaches to ensure safe and resilient communities in the face of ongoing and impending climate change impacts. This session focused on highlighting such research initiatives and technologies which are informing or have the potential to inform climate resilience practice. Discussions on significant research initiatives which are already contributing to building urban climate resilience threw light on novel techniques and technologies in the field. This session, while focusing on context specific technologies, also highlighted the importance of enabling frameworks to ensure effective technology deployment.

Key Takeaways:

- Urban Climate Resilience is as much about harnessing the right technology to ensure safe and livable communities as it is about effective policy and community involvement. However, none of these elements, in isolation, can produce the desired outcomes.
- Communicating research to practitioners and policy makers is critical to ensure real world impact. However, high cost of implementation of resilience building technologies remains a barrier.
- Technology implementation in isolation, without an enabling policy framework, often results in unsuccessful interventions.
- Long payback periods of funding, unreliable suppliers and lack of innovative and technological expertise hamper implementation of green technology.
- Supportive policies such as green ratings for buildings, can push adoption of new technologies.
- Multisectoral engagement, e.g. with academia, private sector, is necessary for resilient urbanization.

“ Coordination among local governments, financing institutions, suppliers, contractors, community, and environment has led to the successful implementation of Green Technology Initiatives in Malaysia. ”

– YBhg. Dato’ Dr Nazily Mohd Noor, President & Group Managing Director, UMILE Alam Sdn Bhd, Malaysia



ICLEI's Initiatives for Resilience in Asia-Pacific

ICLEI's vision and definition of a "resilient city" is one that shall prepare itself to absorb and recover from any shocks or stresses while maintaining its essential functions, structures, and identity. In Asia-Pacific, ICLEI covers the eastern, southern and southeastern regions of Asia, as well as Oceania, through its regional offices and implements its Resilient Cities Agenda – one of its ten agendas. For each office of ICLEI in the Asia-Pacific, this session explored the key challenges faced, approaches and strategies used for building resilience and the key lessons learned.

- ICLEI South Asia is working on building resilience for a number of cities in South Asian countries, and integrating resilience with informality and disaster risk reduction. ICLEI South Asia is also making efforts to link the resilience strategies developed by cities to financing opportunities to enable their implementation.
- ICLEI Southeast Asia has been exploring a wide range of issues through its projects, including developing resilience strategies and integrating resilience action with informality, gender, and environmental management through tools like *ecoBUDGET*. As APAN's subregional node, ICLEI Southeast Asia is responsible for conducting learning events in the region and producing knowledge products such as policy briefs and synthesis reports. ICLEI Southeast Asia also works on capacity building for local governments for adaptation planning.
- ICLEI East Asia now works with more than 80 Member cities and supports coordination with the Japan office and the Kaohsiung Capacity Center. ICLEI East Asia is working on capacity building and knowledge sharing on urban resilience in the region through city-to-city exchanges and international conferences and forums.
- ICLEI Oceania is working in a region of 40 million people spread over 9 million sq km. The organisation is efficiently managing several programmes and building capacities on urban resilience in the region. Oceania also regularly partners with other Asian offices to work on resilience.
- ICLEI Japan is focusing on making renewable energy easily available in the country. The office regularly assists Japanese cities to register under Carbon_{IT} Climate Registry reporting their carbon emissions in a global platform and to participate in the Transformative Actions Programme (TAP) that provides support to cities for undertaking adaptive measures.
- ICLEI Korea office has been closely involved with the Green Climate Cities Programme which makes it mandatory for cities to assess their GHG emissions. ICLEI Korea is assisting cities to move towards 100 percent renewable energy and is providing a platform for effective reporting on city-to-city networking to showcase best practices.



Resilience Walk and Pledge

The three-day Asia-Pacific forum ended with a “Resilience Walk” to the Independence Memorial in Melaka. The end of this Congress was aptly marked by the Chief Minister of Melaka, Malaysia YAB Datuk Seri Ir. Hj. Idris bin Hj. Haron, leading the [Melaka Citizens’ Pledge for Resilience](#).

The Pledge was based on the Melaka Call for Action, an output of the Congress and a joint statement that was adopted by the participants which appealed to national governments to enhance their support for local and subnational governments, and commits to ten action points.

The Forum also witnessed the Citizens of Melaka taking oath to protect their city from each and every mishap, “As the life-force that drives our beautiful State of Melaka, we, its citizens, acknowledge that each one of us has an inherent responsibility to contribute towards making it green, inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.”



Melaka Call for Action

The **Melaka Call for Action**, is a significant output of the Congress and a joint statement that was adopted by the participants which appeals to national governments to enhance their support for local and subnational governments, and commits to ten action points. The representatives of city and subnational governments, local government networks, urban researchers and practitioners, private sector corporations, financial institutions, and the youth and young professionals committed to the Melaka Call for Action to forge partnerships that would lead to implementable solutions which are inclusive, equitable, and create lasting impacts for sustainable and resilient urban development.

The Melaka Call has been endorsed by the 500+ participants – which includes representatives from 98 cities from over 30 countries. It has been reviewed and revised by experts, and adds to the growing number of documented appeals that call for the adoption, support and implementation of the principle of subsidiarity. The call commits to engaging with national governments to support them in implementing the SDGs, building the capacities of local and subnational governments and supporting institutions, to develop and undertake bankable initiatives that build resilience, adopting a development process that promotes green growth, resilience and low carbon development, and forges partnerships among local governments, local communities, financial institutions, research institutes, civil society organisations, the private sector, women and youth. The call encourages cities to develop and implement solutions that are inclusive, equitable, and which create lasting impacts for sustainable and resilient development, monitor and report climate actions at the city and subnational level to verify their efficacy and connect urban resilience planning and implementation with existing initiatives, mechanisms, and processes.



Key Quotes from the Congress

The Congress highlighted the fact that the process of resilience building needs to be people centric, which targets the bottom of the pyramid. Through their quotes our participants brought forth the other messages of the Congress.

Cities must be inclusive and offer adequate opportunities for low-income households to improve their livelihoods

– **YAB Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid bin Hamidi**, Deputy Prime Minister, Malaysia



Building resilience is a collective effort. It was the best time for citizens to come together to make their cities resilient.

– **YAB Datuk Seri Ir. Hj. Idris bin Hj. Haron**, Chief Minister, Melaka, Malaysia

Community is immunity. We have to localize urban Sustainable Development Goals. It is important to unpack national goals to first meet local priorities.

– **Mariko Sato**, Chief, UN Habitat, Bangkok



I would argue that the global battle of climate change will be won or lost in Asia-Pacific region.

– **Donovan Storey**, Chief, Sustainable Urban Development Section, UN ESCAP

The unique context of the Asia-Pacific region, necessitates regular exchange of information on approaches and solutions to address climate change vulnerabilities of our urban and poor communities.

– **Kinlay Dorjee**, Mayor, Thimpu, Bhutan & Global Executive Committee Member, ICLEI South Asia



Networks can help to create strong communities, raising the profile of cities and regions to attract finance for resilience programmes.

– **Natalie Phaholyothin**, Associate Director, Asia Office, Rockefeller Foundation

RCAP 2016 comes at an opportune time for local governments in the region, as international outcomes approved last year such as the Paris Agreement and the new Sustainable Development Goals provide for significant recognition and support for local and subnational action.

– **Gino Van Begin**, Secretary General, ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability



Steering Committee

The Steering Committee for Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific 2016 Congress is composed of political heads from Malaysia, experts from partner organisations centrally involved in the field of climate change adaptation and local governments from various continents. The Steering Committee members provide advice on Congress themes, proposed presentations, and have an advisory and peer-review role in the Congress.

Chair:

- **YAB Datuk Seri Ir. Hj. Idris bin Hj. Haron**, *Chief Minister, Melaka*

Members:

- **YBhg. Datuk Zainal bin Hussin**, *Mayor, Melaka Historic City Council*
- **YBhg. Datuk Hj. Kamarudin bin Md. Shah**, *Chief Executive Officer, Melaka Green Technology Corporation*
- **Anna Brown**, *Senior Associate Director, Rockefeller Foundation*
- **Ashvin Dayal**, *Associate Vice- President and Managing Director, Asia, Rockefeller Foundation*
- **Donovan Storey**, *Chief, Sustainable Urban Development Section, Environment and Development Division, UNESCAP*
- **Mariko Sato**, *Chief, UN HABITAT, Bangkok Office*
- **Martin Dirr**, *Advisor, Urban Development, GIDRM*
- **Mozaharul Alam**, *Regional Climate Change Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific Region, UNEP*
- **Pairote Potivong**, *Director, Centre for IMT-GT Subregion Cooperation*
- **Stephan Huppertz**, *Regional Coordinator Asia, GIDRM/GIZ*
- **Emani Kumar**, *Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI and Executive Director, ICLEI South Asia*
- **Sunandan Tiwari**, *Deputy Director, ICLEI South Asia*







Supporting Partners



Supporting UN Organizations



Endorsing Partners



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