

Aide Memoire
**Pre-APEC International Workshop on
Adaptation to Climate Change for Resilient Asia-Pacific Cities**
17-18 August 2010, Yokohama, Japan

Background

Climate change threatens our planet. Countries in Asia and the Pacific have already started to experience first hand the serious effects of climate change. Developing countries often prioritise reactionary measures to these adverse effects rather than strategic adaptation and mitigation measures. Despite the many initiatives on mitigating climate change by GHGs reduction, adaptation has only recently received more attention. Moreover, studies have shown that only a small number of cities have initiated the adaptation planning process. In most cities, a commitment to adaptation needs institutional change to enable decision makers to implement the decisions and policy for useful actions with sustainable outcomes.

The theme of “Climate Change Adaptation for Building Resilient Asia-Pacific Cities” is aligned with the recently launched World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2010-2011 on “Making Cities Resilient.”¹ CITYNET is partnering with UNISDR and others to ensure the mainstreaming Disaster Risks Reduction in urban development planning and disaster risk management.

CITYNET’s Climate Change Cluster is the result of consolidating the SWM (Solid Waste Management) and WATSAN (Water and Sanitation) sub-clusters, made official at the CITYNET Congress held in September 2009 reflecting CITYNET’s further commitment to not only mitigate climate change, but also the equally important ability for cities to adapt to its impacts. Through the DISASTER Cluster of CITYNET – established in 2005, various programmes on Disaster Risks Reduction have commenced and led by Makati, the Cluster’s Chair City.²

This international workshop on climate change adaptation will be one of the supporting events for APEC Japan 2010 where the APEC³ Leaders meeting will be hosted by the City of Yokohama/the Presidency City of CITYNET in November 2010. The Workshop is expected to contribute to a new vision for APEC in order to support sustained growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific. This is especially timely as the theme for APEC Japan 2010 is “CHANGE and ACTION.”

Objectives

This Pre-APEC Workshop aims to assist Asian cities to strategically plan for resiliency against the impacts of climate change. The varied expertise and experience of local governments from APEC

¹ Further details on the World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2010-2011 on “Making Cities Resilient,” please see: www.unisdr.org

² To learn more about CITYNET’s activities on DRR, please see our website at: www.citynet-ap.org.

³ APEC is Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the premier forum for facilitating economic growth, cooperation, trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region. APEC has 21 members - referred to as "Member Economies" - which account for approximately 40.5% of the world's population, approximately 54.2% of world GDP and about 43.7% of world trade.

APEC's 21 Member Economies are Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Republic of the Philippines; The Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America; Vietnam. For further details, please see: <http://www.apec.org/>

countries, including Japan will be shared amongst participants. The focus will be centred on the critical importance of adaptation to climate change, issues include, but are not limited to water, food and food security, as well as disaster preparedness.

Expected Outputs

The Workshop shall result in the drafting of action plans and the establishment of partnerships in the form of City-to-City Cooperation designed primarily to share practical methodology enabling adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

Moreover, the Workshop will have two concrete outputs:

- a “Declaration” which Yokohama City, as president of CITYNET and host of the upcoming APEC meeting is expected to submit to the APEC Leaders Meeting in November 2010.
- To affirm CITYNET’s intensive effort and commitment to mitigating/adapting to the effects of climate change, a 3-year project/programme focusing on climate change adaptation will be launched.

Programme

The tentative programme (please see Annex I.B) is divided into plenary and working group sessions to allow participants to engage in active interactions and discussions. A study visit in Yokohama will be arranged as an optional programme for mainly overseas participants.

Following the “Pre-APEC International Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change for Resilient Asia-Pacific Cities”, the 13rd CITYNET-Japan Forum focusing on the role of community in climate change adaptation will be organized targeting the members of the public.

Participants

Mayors, government-nominated experts/officials on planning, environment and disaster management from approximately 15 countries (mainly from APEC countries), local government officials, private companies, research institutions, community groups particularly from Japan will be invited together with a number of experts on climate change adaptation. In addition, representatives from international organisations and multi/bi-lateral institutions will also be invited. A total of 50 persons are expected to participate.

Date and Venue

The Pre-APEC International Workshop entitled “Adaptation to Climate Change for Resilient Asia-Pacific Cities” will be held on 17 and 18 August 2010 at the Pacifico-Yokohama in Yokohama. Following the Workshop, the 13th CITYNET-Japan Forum on the role of community in climate change adaptation will be held on 19 August 2010 at the Yokohama Media Communications Center Hall.

Further details regarding the Workshop will be sent to confirmed participants at a later date.

Language

The Workshop will be held in English. Japanese simultaneous interpretation will also be available.

Further Information

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