

CONCEPT NOTE

4th High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (HLS ESC)

- Date** : 21 – 22 March 2013
- Venue** : 5th Flr., Calidas Landmark 72, Hanoi, Viet Nam
- Organisers:** Government of Viet Nam
Government of Japan
Government of Australia
Government of Indonesia
ASEAN Secretariat
ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities
- Framework:** East Asia Summit Environment Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM)
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Background:

At the East Asia Summit Environment Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM) inaugurated in Hanoi, Viet Nam in October 2008, the Ministers agreed that Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) was an immediate priority area as an initial step of EAS environmental cooperation. Following this, it was agreed that the 1st High Level Seminar (HLS) on ESC would be held to formulate concrete collaborative activities on ESC.



1st HLS ESC. The 1st HLS ESC was jointly organised by the Governments of Indonesia, Japan, Australia and Singapore from 2 – 4 March 2010 in Jakarta, Indonesia, under the framework of EAS EMM. The seminar produced key messages and recommended five specific practical activities to promote ESC in the region, which were presented to and noted by the 2nd EAS EMM held in Brunei Darussalam in October 2010.



2nd HLS ESC. With the success of the 1st seminar, the 2nd HLS ESC was organised by the Governments of Japan, Australia, Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand on 15 – 16 March 2011 in Kitakyushu, Japan. The seminar welcomed the implementation of the 'ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme' in April 2011, which had been designed as an umbrella



initiative to realise the five recommended activities arising from the 1st HLS ESC.

3rd HLS ESC. Subsequently, the 3rd HLS ESC was organised by the Governments of Cambodia, Japan, Australia, Thailand and the ASEAN Working Group on ESC (AWGESC) on 6 - 8 March 2012 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Combined with the Regional Seminar of Year 1 of the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme, the seminar showcased the programme's achievements as well as generated consensus for sustaining the HLS platform and extending the Model Cities Programme into the Year 2.



The 4th HLS ESC will continue the tradition of providing a high-level and inclusive forum to gather East Asian stakeholders for reviewing progress and discussing priority issues on sustainable urban development in the region. A key objective is to foster networking for new concrete activities among governments, international organisations, the private sector, research institutes, universities and other key stakeholders, as well expanding inter-city cooperation for ESC development. In addition, the seminar will generate specific messages to Ministers which would be reported to preparatory meetings towards the next EAS EMM. For more information, visit <http://hls-esc.org>

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) of Viet Nam, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOE-Japan), and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) will be co-organizing the Fourth Regional 3R Forum in Asia from 18 to 20 March 2013 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. Under the overall theme of "3Rs in the Context of Rio+20 Outcome - The Future We Want", the Ha Noi 3R Forum is expected to address - 3Rs and resource efficiency measures towards achieving the Rio+20 Outcome - The Future We Want. Building on the "Recommendations of the Singapore Forum on the 3Rs in Achieving a Resource Efficient Society in Asia," the Forum also aims to reach a consensus on "Ha Noi 3R Declaration - Sustainable 3R Goals for Asia for 2013-2023". For details about Regional 3R Forum in Asia, please visit: <http://www.uncrd.or.jp/env/>

Objectives:

1. To provide a broad platform for information sharing and knowledge exchange on ESC development in the region among all stakeholders

2. To review and report the progress of the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme funded by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) building on the programme's Year 1 achievements.
3. To share information on international organisations' assistance schemes, the private sector's technologies and expertise as well as city-to-city cooperation for ESC development
4. To discuss necessary legal reforms and policy development for realising ESC development
5. To identify possible cooperation among EAS countries on ESC with other initiatives, including 'FutureCity' Initiative by Government of Japan

Participants:

National and local governments, bilateral and international development agencies, city networks, NGOs, private companies, academia and community groups

Programme (2 days)

- **Day 1:** Keynote presentations, progress of ASEAN Model Cities and collaborative opportunities discussions, thematic presentations and discussions by other organisations
- **Day 2:** Discussion on future activities on ESC and Chair's Summary.

Secretariat Contact

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