



# 7<sup>th</sup> High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities

*Redesigning toward the 2030 Agenda*

HA NOI, VIET NAM ♦ 3-4 MARCH 2016

## A4. Better City-to-City Cooperation

### Moderator:

- **National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES):** Dr. Junichi Fujino, Senior Researcher; Member of the "FutureCity" Initiative Expert Study-Group

### Panellists:

- **Kitakyushu, Japan:** Mr. Yoshiharu Inoue, Manager, International Environmental Strategies Division, Environment Bureau
- **Osaka, Japan:** Mr. Makoto Mihara, Assistant Manager for International Cooperation, Environment Bureau
- **Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam:** Dr. Nguyen Trung Viet, Senior Advisor to the Director of Department of Natural Resources and Environment on Climate Change and International Relations, Head of Advisory Group to Climate Change Steering Board of Ho Chi Minh City
- **CDIA:** Ms. Meg Yandoc, Communication Specialist
- **Clean Air Asia:** Ms. Chee Anne Roño, Program Manager
- **JICA:** Mr. Takahiro Ikenoue, Acting Director, Office of Climate Change, Environment Management Group, Global Environment Department
- **UCLG-ASPAC:** Dr. Bernadia Tjandradewi, Secretary-General

# *Challenges*

- Learn from smaller scale projects, but how do you develop it to a bigger scale that is one challenge.
- Limitation of budget and human resources is a tangible challenge, but some times resources can be found outside of the immediacy of the city.
- It is challenging some times to justify to citizens that their tax money should be spent in cities that maybe some of the citizens have never been to. So explaining that in a clear and concise way may be helpful.
- Cities should have a responsibility to contribute to global society, especially large cities have a large impact both positively and negatively so they should leverage their influence
- Only big cities have international cooperation departments, smaller cities don't have that. There is a need for support from national government to help establish links and institutions also at local level in smaller cities
- Significant financing is available also in developing countries. The potential to leverage local tax and other domestic resource mobilisation (VAT and property taxes) remain untapped.

# *Recommendations*

- Mapping of best practices is important, so as to identify needs and also who can meet those needs, then the best practices should be studied, then the recipient city's capacity should be studied and then the project can go ahead.
- It is recommended that cities should match in terms of either size, policies (on an area), industry etc is important for a good collaboration
- Reciprocity is important so that both donor and recipient cities are encouraged to participate.
- Essentially to inspire change you need to be communicating the good stories. They should be realistic and can even include challenges and mistakes so that other cities may learn from you.
- Action lists (step-by step concrete measures that are based on scientific findings) are the core of collaboration
- A programmatic approach that engages countries national level development agencies can be useful to develop broader network type collaboration and not only bilateral collaboration.
- Understanding your partner (city) is key to establish technical cooperation
- Good projects are often based on public to private partnerships.
- Starting small with one or two projects, prepare human resources and training and how to make a business case so both sides benefit.
- Collaboration can expand from just environment area to other areas such as education and broader collaboration on research or others.