

The Asia Pacific Conference

Localising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Leaving No One Behind

25 – 26 October 2017 Jen Hotel Penang, Malaysia

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

With the conclusion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in September 2015, the Heads of State and Government agreed to set the world on a path towards sustainable development through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This agenda includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs, which set out quantitative objectives across the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development – all to be achieved by 2030¹. The goals provide 5 sustainable development dimensions for people, planet, prosperity, partnership and peace to be implemented by all countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership and build on the success of the MDGs.²

In the Malaysian context, the SDG framework mirrors Malaysia's "New Economic Model" and the "11th Malaysia Plan". There is synergy and alignment in Malaysia's New Economic Model and the 11th Malaysia plan with the SDG's thrust in relation to the focus areas as well as the themes. The SDG framework encompasses social, environment and economic factors, while Malaysia's New Economic Model encompasses inclusivity, sustainability and high income. The theme of the SDG framework is "Leaving no one behind" while the theme of the 11th Malaysia plan aims at "Anchoring growth of people".

At the sub-national and local governance level, the challenges in implementing SDGs include weak planning and budgeting systems, poor fiscal decentralisation and resource allocation frameworks and also weak accountability systems. This needs to be addressed because the 2030 Agenda emphasises the importance of the sub-national and local government roles in achieving the SDGs and the integration of gender equality in all SDGs. It is imperative that effective and efficient governance frameworks include collection of sex disaggregated data, smart partnerships of multi-stakeholders and better financing for gender equality through the Gender Responsive Budgeting process.

Many countries are developing institutional arrangements to promote coordination and policy coherence across sectors and government level. There is a focus to align national and local level development plans and budgets with the SDG targets and to assess the availability of data, capacity of data systems and the monitoring process.

It has been a year since the inception of the Agenda 2030. At this juncture, PWDC is spearheading the initiative to organise an Asia-Pacific regional conference titled '**Localising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Leaving No One Behind**'.

This conference will be hosted by PWDC in collaboration with our partners: State Government of Penang, City Council of Penang and Municipal Council of Seberang Perai together with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Penang Institute. The two-day

¹ Transforming Our World: The 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development
(<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>)

² The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015
(http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20%28July%201%29.pdf)

conference aims to bring together leaders and experts from governments, academics and civil society in the Asia-Pacific region to:

1. Share awareness of best practices and lessons learned at sub-national and local government level in the Asia Pacific related to the realisation of the SDGs
2. Through such sharing, to build capacity and collaboration for success across the region
3. Explore and emphasise the importance of gender equality as fundamental to the attainment of all the SDGs
4. Contribute to a better understanding of and between potential partners in the implementation of the SDGs at the sub-national and local government level and to cultivate an environment whereby inter-relationship between state, local government, citizens, academia, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders can result in smart and successful local partnerships.

KEYNOTE AND SUB-THEMES

The conference will address (4) four sub-themes:

Keynote Speech: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): An Overview

The keynote speech will provide an overview of the SDGs and their importance in the international context and how it should translate into the local context. It will also include the opportunities and challenges in pursuing sustainable development in the context of the Asia-Pacific countries with the focus on the sub-national including local government framework.

Session 1: SDGs and The Asia-Pacific Narratives and Reflections at Sub-National and Local Governance level

Session 1 will showcase the experiences of selected Asia-Pacific countries in localising SDGs. It will explore efforts by the different sub-national governments including local governments in prioritising and implementing SDGs. In this session, it is important to ensure that the coordination within the frameworks exist between the national and sub-national policies, strategies and plans.

Session 2: Can SDGs be achieved without Gender Equality?

Session 2 will provide an overview on the importance of gender equality transcending all the SDGs. This session will cover case studies from different countries within the region on gender-centred approach success stories and also the challenges to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

Session 3: SDGs and Road to Success at the Sub-National and Local Governance level

Session 3 will focus on approaches that can accelerate the SDGs at the sub-national and local governance level by focusing on the importance of political commitment, data, transformative financing and finance options. This session will showcase action plans of selected countries in the region on how to accelerate the implementation of SDGs through policies, institutions and data needs to support effective decision making and planning.

Session 4: Partnerships: Key to implementing SDGs

Session 4 will discuss on the fundamental importance of partnerships in achieving the goals and targets of SDGs by 2030. This session will outline the roles of the different players and how synergy can be created at different layers within the same framework.

Session 5 and 6: Charting the roadmap for actions at Local Level

The above sessions will be followed by break-out groups in Session 5 to discuss, brainstorm and in Session 6 to present the strategies for moving forward in successfully implementing SDGs within the Asia-Pacific region.

Outputs and Outcome of the Conference

A key output of the conference is a **conference proceeding** which includes a list of recommendations based on the best practices in implementing SDGs at the sub-national and local government level. These recommendations will be synthesised to chart the roadmap for action at the local levels and the formation of the **Taskforce on SDGs** to formulate the **Penang Blueprint on Localising SDGs in Penang**.

Participants: 250 people

Language: English

Programmes

DAY 1 – 25 OCTOBER 2017	
8.30 – 9.00	Registration & Welcome coffee
9.00 – 10.30	Opening ceremony Opening remarks by The Honorable Ms Chong Eng, Penang State EXCO for Youth and Sport and Women’s Development, Family and Community Opening speech by Mr. Stefan Priesner, UNDP Resident Representative Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam Welcome address by The Honorable Mr Lim Guan Eng, Penang Chief Minister Keynote Address on Localising SDGs: Leaving No One Behind by Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Economist
10.30 – 11.00	Break Press Conference
11.00 – 1.00	Session 1: SDG – The Asia-Pacific Narratives and Reflections at Sub-National and Local Government Session Chair: Mr. Stefan Priesner, UNDP Resident Representative Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam Localising SDGs through public engagement in the Penang Local Government Dato’ Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Mayor, City Council of Penang Island, Malaysia Integrating the 2030 Agenda: SDGs Roadmap Malaysia Dato’ Nik Azman Nik Abdul Majid, Director General, Economic Planning Unit (EPU), Prime Minister Office (tbc) Lesson from Localising SDGs at Local Government in the Asia-Pacific Regions Dr Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General, UCLG-ASPAC

	<p>ASEAN and SDGs Mainstreaming Mr Nguyen Ngoc Son, Assistant Director & Head for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Monitoring Division, Analysis and Monitoring Directorate Department, ASEAN Secretariat</p> <p>Sustainable City: Singapore Experience Ms Esther An, Chief Sustainability Officer, City Developments Limited, Singapore</p> <p>Q&A</p>
1.00 – 2.00	Lunch
2.00 – 3.30	<p>Session 2: Can SDGs Be Achieved Without Gender Equality?</p> <p>Moderator: Dato’ Dr Rashidah Shuib, Professor, University Sains Malaysia</p> <p>Ms Koh Miyaoi Regional Adviser on Gender, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</p> <p>Misun Woo Deputy Regional Coordinator, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development</p> <p>Dr Prabha Khosla Research Project Manager, Urbanization, gender and the global south: a transformative knowledge network, City Institute, York University, Toronto</p> <p>Ms Shanthi Dairiam Human Rights and Women’s Rights Advocate</p> <p>Q&A</p>
3.30 – 4.00	Break
4.00 – 5.30	<p>Session 3: SDGs and Road to Success at Sub-National & Local Government</p> <p>Session Chair: Dr Prema Devaraj, President of Aliran</p> <p>SDG tools for Local Governance Mr Patrick Duong, Regional Local Governance & Decentralisation, UNDP</p> <p>Empowering and Advancing Community towards a Sustainable GRPB Initiative: The People-Centred Perspectives Ms Shariza Kamarudin, Programme Manager GRPB-PWDC</p> <p>Social Protection, Data, Monitoring and Evaluation at Sub-National Dr. Amjad Rabi, Deputy Representative, UNICEF</p> <p>Urban Planning and Community for the New Urban Agenda 2030 Ms Norliza Hashim, CEO Urbanice Malaysia</p> <p>Q&A</p>
8.00 – 10.30	Welcome Dinner & Social gathering

DAY 2 – 26 OCTOBER 2017	
8.30 – 9.00	Welcome coffee
9.00 – 10.30	<p>Session 4: Partnerships - Key to implementing SDGs</p> <p>Moderator: Dr Prabha Khosla, Urban Planner and Gender Specialist, Toronto, Canada</p> <p>Private-Public Relationship in Implementing SDGs Ms Sujitra Jayaseelan, Head - Programmes, United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)</p> <p>Partnership with CSO in Implementing the Agenda 2030 Dr Lin Mui Liang, CSO-SDG Alliance</p> <p>Smart City and SDGs Mr Edward Ling, Business Manager, Google/Waze Malaysia</p> <p>The Role of Banks in Implementing the SDGs Mr. Faris Hadad-Zervos, World Bank’s Country Manager (tbc)</p> <p>Q&A</p>
10.30 – 11.00	Break
11.00 – 1.00	Session 5: Charting the roadmap for Actions at Local Part I (Breakout Session)
1.00 – 2.00	Lunch
2.00 – 3.30	<p>Session 6: Charting the roadmap for Actions at Local Part II (Reporting from Breakout Session)</p> <p>Session Chair: Datin Rohana Abdul Ghani, Director PWDC</p>
3.30 – 4.00	Break
4.00 – 4.30	<p>Closing session</p> <p>Closing remarks by The Honorable Mr Chow Kon Yeow, Penang State Exco for Local Government, Traffic Management and Flood Mitigation</p>