

OECD-ADB JOINT WORKSHOP ON GREEN GROWTH IN FAST-GROWING ASIAN CITIES (FEBRUARY 4-5, 2013, MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES)

Background

Green growth has increasingly become a worldwide policy agenda, and greening cities is an important option for action for green growth. Cities have a unique role to play in advancing green growth at national and global level, as they have greater potential to create synergies between environmental and economic objectives. In 2010, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) launched the Green Cities Programme, which has explored the way to assess urban green growth policies across a range of geographical, economic and environmental contexts. In Asia, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently initiated the Green Cities Initiative in fast-growing cities in Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

One lesson that has come out of the OECD Green Cities Programme is the need to adapt urban green growth models to different development contexts. The OECD Strategy on Development, endorsed at the OECD Meeting of Council at Ministerial Level in May 2012, underscores the need for incorporating inclusive green growth into development policies as part of efforts to promote sustainable development, and highlights greening cities as an important option for action. The Rio+20 emphasized the importance of advancing a global green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Among cities in the urbanising world, Asian cities exhibit a unique form of development, characterised by rapid and continuous urbanisation on the basis of insufficient urban infrastructure, accompanied by the fast economic growth driven by Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). At the same time, they face a number of challenges, including rapidly increasing in carbon emissions and energy consumption, increasing risks of global warming impacts and localised environmental disasters, disparities in income, education levels and job opportunities among urban populations. This calls for a green growth model considering the local circumstances specific to Asian cities. Collaboration between the OECD and ADB helps to develop such a model and enables to provide a “platform” where OECD and fast-growing Asian cities can facilitate knowledge sharing and mutual leaning on urban green growth policies.

Objectives of the workshop

The OECD-ADB Joint Workshop on Green Growth in Fast-Growing Asian Cities is the first collaboration effort between the OECD and ADB on urban green growth policies. The main objective is to discuss key policy and governance strategies to achieve urban green growth in fast-growing Asian cities, by knowledge sharing and mutual learning among the OECD, ADB and other key local actors in OECD and Asian cities. The discussion topics include:

- the concept of urban green growth, particularly in the context of fast-growing Asian cities;
- key policy and governance strategies for urban green growth under diverse policy contexts in fast-growing Asian cities; and
- opportunities and challenges in green infrastructure investment.

The workshop also aims to facilitate networking of OECD and Asian cities. Although opportunities and challenges for green growth are different from one city to another, the diverse contexts will provide each city with “food for thought” for their own green growth actions. Moreover, the workshop will discuss how the OECD and ADB can further collaborate on this agenda.

Participants

A wide range of participants are expected to join the workshop, including the OECD and ADB, other international organisations, national administrations, OECD and Asian city governments and academic/research institutions. Please note that the workshop is by invitation only. The workshop will be held at the ADB Headquarter building in Manila, the Philippines (details to be informed).

Contacts

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Preliminary Agenda

DAY 1: February 4th, 2013, Monday

9:30-9:40 ***Introduction by Michael Lindfield (ADB)***

9:40-10:40 ***Keynote speeches***

“Green Urbanization in Asia”

Guanghua Wan, Principal Economist, ERD, ADB

“Green growth in cities”

Joaquim Oliveira-Martins, Head of Regional Development Policy Division, OECD

(Coffee break)

Green growth in cities: the concept, policy and governance strategies

11:00-12:00 ***“Green cities in Asia”***

Amy Leung, Director of Urban Development and Water Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB

“City Economies and Green growth PRC initiatives”

Jingmin Huang, Senior Urban Development Specialist, RSID, ADB

12:00-12:30 ***Discussion***

(Lunch break)

14:30-15:30 ***“Key findings of OECD Green Cities Programme and Compact City Studies”***

Tadashi Matsumoto, Senior Policy Analyst for Sustainable Development, OECD

“ADB Green Cities Initiative”

Ramola Singru, Urban Development Specialist (ADB Consultant)

15:30-16:00 ***Discussion***

(Coffee break)

Green infrastructure investment

16:30-17:30 ***“Financing green cities – experience in the OECD”***

Setsuko Saya, Head of Regional Policies for Sustainable Development Division, OECD

“Mobilising private investment for green growth”

Osamu Kawanishi, Senior Policy Analyst, Environment Directorate, OECD

“Financing green cities in Asia”

Michael Lindfield, Lead Urban Specialist, ADB

17:30-18:00 ***Discussion***

DAY 2: February 5th, 2013, Tuesday

Learning from diverse policy contexts in Asian cities

9:30-11:00

“The Case of Kitakyushu, Japan”

Emiko Murakami, Manager, Office for Environmental Future City Promotion, City of Kitakyushu, Japan

“The Case of Phnom Penh, Cambodia”

Gary Kawaguchi, Professor at Pannasastra University of Cambodia

“The case of Naga, the Philippines”

Wilfredo Prilles, Jr., City Planning and Development Coordinator, Naga City, Philippines

11:00-11:30

(Coffee break)

Wrap-up roundtable

11:30-13:00

“The way forward: collaboration of OECD, ADB and other international players towards green growth in fast-growing Asian cities”

Moderator: Michael Lindfield (ADB)

Participants:

Amy Leung (ADB)

Joaquim Oliveira-Martins (OECD)

Tadashi Matsumoto (OECD)

Kotaro Kawamata (Ministry of Environment, Japan)

Joo-Ho Rhim (Korea Land and Housing Corporation, Korea)

(Other guest speakers are also invited to make interventions.)

13:00

Closing remarks by Michael Lindfield and Joaquim Oliveira-Martins