



AGENDA

Regional Conference on Strengthening Decentralization and Local Governance in ASEAN Countries through a Multi-Stakeholder Approach

3rd-4th May 2012, Phnom Penh

A conference jointly organised by the EU projects "Supporting Decentralization in Developing Countries" and the Partnership for Democratic Local Governance in Southeast Asia (www.DELGOSEA.eu).

General Objective

The objective of the 1.5 days conference is to start a permanent dialogue among local government associations (LGAs), high level government representatives and ASEAN as well as civil society. The framework of this dialogue should be the support of the role of local governments and the harmonisation of regional priorities within local governance throughout Southeast Asia.

Specific Objective

The conference aims at generating a consensus among stakeholders to solicit the national governments, the ASEAN and international institutions for adopting particular propositions on decentralization and good local governance development agendas through a multi-stakeholder approach.

Expected outcome

At the end of the conference it is hoped that a declaration, which reflects common views and initiatives among participants to support decentralization and good local governance, is produced. More importantly, this conference is expected to create a permanent regional forum on the strengthening good local governance and decentralization by involving all stakeholders.

Conference Outline

The discussions during the conference will basically revolve around the two main topics: 1. setting the foundation for a joint declaration based on the presented policy recommendations as well as 2. strengthening regional cooperation on good local governance between stakeholders.

Herewith, one part is focused on the presentation of the findings of the policy recommendations identified by the two EU projects. The basis for these recommendations are the regional study on decentralisation of the "Supporting Decentralization in Developing Countries Project", implemented by UCLG ASPAC, and



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the concrete experiences from best practice transfer on local governance projects in Southeast Asia of the DELGOSEA network. Out of the pool of policy recommendations, the conference will then focus on two thematic areas, which have been of key concern to local governance in Southeast Asia. These are: 1. disaster management and risk mitigation in the framework of climate change as well as 2. public private partnership for local economic development.

The second part of the conference is looking at the question on how regional cooperation and a sustainable dialogue can be best organised. The aim of this session is to strengthen local authorities `networking with international and regional organizations and to develop closer links between local authorities, civil society and academic institutions.

The conference will end with a policy declaration and an agenda for sustainable local governance through a multi-stakeholder approach for the ASEAN region.

Target Groups:

ASEAN Representatives and ASEAN Secretariat, Representatives from national governments, such as the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior; Representatives from other Regional Organisations, such as ADB, EU, FCM; Representatives from civil society organisations, academia, media and respective umbrella organisations; Representatives from the Local Government Associations (LGAs), DELGOSEA Team.

Representatives will come from the following countries: Philippines, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Laos, and Myanmar.

Further background information on the two projects can be found in annex I and annex II.



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Overall moderation by Mr. Methodius Kusumahadi, Chairperson of Satu Nama's Board of Trustee

DAY 1 – Thursday, 3rd May 2012

13:00- Registration

14:00

14.00- Official Welcome Note

14.10 *By Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cambodia*

14.10- Official Welcome Note

14.20 *By Mr. DSG Bagas Hapsoro, the Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN for Community and Corporate Affairs*

14.20- Official Welcome Note

14:30 *By the European Union*

14:30- Welcome and Introduction into the Conference

14:45 *By Dr. Rudolf Hauter, Secretary General of the United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC)*

14:45- Introduction into "Supporting Decentralization in Developing Countries", a project
15:00 co-funded by the European Union in cooperation with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

By Gero von Harder, Project Manager

15:00- Introduction into the "Partnership for Democratic Local Governance in Southeast
15:15 Asia (DELGOSEA)", a project co-funded by the European Union and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

By Susanne Stephan, DELGOSEA Project Manager

15:15- Coffee Break

15:30

15:30- Presentation of Regional Agenda Strengthening Decentralization and Local
16:00 Development in Southeast Asia

By Dr. Gero von Harder

16:00- **Disaster Mitigation and Risk Management in the Framework of Climate
18:00 Change**



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- 16:00-16:20 Key Speech: The Role of Local Authorities in Disaster Mitigation
By Ms. Helena Molin Valdes, Deputy Director, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat (UNISDR)
- 16:20-16:35 Presentation: Capacity Building for Local Authorities on Disaster Risk Management
By Dr. Gaudioso Sosmena
- 16:35-16:50 Presentation: People's Participation in Early Warning and Disaster Mitigation
By Mr. Basilio Araujo, Head of Division for International Financial Institution and International Organization Cooperation, Indonesia, Ministry of Home Affairs
- 16:50-17:05 Presentation: Community Based Flood Control
By Dr. Paul Chamniern, Director of Thailand Environment Institute
- 17:05-18:00 Discussion

DAY 2 – Friday, 4th May 2012

Public and Private Financial Instruments for Local Economic Development And Infrastructure Programs

- 08:30-08:50 Key Speech: The Importance of Additional Income For Local Economic Governments
By Dr. Bharat Dahiya, Human Settlements Officer, UN-HABITAT Bangkok Office
- 08:50-09:05 Importance of Public Private Partnership for Local Development, a Cambodia Perspective
By Mr. Pok Sokundara, Secretary General, NLC/S
- 09:05-09:20 The Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA) Concept
By Mr. Hajo Junge, Senior Urban Governance Specialist, CDIA
- 09:20-09:35 **The (FCM) Concept**
By
- 09:35-10:05 Discussion
- Strengthening Regional Cooperation on Local Governance between Stakeholders**
- 10:25-10:55 Sharing experiences from replicating best practices on local governance from the DELGOSEA project
By Dr. Rudolf Hauter



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- 10:55- Presentation of Paper on Sustainability of Local Governance Policy Options
11:25 By *Dr. Gaudioso Sosmena*
- 11:25- The Importance of a Regional Framework for Local Governance (or why local
11:55 governance needs to be regional)
By *Peter Woods*
- 11:55- A Regional Framework Needs a Regional Network (or why a network multi-
12:25 stakeholder approach matters)
By *Dr. Peter Köppinger, DELGOSEA Project Director and Country Representative of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung for the Philippines*
- 12:25- Lunch
13:45
- 13:45- The Role of Academia and Civil Society within the Multi-Stakeholder Network on
15:15 Good Local Governance
Moderated by Mr. Methodius Kusumahadi, Chairperson of Satu Nama's Board of Trustee
Round Table Participants: Asian University Network: Mr. Dato Misran bin Karmain, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Sociol-Cultural Community, **Academia: Prof. Edmund Tayao, Civil Society xxxx, School of Journalists?**
- 15:15- Coffee Break
15:30
- 15:30- Policy Declaration and an Agenda for Sustainable Local Governance through a
16:15 Multi-Stakeholder Approach for the ASEAN Region
By *Peter Woods, Ambassador of UCLG ASPAC*
- 16:15- **Concluding Remarks**
16:45 By *Dr. Peter Koeppinger and Edgardo Bilsky*
- 17:15- **Press Conference**
18:00



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ANNEX I

Background Information about the EU-funded Project "Supporting Decentralization in Developing Countries"

Background:

Decentralization, *democracy* and local development, which constitute the foundations of good governance, are at the heart of the work of local authorities. It is generally accepted that an effective decentralization contributes to creating a base for a more balance local development which in turn creates a favourable environment to strengthen national and regional integration in Southeast Asia.

The European Commission (EC) funded project on "Supporting Decentralization in Developing Countries" in cooperation with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) is designated to support the decentralization and local democracy process in developing countries in order to strengthen local development and good governance. This project proposes reinforcing the capacities of Local Administrations in two domains: (1) the observation and analysis of the evolution of decentralization in their countries for better defining priorities and for advancing this process at the national and regional level; (2) dialogue and lobbying of states and regional institutions with the objective of supporting the decentralization process and of their role in processes of development cooperation and regional integration.

As part of the EC/UCLG Project in cooperation with UCLG ASPAC (Asia Pacific Section based in Jakarta/Indonesia) a Regional Study on Decentralization in Southeast Asia has been recently completed drawing up on the experience of two UCLG Global Reports (Political and Fiscal Decentralization, GOLD I and II). This Study was undertaken on seven (7) countries in Southeast Asia, namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The study came out with some policy recommendations, among them are: (1) Periodic monitoring and evaluation of country decentralization programs (2) Develop performance measurements for local authorities (3) Training of local government administrators (4) Strengthening of Local Government Associations (5) Develop local authority in capacities in disaster mitigation and risk management (6) Develop closer links between local authorities and academic institutions (7) Strengthen international alliances and networking.

These recommendations were presented and discussed with the partners in the 7 countries for revision, adoption and validation. The process of validation and adoption was intended to give the regional agenda the political credibility necessary for its use as a lobbying tool towards governments and partners.

The following topics were tentatively discussed and will be further reviewed during the conference:



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1. Capacity Development Of Local Authorities In Southeast Asia On Disaster/Climate Change Mitigation And Risk Management

Due to their proximity to the so-called "ring of fire", some countries in Southeast Asia have encountered numerous natural disasters (Tsunamis, earthquakes, volcano eruptions). However, this does not mean that other countries in the region are immune from natural calamities like flooding and landslides. Rising sea levels endanger the livelihood of millions of people. All countries are facing serious consequences of the accelerating climate change.

With long coastlines, population and economic activity concentrated in coastal areas Southeast is highly vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Various international and bi-lateral programs have been launched. However, their design is more sector oriented and vertical dominated with priorities of international and western institutions with less emphasis on local capacity building and own initiatives.

Natural disasters have had an increasingly negative impact on local government performance over the last decades. Local authorities in the region need to upgrade their capacities in disaster mitigation and risk management. Although some local governments have launched their own disaster mitigation programmes, both local and national governments are usually not well prepared for these eventualities, often taking only a reactive stance to international programs. Promoting a regionally coordinated natural disaster management program (including a fully self-financed ASEAN emergency fund) would ensure the rebuilding process of affected areas (e.g. reconstruction of public infrastructure and housing, timely compensation for disaster victims, etc.) and to bring them back on track to national development level. These efforts require support not only from national and local governments, but from every element of the society as well.

The session on capacity building on disaster/climate change mitigation and risk management aims to share experience and knowledge on mitigation and risk management program, people's participation and the role of local authorities in emergency fund management, recovery and reconstruction efforts.

2. Local Authorities' Networking With International And Regional Organizations And Partnership With Academic Institutions And ASEAN Research Centers

Local authorities are no longer purely local. In the context of our global village they have growing international relations. In this regard, internationalism should be adopted and practiced by local authorities not only in exchanging experiences and information on good governance but also in establishing international alliances and in voicing the concerns of local authorities in global forums such as United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the United Nations and ASEAN. The "Partnership for Democratic Local Governance in Southeast Asia" (DELGOSEA) aims to create a regional network of cities and municipalities to implement transnational local governance best practices replication across partner countries.



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Academic institutions have often assisted local authorities to resolve some of the issues in local public administration through training, operations research and providing consultancy services to local authorities. At the regional level, an independent and internationally recognized Research and Development Centre on Local Government should be promoted. Such centre could help to collect, update and analyse local government data, list on-going research activities, and undertake research upon request from clients such as local governments, local government associations, national governments and the international community. It is strongly proposed to build up a close relationship with the ASEAN University Network (AUN) with its 26 member universities in all ASEAN member countries.

The aim of the session are to strengthen local authorities `networking with international and regional organizations and to develop closer links between local authorities, civil society and academic institutions.

3. Public And Private Financial Instruments For Local Economic Development And Infrastructure Programs

Economic development is seen as a main policy for improving overall people’s welfare in Southeast Asia. Infrastructure and education facilities development are major tools in achieving growth. Local Governments are often facing serious budget constraints in financing such programs. Loan (national or international) financed projects are often way above repayment capacities of local governments.

The aim of the session is to introduce different financing schemes suitable to local governments:

- *Cooperation between LGs of different countries*
 - *PPP*
 - *CSR*
 - *CDIA*
 - *Hong Kong Approach*
 - *Climate Change Finance Schemes*
 - *Private/Public*
- Financial sources from Asia*

Upon the completion of the conference and the commitment to a Regional Declaration, a permanent conference or regional forum on the strengthening of decentralization, with the participation of Las, State representatives and civil society will be reinforced or created.

Contact Person for this Project:

Gero von Harder

Kommentar [S1]: Please provide contact details



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ANNEX II

Background Information about the EU-funded Network "Partnership for Democratic Local Governance in Southeast Asia"

- **www.DELGOSEA.eu** -

DELGOSEA - What is it about?

DELGOSEA is a network of 32 cities from five countries – Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam – with the aim to share knowledge and replicate best practices on good local governance. This network is supported by 11 Local Government Associations, five partners and various other stakeholders from Government, civil society, academia and media. They all play a crucial role to make best practice replication a success.

The network is management by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and co-financed by the European Union and the German Ministry of Development Cooperation.

DELGOSEA - Activities and Status of Implementation

DELGOSEA pilot cities are replicating best practices across national borders for almost 2 years now. It started with a thorough research identifying 16 best practices from the five partner countries. Selection criteria amongst others were: 1. the transferability potential to other countries; 2. the real impact on the life of the people; as well as 3. sustainability aspects. Research was followed by extensive training activities capacitating coaches from Local Government Associations and related civil society organisations to support the pilot cities in the replication of best practices. Once the pilot cities selected a best practice, it had to be "translated" into the local environments (development of transfer concepts) and finally be approved by the local decision-makers. The concepts were also embedded into the local development plans. This process was followed by capacity building for all stakeholders with the needed knowledge for best practice transfer. DELGOSEA is right now in the replication phase, which includes regular monitoring visits from the coaches and project coordination.

During the last months of BP replication the cities gathered many experiences. First and foremost it has been proven that best practice transfer is indeed possible across borders. This is one of the most important lessons-learned. Secondly, many ideas have been collected on how the local and national frameworks should be improved to allow for better local governance. Policy recommendations have been developed for the national and later on for the regional level. These ideas are resulting from concrete experiences working in the field of local governance. They are not top-down as it is often the case; the policy recommendations reflect the real needs of the cities in Southeast Asia.



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DELGOSEA – Input and Contribution to the Regional Conference

DELGOSEA will contribute to both thematic sessions. In session I, DELGOSEA will present its policy recommendations based on concrete experiences of best practice transfer in Southeast Asia. It will therefore be complementary to the recommendations provided by its sister project on "Supporting Decentralization in Developing Countries".

In session II, DELGOSEA will share its experiences as a regional network for the promotion of good local governance. It shall be highlighted that local governance is of regional concern. Sustainable results can only be achieved with the involvement of all stakeholders. The ultimate aim of DELGOSEA is the set up of a permanent dialogue on local governance on the regional level. The network shall involve ASEAN and other donors, as well as Local Government Associations, civil society, academia and media.

DELGOSEA – Partners and Stakeholders

It follows a design that was developed by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) of Germany, the Local Government Development Foundation (LOGODEF) in the Philippines, the United Cities and Local Governments for Asia and Pacific (UCLG ASPAC) and the Association of Indonesian Regency Governments (APKASI), the Thailand Environment Institute (TEI), the Association of Cities in Vietnam (ACVN), and the National League of Communes/Sangkats of the Kingdom of Cambodia (NLC/S).

The following 11 Local Government Associations complement the picture:

- ACVN - Association of Cities in Vietnam, Vietnam
- ADEKSI - Indonesian Municipal Councils Association, Indonesia
- ADKASI - Association of Indonesia Regency Legislative Councils, Indonesia
- APEKSI - Association of Indonesian Municipalities, Indonesia
- APKASI - Association of Indonesian Regency Governments, Indonesia
- LCP - The League of Cities, Philippines
- LMP - The League of Municipalities, Philippines
- LPP - The League of Provinces, Philippines
- ULAP – The Union of Local Authorities, Philippines
- NLC/S - National League of Communes/Sangkats of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- MLT - Municipal League of Thailand, Thailand

DELGOSEA – Contact

DELGOSEA Coordination Office: Communications-office@delgosea.eu

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Any local government unit that is interested in improving its local services be it on peoples participation, institutional governance, urban environment or fiscal management, can join and learn from the best practices. There is no need to re-invent the wheel. Join DELGOSEA: www.DELGOSEA.eu



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