Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum

Join us! VLR Cities and Regions Networking and Match-Making Event

Date: 11th February 2020
Time: 1400-1600
Location: Room 20, Abu Dhabi Exhibition Center- **ADNEC**, Khaleej Al Arabi Street, Abu Dhabi.
Event reference: PUZHKTT 1- NE 100

1. Organization details:

Organization: United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC)
Organization country: Indonesia

2. Title of the event:

Join us! VLR Cities and Regions Networking & Match Making Event

3. Summary of the event (max. 400 words):

Localisation of SDGs needs to go beyond adapting global goals to the local levels. Commitment and political will, as well as co-creation of solutions with communities to address global challenges and objectives critically needs serious effort from the Local and Regional Governments (LRGs). While the efforts to localise SDGs are progressing, their involvement in Voluntary National Review (VNRs) is still limited, despite the facts that over 60% of the SDGs are within sub-national governments authority. The level of involvement and engagement of local governments in the production of the national reviews is still limited. As per third LRG Report on Localisation of SDGs to HLPF 2019 states "Notably, there are no major differences in these figures from 2016 to 2019: still **only local governments in about 40%-45% of the surveyed countries affirms having being involved properly in the reporting and monitoring processes** of their countries." Thus, SDGs attainment is likely to fail without significant and accelerated LRGs involvement in attaining the 2030 Agenda.

To fill in this gap, Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) are produced. A VLR is a process in which LRGs voluntarily assess their progress towards the SDGs and other international frameworks, such as the New Urban Agenda. This makes it possible for cities to gain better ownership as they are taking role in the bottom-up monitoring process for the SDGs implementation. One of the ways to do this is by having the LRGs and Associations of LRGs to share experiences, challenges, and lessons learnt with others around the world as well as to open the door for new partnerships, further helping to implement local visions.

So far, these eleven cities have completed the VLRs: Town: Shimokawa / City: Kitakyushu, Toyama, New York, Los Angeles, Bristol, Santana de Pernaiba, New Taipei, Taipei, Hamamatsu / State: Yukatan.

In 2020, the following cities have announced that they would present their VLRs: City: Espoo, Turku, Touyuan, Shah Alam, Pittsburgh, and Manheim / State: Oaxaca.

This networking event offer a focused discussion, so that cities can learn from, support, and review each other for the better narrative of the VLRs. With growing interest of different entities contributing to the VLR development, this event can be "matchmaking" between LRGs and development partners so that LRGs can fully utilise the expertise exist on the globe. By doing so, this networking will push LRGs-led movements towards more inclusive, sustainable implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs.

The event consists of two segments. After the welcoming remarks, the co-organisers shall present their regional and global experiences on supporting cities and local governments and tools used to develop the VLRs. In the second part of the session, cities shall be asked to share their VLR experiences and messages for others and hear from entities of how they contribute to the VLR development and SDGs localisation. Finally, a world-café style

discussion assisted by innovative meeting tools like menti, tricider will help explore how LRGs can advance the VLR agendas.

4. Other Organisations:

- Association of LRGs: Association of Indonesia Municipalities (APEKSI)
- Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
- United Nation Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
- New Taipei City
- Shimokawa Town

5. Prospective moderator, speaker(s) or panelist (s):

1. Mr. Amirudin bin Shari (Menteri Besar of Selangor, Malaysia)
2. Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana (Executive Secretary, UNESCAP)
3. Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi (Secretary General, UCLG ASPAC)
4. Dr. Junichi Fujino (IGES)
5. Mr. Edgardo Bilsky (UCLG World)
6. Representatives from the cities who have submitted their VLRs

6. Title:

Mr.

7. First name, Last Name of the focal point/submitter:

Ali Imran,
Team Leader
LEAD for SDGs Programme - UCLG ASPAC
Islamabad, Pakistan

8. Email address of the focal point/ submitter:

tl-leadpak@uclg-aspac.org
scd_manager@uclg-aspac.org