



Cities and Sustainable Development

Contributions of Local Authorities and Businesses to Achieving Sustainable Development – Special Focus on China

Sala B, Rio State Pavillion, Athletes Park



18 June 2012, 11:30 – 14:00

Rationale

This event aims to present challenges and solutions to rapid urbanization, showing in particular examples from China, within a global sustainable development context, looking at how the Green Economy concept can contribute to Sustainable Development at the local level.

Urbanization and population growth are happening globally, and both trends are especially strong in China. Globally we have to build the same urban capacity in the next 40 years which we have built in the past 4000 years. Estimates say that 46 trillion dollars will be spent in China alone on fixed urban assets during the 2005 to 2025 period. The way urban centers are designed and built in China will be very important to global sustainable development.

How can cities become eco cities? How can urban areas enhance their resiliency? What are the best options for low-carbon development? In which ways can green urban economies and green infrastructure investment be encouraged? These and further questions will be discussed, looking at:

- Innovation in building/city design to accommodate the massive urban growth in the country
- Policy measures (incentives/disincentives) taken at the national and city level to address the problem of urban growth.
- Urban environmental management, including how the following are addressed:
 - air pollution
 - public transport
 - energy
 - waste
 - sanitation

Format and speakers

The event will be opened by a welcome speech of Ms. Amina Mohamed, Deputy Executive Director UNEP followed by two panel debates.

One panel will focus specifically on urbanization in China, whereas the other will place challenges, opportunities and solutions into the global Rio+20 contexts. The panel on urbanization will include examples from cities as well as comprehensive, national perspectives from relevant national or international organizations working on the topic. The panel on the global context will present speakers and organizations familiar with the global context as well as the situation at national and local level.

Agenda

11.30 – 11.45 Welcome, by Ms. Tomoko Nishimoto , Director, Division of Regional Cooperation, UNEP

11.45 – 13.00 Panel 1: “Urbanization in China: How to achieve Sustainable Development using the Green Economy Concept”

Moderator: Ms. Tomoko Nishimoto, Director, Division of Regional Cooperation, UNEP

Panelists:

- Mr. Zhang Jianfei, Mayor of Changsha Municipal People’s Government, China
- Mr. Liu Yimiao, Chairman of the China Entrepreneurs Union, China
- Mr. Li Wei, Secretary General of China Environmental Protection Foundation (CEPF)
- Mr. Arab Hoballah, Branch Chief, UNEP
- Mr. Konrad Otto-Zimmermann, Secretary General, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

Questions and Answers

13.00 – 14.00 Panel 2: “The Global Context”

Moderator: Ms. Susanne Salz, Head of the Secretary General’s Office, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

Panelists:

- Mr. Lin Xuefeng, Vice Chairman of Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City Administrative Committee, China
- Mr. Rafael Tuts, Coordinator, Urban Planning and Design Branch, UN-Habitat
- Mr. Zhongyu Ma, Director, Development Research Centre of Ningxia; Deputy Secretary General of Ningxia Provincial Government, China
- Mr. Ilmar Reepalu, Mayor, City of Malmö, Sweden

For additional information about the session please contact globaltownhall@iclei.org and Alexander Juras at Alexander.Juras@unep.org.

