



10th APFSD

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27-30 March 2023



“Associated Event for the APFSD – Regional Learning Exchange for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda”

Associated Event: 10th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development

March 31, 8:30-13:45 GMT+7

Meeting Room F, UNCC

Zoom link for online participants: <https://zoom.us/j/94593807170>

Organizers

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Registration

Participants are required to register two times:

1. To register for this associated event, please use <https://indico.un.org/event/1004606/registrations/10365/>
2. To attend the associated event, all registrants must also register on Indico by March 13 to attend the APFSD using the link here: <https://indico.un.org/event/1003108/>

Government officials/representatives are requested to inform their national focal points or Permanent Mission to ensure their names are included in the letter of credentials from their government.

Kindly follow the step below:

- 1) Click “**Registration for Others**”

Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) 2023

27-30 March 2023
United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC - BKK)
Asia/Bangkok timezone

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Overview

Registration

ESCAP APFSD

✉ escap-apfsd@un.org

Registration

Available forms

	Opens	Closes	
Registration for Country Delegations (By invitation only)	15 Nov 2022, 10:25	13 Mar 2023, 23:59	Apply
Registration for IGO, UN Entities, NGO, CSO (By invitation only)	21 Nov 2022, 16:08	13 Mar 2023, 23:59	Apply
Registration for Others (Media, Side Events, SDG Acceleration Pavilion, Associated Events, etc.)	21 Nov 2022, 10:12	13 Mar 2023, 23:59	Apply

- 2) Fill in all personal details, when reaching the "Associated Events" box, please select **"Regional Learning Exchange for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda"**

Associated Events

- 4th Social Enterprise Advocacy and Leveraging (SEAL) Asia Conference
- Transforming Food Systems in Asia and the Pacific: A Regional Stocktake
- Transforming Education Now and for the Future We Want: TES National Follow-up Actions to Move Towards the Achievement of SDG 4
- The Eighth Meeting of the Expert Working Group on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels (By Invitation)
- Accelerating Partnerships in Small Island Developing States in the Asia-Pacific (By Invitation)
- Regional Learning Exchange for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda**
- City Enabling Environment (CEE) Rating in the Asia-Pacific: Indicator 11 (Environmental and Climate Change Governance) Expert Group Discussion (By Invitation)
- The Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (APEF3)- (By Invitation)

Background

This Regional Learning Exchange hosted jointly by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) aims to provide a platform for sharing lessons and ideas among policymakers, implementers, and technical experts towards improving the localization, integration, and implementation of the NUA and the Sustainable Development Goals in the region.

This workshop draws on the work of the Interregional Cooperation for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda - DA12 project as well as the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) experiences across the Asia and Pacific region.

The integration of national and local urban policies is crucial for greater policy coherence and impact as well as accelerating the recovery from COVID-19 and implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in urban areas. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on cities and urban areas, highlighting existing inequalities and vulnerabilities. The SDGs and NUA provide a framework for sustainable development, including in urban areas, and can guide the recovery process toward more resilient and equitable cities.

Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) are a tool used to measure progress towards sustainable development at the local level. They provide a platform for local governments and stakeholders to share their experiences, challenges, and successes in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their communities. VLRs are becoming increasingly important in the context of Covid-19 recovery and sustainable development as they provide a mechanism for local governments and stakeholders to work together, measure progress, build accountability, and identify and address challenges facing their communities.

Key Questions and Outcomes

This associated event will examine the following key guiding questions:

1. How can the integration, localization, and implementation of the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals be supported and achieved in Asia and the Pacific?
2. What are the key challenges and opportunities associated with VLR implementation, and how can we learn from best practices and case studies to address these challenges and build on successes?
3. How can we ensure that VLRs are a meaningful and effective tool for advancing sustainable development at the local level and that they contribute to broader efforts to achieve the SDGs?

In the context of the Covid-19 recovery period in the Asia Pacific region, it is especially important to focus on the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. The pandemic has highlighted many of the existing social, economic, and environmental challenges facing cities and urban areas, from inequality and inadequate infrastructure to climate change and public health crises.

Bringing together a diverse panel of speakers can help to shed light on the different perspectives, experiences, and strategies for addressing these challenges. By drawing on a range of voices and perspectives including policymakers, civil society, and other stakeholders, the associate event provides insights into how to localize and implement the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda in ways that are relevant and effective for different communities and contexts.

Overall, an event focused on supporting integration, localization, and implementation of the New Urban Agenda and SDGs can be a valuable way to promote sustainable development and address the complex challenges facing cities and urban areas in the Asia Pacific region and beyond

Indicative Programme

Registration		30 mins 8.30 – 9.00
Speakers		
EMCEE: Larisa Glenda Togonon, UN-Habitat		
Mr. Christopher Rollo, Country Programme Manager of UN-Habitat Philippines	Introduction & Welcome to the Regional Learning Exchange	10 mins 9:00 – 9:10
Ms. Sanjee Singh, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP	Overview of the DA12 project and key outcomes	15 mins 9:10 – 9:25
Session 1: Implementing the New Urban Agenda		
Mr. Bernhard Barth, Human Settlements Officer, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific	Global perspective Input presentation on achieving policy coherence & monitoring, assessing, and reporting the progress of the NUA	20 mins 9:25 -9:45
Ms. Mylene A. Rivera, Director of the Environmental Land Use and Urban Planning and Development Bureau (ELUPDB) of DHSUD	Policy Recommendations for NUA implementation & NUA Reporting in the Philippines	35 mins 9:45 – 10:20
Q&A Facilitated by Professor Carmeli Marie Chaves, Assistant Professor School of Urban and Regional Planning, University of the Philippines		10 mins 10:20 – 10.30
Morning Break		15 mins 10:30 – 10:45
Session 2: NUA vis-à-vis Voluntary Local Review: Panel Discussion with Regional Representatives		
Moderator: Sanjee Singh	Panel discussion of the VLRs:	50 mins

<p>Naga City, Philippines – Hon. Nelson Legacion, Mayor of Naga City</p> <p>Subang Jaya, Malaysia – Hon Mayor Johary Anuar</p> <p>Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand – Hon Mayor Kanop Ketchart</p> <p>Dhulikel, Nepal – Hon Mayor Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha</p> <p>Bhopal, India - names to be confirmed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying regional lessons to country implementation • Vertical integration - local to subnational and national • Horizontal integration <p>Panelists are requested to prepare a presentation that is between 5 to 7 mins max that covers the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can we build capacity and provide support to local governments and stakeholders to effectively conduct VLRs and use the results to inform local decision-making? 2. How can we ensure that VLRs are a meaningful and effective tool for advancing sustainable development at the local level and that they contribute to broader efforts to achieve the SDGs? 3. What are the key challenges and opportunities associated with VLR implementation, and how can we learn from best practices and case studies to address these challenges and build on successes? 	<p>10:45 – 11:35</p>
<p>Moderator: Larisa Glenda Togonon, UN-Habitat Philippines</p> <p>Singra, Bangladesh – Hon. Mayor Md. Zannatul Ferdous</p> <p>Cambodia – H.E Mr. Sor Vorin, Deputy General Director of General Department of Administration, Ministry of Interior</p> <p>H.E Mr. PO Chanmuny, Deputy Director of Department of Capital Khan and Provincial Administration Affairs, Ministry of Interior</p> <p>Cambodia – Battambang Province – names to be confirmed</p> <p>DSHUD Philippines</p> <p>Ms. Mylene A. Rivera, Director of the Environmental Land Use and Urban Planning and Development Bureau (ELUPDB) of DHSUD</p>	<p>Reactions to panelists and reflects on –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can we ensure that VLRs are integrated into broader national and global SDG reporting frameworks and that they are used to inform policy and decision-making at higher levels of government? 2. How can we promote cross-sectoral collaboration and partnerships to support the implementation of VLR recommendations and initiatives? 	<p>15 mins</p> <p>11:35 – 11.50</p>

Ms. Gemmarie Zuñiga, Chief Urban Development Division, DHSUD Naga City Mr. Wilfredo B. Prilles, Jr., City Planning and Development Coordinator, Naga City, Camarines Sur, Willy Prilles		
Mr. Omar Siddique, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP	VLR Lab	30 mins 11.50 – 12.20
Mr. Curt Garrigan, Chief Sustainable Urban Development Section, ESCAP	Finding Common Ground: Further steps towards achieving regional and global coherence in NUA implementation and SDG localization	15 mins 12:20 – 12.35
Mr. Srinivasa Popuri, Senior Human Settlements Officer, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific	Synthesis and wrap-up	10 mins 12:35 – 12:45
Lunch provided		60 mins 12:45 -13:45

For information, please contact Sanjee Singh, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP, sanjeevani.singh@un.org