



ASEM GOES LOCAL: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS



The 1st ASEM Governors and Mayors Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia

The 1st ASEM Governors and Mayors Meeting was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, 28-29 October 2010. The forum, hosted by Jakarta Capital City Governance (Indonesia) was attended by Mayors, Governors, and Local Government Officials from 10 ASEM Capital/Major Cities: Bangkok (Thailand), Berlin (Germany), Brunei Darussalam, Manila (Philippines), Phnom Penh (Cambodia), Rotterdam (The Netherlands), Seoul (Korea), Tokyo (Japan) and Vientiane (Laos). The Meeting was also attended by observers from 10 ASEM Partner: Belgium, Czech Republic, Hungary, India, Italy, Lao's People Democratic Republic, Republic of Poland, Kingdom of Spain, Russian Federation and the European Union; 6 International Organizations; Eurocities, OECD, UCLG ASPAC, EEPSEA, UNIDO and ASEF.

The Meeting consisted of three plenary sessions: Session1: Good Local Governance: The Creative City: Re-Imaging the City for a Livable Future; Session2: Urbanization, Migration and Social Inclusion: Multiculturalism-Managing the Diversity Advantage; and Session3: Sustainability and Climate Change: Roadmaps to a Greener City.

The Third Plenary session was held under the theme of "Sustainability and Climate Change" with the topic "Roadmaps to a Greener City". The Session was chaired by M.R. Sukhumbhand Paribatra, Governor of Bangkok, and was co-chaired by Ratih Hardjono, Special Advisor for the Governor of Jakarta. The Speakers for the session were Paula Verhoeven, Director of Climate Change, City of Rotterdam, Budy Prasetyo Resosudarmo, Economy and Environment Program for South East Asia Resource Person.

The discussion on the third plenary session focused on three major issues: 1. Partnership between local and national government, 2. Integration of climate change policies with alleviation of poverty, and 3. How to find solutions for subsidized energy in most cities in SEA.

The Meeting exchanged views and experience on issues of common concern to ASEM Capital and Major Cities. Based on the two day discussions, a number of initial conclusions can be drawn as follows;

- a) The Meeting recognized the importance of peoples participation in the good local governance and re-imaging of the city;
- b) The Meeting recognized that good local governance gives room for creativity;

- c) The Meeting recognized that there exist a different of perception on good local governance and re-imaging of cities between developed and developing countries;
- d) The Meeting recognized that multiculturalism is an advantage to cities, the question lies on how to manage such multiculturalism;
- e) The meeting recognized that multiculturalism in Europe is due mainly to increase of immigration, whilst in Asia it is mainly due to urbanization by different ethnic groups to the cities;
- f) The Meeting recognized that cities are in the front line of global challenges and climate change impacts the lives of the peoples in the city directly;
- g) The Meeting therefore reinforces their commitment to contribute to the global efforts to address climate change and to stay connected in order to be able to respond accordingly

The Meeting resulted in a Declaration that underlines the commitment of Governors and Mayors of ASEM Cities to work together in addressing issues of common concern to cities. Declaration of the First ASEM Governors and Mayors Meeting is follows;

Declaration of the 1st ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors in Jakarta 2010

We, the Governors, the Mayors, leaders and representatives of the cities and local governments of Asia and Europe, gathered at the 1st ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors (MGM) in Jakarta,

- ***Desiring*** to enhance the bonds of friendship and cooperation between capital cities and metropolitan areas of Asia and Europe,
- ***Inspired*** by the success of the informal process of ASEM as a forum for dialogue and a better understanding between Asia and Europe, and
- ***Recalling*** the key characteristics of the ASEM process as they included Informality, Multi Dimensionality, Emphasis on Equal Partnership and the Dual Focus on High Level and People- to- People,
- ***Determined*** to make all efforts to develop relations between the capital cities and metropolitan areas of the ASEM members in Asia and Europe and especially of its people,
- ***Underscoring*** the growing role and responsibility of cities and metropolitan areas when it comes to tackle global issues like climate change, migration and disaster risk management,
- ***Recognizing*** the enormous challenges cities and metropolitan areas in both Asia and Europe have to face in terms of sustainability and climate change, social cohesion and a participatory local governance and management, and
- ***Noting*** the mutual interest in gaining access to best practices and technical information on all aspects of sustainable, pro-poor and climate friendly development, and
- ***Having*** taken into account that capital cities and metropolitan areas within and between Europe and Asia may considerably differ in historical, geographical, organizational, economic and demographic aspects, but also

• **Emphasizing**, that this range of diversity is a resource for new impulses for developing the city of tomorrow and that the cross-cultural context of ASEM offers opportunities for capital cities and metropolitan areas to build new bridges of understanding and cooperation between the people of Asia and Europe, Have reached the following understandings on common issues and interest:

Urbanization, Migration and Social Inclusion

1. Innovative positive actions towards social inclusion and social cohesion in addressing the challenges that are caused by domestic and international migration into cities.
2. Policies and Strategies to promote equality of opportunities, ensure non-discrimination and generate value of the rich diversity of social, cultural and religious traditions in the cities.
3. The role of local government to manage and to encourage mutual understanding and respect among people from different faith and culture.

Sustainability and Climate Change

4. The impact of global warming and the challenge of climate change to the cities sustainability and well being, and the urban problems such as, transportation, waste management, drinking water supply and the preservation of urban green space.
5. The needs to exchange ideas of environmentally sustainable approaches to improve urban life and also to ensure the opportunity for development for future generations.
6. The importance in sharing experiences and best practices, transfer of technology and knowledge, and also capacity building in achieving Green City.

Good Local Governance

7. The constant improvement of the strategic and prospective performance of local authorities in managing public resources and discharging their responsibilities.
8. Innovative approaches to promote sustainable economic development as well as locative and operational efficiency.
9. The enhancement of the effectiveness and efficiency of urban public services supply.

Future Undertakings

The participants have agreed in principle to:

10. Underline the importance of the ASEM Mayors and Governors Meeting in providing a platform for dialogue and cooperation between Asian and European Partners on the local level.
11. Continue exchanging information, ideas and experiences such as innovative good policy practices through the dialogue forum of the ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors.
12. Collaborate in a cooperative, equitable and open spirit to link our network to other city networks from Asia and Europe in order to increase the knowledge in responding to urban challenges and recognizing potential synergies.
13. Recognize that the 1st ASEM Meeting of Governors and Mayors in Jakarta presents itself as the Kick-off for future meetings in two-year intervals, alternating between Asian and European cities to be host.
14. Endorse initiatives and recommendations in order to increase the knowledge how to respond

to urban challenges and in order to exploit potential synergies and also to improve and ensure the continuity of the Meeting.

15. Endorse the principle of encouraging productive dialogue to establish compacts of partnership between the spheres of government national, regional and local to have a positive collaboration for the benefit of our shared citizens.

Jakarta, 29 October 2010

At the Closing Session, the participants expressed their appreciation to the Host for the successful arrangements of the 1st ASEM Governors and Mayors Meeting and conveyed its appreciation to the City of Berlin for its readiness to host the 2nd ASEM Governors and Mayors Meeting in 2012 ./