

Side Event: Advancing Sustainability of Asian Cities and Regions	
ORGANIZATION (PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS)	<p>Universiti Teknologi Malaysia ICLEI Southeast Asia Secretariat Cities Development Initiative for Asia Communitas Coalition Iskandar Regional Development Authority Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing, Indonesia Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan</p>
DATE/TIME	27 July, 1:30 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.
VENUE	Crystal 4
DESCRIPTION	<p>Being a region poised to double its world economy share to 52% by 2025, Asia is witnessing unprecedented economic growth and increasing environmental impact. Much of this growth is converging in cities and regions which experience some of the world's fastest urbanization and migration trends. Seven of the 10 most populous cities of the world are in the Asia, namely Tokyo, Delhi, Shanghai, Mumbai, Beijing, Dhaka and Kolkata.</p> <p>Asian cities are also among the most vulnerable in the world. One-in-three disasters over the last thirty years occurred in Asia, and it is projected that the region could face annual losses caused by disasters by at least \$19 billion.</p> <p>Increasing climatic vulnerability, resource constraint and growing carbon footprint have put much pressure on Asian cities and regions to take on the call to action and develop more sustainable alternatives.</p> <p>It is within this global climate imperative calling for transformative and sustainable local responses that the side event "Advancing Sustainability of Asian Cities and Regions" aims to bring together local government leaders, experts, academics, and national international agencies for exchanges on potential solutions to a wide range of urban environmental challenges in Asia.</p> <p>The side event aims to showcase transformative initiatives carried out by local governments across various spectrums of Asian cities and regions. It aims to present various experiences, studies, best practices, and lessons learned on various issues in the New Urban Agenda such as disaster resilience, air quality, low-carbon development and urban planning from the cities from Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea and the Philippines. In doing so, it hopes to provide valuable insights and ways in moving forward and shaping the discussion on the New Urban Agenda.</p>

