

National Policy Dialogue on the Urban Nexus in Indonesia *Jakarta, 26 October, 2015*

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The rapid urbanisation of the Asia-Pacific region entails the risk of widening supply gaps, in particular for water and sanitation systems, energy, land and food. However, the majority of cities/municipal administrations and municipal utilities in Asia-Pacific continue to plan and manage along sectoral lines and within municipal boundaries, and rarely in a coordinated and integrative manner. Consequently they are not able to fully utilise the interaction and synergies between water, energy and food security and the potential co-benefits arising from integrated resource management and planning for cities and their regions.

It is increasingly evident that the resource footprint of cities as well as ecosystem boundaries transcends administrative boundaries, calling for coordination across actors and institutions. The need for integrated planning requires a multi-disciplinary approach as well as effective and dynamic governance.

The nexus approach aims at integrated planning and management processes of the key sectors of energy, water and food security, and this can contribute substantially to the long-term sustainable development of rapidly growing cities in their regions. It is crucial, in this context, to involve municipal and regional actors and utilities towards more integrated planning and management of the nexus sectors.

To respond to these needs, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in partnership with ICLEI, are implementing the project “Integrated resource management in Asian Cities: the urban nexus”, financed by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The project supports ten cities in six countries, namely: China, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

The project is providing technical advice to municipal administrations/planning offices to oversee the design, planning and, where possible, implementation of practical nexus initiatives (with a focus on water, energy and/or food security) and at the same time seeks to feed the experiences gained at the local level into a regional dialogue and learning platform to achieve a pooling of knowledge and the potential for synergies in action.

Five Regional Workshops have been organized under the project so far which provided an opportunity for city governments to enter into a dialogue with national governments and other relevant stakeholders and discuss the elements of an enabling framework for urban nexus initiatives to thrive. At these regional platforms, the key role of cross-sectoral and planning ministries as “natural” partners supporting cities in their nexus approaches was emphasized, so that nexus approaches can be embedded into planning frameworks, at both national and local levels.

As the cities progress in their respective initiatives from proposal to planning and implementation, challenges become more apparent. The need to engage multiple stakeholders, beyond those who are represented at the regional platforms, becomes imperative as key issues on legal, regulatory and institutional mandates, data access and availability, and financial constraints are identified by the partner cities. To address these issues and to advocate for the necessary change in framework conditions, new formats of communications such as national policy dialogues were recommended. Policy dialogues have already been organized for Thailand, Mongolia and the Philippines.

Objectives

Building on the recommendations from the regional dialogue platforms and the successful discussions that took place at the four national policy dialogues in Mongolia, Philippines and Thailand, the national dialogue on the Urban Nexus in Indonesia has the following objectives:

1. Create a platform for exchange between and among local governments, provincial government and the national government, particularly on issues concerning the water, food (land), and energy sectors.
2. Identify solutions to specific challenges and issues arising from city-level nexus initiatives using the cases of Pekanbaru and Tanjungpinang.
3. Determine existing and planned initiatives at the provincial and national level that cut across the nexus sectors which are relevant to the city-level nexus projects being planned/implemented.

Audience and Participants

The target audience comprises:

1. National government officials from the various ministries relevant to the nexus, particularly on issues of public works and planning, energy, water, wastewater, solid waste and finance.
2. Provincial and Local government officials from the partner cities in Indonesia.
3. Representatives of network of cities, private sector enterprises, financing institutions, international donors and other relevant stakeholders with an interest in integrated resource management.

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