

Green Cities Launch Event: A Primer on Climate Change Impacts and Disaster Risk Management in Urban Areas in East Asia

14 July 2008, Pattaya, Thailand

Proceedings

Introduction

The purpose of the launch event was to create awareness and interest in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies among city authorities in Asia, and to provide opportunities to members of UCLG ASPAC to engage in a dialogue on the key issues that need to be addressed to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change and related natural disasters at the local level. The Primer is a collaborative undertaking of the World Bank, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, and the Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. The launch was attended by about 100 participants, including mayors, governors, city officials, as well as representatives from regional and international organizations.

Session 1: Welcome address

Mayor Ittipon Khunprum, Mayor of Pattaya

Mayor Ittipon Khunprum, Mayor of Pattaya, outlined some of the key challenges and opportunities facing sustainable development in Pattaya for the opening address of the workshop. Mayor Khumprum noted that understanding your community is critical to planning for both the immediate and long-term sustainable development of a city. Factors such as capturing population growth, which is often difficult due to the significant amount of unregistered houses and people, as well as managing tourism and pollution, are critical.

Mayor Khumprum said that a move beyond immediate pressures is needed in order to support long-term, sustainable strategies. He outlined Pattaya's campaign to move from "S" (sex, smog, smells) to "E" (environment, education, economy) as one approach to developing a sustainable city for the benefit of both residents and tourists. In conclusion, Mayor Khumprum said that much goodwill and collaboration is needed to pursue the common goal of sustainable development.

Session 2: Opening remarks from the UN/ISDR and the World Bank

1. Mr. Salvano Briceno, Director, UNISDR – Presented by Mr. Jerry Velasquez, Regional Coordinator, UNISDR Asia Pacific Office

Mr. Briceno, in his speech delivered by Mr. Velasquez, expressed his regret at being unable to attend the Primer launch in Pattaya. In recognising the importance of the Primer, Mr Briceno noted the wonderful opportunity provided to launch the Primer prior to the UCLG Congress in order to share with the many sound practices that cities have adopted to better prepare for the impacts of climate change, in particular more intense and frequent natural hazards, through sound urban planning.

Mr. Briceno outlined the inextricable link between climate change and hazard vulnerability, a link that many specialists and organizations have made very clear. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) arrived at three alarming conclusions: first, the confirmation that climate change is happening; secondly, that recent acceleration in climate change is the result of human activity and the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG); and thirdly, that most regions in the world, especially in the developing world, will be increasingly affected by climate change. Climate change is therefore likely to further delay the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in these countries. Mr. Briceno noted that most disasters, approximately (75%) (ISDR disaster statistics), are related to weather events. Climate change will therefore alter the face of disaster risk through both weather related risks as well as increases in social vulnerabilities.

By linking these international calls for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, Mr. Briceno saw an invaluable role for the Primer. The Primer provides a link between the call for action and the ability of local governments to increase the resilience of their cities. Mr. Briceno reiterated the availability of the UNISDR to support the linkages between climate change and disaster risk reduction, and encouraged participants to reflect on the *Hyogo Framework for Action*, which provides guidance on considering climate change when implementing disaster risk reduction. This is of significance to the many cities of East Asia as they pursue economic growth and further development. In conclusion, Mr. Briceno shared some words from the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon: *“I am convinced that climate change, and what we do about it, will define us, our era, and ultimately the global legacy we leave for future generations. ... Together, we must ensure that our grandchildren will not have to ask why we failed to do the right thing, and let them suffer the consequences.”*

2. Mr. Peter Woods, Secretary-General, UCLG Asia Pacific

Mr. Woods opened his address by stating that he views this forum as a start for the thinking that is needed to bring together the issues that we need to consider. He welcomed the Mayor of Pattaya’s address, which he noted was visionary in such a challenging environment.

Mr. Woods stated that local government is one of the most effective ways to bring about effective change, whether you are in India, Australia or a smaller Pacific Island. He said that this is only realized through effective partnerships, especially partnerships with national government. Collectively local governments can mount considerable pressure on central governments to do the “right thing”, a process which is very much about collaboration and not confrontation. In the end, these partnerships between local and national government will determine whether the community is a beneficiary or non-beneficiary. This is evident in the recent disasters which have devastated communities in China, Myanmar and Philippines.

Mr. Woods outlined that to improve partnerships between national and local governments, local governments need to share resources and abilities. Mr. Woods concluded by wishing the Primer launch workshop to be a great success, and hopes that the events of the workshop can translate into the activities of the UCLG congress over the coming days.

3. Mr. Jitendra J Shah, Country Sector Coordinator, SE Asia, the World Bank

Mr. Shah noted that climate change has become one of the defining challenges for policymakers and local governments, particularly in East Asia where the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, the recent May 2008 cyclone in Myanmar, and the typhoon in the Philippines last month are stark reminders of the vulnerabilities the region faces. Moreover, he reminded us of the red flags of climate-related disasters that are yet to come which can be seen in the subsidence in Bangkok, the flooding in the Mekong Delta, and the exposure of Shanghai. Mr. Shah quoted from a recent OECD report that there are 136 port cities in the world with populations greater than 1 million, which suggests that Guangzhou, Shanghai, HCM City, Osaka are among the top 10 cities in terms of exposed populations. This reflected the large, as yet, unfulfilled, agenda for the region ahead in terms of actions to combat against climate change threats. Mr. Shah added to this the inherent geological and seismic vulnerabilities. The ring of fire, which is composed of 75% of the world's active and dormant volcanoes and located along major tectonic plates prone to seismic risks, borders the eastern edge of Asia and Southeast Asia.

Mr. Shah called for an *integrated* disaster management system, reflecting both climatic and other natural hazards, with adequate early warning systems and response capacities that are key to minimizing human, physical, and economic loss. Equally important was changing the way we build and manage cities so that we can mitigate against some of these risks and reduce future climatic impacts. This Primer, Mr. Shah stated, is a great innovation in this field as it adopts a multi-hazard lens and discusses the dual track approaches of mitigation and adaptation that are essential for East Asian cities. Mr. Shah expressed that it is a great opportunity to have at this workshop many city experiences on the agenda, and he invited participants to feed back through an open discussion. He emphasized that the World Bank stands committed to assisting its client countries and cities in East Asia in their quest to reduce their vulnerabilities to natural disasters.

4. Mr. Neeraj Prasad, Lead Environmental Specialist, World Bank, on behalf of Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha, Manager, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery.

Mr. Prasad spoke on behalf of Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha, Manager of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). Mr. Prasad introduced 'disaster risk reduction' (DRR) as the actions we take before a disaster. Climate change will not strike overnight, and we do not know for sure what its impact will be, or when, or how severely. At this stage, Mr. Prasad noted, climate change is clearly emerging as the biggest development challenge of our times.

He then continued to introduce the GFDRR as a partnership of the ISDR system that aims to mainstream DRR into development and to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. The GFDRR is a unique partnership of 16 major donors, the UN and the World Bank, with funding commitments of \$107 million by March 2008. It is managed by the World Bank on behalf of participating donor partners and other stakeholders.

Mr. Prasad noted that the links between DRR and creating climate resilient cities are the common aim of assisting those communities with the least capacity to adapt – the poor and those who generate income from the land. The Bank and the wider international community are embracing the idea that communities and nations cannot become more climate-resilient unless they reduce their disaster risks. GFDRR is contributing to climate adaptation by incorporating climate risk in development policies and poverty reduction strategies, and providing opportunities to build

comprehensive resilience through new synergies and donor coordination. GFDRR is also providing technical assistance to assess disaster risks and climate change impacts, and to help identify appropriate and effective strategies.

Mr. Prasad noted that while the Primer was aimed at East Asian cities, the main issues are the same across all continents. This Primer represents an opportunity to highlight these common issues. In conclusion, Mr. Prasad said the Primer was a model of UN and WB collaboration under the ISDR system, and expressed his delight to have co-sponsored and partnered in the effort leading to today's launch. He also thanked the organizers of the event, and wished them all success. Finally, Mr. Prasad hoped the participants will internalize the messages from this meeting and to help catalyze their thinking on climate issues. He looked forward to further collaboration in supporting their efforts to enhance climate resilience.

Session 3. Keynote address

Dr Chamniern Paul Vorratbchaiphan, Senior Director, Thailand Environment Institute

Dr Chamniern opened his keynote address by asking us to listen to a student from a school he has worked with on issues of sustainable development, particularly climate change adaptation and mitigation. He introduced Khun Namphung, who is the president of the school association at Jangur Secondary School.

Khun Namphung asked us why technology influences human life in so many good ways, such as communication and medical treatment, yet with such a negative impact on the environment. We seem to use technology without caring about the environmental problems. One of these problems is global warming. Many countries are addressing these issues and many scientists know about these problems, such as sea level rise, desertification and coastal erosion. Khun Namphung stated that further problems include higher temperatures, and already Thailand, India and France are facing this problem.

Khun Namphung wondered what the future will be like, and hoped that her vision of a sustainable environment was not merely a dream but a reality. Everyday Khun Namphung asks more than 3000 students at her school to change their way of life, to think of the earth first and then to think of themselves. She reminds them of their need to cut down consumption, especially the use of luxury items, and to embrace the Thai way of life, like the King, which is to live simply. Khun Namphung concluded by singing a few verses from 'We are the World'.

Dr Chamniern guided us through his power point presentation, noting that the overall aim of the Primer is for local governments to reflect upon their capacity to handle a disaster such as the recent earthquake in China. An understanding of capacity relates to being able to foresee what may happen and to build our knowledge of risk mapping and social capital.

A reflection of capacity to deal with disasters, Dr Chamniern stated, also requires an understanding of whether centralized or decentralized government is best, and a focus on urban planning. The challenge with land planning relates to the enforcement of plans rather than the development of the plans. Dr Chamniern emphasized that this is a concern for regular floods and other hazards, and will become a greater issue with climate change impacts.

Dr Chamniern introduced some of the work being done by the Municipal League of Thailand, which has visited 5 Local Governments to review how information can be decentralized and shared among many regions. In support of this, manuals have been produced for local governments to consider this in the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation. Dr Chamniern also highlighted his work with Toyota, which has worked in 100 schools in 100 municipalities, including Khun Namphung's school, to raise greater awareness of environmental sustainability. In addition, Dr Chamniern supports the Thai Forest Network and over 40 other independent networks to ensure that their voice contributes to the broader discussion of government and NGOs. In conclusion, Dr Chamniern asked us to reflect on the role that we, as individuals have in minimizing the impacts of climate change. Through our behavior, which is influenced by spirituality, science, cultures and traditions, we can influence our consumption and therefore global warming.

Session 4: An Introduction to the Primer

1. Mr. Neeraj Prasad, Lead Environmental Specialist, World Bank

Mr. Prasad introduced the session and speakers by noting the significant shift that is required in trying to internalize climate change into work programs and new types of technical assistance. He outlined the challenge in down-scaling the global problem of climate change to the local level in a practical manner. Mr. Prasad said the Primer considers these challenges by presenting a tool for identifying hotspots for action. He concluded by welcoming us to this session.

2. Ms. Frederica Raghieri, Climate Change Specialist, World Bank

Ms. Raghieri opened by stating that the main aim of the Primer was to develop a tool for local government and stakeholders. It is not a recipe nor an exhaustive set of practices and notes, but rather a tool for a city's own self-assessment. Ms. Raghieri said that firstly, we need to gain an understanding of why and how climate change impacts will affect cities. Secondly, we need to provide an overview of disaster risk management strategies for cities. Together, these will build resilience to adapt to climate change impacts.

Ms. Raghieri stated that the impacts of climate change on Southeast and East Asia have been considered by many specialists to be the most significant across the globe. It is also a region which faces more natural disasters than anywhere else in the world. It is therefore critical to see the links between climate change and disaster risk reduction. Ms. Raghieri said that one way of looking at climate change consequences of various sectors through disaster risk reduction and adaptation, is by reviewing affected sectors, impacts and mitigation and adaptation timelines. The most evident sectors are: water, ecosystems, food, coasts and health. Ms. Raghieri stated that it is also important to highlight the good work that other cities are doing, so we can learn from these experiences and adapt to our own cities.

Ms. Raghieri outlined the key steps involved in the Primer to assess the vulnerability or resilience of a city. By going through these steps, we have the ability to identify whether our city is a hotspot, and if so, what the next steps should be.

3. Mr. Earl Kessler, Urban Management Specialist, World Bank Consultant

Mr. Kessler asked us “how do we know what we think we know?” The question is designed to demonstrate that sound management is integral to decision making, and this is the case with creating climate resilient cities. Sound management is based on updated information, and sound disaster management is based on a better system, such as an accessible workbook format.

Mr. Kessler stated that the Primer looks at a dual-benefit approach – how to reduce carbon emissions as well as reduce vulnerability to disasters and enhance resilience. The critical nature of partnerships, which are essential to the achieving this dual-benefit, is the need to work out who partners are and then what they can offer. This needs to be formalized, so that we don’t duplicate existing efforts. Mr. Kessler listed 3 steps to achieving this; 1) The workbook; 2) Participatory process; and 3) Annotated maps. In working through these steps, Mr. Kessler argued that we need to continue asking communities what their priorities are.

4. Dr Ravi Sinha, Disaster Risk Management Specialist, IIT

Dr Sinha raised the importance of accessing case study cities for best practice approaches. These case studies should outline effective, sustainable and sound practices. While there are many similarities across cities, the geographical differences are important in understanding risk, and so the case studies in the Primer have been taken from coastal, inland and mountainous cities. This workshop, Dr Sinha stated, should assist us determine these differences through the tools in the Primer that capture city characteristics.

Dr Sinha concluded by emphasizing the importance of the ‘no regrets’ policy, which is about taking actions that have benefits even if broader investments in DRR and climate change adaptation cannot be made. For example, those actions relating to minimizing waste, making cities energy efficient and reducing pollution will have multiple benefits for a city, not just building resilience to climate change.

Plenary questions

The participants welcomed the Primer and noted its relevance to them. The importance of land-use planning and land issues were raised, as was the need to highlight good practices from the developing country cities, rather than just developed nations. This will ensure that issues surrounding sustainable development and poverty can be included in understanding how to move forward.

Session 5: Guidance from the Primer.

1. Mr. Manuel Cocco Valentin-Gamazo, Environmental Analyst, World Bank

Mr. Valentin-Gamazo presented on the challenges and opportunities in downscaling climate change models to the city level. He began by introducing the climate change models currently available and how they relate to the many findings and recommendations that the IPCC and UNFCCC have put forward. While these models have generated significant international and regional attention and decision-making, it can be difficult to make them appear relevant and accessible to local governments. Mr. Valentin-Gamazo presented this as the challenge of

downscaling, and stated that there were approaches to making global scale climate change models relevant to local authorities.

Mr. Valentin-Gamazo continued to present Bangkok as a case-study, outlining the methodology chosen and the disaster and climate change risks faced. He concluded with some lessons learned from the experience of downscaling climate change models to Bangkok, including: the difficulty in predicting increases in frequency and magnitude; the need for a balance between flexibility and rigor, and; the need to take into account the unique nature of each city.

2. Dr Ravi Sinha, Disaster Risk Management Specialist, IIT

Dr Sinha introduced the concept of creating an information base for a city. In doing so, he outlined what an information base is - a foundation for stakeholder consultation, community engagement, policy making and planning. He stated that this is critical to the resiliency of a city, and presented the case-study of Singapore which has used an information base to identify various feasible disaster risk management & climate change programs.

Mr Sinha continued to outline some of the lessons learned from the experience in Singapore, including: the need for climate change programs to have strong political commitments; the option for programs to be localized (clean air or energy efficient appliances); the opportunities for ‘no-regrets’ programs and initiatives; and the need to mainstream programs so that there is a greater breadth of ownership.

3. Dr Radley Horton, Associate Research Scientist, Columbia University

Dr Horton introduced his case study on climate adaptation in the city of New York by emphasizing the value of a local government and university partnership. He outlined some of the characteristics of New York city and the challenges it faces with regards to climate change adaptation and natural disasters. In particular, increased flooding and changes in water quality were some of the key challenges.

Dr Horton continued by outlining the framework for considering climate change impacts on New York, including key government, academic and private partners. Dr Horton concluded by noting that New York is not as vulnerable as many cities, but that there were still some lessons learned, including: the need to avoid compartmentalizing disasters and climate risk; and the need to have a comprehensive understanding of the age of infrastructure and the rate of change of the city.

Session 6: Guidance from the Primer

1. Mr. Earl Kessler, Urban Management Specialist, World Bank Consultant

Mr. Kessler presented on the climate resilient synergies between Seattle in the USA and King County. In looking at these synergies and how they are improving the climate resilience of their cities and residents, Mr. Kessler focused on two key aspects to the success of the partnership: 1) technical and behavior change are the key to addressing priority issues, and; 2) Local leadership and actions sets the example for others.

Mr. Kessler outlined the priorities of the cities which include climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction components. The importance of partnerships was highlighted, especially those with local authorities and business. Like many of the previous presenters, Mr. Kessler emphasized the value of ‘no-regrets’ initiatives and the need for the community to be informed and involved. In conclusion, Mr. Kessler stated that different levels of government can work together to deal with climate change impacts and that close working relationships can support the sustainability of cities.

2. Ms. Hee-Kyung Min, Director General, Business Opportunity Bureau, Incheon Free Economic Zone

Ms. Hee-Kyung presented on the clean and safe aspirations of an emerging city, Incheon Free Economic Zone (IFEZ) in Korea. The IFEZ plans to establish a population of approximately half a million people, and to do so in an environmentally sustainable manner. Ms Hee-Kyung outlined the three main objectives of creating a brand new city – 1) Ubiquitous technology, 2) Nature, and 3) Beauty (a focus on landscapes and architecture. The IFEZ will depend on many partnerships, a theme that has been common to all presentations today.

Ms Hee-Kyung continued with an outline of the new Songdo city and the sustainable practices that are being introduced, particularly the energy and water efficiency practices. These practices will be highlighted in the 2009 Global Fair to be held in Songdo City, which will focus on the theme ‘Lightening tomorrow’ and will welcome over 7 million visitors. Ms. Hee-Kyung concluded by welcoming all participants to the global fair next year.

Session 7: Guidance from the Primer

1. Ms. Frederica Raghieri, Climate Change Specialist, World Bank

Ms. Raghieri presented on the issue of climate change mitigation, and its role in building climate resilience of a city. She focused on Milan, northern Italy, and outlined the investments in climate change mitigation that the city was making. The investments focus on 2 main sectors - the building and transport sectors - and 3 other areas – utility services, forestation, and international cooperation.

Through investments in climate change mitigation, Ms. Raghieri outlined how Milan was building resilience to the impacts of climate change. These issues and details of the city’s investments are leading up the Expo 2015, a ‘green trade fair’ creating green spaces and highlighting innovative approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation. The Expo strategy is based on innovative tools and locally coordinated actions and will outline national and EU environmental and energy policies. Ms Raghieri concluded by stating this link between sustainable development and local action is of significance to local governments, including many here today.

2. Mr. Israel Cruzado, Councillor, Makati City

Mr. Cruzado introduced his city of Makati, on behalf of the Mayor of Makati City, Jejomar C. Binay. Makati City is the main centre of Manila, as well as the economic centre of Philippines.

The main hazards facing Makati City are earthquake, typhoon and flood. Two of these hazards are influenced by climate change, and therefore the city's Disaster Coordinating Council supports hazard and vulnerability mapping, as well as community preparedness activities.

Mr. Cruzado continued with an overview of training sessions, simulations and ongoing community engagement that Makati City has undertaken with its residents. He linked this to an increased resilience of the city in conjunction with some of the climate change mitigation and adaptation activities that the city has also instigated. These include the introduction of more energy efficient lighting systems and electronic jeepneys. In conclusion, Mr. Cruzado outlined some of the key partnerships that Makati City has been involved with to make these initiatives, both climate change and disaster management, successful.

3. Ms. Shirley Rodrigues, Head of Environment, Policy and Partnership Directorate, City of London

Ms. Rodrigues presented on the city of London and the investments being made in climate change adaptation. Two statutory strategies have been introduced into London - the Climate Change and Energy strategy (looking predominantly at mitigation) and the Climate Change Adaptation strategy (looking at adaptation). These underpin many of the climate resilient activities and initiatives that the city is putting in place.

Ms. Rodrigues continued to outline some of the climate changes in London and what this means for the main hazards - flood, drought and overheating. In endeavoring to make the city and its residents more resilient, London uses a risk based approach (risk = hazard x vulnerability) to explore opportunities for adaptation. Further, Ms. Rodrigues outlined legislation and programs being undertaken in London, and the focus on the development of a climate change action plan. This will support the lead-up to the 2012 Olympics, which London is hosting and which London has committed to being the greenest Olympics ever. In conclusion, Ms. Rodrigues outlined some of the partnerships that have been critical in ensuring that both mitigation and adaptation have been successful at the local government level.

Session 8: Cities of the Future – Open Forum

Mr. Jerry Velasquez, Mr. Peter Woods and Mr. Neeraj Prasad provided some questions for the plenary, seeking their comments on the Primer and examples of climate resilience from their own cities. The main points from this session are captured below in the next steps outlined in the Closing Ceremony.

Session 9: Workshop Summary and Closing

1. Ms. Angelika Planitz, Regional Programme Officer, UN/ISDR Asia Pacific

Ms. Planitz summarized the workshop with an overview of the key points of the day, and next steps that can be undertaken to develop climate resilient cities. The key findings of the day included the acknowledgment that climate change is no longer an issue of the distant future,

requiring immediate action. Climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction, share a common space. It is therefore imperative to pursue an integrated, cross-sector approach. Ms. Planitz continued with the key findings, noting that whilst there have been considerable advances in the field of climate change mitigation; climate change adaptation on the other hand is still a fairly new concept. Disaster risk reduction strategies can provide useful solutions to climate change adaptation and should be further explored. Further, cities in Asia and around the globe are already doing good work. In the course of the day, a great number of examples had been presented where local level action resulted in a number of impressive and innovative approaches to climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction, these included Bangkok (Thailand), Incheon (Korea), Makati City (Philippines), Singapore, London (UK), Milan (Italy), New York City (US), and Seattle (US).

However, Ms. Planitz noted that many challenges still needed to be overcome. Climate risk management is still seen as a distinct activity, impeding efforts towards mainstreaming its solutions into local level development planning processes. There are also challenges related to understanding the realities of local communities and to identifying how best to support them in the context of their specific history, culture, and socio-economic systems. Vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and natural hazards is highly localized and cannot be addressed through blue print approaches. Ms. Planitz continued to outline challenges, noting that there is still a great level of uncertainty with climate models and the level of green house gas emissions. This calls for highly flexible planning frameworks and institutional responses – no easy undertaking - reinforcing the importance of adopting no-regrets approaches. Ms. Planitz noted a final challenge when considering capacities and resources, as these are often centralized at the national level and not sufficiently decentralized to be able to address the complex issues of climate change and their impacts.

In view of these challenges, Ms. Planitz stated that participants agreed that the Primer is a good starting point. It guides cities to understand the linkages between climate change, disaster risk management and development. It offers innovative approaches to discover whether a city is a climate change hotspot. It helps collect crucial data for establishing a city's information base. And, it provides some examples of sound practices from other cities.

In conclusion, Ms. Planitz outlined tangible steps identified by city representatives and participants over the course of the day, including the need to move from piecemeal and reactive approaches to proactive, sustained and comprehensive strategies. Greater dialogue is needed, both between national governments and local governments, and between local governments and their associations to clarify their comparative advantages. This will allow for a cumulative effect that ensures more efficient implementation. There is a need to build on the increased awareness and international commitments which national governments have recently made towards climate change adaptation and mitigation and build on these when further disseminating the insights and messages from this launch to other city councils and communities. Ms. Planitz continued with the next steps identified, including the need to continue documenting city case studies and sound practices, especially those that establish a linkage between poverty, climate change and development. This would require a greater focus on least developed and most vulnerable cities.

Ms. Planitz outlined three clear next steps proposed by three participating organizations: the Philippines League of Cities proposed to table the Primer at its next steering committee meeting;

the UCLG ASPAC suggested to continue the discussion on climate resilient cities during its 2nd Congress in 2008 and to integrate the issue in its work plan, and; City Net's Disaster Cluster, in collaboration with UN/ISDR, will carry out a disaster risk and climate change hotspots analysis for its member cities.

2. Mr. Jitendra J Shah, Country Sector Coordinator, SE Asia, the World Bank

Mr. Shah closed the workshop by thanking all participants, resource persons and facilitators for their contributions. He also thanked the World Bank "Primer Team" including staff, consultants, designers, programmers, printers, team assistants, and external relations both in DC and Bangkok. Mr. Shah reminded the meeting that many lessons and experiences were shared that are very useful to East Asian cities. The Primer provides a lot of valuable material. It is now up to each participant to take action. Mr. Shah concluded by noting that the World Bank and its partner organizations stand ready to assist clients in moving from the lessons of the Primer to action in their specific contexts.
