

Cities as Drivers of Sustainable Development

Description of event:

The role of cities in the sustainable development debate has not received enough attention. Worse, cities have only been targeted as the drivers in resource consumption and waste production. Missing in the debate is the important, if not primary role, of cities as promoters of the sustainable development agenda. This perspective, however, must include the ways in which activities located within cities must be addressed, encouraged, empowered, enhanced, regulated or prohibited through governance structures at all levels. Emerging approaches to management, such as the ecosystem's approach provide an opportunity for cities, citizens and the international community to explore synergies between natural, economic and social systems that can then be harnessed to promote the sustainable development agenda in cities. The aim is to promote discussion and debate between high-level representatives of key international agencies, national policy-makers and prestigious scholars involved in urban management.

Name of organization:

United Nations University, Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS)

Description of organization:

UNU-IAS is devoted to undertaking research on issues at the forefront of knowledge, policy development and learning. The institute aims to contribute to the development of a strategic approach to sustainable development relevant to policy-makers at the global, regional, national and local levels. Key research areas include: ecosystem approaches, urbanization, globalization, international environmental governance, world cities and the application of new information and communication technologies, biodiplomacy, environmental institution building, and education for sustainable development.

Partner organizations:

ASEAN Secretariat

UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (UNESCO/MAB)

University of Tokyo Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology (RCAST)

World Health Organization Healthy Cities, Western Pacific Regional Office (WHO-WPRO)

Confirmed speakers:

Prof. J-P Contzen, Chairman of the UNU-IAS Board, Advisor to the Minister of Science and Technology of Portugal, Invited Chair, Professor at the Instituto Superior Técnico in Lisbon

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