

(Draft)
Summary
of the
3rd ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors
“ASEM Goes Local – Innovation and Regeneration”
on 11 and 13 March 2015 in Bangkok

INTRODUCTION

1. The 3rd ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors (ASEM – MGM) was held in Bangkok, Thailand, under the theme of ASEM Goes Local: Innovation and Regeneration.
2. The Meeting was attended by governors, mayors, and government officials from 23 ASEM cities namely Bandar Seri Begawan (Brunei Darussalam), Phnom Penh (Cambodia), Chaozhou (China), Chongqing (China), Guangzhou (China), Qingdao (China), Tallinn (Estonia), Berlin (Germany), Budapest (Hungary), Jakarta (Indonesia), Fukuoka Prefecture (Japan), Astana (Kazakhstan), Busan (Korea), Vientiane Capital (Lao), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), Nay Pyi Taw (Myanmar), Rotterdam (the Netherlands), Manila (the Philippines), Lisbon (Portugal), Singapore, Bangkok (Thailand), Hanoi (Vietnam) and the European Union Delegation to

Thailand. Additionally, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) joined the meeting as the resource person and three international organizations – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and Asia Matters (Ireland) – participated as observers.

3. The complete list of delegates appears as ANNEX I.

OPENING CEREMONY

4. The Meeting was opened by M.R. Sukhumbhand Paribatra, Governor of Bangkok and Head of Bangkok Delegation.
5. In his opening speech, M.R. Sukhumbhand Paribatra welcomed all delegates to Bangkok and stressed that ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors is a fast, far-reaching and constructive global and regional platform. He paid tribute to H.E. Mr. Fauzi Bowo, Former Governor of Jakarta, who initiated the First ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors which was a significant step in the development of the platform to provide opportunity for Asian and European cities to share and learn from each other. He concluded that cities could perform a vital role in catalyzing innovation,

regeneration and interrelation in order to promote better quality of life of the people.

6. Mr. Sutanto Soehodho, Deputy Governor of Jakarta, delivered a speech highlighting on the mandate of city to create environmentally responsible, people-oriented, sustainable, and integrated urban development. To achieve the ultimate goal, he expressed the importance of international network which provided exclusive opportunity for exchange and learning. He commended Berlin and Bangkok for hosting the Second and the Third ASEM Mayors and Governors Meetings after the first meeting convened in Jakarta in 2010 which later became a platform for the mayors of Asia and Europe to facilitate exchange of ideas, practices and policies.
7. Mrs. Dilek Kolat, Mayor of Berlin and Deputy of the Governing Mayor of Berlin touched upon the fact that cities must work to support their citizens and to attract immigrant skilled workers to further catalyzing urban development. She reiterated that the need of partnership between public and private sectors became inevitable in order to overcome the foreseeable challenges. She concluded that the essence of ASEM-MGM was to gather Asian and European city leaders together to exchange and learn from each other as

more than half of the world population will live in cities in the near future.

8. Mr. Fernando Medina, Vice Mayor of Lisbon, expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Mayor of Lisbon for the honor given to Lisbon to host the fourth ASEM-MGM in 2017. Lisbon is perceived as the city that linked its past and its future. He highlighted the three dimensions development which had to be done. They are tourism, multiple culturalism of the city population and the promotion of small and medium sized enterprises. He suggested that the European Union should be involved in order to promote and strengthen the closely exchange of ASEM-MGM network.

FIRST SESSION

9. The Meeting discussed the topic on the Responses to Impact of Environmental Issues. M.R. Sukhumbhand Paribatra chaired the meeting.
10. The chairman of the session invited Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Regional Director and Representative of UNEP Regional Office for Asia Pacific who served as the resource person for the session, to share his insights on the global trend related to environmental challenges.
11. Mr. Kaveh Zahedi provided the meeting with the latest information about global environmental issues

which affected quality of life of the people in urban areas worldwide. He mentioned that most cities realized the existence of threats to environment but to achieve goal of the climate convention much efforts are required. UNEP has been working on greenhouse gas emissions, promoting green building supply chain, and supporting the use of LED lighting. He stressed that Governors and Mayors could play crucial roles in creating resilient cities after disaster.

12. The Fukuoka Delegation made a presentation on innovative environmental policies of Fukuoka Prefecture which emphasized on water and air pollution reduction, policies to promote green industry, and Green Asia International Strategic Comprehensive Special Zone. He raised four business promotion points in order to transform Fukuoka into hub of environmental development funding from National Government and that of the prefecture. He highlighted on the promotion of hydrogen energy efficiency, called Hy-Life project by installing hydrogen fuel cell in vehicles, it can also serve as an alternative power source in case of emergency.
13. The chairman complimented the Fukuoka Delegation for their success which based upon two factors; leadership and partnership.

14. The Rotterdam Delegation made a presentation on resilience and disaster management which contained four points of disaster management. He stressed on making resilience and disaster management, an integral components of planning process, making sure of 24-7 emergency service available throughout the city, stimulating knowledge from private partner, and promoting citizen's awareness of risk in the process of disaster risk reduction.
15. The Guangzhou Delegation concentrated on the implementation of low carbon emission and efficient energy consumption industry. The promotion of ecological recreation and waterfront area and green space was underlined.
16. Question was raised by the Phnom Penh Delegation regarding Fukuoka's strategy to promote hydrogen energy which was responded by the Fukuoka Delegation that research and development and ISO Meeting were cutting edge for hydrogen energy consumption. The matter about sources of funding for environmental friendly systems was raised from the floor which UNEP suggested that sources could be from central bank, World Bank, regional banks, and UNEP green climate fund.

SECOND SESSION

17. The Meeting discussed the topic of Traffic and Transportation Management. Mr. Fernando Medina, Vice Mayor of Lisbon, Portugal, chaired the meeting.
18. The Astana Delegation made a presentation on the improvement of citywide logistics system to create comfortable urban environment and ensure mobility of the citizens. The extension of road networks must be proceeded in parallel with the implementation of the promotion of new public transportation system, comprising three complementary and integrated high technology system: LRT (Light Rail Transport), BRT (Bus Rapid Transport), and ITS (Intelligent Transport System). He mentioned that safety is also a main concern in the promotion of public transports so that Astana established the Competency Center for traffic professionals to deal with training and issuance of permits for public transportation personnel.
19. The Tallinn Delegation made a presentation highlighting on the free public transport in Tallinn as it was the first capital city to initiate free public transport targeting at low income people. This policy led to more labor force for the market. The funding for the project

came from the city's subsidies, parking fee, and extra tax revenue

20. The Busan Delegation made a presentation on IT technology and smart traffic system. Additional modes of transportation such as more subway lines and express bus service must be put in place. In order to improve citizen's mobility, the city government provided hydrogen bus for the disabled and ladies.
21. The Chongqing Delegation focused its presentation on the Straddle-type Monorail Project which was adopted in Chongqing. Belonging to the urban rail-based transit system, it effectively served as a medium-large commuter which produced low noise and considered as the environmental friendly mode of transportation. It also enjoyed good international reputation for the efficiency and construction cost effectiveness.
22. The Jakarta Delegation made a presentation on Jakarta's transportation issue. It highlighted upon the three strategies taken by the city to tackle the transportation issue, namely improvement of road ratio and traffic constraint, parking control, public transportation promotion such as BRT (Bus Rapid Transit), MRT (Mass Rapid Transit) and LRT (Light Rapid Transit); improvement of river capacity and

drainage system which reduced traffic congestion in the flood-prone areas in the city.

23. The Singapore Delegation made a presentation on Intelligent Transport System (ITS). With increasing of population and vehicles; there are three strategies of sustainable transportation system development: reducing the reliance of private transport, increasing public transport and encouraging cycling and walking. ITS was implemented with two main features: to facilitate public transport usage and to effectively control the use of private transport. Partnership among public and private sectors and civic society for co-creation a people-centric land transport system.
24. Questions were raised from the floor about Jakarta's inner city parking prohibition. The Jakarta Delegation replied that parking meters were installed and operated instead of human operators. There was a question concerning three-in-one system which was a part of Jakarta's traffic restraint zone. The Jakarta Delegation responded that it was not quite successful so that they are in the process to implement new system of ERP (Electronic Road Pricing System). Another case was raised by Phnom Penh for Singapore urban planning to accommodate new mode of transportation. The Singapore Delegation answered that the government

planned for the urban transportation 20 – 30 years in advance in order to allow sufficient time for land acquisition, also underground transportation system are promoted.

THIRD SESSION

25. The Meeting discussed the topic of Tourism Management and Cultural Diversity. Dr. Teo Ho Pin, Mayor of North West District, the Republic of Singapore chaired the meeting.
26. The Chaozhou Delegation's presentation concerned mainly about the preservation of its tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The former could be separated into two categories; the ancient city and the cultural relic, which needed different measures from related stakeholders towards effective protection. The latter required encouragement in terms of subsidies and personal determination to better preserve the intangible attributes of the society.
27. The Budapest Delegation made a presentation emphasized on the strength of its cultural identity which was renowned among visitors. It is required that leadership must go in tandem with management in order to maintain international reputation. Recently, the city provided wide range of cultural services by

encouraging all stakeholders from the city to convert their talent to tangible advantage and to further promote sustainable tourism.

28. The Hanoi Delegation shared experiences related to the promotion of cultural tourism. To develop tourism in a sustainable way associated with the preservation of traditional cultural values, Hanoi implemented several measures for the purposes of strengthening tourism management and effectively promoting heritage value. The framework of ASEM allowed member cities to share and learn from extensive experience in tourism management and development as well as potential markets. Hanoi expressed its desire to continue interrelations in the future.

29. The Lisbon Delegation made a presentation on how tourism can change cities and vice versa. As Lisbon became the Atlantic Capital of Europe in 1990s, its urban strategy was designed around this conception to welcome overseas visitors to participate in world-class international events which could be conceived as the first wave of tourism industry development of the city. Recently, Lisbon was the destination for low-cost airlines which resulted in increase in the number of tourists from a wider range of countries could be considered as the second wave which reflected in the

requirement of tourist accommodation and related services. In order to further develop sustainable tourism, Lisbon had a project for the protection of cultural heritage from perspective of the improvement of the conditions of comfort, safety and sustainable development of the local community, not merely based upon mass tourism.

30. The Vientiane Delegation made a presentation based on strengthening tourism which conserved cultural identity and diversity. To achieve this goal, three strategies were emphasized: upgrading the social infrastructure for tourism, making the condition for cultural exchange among international capital cities and stimulating inclusive cultural tourism management to allow more stakeholders.

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION ON NEXT STEP FORWARD

31. M.R. Sukhumbhand Paribatra chaired the session. He requested H.E. Mr. Pichai Israbhakdi, former Ambassador to Iran, who served as the rapporteur, to report to the meeting.
32. The meeting agreed that Lisbon will host the 4th ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors in 2017.
33. The meeting adopted the Bangkok Declaration which appears as ANNEX II.

34. The Chair invited inputs from the floor concerning the next step forward and future cooperation in the framework of the ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors.
35. Rotterdam Delegation proposed that the regular report on cities projects and best practices to be posted on websites, the establishment of bilateral projects, the agendas of the future meeting encourage citizens' participation, and to increase public-private partnership cooperation. Other issues to be taken into consideration include migration and social consequences, security, aging population, efficiency of taxes collection to counter declining social security, cyber security, the protection of public administration against outside threats.
36. Berlin proposed that the environmental issues should be permanently included on the agenda in the future ASEM MGM and bilateral cooperation should be promoted. In addition, social agendas such as migration, trainings to fulfill the shortage of skilled labor should be addressed.
37. Lisbon Delegation agreed with Rotterdam and Berlin that the environment and transportation issues shall be included in the future cooperation. Governance process in the city and society, democracy, as well as the needs

to make government more open and transparent are equally important. Moreover, employment and training are key issues that municipality has to take into account in order to increase the number of jobs. The importance of shared values of Europe and Asia was also stressed. These agendas will be reflected in the next meeting in Lisbon.

38. Singapore Delegation recommended that the issues of healthcare, aging society, and promotion of healthy life-style should also be included.
39. The Chair suggested a way to move forward on the bilateral cooperation framework that one city from Asia and another from Europe; for example, Bangkok and Rotterdam could cooperate in the field of flood control management, and, if possible, report to the ASEM-MGM in Lisbon which would add more substance to the framework.
40. The Chair concluded that during the meeting, many issues were raised with strong stresses in consistency and consensus. First, the meeting recognized that cities faced wide spectrum of challenges and each city had its own way of addressing them. It was useful to look around and ahead, learning from experiences and best practices. All shared the same attitude on the recognition of the value of innovation and regeneration.

There was a strong consensus that traffic and transportation are inter-related to environment. The need of sustainability, mobility, accessibility, affordability and integrated system increased and became more immediate. The emphasis of tourism management and cultural diversity was placed on effectiveness of tourism sector; necessity to build comparative advantages, and proper approach that was ecologically friendly. The consensus provided a foundation for ASEM MGM process to move ahead. He thanked and congratulated Lisbon to be the host in 2017 meeting.

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