

Announcement

Asian Development Bank (ADB) &
Development Partners Network on Decentralization and Local Governance (DeLoG)

Joint Learning Event on

Localizing Global Agendas

27-29 September 2016,

ADB Headquarters, Manila, Multifunction Hall 1&2

Background

In September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the **Agenda 2030** (*“Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”*) which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and 169 targets as a new reference for the global development effort. Unlike the previous Millennium Development Goals (MDG), the new SDGs guide sustainable development efforts of developing, emerging and industrialized countries alike, capturing environmental, economic, political and social dimensions of development in a holistic manner. Until September 2016, the indicators for the 17 SDGs will be finalized, providing a clearer framework for national action plans to implement the Agenda 2030. Another global agreement reached in 2015 is the **Paris Agreement**, adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) in December 2015, which has formulated a global consensus on how to tackle climate change and finance the required mitigation and adaptation measures. Furthermore, in October 2016, the Habitat III Conference will take place in Quito, Ecuador. The conference aims at adopting the “New Urban Agenda” emphasizing challenges of urbanization, local governance and urban planning in a sustainable and development-oriented way. Habitat III is perceived as the first implementation conference of Agenda 2030. For all global agendas, which are interlinked, the role of subnational governments for achieving global policy objectives has been recognized; subnational governments must play a crucial role in implementing reforms and supporting national initiatives. This needs to be reflected not only in national plans and strategies but likewise in the strategies and modalities of local authorities and development partners supporting developing and emerging countries.

Objectives

This Learning Event – organized jointly by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Development Partners Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance (DeLoG) – will explore current approaches by Asian-Pacific countries and by development partners for localizing the SDGs and for ensuring the role of subnational governments in climate change activities. It will provide a forum for the exchange of experiences and lessons learnt in supporting subnational governments in Asia and the Pacific. Participants will get an opportunity to critically assess strategies and modalities of development partners for the strengthening of subnational governments in the region. ADB and DeLoG member countries and organizations will have the opportunity to present their approaches in Asia and the Pacific by sharing field experiences from projects and programs, by describing their institutional strategies and methodologies, and by exploring areas of common interest and potential cooperation.

The learning event follows the first joint event of ADB and DeLoG conducted in August 2015¹; it will bring together (i) representatives, project staff and advisors of the member organizations of DeLoG, (ii) ADB headquarter and Resident Mission staff, (iii) government officials from ADB member countries and other relevant officials. (iv) civil society and youth representatives.

Content and Structure

The event will focus on the SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and on SDG 13 (Climate Action) of the Agenda 2030. As cross-cutting themes, SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships) will be examined in more detail and built into the discussion of the two other SDGs. Presentations will mainly come under three categories: (i) presentations of development partners showcasing methodologies and toolkits on how to support subnational governments in implementing the global agendas, (ii) presentations on projects and activities, including those that deal with partnerships of subnational governments in OECD and non-OECD countries, and (iii) presentations on country strategies illustrating how subnational governments will be involved in achieving the national commitments for the global agendas. The attached **Call for Contributions** (CfC) will be used to seek contributions from within ADB and from DeLoG's member organizations. An **Open Forum** will be used to discuss other decentralization and local governance issues of relevance in the Asian-Pacific context.

The tentative structure of the event will look as follows:

- Day 1 (Tuesday, 27 September 2016): Formal opening, overall introduction to the issue of localizing global agendas (Agenda 2030, COP 21, Habitat III), country strategies, reception
- Day 2 (Wednesday, 28 September 2016): Focus on SDGs 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) (case studies and project examples; plenary and group discussions); Open Forum
- Day 3 (Thursday, 29 September 2016): Focus on SDG 13 (Climate Action) (case studies and project examples; plenary and group discussions), Open Forum, Closing Session.

Logistics

The event will take place at ADB Headquarters in Manila on 27-29 September 2016. Participants are expected to cover their own travel and accommodation costs. A limited budget is available to fund travel and accommodation costs of presenters from Development Member Countries of ADB. A tentative program will be available by May 2016. Registration will open in June 2016. The number of participants is limited to 50.

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¹ External Support for Decentralization Reforms and Local Governance Systems In the Asia-Pacific: Better Performance, Higher Impact? Manila, 25 - 27 August 2015