



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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2014/SOM3/PD/001

## **Background Note and Draft Program**

Submitted by: PSU, APEC Secretariat



**Policy Dialogue on Urbanization  
Beijing, China  
19 August 2014**

# APEC Policy Dialogue on Urbanization

19 August 2014

Beijing Hotel, Beijing, China

## Background Note and Draft Program

### **Background**

More than half of the world's population lives in cities, and the urban population continues to increase. Urban population is expected to account for 60% of the world's population in the year 2030 and 70% in 2050. Cities only take up 2% of the world's land space, but consume 60% to 80% of the world's energy, accounting for 70% of the global carbon dioxide emissions. Urbanization and sustainable city development involve multiple industries and social sectors, including energy, environment, transportation, education, health, culture, poverty alleviation, among others. Urbanization offers enormous potential in promoting trade and investments, in particular in the services sector. Sustainable and healthy urbanization is conducive to improving economic efficiency, advancing regional investment, promoting the accessibility of public service, and bringing economies opportunities of economic structural adjustment and transition.

Urbanization and sustainable city development is closely associated with the core objectives of the APEC Growth Strategy adopted in 2010, and bears particular relevance to inclusive, sustainable, and innovative growth. In the Bali Declaration in 2013, APEC member economies also endorsed urbanization and sustainable city development as an area of cooperation for APEC 2014. As the world's most dynamic region for urbanization, the Asia-Pacific is home to a majority of developing APEC members that are experiencing rapid urbanization. This trend, while creating enormous business opportunities, also presents challenges for sustainable development. Developed APEC members have acquired rich experience in the urbanization process, but are also facing new urban challenges. For instance, energy and resource conservation, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, and advancement of sustainable development remain challenges for the developed economies.

Urbanization cooperation, especially the cooperation on sustainable city development in Asia-Pacific, would enable economies to learn from each other, promote deeper convergence among economies and regional economic integration process, and contribute to infrastructure, "software" connectivity, people's free movements, and full connectivity in Asia-Pacific.

At SOM1 in February in Ningbo, Senior Officials endorsed the concept paper "Shaping the Future through Asia-Pacific Partnership for Urbanization and sustainable City Development", tasking PSU to carry forward the studies of urbanization and sustainable city development. SOM also decided that on the basis of PSU report, policy dialogue of urbanization and sustainable city development will be held in the margins of SOM3.

## **Objectives**

- To improve understanding of urbanization and sustainable city development and related issues in the APEC region;
- To enrich the agenda of APEC 2014 priority on “Promoting Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth” by tapping into urbanization and sustainable city development as driving forces for innovation and economic growth;
- To identify opportunities and challenges during the urbanization process which APEC members could leverage to enhance cooperation; and
- To explore best practices and possible new platforms where APEC members could work together on and develop a forward-looking Asia-Pacific partnership for urbanization and sustainable city development.

## **Participants**

- APEC Senior Officials
- APEC committees and fora whose activities are related to the "Promoting Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth"
- Experts from international organization and educational institute

## **Draft Program**

- 9:00-9:10 Welcome Remarks, **Mr. Tan Jian**, China's APEC Senior Official
- 9:10-10:20 **Session 1: Cooperation on Urbanization: Driving Forces for Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth** (70 min)  
*This session will focus on the relation between Urbanization and "Promoting Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth". Participants will explore how APEC can conduct further pragmatic cooperation on urbanization, aiming at achieving synergy between urbanization and Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth.*
- Chair: **Dr Denis Hew**, Director, APEC Policy Support Unit
- Speakers:
- Dr Michael Lindfield**, Consultant, to improve understanding of current state and cooperation potential in the region (20 min)
- Dr Feng Kui**, Professor, NDRC, to explore the role of urbanization in achieving innovative development, economic reform and growth (20 min)
- Discussant: **Mr Paul Procee**, Lead Urban Specialist, World Bank (10 min)
- Q&A** (20 min)
- 10:20-10:35 Coffee break
- 10:35-12:05 **Session 2: Panel Discussion on Economies' Experience in Urbanization and Sustainable City Development in APEC** (90 min)  
*This session will focus on the current state of urbanization and sustainable city development in the APEC region, and economies' experiences in managing the urbanization process and facilitating sustainable city development, including pertinent issues and challenges. Participants are encouraged to deliberate on best practices and policy options for an Asia-Pacific partnership for urbanization and sustainable city development.*
- Chair: **Dr Denis Hew**, Director, APEC Policy Support Unit
- Speakers:
- Mr Yusuke Inoue**, Director, Environment Bureau, City of Kitakyushu, to share the experience of Japan (15 min)
- Mr Marco Kamiya**, Unit Leader, UN Habitat, to share the experience of APEC Latin America Economies, i.e. Chile, Mexico, and Peru (15 min)
- Ms Linda Hornilla**, Commissioner, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, to share the experience of the Philippines (15 min)
- Dr Donyun Kim**, Professor, Sung Kyun Kwan University, to share the experience of Korea (15 min)
- Discussant: **Mr. Paul Procee**, Lead Urban Specialist, World Bank (10 min)
- Q&A** (20 min)
- 12:05-12:20 Concluding Remarks, **Mr. Tan Jian**, China's APEC Senior Official