

**Public Symposium on the Implementation of SDGs –
Role of Technology, Partnership and City-to-City (C2C) Cooperation for
Building Resilient and Sustainable Societies**

2-3 February 2018

Toyota, Japan

Concept Note and Programme

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Agenda with the underlined Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) come into effect in a world that is increasingly urbanized with more than half of the global population currently living in urban areas and cities. Today, 80 percent of global GDP are generated in cities, but at the same time, they consume close to 2/3 of the world's energy and account for more than 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions. The unprecedented level of urbanization has posed some of the world's greatest development and sustainability challenges. While impacts of climate change and growing frequency and magnitude of natural disasters compound many existing problems and challenges, the necessity of provisions of basic urban services and infrastructures in areas of transport, energy, water supply, waste management, health, education and recreation facilities, etc., is increasingly felt towards building resilient and sustainable communities.

Technology, innovation and partnerships are critical enablers towards the implementation of SDGs. Many cities around the world are already overcrowded, leading to net deficit in urban resources, supplies and infrastructures such as transport, physical and digital connectivity, water, energy, and safe housing, among others. Technologies can be utilized to tackle these challenges as they allow improving efficiency in both economic and environmental senses, developing new and more resilient and sustainable ways to satisfy human needs, while empowering people to drive their own future.

Public-private-partnerships can also provide more options to build resilient and sustainable societies. Partnerships can combine advantages of the private sector such as dynamism, financial and technical resources, managerial efficiency, and entrepreneurial spirit, with social responsibility and concerns of the public sector including public health and education, environmental awareness, and social capital and local wisdom. Win-win solutions both for the public utilities and private companies can be explored if supported by appropriate policy frameworks. Such partnerships could lead to government spending reduction, while on the other hand, the private sector can come up with new and environmentally-sustainable urban development business models that could provide job opportunities and livelihood security to the local communities.

The UN Member Countries have already embarked on the process of implementing the SDGs as part of their national development strategies. For instance, in 2016, the Government of Japan (GoJ) established a new Cabinet body, “SDGs Promotion Headquarters” and adopted the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles, which represent Japan's national strategy to address the major challenges for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Those initiatives were also presented at the session of Voluntary National Reviews of the United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2017. The challenge now is how city and local governments can align SDGs with existing planning frameworks and development priorities. At the same time, GoJ also aims to share the Japanese experiences and knowhow of building “Future Environment City” as well as “Eco-Model City” with the world cities through city-to-city cooperation (C2C) focusing on sharing of technical, managerial and political knowledge that bolsters mutual learning and capacity building.

Toyota City, which hosts this Public Symposium, has been developing itself into a smart city in close

cooperation with the private sector including Toyota Motor Corporation, scientific and academic and civil society, with its motto of “linking through people, knowledge and technology towards building sustainable societies”. It promotes its low-carbon policy measures while raising its citizens’ awareness on sustainable development through various innovative projects and activities. This year, Toyota City has also exchanged a mutual agreement with Bandung City, Indonesia to initiate C2C cooperation in planning and implementation towards building smart societies. This initiative of Toyota City is expected to expand to other cities in the world.

Objectives

With this backdrop, UNCRD and Toyota City would organize the symposium to address the role of technology, partnership and C2C cooperation for building resilient and sustainable societies in line with the SDGs. The symposium is open to the public and all key stakeholders, including governments, academia, private companies, citizens, nongovernmental organizations and nonprofit organizations. Specific objectives of the symposium include:

- to enhance the public awareness on the SDGs as a whole and SDG 11 in particular among the citizens of Toyota City;
- to empower the participating city governments and urban stakeholders in Japan while strengthening ties among them;
- to promote understanding of how growth dynamics and technological innovations and interventions of Toyota City could be helpful towards achieving the SDGs; and
- to gain insight to Toyota City’s experiences on public-private partnerships as well as C2C cooperation in building resilient and sustainable cities.

Date: 2-3 February 2018

Venue: Noh Hall (on 2 February) and Toyota Ecoful Town and SENTAN (on 3 February)

Organizers: Toyota City and UNCRD

Supporting Organizers: Cabinet Office of Japan (Office for the Promotion of Overcoming Population Decline and Vitalizing Local Economy), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Aichi Prefectural Government, ICLEI Japan Office

Targeted Audience: Open to the public

Language: Japanese/English (simultaneous interpretation)

Programme

Symposium on 2 February 2018

13:00 Opening session

Welcome remarks: Mr. Toshihiko Ota, Mayor of Toyota City

Opening remarks: Mr. Choudhury Rudra Charan Mohanty,
Environment Programme Coordinator, UNCRD

13:15 Keynote Speech “SDGs as Hope, not to Give up on the Future”

Ms. Hiroko Kuniya, Board Member, Renewable Energy Institute

14:00 Panel Discussion

Session I: Asian City-to-City (C2C) Cooperation on Human Resource Development, Knowledge Exchange and Environmental Education in Asia

Moderator: Mr. Takashi Otsuka, Director, ICLEI Japan Office

Panelists:

- Mr. Enjang Mulyana, Head of Batununggal District, Bandung City
“The Development of Andragogical Learning Model in Self-Introduction Vocational Skills Training to Improve Entrepreneurship Behavior of Street Children in Bandung”
- Ms. Satoko Yanagihara, Policy Advisor, Toyama City
“C2C Cooperation of Toyama City as FutureCity”
- Mr. Toyoyuki Tada, Senior Assistant Director, Partnership Programme Division, JICA Chubu
“SDG3: Project on Training for Nurses as Elderly Care Key-persons in Da Nang City under JICA Partnership Program”
- Mr. Motoaki Sugiyama, Deputy Mayor, Toyota City
“Partnership Project for Problem Solving”

15:15 **Break**

15:30 **Session II: Building Resilient and Sustainable Societies Using New Technologies and Partnerships**

Moderator: Mr. Masaki Umejima, Advisory Board, the Toyota City Connecting Society Verification Promotion Council

Panelists:

- Mr. Choudhury Rudra Charan Mohanty, Environment Programme Coordinator, UNCRD
“Urban Mobility and Sustainable Transport - Key Issues and Challenges in Implementing SDG 11”
- Prof. Boonchai Stitmanathum, Vice President for Physical Resources Management, Chulalongkorn University
“CU TOYOTA Ha:mo Outline”
- Mr. Yutaka Okayama, Project General Manager, BR MaaS Business Dept., Toyota Motor Corporation Connected Company
“Sathorn Model Project and its Deployment in Bangkok”
- Mr. Hiroshi Isogai, Deputy Mayor, Toyota City
“With Motto of Connecting, Building a Sustainable Smart City”

16:50 **Closing Session**

Closing Remarks: Mayor of Toyota City

18:00-20:00 **Reception at Toyota Castle Hotel**

Technical Tour on 3 February 2018

9:15 Meet at the lobby of Toyota Castle Hotel
9:20 Depart from Toyota Castle Hotel (shuttle bus)
9:30-10:45 Visit to Toyota Ecoful Town
10:50-11:50 Visit to Manufacturing and Creation Hub *SENTAN*
12:00 Arrive at the Hotel