**Session on**

**‘Advancing climate change goals through multi-level governance and green cities’**

**Venue:** NDC Partnership Pavilion at UN Climate Change Conference COP25, Madrid, Kingdom of Spain

**Organizers:** Ministry of Planning & Investment, Government of Vietnam, LEDS Global Partnership and Asia LEDS Partnership (ALP)

**Date:** 09 December 2019

**Time:** 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

**About UN Climate Change Conference COP 25**

The UN Climate Change Conference COP 25 (2 – 13 December 2019) will take place under the Presidency of the Government of Chile and will be held with logistical support from the Government of Spain.

The conference is designed to take the next crucial steps in the UN climate change process. Following agreement on the implementation guidelines of the Paris Agreement at COP 24 in Poland last year, a key objective is to complete several matters with respect to the full operationalization of the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

The conference furthermore serves to build ambition ahead of 2020, the year in which countries have committed to submit new and updated national climate action plans. Crucial climate action work will be taken forward in areas including finance, the transparency of climate action, forests and agriculture, technology, capacity building, loss and damage, indigenous peoples, cities, oceans and gender.

The signatory countries to Paris Agreement are required to significantly scale up emission reduction efforts post 2020 in order to keep global temperature rise below 2oC above pre-industrial levels. Cities consume over two-thirds of the world’s energy and account for more than 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions[[1]](#footnote-1). Cities occupy three percent of Earth’s land but account for 60 to 80% of energy consumption. In 2018, 4.2 billion people, 55 percent of the world’s population, lived in cities. By 2050, two/thirds of human population i.e. 6.5 billion people will be urban[[2]](#footnote-2). In the coming decades 90% of urban expansion is expected to happen in the developing countries.

Thereby local governments are playing a vital role in the global response to climate change to curb greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapting to the effects of a changing climate. Local & subnational governments are also being acknowledged globally for their central role in achieving climate targets of National governments. Yet achieving such outcomes can be demanding. The climate change targets have to translate/percolate to local level to achieve the National targets. National and sub-national integration is much needed than before to achieve the climate change targets of Paris agreement.

Asian countries are facing pressure due to increasing urban population, demand for energy and other infrastructure services coupled with growing risks caused by climate change impacts. Through the declaration of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) targets, climate change policies and actions, several Asian countries and cities are emerging as global leaders – showcasing vertical integration, greening the cities through sub-national level climate change planning, target setting, etc. Few such encouraging success stories from Asian region are as follows.

**Vietnam:**

Vietnam has set National Green Growth Action Plan (NGAAP) strategies that identify specific activities and tasks to achieve reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and that provides a clear mandate and ownership to each of the 63 provinces in the country to design their own respective Provincial Green Growth Action Plans. All Ministries, sectors and localities, People’s Committees of provinces and cities and relevant agencies are made responsible for leading the execution of tasks in the Vietnam’s plan for implementation of the Paris Agreement, as well as submitting specific solutions for implementation until 2020 and 2030.

The cost to implement the National Green Growth Strategy (VGGS) is estimated to be at least $30 billion, requiring a significant increase to current financing levels. Among other objectives such as increase green energy production and reduce GHG emissions, Global Green Growth Institute’s (GGGI) ‘Greening cities’ program also aims to increase capacities on access to climate finance and to develop green master plans and bankable projects for Vietnamese cities[[3]](#footnote-3).

**Philippines:**

Multi-level governance and inter-sectoral collaboration on climate change towards sub-national implementation have started gaining ground in the Philippines[[4]](#footnote-4). Examples of such progress are: the creation of an inter-ministerial climate cabinet; national councils comprised of multiple levels of government as well as civil society; cities providing important leadership and input to national policy; inter-LGU cooperation to reduce fragmentation and national networks of local governments on climate change. Guided by the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP), Republic Act 9729 mandates local government units to develop their local climate change action plans. Also Philippines is a front runner in the Climate budgeting framework – a local climate budgeting operations manual has been set out to ensure consistency with national climate budgeting.

Further, the UN Habitat Philippines, through two projects ‘Vertical Integration and Learning on Low Emissions Development’[[5]](#footnote-5) and ‘Strengthening capacities of national and regional level governance to mainstream climate change concerns into national urban-related policies’, supported the country in integrating climate change into national urban policy, and foster low-emission development at the national and local levels[[6]](#footnote-6).

**Sri Lanka**

Sri Lanka is taking a number of measures to promote sustainable development and address the threat of climate change at the national and sub-national level. Sri Lanka has an action plan of urban and city planning, and human settlements sector which include strategy for greening cities. Sri Lanka is planning to expand the city climate action plan that is being carried out by Kurunegala city to other Sri Lankan cities. The Kurunegala city is developing city climate action plan using the Climate Resilient City Action Plan (CRCAP) methodology which is tailor made for Local Governments (LGs) and provide step by step guidance for the development of a climate resilient city action plan considering both mitigation and adaptation components. The activity is supported by Asia LEDS Partnership[[7]](#footnote-7)’s Multi-Level Climate Governance (MLCG) Community of Practice (CoP)[[8]](#footnote-8).

**Objective of the session**

Different National governments, local and subnational governments are at different stages of climate action implementation due to varied degrees of technical, financial and institutional capacities. It is therefore important to build capacities of National governments as well as local and subnational governments to achieve low carbon and climate resilient world in an equitable way.

In this context, it is proposed to conduct an event at the NDC partnership pavilion to showcase success stories and outcomes from the Asian countries (Vietnam, Philippines and Sri Lanka) on vertical linkage / national and sub-national integration / city climate action plan / green cities through various initiatives. It is also aimed to cover processes adapted, challenges, lessons learnt in the vertical integration and climate action planning.

The Asia LEDS Partnership, through its Communities of Practices[[9]](#footnote-9) (CoPs) namely Mobility CoP, NDC Finance CoP, Multi-Level Climate Governance CoP is supporting national and sub-national governments to advance LEDS/NDC targets. The activities/initiatives under these CoPs and the opportunities/resources/technical support available to developing countries (including sub-national governments) through these CoPs would be promoted. The ALP CoPs are supported by NDC cluster / LEDS GP technical working groups such as Governance, Sectors (AFOLU, Energy, and Transport), Financing and Transparency.

The event would witness knowledge sharing and deliberations during the panel discussion featuring distinguished representatives from Asian government representatives (including one city representative from each country) and experts in this space.

**Schedule & Agenda:**

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| **Duration** | **Particulars** | **Speaker** |
| 5 min | Welcome remarks | Mr. Pham Van Tan, Deputy Director of, Vietnam Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Member of NDCP SC |
| 5 min | LEDS Global Partnership and the Asia LEDS Partnership – An introduction to Communities of Practice and setting the stage | Mr. Ron Benioff – LEDS Global Partnership |
| Panel Discussion with government representatives and experts | | |
| 40 min | * Country and city representatives from Vietnam, Philippines and Sri Lanka, speak about the initiatives in their countries towards vertical integration/city climate action planning, challenges, best practices and lessons learnt * Experts respond to presentations and provide insights into enhancing impact of vertical-integration for climate action | **Vietnam**  Country representative: Dr. Nguyen Thi Dieu Trinh, Senior official, Ministry of Investment & Planning, Vietnam (TBC)  Sub-national representative: Dr. Pham S- Vice chairman of Lam Dong Province People’s Committee  **Philippines**  Country representative:  Sandee G. Recabar, Chief of the Implementation, Oversight Commission of the COO, Climate Change Commission (TBC)  **Sri Lanka:**  Country representative: Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment (TBC)  Sub-national representative (Kurunegala city): TBC  Ms Susanne Perdersen (DDG – in charge for green investment at GGGI) or Ms Jenny Kim (DDG in charge for Policy cho Green Growth) (TBC)[[10]](#footnote-10)  ICLEI World Secretariat (Secretary General, Gino van Begin) (TBC) |
| 8 min | Questions from audience | Moderator: Representative LEDS Global Partnership (or ALP/LEDS GP steering committee co-chair) |
| 2 min | Closing remarks | Soumya Chaturvedula, Asia LEDS Partnership |

1. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/overview> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-11-sustainable-cities-and-communities.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://gggi.org/country/vietnam/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.adelphi.de/de/system/files/mediathek/bilder/Multi-level%20climate%20governance%20in%20the%20Philippines%20-%20adelphi%20UN%20Habitat.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Supported by IKI; partner - Adelphi Research GmbH [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <http://unhabitat.org.ph/mainstreaming-climate-change-in-urban-development/> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. The [Asia LEDS Partnership (ALP) Secretariat](http://www.asialeds.org/) hosted by ICLEI South Asia is a voluntary regional network promoting and implementing LEDS in Asia, facilitates enhanced collaboration among government organizations, development organizations and others actively involved in LEDS and also fosters capacity building of LEDS practitioners. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. It is one of the four thematic Communities of Practice (Grid-scale renewable energy, clean mobility, MLCG and NDC finance) launched by ALP to cater to the needs of Asian countries to achieve NDC targets. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Communities of Practice: The ALP CoP is a network of engaged experts and practitioners from a sector or working area who come together as a group to regularly engage in peer to peer learning to improve their personal and collective group knowledge. The network offers an alternative to conventional knowledge sharing networks that usually feature top-down development assistance and policy adoption by providing an inclusive member experience. The Asia LEDS CoPs are transnational and the regional community of practitioners (broadly formalised under the LEDS framework) to learn from each other and provide expertise and inputs to interested country governments on LEDS priority areas of the Region [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. GGGI presents on the efforts made under the greening cities in Vietnam – with a special focus experiences on developing bankable projects in Vietnam cities [↑](#footnote-ref-10)