

Phnom Penh, 3 May 2012

Policy makers and civil society from 7 ASEAN Countries meet to create a roadmap for better local governance

Policy makers and civil society from seven ASEAN countries came together today (3/5) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia to strengthen regional cooperation at the local level. The focus is on good local governance for better Disaster Risk Management of Climate Change Challenges, as well as on Financing Urban Economic and Infrastructure Development Programmes.

The conference brings together best local practices in democratic local governance and decentralisation across the ASEAN region. The initiative is supported by two projects funded by the European Union, namely the 'Supporting Decentralisation in Developing Countries' and 'Partnership for Democratic Local Governance in Southeast Asia (DELGOSEA)' projects. Based on research and empirical evidence the conference is also looking at the key question on how regional cooperation and a sustainable dialogue can be best organised for maximum impact. The aim is to strengthen local authorities networking with international and regional organisations and to develop closer links between local authorities, civil society and academic institutions.

A representative from the EU Delegation to Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam and ASEAN, Mr Andreas Röttger, Head of Regional Cooperation, welcomed the organisation of this open dialogue as an opportunity to raise awareness about local governance issues in building and strengthening democracy. He said, "This is a timely initiative of local authorities to show that regional integration is not only a matter for the capitals. Indeed, effective local authorities and a vibrant local civil society are key drivers for development, prosperity and stability across the region."

The conference aims at developing a roadmap for enhanced and more effective local governance through a multi-stakeholder approach in the ASEAN region. Efforts shall be made to ensure successful implementation.

Participants include government representatives from the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar and Laos. They are joined by representatives from Local Government Associations, civil society organisations, academia, international organisations and media. The conference will also be attended by H.E. Mr Sak Setha, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Interior of the Royal Government of Cambodia; and Mr Bagas Hapsoro, Deputy Secretary-General of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat.



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The conference is a joint venture of two projects funded by the European Union, 'Supporting Decentralisation in Developing Countries' and the 'Partnership for Democratic Local Governance in Southeast Asia (DELGOSEA)', both under the umbrella of UCLG ASPAC and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.



Results of the conference will be available on the websites of UCLG ASPAC (www.uclg-aspac.org) and DELGOSEA (www.DELGOSEA.eu).

About the projects

The UCLG ASPAC project 'Supporting Decentralisation in Developing Countries' – funded by the European Union – targets four regions, namely: East Africa, West Africa, Latin America and South East Asia. The overall objective of the project is to support decentralisation and local democracy processes in developing countries, in order to strengthen local development and good governance, to strengthen local governments in their capacity to analyse and define priority agendas and have a dialogue with states and regional institutions in support of decentralisation and the role of local governments.

Supporting Decentralisation in Developing Countries

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DELGOSEA is a network of 32 cities from five Southeast Asian countries – Indonesia, Cambodia, The Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam – aiming to share knowledge and replicate best practices on good local governance for improving living conditions of the people. This network is supported by 11 LGAs, five partners and other stakeholders from government, civil society, academia and media. They all play a crucial role to make the process of replication a success. The network is managed by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, with financial support from the European Union and the German Ministry of Development Cooperation.

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