



SESSION DESCRIPTION

E4 The weight of cities: Towards inclusive, resource efficient and resilient cities

Panel

Date: Friday, 27 April, 2018

Time: 14:30-16:00

Rooms: S25-26

Language: English

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Organized by: UN Environment/International Resource Panel

OBJECTIVE

This session centered on the resource perspective of urbanization, by highlighting the serious shortage of resources, both for building new cities as well as for running them, and addressing the inequitable resource distribution. It also outlined a strategy to develop sustainable cities, including a call for “entrepreneurial urban governance,” and shared the experience of working with fast-changing cities around the world to highlight potential ways to accelerate the transition to more resource efficient urbanization. Within the needed integrated approach based on parallel interventions on urban spatial restructuring, resource-efficient components and value change, new governance city networks fulfil a crucial role; therefore a discussion on the required bridge between city networks and practitioners with the science community was held. The discussion included the views of two city networks and an exchange with the audience to further discuss what is required to make transformative change happen and take root.

OUTCOMES

Participants gained a better understanding of:

- How the current use of natural resources should now become a central policy concern
- The transition needed to achieve low-carbon, resource-efficient and socially just cities and the parallel interventions to support such transition
- What is entrepreneurial urban governance and how city networks can enhance their role as agents of change

METHODOLOGY

- Welcome and brief introduction of the International Resource Panel. **(5 minutes)**
- Presentations of findings of The Weight of Cities. **(15 minutes)**
- Presentation of the findings of the series release by WRI and how the findings of both organizations complement each other (tbc). **(15 min)**
- The facilitator facilitated a discussion and managed questions and answers from the audience. The discussion included a pitch by two city networks: The League of Cities of the Philippines and ICLEI. **(50 min)**
- The facilitator concluded with closing remarks. **(5 minutes)**



CONTRIBUTORS

- Facilitator *James Lomax, Sustainable Food System and Agriculture Programme Officer, UN Environment, Paris, France*
- Panelist *Maarten Hajer, Professor, Urban Futures, Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands*
- Panelist *Jessica Seddon, Director, Integrated Urban Strategy, World Resources Institute, Washington D.C., USA*
- Panelist *Veronica Hitosis, Deputy Executive Director for Policy, Programs, and Projects; League of Cities of the Philippines, Quezon, Philippines*
- Panelist *Yunus Arikan, Head of Global Policy & Advocacy, ICLEI World Secretariat, Bonn, Germany*

Further recommended reading

International Resource Panel's summary and factsheet of the publication: IRP (2018). The Weight of Cities: Resource Requirements of Future Urbanization. Swilling, M., Hajer, M., Baynes, T., Bergesen, J., Labbé, F., Musango, J.K., Ramaswami, A., Robinson, B., Salat, S., Suh, S., Currie, P., Fang, A., Hanson, A. Kruit, K., Reiner, M., Smit, S., Tabory, S. A Report by the International Resource Panel. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya. <http://www.resourcepanel.org/reports/weight-cities>

International Resource Panel's report: UNEP (2013) City-Level Decoupling: Urban resource flows and the governance of infrastructure transitions. A Report of the Working Group on Cities of the International Resource Panel. Swilling M., Robinson B., Marvin S. and Hodson M. <http://www.resourcepanel.org/reports/city-level-decoupling>

UN Environment report and summary for policy makers: UNEP (2018). Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Transitions in the ASEAN Region. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya.

<https://resourceefficientcities.org/2018/02/sustainable-urban-infrastructure-transitions-in-the-asean-region/>

WRI World Resources Institute Report research: <http://www.wriroscities.org/>
