



SESSION DESCRIPTION

H1 Active citizen engagement and participatory urban resilience planning

Cities in Focus

Date: Saturday, April 28, 2018

Time: 11:00 – 12:30

Rooms: S25-26

Language: English

ICLEI contact: Ute Göldner

E-mail/web: resilient.cities@iclei.org

Organized by: ICLEI World Secretariat

OBJECTIVE

It is a truth universally acknowledged that urban resilience and climate change adaptation efforts are most beneficial when there is local ownership of efforts. Though undeniably an integral part of urban resilience efforts, citizens' active and *meaningful* participation is not necessarily straightforward or obvious in all local and cultural contexts.

Here to present different approaches to citizen engagement were four local government representatives. From Copenhagen, Denmark we learnt how "storytelling" could be used as a powerful tool for participatory planning and implementation, generating citizen's engagement, and enhancing the impact of the City's adaptation work. From Guimarães, Portugal we learnt how citizen participation has been integrated into the local governance structures to create a culture of positive change for sustainability and resilience. Next, Quito, Ecuador shared their strategy for including citizen voices in resilience planning and how to ensure that these voices are successfully integrated and translated to action. Santa Rosa, Philippines rounded up the session by introducing an innovative and collaborative project that aims to provide both socio-economic, as well as urban resilience benefits to its people, including significant improvements for residents of informal settlements. The City shared its collaborative process and actions taken by the city to increase downward accountability vis-à-vis resilience measures.

OUTCOMES

Participants had the chance to:

- Reflect on the benefits and opportunities of citizen engagement and participatory planning;
- Learn directly from cities on ways to achieve active community engagement in resilience planning and implantation;
- Take this knowledge with them to apply in their own communities, cities and regions.

METHODOLOGY

- The facilitator provided an introduction to the topic and contributors. **(5 minutes)**
- Each presentation was allotted 10 minutes. **(4 x 10 minutes)**
- The facilitator managed questions and answers. **(40 minutes)**
- Closing remarks by the facilitator. **(5 minutes)**



CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator *Anthony Socci, Senior Lead on International Resilience & Adaptation Policy, US Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C., USA*

Presenter *René Sommer Lindsay, Special Advisor, Climate Resilience, City of Copenhagen, Denmark*

Storytelling as strategy for creating climate resilient communities

One instrument to create a belief in a positive change and ensure the support of politicians and city dwellers is to understand planning as a form of “*persuasive storytelling*”. It adds a layer of emotion to the, essentially technical, field of urban planning. Rather than being a purely technical field of work, planning should be about finding the best technical solutions, but also making these solutions relevant, valuable and relatable to both politicians deciding to fund them, and, especially, to the inhabitants who will be living in them.

Presenter *Isabel Loureiro, Executive Coordinator for Guimarães Structure Mission European Green Capital 2020, Guimarães City, Portugal*

Jorge Cristino, Deputy Mayor's Aide, Guimarães City, Guimarães, Portugal

Weaving citizen participation into governance structures

As a World UNESCO Heritage site, the European Capital of Culture 2012 and European City of Sport 2013 Guimarães strives to become Portugal’s most sustainable and resilient city in the future. To this end, over the past 30 years, the City’s environmental governance has aimed at becoming a model of urban development. This is a city commitment that goes beyond politics and rather encompasses a strategic city governance decision to include citizens and have a citizen-driven approach to innovation and robust resilience and sustainability planning. The City of Guimarães shared concrete examples of how this is achieved on the ground.

Presenter *Andrés Isch, General Planning Secretary, Municipality of Quito, Quito, Ecuador*

Citizen participation mechanisms in Quito, Ecuador

Citizen participation is the basis of the Resilience Strategy in the Metropolitan District of Quito. The Municipality of Quito is updating these participatory tools by building a digital participatory platform and by strengthening other participatory mechanisms, such as participatory budgets. The presentation showed how the effective participatory management of the city in different areas benefits from these mechanisms, such as the zonal administration of Eloy Alfaro in the south of the city, or of Calderón in the north.

Presenter *Ermin Lucino, City Planner, City of Santa Rosa, Philippines*

Eco-Tourism People’s Park - Stronger collaboration and resilience for all

The City of Santa Rosa, Laguna, Philippines is a fast urbanizing city located beside Laguna Lake. Though undeniably public parks provide social, economic, environmental, and disaster risk reduction benefits, such important public green spaces were not considered and prioritized in the fast development of the city. To address this, the idea of the “Eco-tourism People’s Park” was born – a 14-hectare development. It will (1) decrease vulnerability by limiting exposure to risk through additional illegal housing developments, (2) increase adaptive capacity of the people living near the project area by maximizing the economic tourism opportunities that the project will bring (3) improve the socio-economic status of the people in the city and (4) throughout the project development increase local ownership and citizen participation.