

## Summary of the SPP Side Event

The Side Event of the Spatial Planning Platform (SPP) was held at room 404 of Kuala Lumpur convention center from 17:00 on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018. It is an official event to have the efforts of SPP widely known to the world. In addition to the attendees of the Preparatory Meeting of the SPP, representatives of countries around the world, local governments, experts, international organizations etc. participated in the event. More than 100 people gathered in the meeting room although maximum capacity was 90.

Key attendees and summary of the discussions are as follows;

(Key attendees)

Japan: Koichi YOSHIDA, Vice President, Minister of MLIT

Eiko TOYAMA, Director of Policy Planning Office, MLIT

UN HABITAT: Dr. Shipra Narang Suri, Coordinator, Urban Planning and Design Branch

OECD : Ms. Aziza Akhmouch, Director, Center for Entrepreneurship, Local Development, Tourism and Regional Development Policy Committee

JICA: Mr. Kazumasa SANUI, Director, Infrastructure and Peacebuilding Department

Vietnam : Mr. Tran Quoc Thai, Urban Development Agency, Ministry of Construction

Thai : Mrs. Pochanie Kajonpredanon, Director, Department of Public Works and Town & County Planning, Ministry of Interior

Ms. Wiyada Songkittipakdee, Senior Professional, Department of Public Works and Town & County Planning, Ministry of Interior

Malaysia : Ms. Kamariah Binti Ibrahim, Deputy Director General, Department of Town and County Planning, Ministry of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government

Laos : Mr. Phomma VEORAVAnh, Director General, Department of Water Supply, Ministry of Public Works and Transport

Cambodia : HE. Dr. Pen Sophal, Secretary of State, Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction

Myanmar : Ms. Aye Aye Myint, Deputy Director General, Department of Urban & Housing Development, Ministry of Construction

China : Dr. SHI Nan, Secretary General, Urban Planning Society of China

Korea : Dr. Se Hoon PARK, Head, Organization for Urban Generation Policy, Korea  
Research Institute for Human Settlements

Mongol : Mr. BADELKHAN Khavdislam, Minister of Construction and Urban  
Development

Mr. GUNBOLD Baatar, Director, Department of Urban Development &  
Land Affairs Policy, Ministry of Construction and Urban Development

Sri Lanka : Mr. R. M. Abeyratne, Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Construction

Moderator: Toshiyasu NODA, Professor of Department of Law, Seinan  
Gakuin University

(Summary of Comments)

After the opening remarks of Mr. Yoshida, Vice President, Minister of MLIT (Reference material 7), Dr. Shipra of UN HABITAT took the floor and made following comments.

1. Dr. Shipra Narang Sur, UN HABITAT

Spatial Planning is one of 3 important elements for implementing New Urban Agenda. Firstly governance, secondary plan and thirdly finance. International Guideline on Urban and Territorial Planning (IGUTP) has been downloaded almost 110,000 times around the world and was translated into 14 languages. This 9<sup>th</sup> session of the World Urban Forum (WUF9) made some achievements for the IGUTP as well. Today's SPP is one of such achievements while the other is a launching of the book titled "Leading Change" initiated by an alliance of local governments (SALGA). Along with these, there are a pre-release version of a handbook that is to be published and a report that evaluates the 2-year efforts made after the issuance of the guideline.

The SPP will be a tool for enhancing the implementation of IGUTP guideline. I would like to thank the government of Japan for supporting IGUTP ever since hosting the expert group meeting in Fukuoka. I sincerely request for the continuous support of the Japanese Government and their contributions towards realization of SDGs and New Urban Agenda.

Responding to Director Ms. Toyama's briefing on the overview of SPP, following comments and questions were raised.

## 2. Malaysia: Ms. Kamariah Binti Ibrahim

In Malaysia, physical plans are formulated in three layers; national government, federal government and local government. National Physical Plan was decided in 2002, and has been reviewed 3 times so far. This national plan has been reflected on 13 regional structural plans and spatial plans of local governments are based on these regional plans. National plan contributes to achieving the goal of New Urban Agenda and the sustainable development. It especially focuses on urban and rural dynamic growth, spatial sustainability, climate resilience, and inclusive and livable community development. We are working on the creation of development axes with attention paid to balanced development. Regional balance, urban-rural linkage, good accessibility between urban and rural areas will be vital. In Malaysia, urbanization is progressing with current urbanization rate of 70%. Our idea is not to exceed 85% in the future. There is a need to curb migration from rural to urban areas so that we need to make rural areas attractive. By keeping urban/rural balance, we will create development axes and growth hub. Since we are fully aware of our domestic development axes, our emphasis should be given to transportation infrastructure and communication system so as to maintain regional balance. Last but not least, we have high expectation towards the SPP. Our challenge lies in the monitoring system. Therefore, we would like to consider it through the SPP.

## 3. OECD: Ms. Aziza Akhmouch

Just as how it goes in a lyric by John Lennon, it is difficult to make a big change without a plan. Accordingly, I hope the SPP will bring opportunity for mutual learning and lead to development of better plans. We wish to extend full support from OECD.

I wish to make note of 3 points about SPP. Firstly, Japan and other Asian countries are taking initiative in this activity. They are the areas where urbanization is taking place at a rapid pace. It leads to economic growth and development, and high quality urbanization. Secondly, Asian regions will be tackling the trade-off relationship between comprehensive development and influence of climate change. I think this will serve as a good experimental field for determining the role of spatial planning. Further, within the framework of spatial planning, the role of the cities as a driving force for growth and dynamic merger of urban/rural area will also be examined. Thirdly, although the SPP will be conducted based on the international

guidelines, the bottom-up approach of each of the country/region will also be of great importance. As it is discussed in the spatial planning of land use close to citizens and residents, it will serve as a core of urban policies.

Finally, I would like to add that OECD is working on The National Urban Policy Programme (NUPP). We are reviewing urban policies of over 150 countries. In this connection, I think we can collaborate with the activities of SPP in terms of data of land use and large metropolitan areas etc.,

#### 4. JICA : Mr. Kazumasa SANUI

We are extending assistance for development of spatial planning in the Asian and African countries. For example, Spatial Plan of Ulan Bator of Mongol is one of our successful cases. The congress of Ulan Bator has approved the master plan which is now in the implementation stage. In Mongol, although 50% of its population is concentrated in Ulan Bator, spatial plan for the national land as a whole, not only for its capital, is now becoming necessary. In Bhutan, known as the world's happiest country, we are conducting survey of the happiness level of the nation periodically and reflecting the result on distribution of public services etc., Our last case was planning of Basic Axes Development Plan for Sub-Saharan Africa. As urban/rural disparity is huge in Africa, we planned to redress the disparities through improving accessibilities. Development of such spatial plan gives a good opportunity for the central government to coordinate plans on multi sector level. As a result, it plays a vital role in strengthening the partnership between central government and regional government. We JICA wish to share such experiences worldwide.

#### 5. Question 1: Attendee from Barbados, Caribbean

I am thankful for Japan to take initiative in the spatial planning and also aware of the key role Japan plays in Sendai Framework. I am here from the Caribbean Barbados. We are currently making various challenges in terms of resilience toward climate change. Can we ask for assistance from JICA in Barbados? We have strong interest towards the SPP.

JICA: We are conducting projects in countries around the world. To mention our project with closest location to you, we are working on the provision improvement plan in Central America. There is a high possibility we will launch our project in the Caribbean.

## 6. Question 2

I feel that there is a distance between central government and the regional government. It takes quite long till the policies of the central government get directed to local government. What do you think about shortening this sense of distance? Also, planning department of local government lacks flexibility and speediness. It is necessary to improve such nature of the planning department under NUA. Further, let them assume the role of a preacher.

OECD: Such tendency does exist. However, it is also true that implementation of the plans are being conducted by the local government level. That is, there are cases where local government takes initiative in creating new policies. I see this as a new current being created in the planning structure. Such trends offer a good opportunity for fostering change in regional policies.

NUA is created with the central government taking the lead but two third of the policies are conducted by the local government. It is important that the local government take a more integrative, comprehensive and systematic approach in keeping in mind the NUA and the sustainable development goals. It takes a little more time till realizing speedy and comprehensive planning/administrative structure between the central government and the regional governments.

Malaysia: I have a feeling that actions of the rural administration are actually quite fast. There are cases where local governments are implementing policies ahead of us even though we are still reviewing plans. We believe that the central/local government's close-knit discussions are the key. If plans are reviewed, we keep in mind that we have discussion with the local government so as to establish a win-win relationship. Further, it is also important that we incorporate opinions of the community and general public in the plans.

## 7. Question 3: Attendee from Indonesia

I am working as a spatial planning coordinator in the city of Mataram in Indonesia. The actions of the city are quite fast. City mayor who gets influenced by business enterprises alters the land use immediately. I think it is a problem that spatial plan gets influenced by corporate profit. I believe there are a lot to learn from the SPP. Can a local government be a member as

well? Especially, I wish to obtain information on the monitoring.

Moderator: In the SPP meetings, central governments will attend representing countries. However, as for the database which will be developed by the SPP, we wish to have it available to local governments and NGOs as well. I think necessary information can be shared in this way. Although implementation of NUA is the topic for the WUF9, concrete measures for the implementation has not been discussed much. The SPP is a realistic proposal for assisting the development of national land planning for each country through the utilization of IGUTP. We would like to develop better plans and contribute to the implementation of NUA. We ask for your kind cooperation.