

**“Shifting to Planned Urbanization:
The Role of Development and South South Cooperation
in Implementing the New Urban Agenda”**

May 11-12, 2017

Manila, Philippines



INTRODUCTION

Organized jointly by the Korea Development Institute (KDI) and The Asia Foundation (TAF), the “Asian Approaches to Development Cooperation” (AADC) dialogue series brings together development experts and government officials from the Asia region and beyond to share perspectives and to facilitate mutual learning between and among “emerging” and traditional” development actors.

The dialogue series is now in its 7th year. In 2011 the series began with a focus on Asian approaches to development cooperation, a novel topic of discussion in a changing aid landscape. 2012, The AADC dialogues combined the theme of development cooperation with pro-poor inclusive growth. In 2013 dialogues in Seoul and Hoi An, highlighted climate change mitigation and adaptation. In 2014, the theme was Social Mobility in Asia, featuring a dialogue in Sri Lanka and an authors’ meeting in Seoul. In 2015, the dialogues focused on the future of South-South Cooperation in the region. The first dialogue, held in Phnom Penh, featured the perspective of partner countries, while the second dialogue, in Jakarta, focused on provider perspectives. In 2016, the AADC dialogues focused on the role of non-state actors in international development cooperation. This first conference in Beijing (April) explored the role of civil society in the international development while the second meeting in Delhi (August) addressed the role of private sector.

In 2017, the AADC dialogues focus on how Asian countries are tackling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through their cooperation programs. The first conference in Manila (May) explored planned urbanization and the New Urban Agenda while the second meeting in Ulaanbaatar (September) will discuss women and girls’ empowerment. This report intends to cover the proceedings and outcomes of the Manila meeting, featuring presentations and discussions by regional government officials, policy specialists and development experts.

OBJECTIVES OF DIALOGUE SERIES

- To promote mutual interest, learning, understanding, and opportunities for collaboration and cooperation between and amongst Asian countries and experts.
- To explore opportunities for shared and complementary approaches and strategies for addressing these SDGs amongst Asian countries and traditional donors.
- To produce a publication compiling papers and key findings from the dialogues.
For the Manila dialogue:
- To present and discuss Asian south-south and development cooperation approaches to sustainable cities
- To make specific policy contributions and recommendations on how Asian-led development and south-south cooperation can better address the challenges related to sustainable cities.

OPENING CEREMONY

Dylan Davis, Country Representative of The Asia Foundation Korea, and moderator for the opening session, welcomed all participants.

In her welcome address, **Kim Hunter**, from The Asia Foundation Philippines, recognized the longstanding TAF-KDI partnership. She commented that the issue of planned urbanization is a meaningful topic to discuss in Manila and recognized all the participants, all of whom have extensive experience and expertise relevant to this issue.

Taejong Kim, from the Korea Development Institute, added welcome remarks to participants and commented that the AADC dialogues have always been a learning experience for him, and felt that the participants will come to feel the same way.

Gordon Hein, from the Asia Foundation, welcomed participants and expressed that the roles of Asian actors, new multilateral structures, Asian private sector and NGOs have become increasingly active in international development – a positive trend that expands the understanding and discourse around development issues.



SUPPORTING URBANIZATION – PROSPECTS FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

This first session looked at how Asian countries are approaching urbanization and urban development in their development/south-south cooperation programs. This included specific programmatic approaches, overall strategies for engagement on urbanization, as well as plans and ideas on how they might be adjusting to the New Urban Agenda through their cooperation.

Moderated by **Anthea Mulakala**, Director of International Development Cooperation, The Asia Foundation, the session featured:

Wang Wen

Executive Dean and Professor,
Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies
Renmin University of China

Jeong-Ho Kim

Professor of Urban Economics and Environmental Planning
KDI School of Public Policy and Management, Korea

Cris Rollo

Country Programme Manager
UN-Habitat Philippines



In his presentation, “Infrastructure, Urbanization, Belt and Road Initiative,” **Wang Wen** first introduced the Renmin University of China (RDCY), one of the top ten think tanks in China. He briefly overviewed the rapid urbanization of China, showing the immense population statistics of Chinese urban cities. Many “city clusters” have been emerging in China, and are predicted to become major contributors to China’s future economic growth. Prof. Wang also provided a brief overview of “The Belt and Road” initiative, joint infrastructure projects that will connect Asia, the Middle East, Southern Europe and Northeast Africa. The initiative is predicted to accelerate the process of infrastructure construction and increase connectivity among the nations on the route, as well as increase the GDP in these regions. China has distinct advantages in infrastructure construction, such as a large labor force and experiences in large-scale infrastructure construction. However, challenges to the initiative exist, such as geopolitical instability, conflicts among the different legal systems, and financial and environmental risks.

Jeong-Ho Kim presented on “How to Manage Rapid Urbanization? Case of Korea.” He outlined the various challenges that arose with rapid urbanization in Korea, including polarization and spatially unbalanced development, difficulty in promoting job-generating industries, and lack of service provision. While Seoul became the national growth center, other cities lost population as they served as “weigh stations” for migrants to Seoul. More recently, however, Korea has been experiencing a reverse in polarization. Contributing factors include population dispersion schemes, initiation of local autonomy, specified land use control in the Seoul Metropolitan area, and the establishment of innovation and enterprise cities throughout the country. Korea is expected to experience de-urbanization and, eventually, re-urbanization. Several lessons may be taken from Korea’s urbanization experiences, such as the importance of a holistic approach to national planning, enhancing competition among cities and regions, and an integrated infrastructure policy. The Korean urbanization experience is being disseminated through organizations such as the Korea Development Institute (KDI) and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

In his presentation, “Supporting Urbanization – Overview and Approaches,” **Cris Rollo** provided an overview of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), SDG 11, and the New Urban Agenda. The fastest rate of urbanization can be seen in the Asia-Pacific region, which also has the most

mega cities. National economies are expected to grow predominantly through urbanization and infrastructure investment. The fastest urban growth in secondary cities can be seen in the Philippines, whose population is predominantly young. Many are experiencing “urban discontent,” resulting in individuals choosing to leave Metro Manila. The secondary cities are not fully equipped to manage the rapid urbanization and many cities are vulnerable to natural and manmade hazards. UN-Habitat in the Philippines focuses on resilient housing, sustainable urban development, and climate change. A recent project took place in Tacloban City, one of the most impacted cities after Typhoon Haiyan. The post-Haiyan recovery and reconstruction plan provided a framework for the city to be redesigned in a more sustainable manner. There are also several secondary cities that are to undergo planned extensions.

Q&A/Discussion:

One of the main topics of discussion was about the fast-changing nature of urbanization and how to respond comprehensively to the dynamic expectations and the multitude of complex issues that arise. **Prof. Wang** explained the reformed Hukou System that is being applied to Beijing to mitigate unbalanced urbanization. **Prof. Kim** explained how the polarization reversal process in Korea was initially led by the government’s suburbanization efforts. He stressed the unique nature of Korea’s urban experience and the need to tailor them to the needs of other countries. **Mr. Rollo** emphasized the importance of a participatory planning process, stating it is imperative for the residents of the city to be included in the process of urban planning. Another issue raised was that of “ghost towns,” urbanized areas that are unoccupied, why they exist and how they can be prevented. **Prof. Wang** explained that one reason for the existence of ghost towns in China is that people have a tendency to purchase property for financial security, even if that property is not occupied or leased. **Prof. Kim** noted that cities are like humans – they must be connected to survive and isolated cities will die out. Infrastructure connects cities spatially, economically, and socially.

STRENGTHENING PLANNING AND LEGAL ENVIRONMENT FOR URBANIZATION

In this session, actors who have been working on planning processes and enhancing legal frameworks for planned urbanization in Asia presented on their experiences.

Moderated by **Taejong Kim** (Managing Director, Development Research and Learning Network, KDI School) the session featured:

Wicaksono Sarosa	Director and Chief Knowledge Worker Ruang Waktu Knowledge-Hub for Sustainable [Urban] Development, Indonesia
Swee Keng Lim	Deputy Director, Centre for Liveable Cities Ministry of National Development, Singapore

Mark Koenig

Deputy Director and Urban Governance Specialist
The Asia Foundation



Wicaksono Sarosa spoke on “The Need for a National Urban Policy (NUP) and Inter-Country Sharing of its Implementation.” He explained that, despite the merit of the principle of subsidiarity, many cities can no longer be planned within city boundaries due to their interrelation to surrounding areas. Issues, both problems and opportunities, arise that can only be tackled at the higher-than-local levels that have the resources and authorities to deal with the growing inter-municipality urban problems such as rural-to-urban migration, transportation, water and sanitation. In the case of Indonesia, rapid urbanization has not been as welfare-improving as in the cases of urbanization in China, Thailand, or Vietnam. A one percent increase in the level of urbanization in Indonesia positively correlates to less increase in GDP per capita than the comparable figures in China, Vietnam, and Thailand. To deal with this rapid urbanization, Indonesia has currently been working on refining its third National Urban Policy. At the same time, Indonesia has also initiated a "development from the periphery" approach where more development attentions are being given to areas outside Java and some metropolitan areas outside Jakarta. This initiative is necessary to improve regional and metropolitan competitiveness and to the reduce development gap and inequality among regions. Dr. Sarosa closed by emphasizing the need for inter-country sharing of experiences regarding implementation of NUPs. Current cooperation between cities should expand to country-to-country cooperation on urban policy issues at the regional and national levels.

In her presentation, **Swee Keng Lim** shared her experiences with “Singapore’s Role in Amaravati.” Ms. Lim first introduced Singapore’s urbanization history as a unique city-state with limited natural resources. Despite the high population density and the predicament of providing the essential needs of a country with the resources of a city, Singapore developed rapidly over the last 50 years, now boasting a high quality of living. Ms. Lim introduced the “Singapore Liveability Framework,” which outlines “rules” to achieve a high quality of life, competitive economy, and sustainable environment. Singapore developed a partnership with the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh (AP), to help develop AP’s new capital and surrounding regions. The process included creating multiple master plans for the capital region, development and implementation of the master plans, capability development programs for Andhra Pradesh officials, and facilitation of institutional knowledge sharing. This project is currently underway.

Mark Koenig presented on “SSC and Strengthened Urban Planning.” He explained that forms of south-south cooperation in urban planning are multi-faceted. In addition to the traditional

donor-to-recipient dynamic, there is also civil society-to-civil society exchange, and government-to-government exchange through multiple pathways. In the case of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 50% of the city's residents live in unplanned settlements. As the coldest capital city in the world, Ulaanbaatar is heavily polluted, as residents burn various materials for heat. The decentralized settlement pattern renders service delivery difficult. Mr. Koenig pointed out that data collection and good information is essential to addressing these urban issues. A community mapping project allowed the gathering of spatial information of Ulaanbaatar through a participatory process. Ulaanbaatar's city masterplans have received support from JICA and KOICA and have learned from the experience of Solo city, Indonesia. Given China's experience in converting peri-urban areas into more dense settlements with greater service provision, Ulaanbaatar is expected to learn from China as well. However, translating these experiences to the correct context is imperative, otherwise it may lead to other perverse challenges.

Q&A/ Discussion

The following discussion expanded upon urban policies and coordination between different levels of government as well as the surrounding area, financing collaboration between cities and entities, and land acquisition issues. **Ms. Lim** stressed the importance of integrating existing cities into the planning of new ones. In the case of Andhra Pradesh, they are mindful of how the neighboring cities will complement the capital city as it develops, and ensure balanced growth in the region. In terms of land acquisition, land owners voluntarily gave up their land plots—the largest case of “land pooling” in India—rendering public acquisition unnecessary. **Dr. Sarosa** clarified that “National Urban Policy” refers to an umbrella policy that encompasses legal and financial aspects, as opposed to a landscape of related policies. He also explained that the reason why Indonesia's urbanization and GDP levels do not correlate requires further study, but there are many different factors that should be considered, such as inequality. **Mr. Koenig** spoke on the problem of land acquisition and how many different factors in Asia contribute to this issue, not just the government. These may include property taxation and the system around how land is subjectively valued.

FINANCING URBAN DEVELOPMENT – PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND INNOVATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING

In this session, the speakers presented on innovative mechanisms for financing specific infrastructure projects. The presenters shared their perspectives on the challenges of financing infrastructure projects, and innovations that are evolving to overcome challenges.

Moderated by **Sofia Shakil** (Country Representative, The Asia Foundation Pakistan), the session featured:

Newin Sinsiri President, Neighboring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (NEDA)
Ministry of Finance, Thailand

Jong-Hwa Lee

Director, Planning and Coordination Dept.
Economics Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF)
The Export-Import Bank of Korea

Najeeb Haider

Principal Strategy Officer
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)



In his presentation, **Newin Sinsiri** shared NEDA's experiences in assisting neighboring countries in urban development. NEDA has been assisting with trade and investment facilitation, transportation within the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), and more recently, urban development. In Laos, NEDA provided financial assistance for a drainage system and road improvement project in Vientiane Capital City. It was noted that significant changes in the area could be observed after improvements were made. The commercial and residential area expanded and economic activities heightened as a result of the alleviated traffic and flood conditions. Technical assistance was given to Yangon, Myanmar, to conduct a feasibility study and design a power system that can keep up with the rapid economic growth in Yangon. Additionally, projects to improve GMS interconnectivity have been successful in developing sub-regional roads, power, and telecommunication linkages. Mr. Sinsiri concluded that building strong partnerships is the key to effective south-south cooperation.

Jong-Hwa Lee spoke about ODA and development finance in the context of public-private partnerships (PPPs) and EDCF activities in his presentation, "Public-Private Partnerships for Urban Infrastructure Development: The Role of EDCF in PPPs." Mr. Lee introduced the concept of "Blended Finance," channeling commercial funding towards investment in development. By bringing private capital into development projects, PPP and Blended Finance can enhance its impact by combining skills and resources of both development finance and private investors. However, scaling up private capital is made difficult, due to the perceived low return rates and gaps in knowledge and capacity. The Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) offers concessional loans for infrastructure projects to partner countries. EDCF's PPP priority sectors include transportation, ICT, and energy. Mr. Lee shared recent cases in Vietnam and Laos, in which loans are given to both governments (downstream) and private investors (upstream) to construct and operate infrastructure.

Najeeb Haider introduced the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), whose operations began in January 2016. AIIB invests in infrastructure and other sectors to foster sustainable

economic development and improve infrastructure connectivity in Asia. It also works closely with other multilateral and bilateral development institutions to address development challenges and promote regional cooperation and partnership, as well as to plug the substantial gap in Asian infrastructure financing. AIIB focuses exclusively on sustainable infrastructure investments and may also invest in middle and high income countries, based on the project's inherent benefits. Much of AIIB's PPP projects are in transportation. Mr. Haider noted that government cooperation is imperative in most large-scale infrastructure projects. Current investments include energy projects in Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Myanmar, and transportation projects in Oman, Pakistan, and Tajikistan.

Q&A/Discussion:

In the discussion that followed, several questions expanded upon PPP financing and its challenges, including addressing capacity gaps and increased land values and service costs. **Mr. Haider** specified the differences between the terms of government sector and private sector loans. Government sector loans can last up to 35 years and follow standard pricing, whereas a private sector loan has a maximum tenure of 18 years, can cover up to 35% of the total budget and follows market pricing. To questions regarding specific plans for AIIB, he explained that a research and analyses aspect of AIIB is being discussed, but it will most likely be several years before implementation. There are no current plans to establish country offices. In response to the issue of increased service costs of PPP-financed infrastructure, **Mr. Lee** explained that it may depend on the government's capacity to monitor and evaluate the projects. He also stated that capacity gaps are risks that are inherent in PPP projects and may be difficult to address at the municipal government level. **Mr. Sinsiri** spoke on the increase of land value and the corresponding increase in economic activity in the region. Land and revenue taxes will also increase, sharing the revenue with the local government.

SERVICE DELIVERY – EQUITY, EFFICIENCY AND INNOVATION

Speakers in this session introduced some of the innovative ideas on service delivery they have supported in cities across Asia.

Moderated by **Edward Reed** (Former Professor, KDI School) the session featured:

Taimur Khilji	Regional Urban Development Specialist UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub
Sonali Vyas	Program Associate, Safetipin
Mary Jane Ortega	Special Advisor, CityNet
Karrie Escueta-Buenafe	Public Affairs and Communications Dept., Huawei Philippines



Taimur Khilji presented on “Innovation for South-South Urban Solutions.” Mr. Khilji spoke about “Human-Centered Design,” a process which involves observation and deep understanding, brainstorming solutions, and prototyping services. This method involves the beneficiaries in designing new services and allows the services to be tested and refined before they are implemented on a large scale. One example is the “one-stop” community service center that was shared and developed through a China-Bangladesh partnership. Mayors from Bangladesh visited Beijing to observe community centers that provided essential services—including birth and death certificates, trade licenses, and inheritance and succession certificates—in one place. Users of the center were interviewed to identify problem areas and brainstorm solutions. Another case was a joint initiative between Seoul Metropolitan Government and UNDP, called the City-I-LEAPS initiative. This project exchanged social innovation approaches to improve administrative efficiency and service delivery. Pilot projects were initiated in Indonesia, Maldives, and Vietnam.

In her presentation, **Sonali Vyas** spoke about “Building Safe and Inclusive Public spaces,” introducing Safetipin’s initiatives. Safetipin’s work aligns with SDGs 5 and 11, and recognizes safety as a right, not a privilege. Safetipin, a social enterprise, is a map-based online and mobile phone application that collects and disseminates safety-related information through different methods, including crowd sourcing. Areas are audited for safety using eight main parameters: lighting, security, openness, “walkpath”, visibility, public transport, people, and gender usage. Audits appear on the map immediately, in the form of different colored pins to represent levels of safety. Areas are also given a score out of 5, based on all the safety audits collected. This data can help users (especially women) make safer decisions and policy makers create changes accordingly. Data collected in Delhi regarding its “dark spots” have been given to the Delhi government, which has announced that it will be fixing 7,823 dark spots. Metro stations and their surrounding areas were also audited and the findings were shared with city authorities. Safetipin has expanded into other cities in Asia, Africa, and Central and South America.

Mary Jane Ortega presented on “The Role of CityNet in Promoting Sustainable Urbanization in the Asia Pacific.” CityNet is a network of 87 cities across the Asia Pacific and numerous organizations and agencies. CityNet connects urban actors to provide a platform for learning, cooperation, and advocacy, as well as to implement projects to address urban development challenges. A main focus is improving social service delivery, an inherent theme in many of CityNet’s programs and activities. Ms. Ortega shared several cases, such as the CityApp, a collaborative program with Microsoft that helps cities and citizens design web and mobile applications to address urban challenges. A series of events and competitions were hosted

across cities to encourage young software developers to socially transform their city. CityNet Services is a members-only program providing city-to-city cooperation, learning visits, and technical cooperation from other cities or development partners. Currently, there are five CityNet National Chapters which develop programs and projects to accommodate small cities. The 2017 CityNet Congress and 30th Anniversary will take place in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from November 5 – 8, 2017, with the theme, “Our City, Our Future: Sharing Local Solutions for Sustainable Development.”

Karrie Escueta-Buenafe presented two videos which demonstrated Huawei’s contributions and partnerships in urban development. Huawei is a global ICT solutions provider which also promotes public safety through advanced ICT technology, as shown in the first video presented. Ms. Buenafe stressed the importance of telecommunications in promoting a safer, smarter city. The first video demonstrated a hypothetical situation in which crisis response was made efficient through Huawei’s technologies. The other showcased a partnership between Telkom Indonesia for the Bandung Safe City Project.

Q&A/Discussion

Questions focused on each organization’s specific methods and structures for delivering necessary services. **Mr. Khilji** shared that the partnership between China and Bangladesh started with south-south exchange at a regional level. Mayors across Asia were invited to attend the showcasing of Beijing’s “one-stop” centers, after which mayors from Bangladesh requested further facilitation. A challenge to implementing these centers is that reducing bureaucratic processes may result in unemployment for many people. There is no satisfactory solution, but a phased approach is necessary. **Ms. Vyas** explained that one of the challenges that Safetipin is continuing to address is the general lack of interest in safety. She also clarified that Safetipin’s mission is to take preventative measures, as opposed to other actors which are dedicated to responding to crises. **Ms. Ortega** stressed the importance of community involvement to create safer cities. In Seoul, there is a “neighborhood surveillance” system, where residents actively watch out for one another. **Ms. Buenafe** noted that building intelligent cities requires government participation and that government bodies, in turn, require private supplier cooperation.

GREEN GROWTH APPROACHES FOR DEVELOPING RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Speakers in this session introduced ideas and practices they are working on to promote urban development in partner countries, or which are supported by development partners. These programs are conducive to healthy living environments, and ensure that cities are resilient against the many threats they face.

Moderated by **Mark Koenig** (Deputy Director and Urban Governance Specialist, The Asia Foundation) the session featured:

Caroline Ballesteros

Communications and Stakeholder Relationship Manager
Mega Cebu Program, Philippines

Ramola Naik Singru

Urban Development Specialist, Asian Development Bank (ADB)



Caroline Ballesteros presented on the Mega Cebu Program. Cebu is comprised of nine cities and 45 municipalities and has become the second most significant city in the Philippines. However, it faces urban challenges, such as a high population growth rate, severe traffic congestion, pollution, flooding, and a limited water supply. In addition to flooding, Cebu is vulnerable to other disasters, including landslides, earthquakes, and typhoons. Together with the City of Yokohama and with support from JICA, they developed the Mega Cebu 2050 Development Strategy. Ms. Ballesteros stressed the importance of a master plan with a long-term view to guide the city's development. An 18-month feasibility study and road map was funded by JICA, and yearly learning visits took place in many cities and countries, including Yokohama, Tokyo, Bandung, Vancouver, and France. Over the last several years, the Mega Cebu Program's visibility to stakeholders has noticeably increased and several projects are currently underway with many more to follow.

Ramola Naik Singru spoke on "A Proactive Approach to Inclusive Growth, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience: GrEEEn Solutions for Livable Cities." To address the unique urban challenges facing Asia, both top-down and bottom-up solutions must be balanced. The GrEEEn Solutions for Livable Cities book and the operational framework outlines a process to develop a livable city based on the 3E's: economic competitiveness, environmental resilience and social equity. Ms. Naik Singru noted that master plans must translate to action plans by consolidating natural, cultural, and human resource assets. The urban green growth model was implemented in the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT), in which the model was piloted in Melaka, Malaysia and integrated within the 11th Malaysia National Development Plan. It was then replicated in two cities in Thailand, and four Indonesian cities. In Mandalay, Myanmar, the residents defined their vision of a livable city after 600 household interviews, and since then, there have been significant improvements in the city. In Vietnam, Hue's GrEEEn City Action Plan centered around expanding tourism. Ms. Naik Singru presented how the model is replicated and expanded in Georgia to prepare integrated urban plans for livable urban areas.

Q&A/Discussion

In the following discussion, participants were curious to know more about the communications strategy of the Mega Cebu Program. **Ms. Ballesteros** stated that the Program recognized the need for transparency and stakeholder awareness. A communications plan and department were created, anchored in the program’s vision. The department focused on digital and social media to reach out to the stakeholders of Cebu, whose knowledge of Mega Cebu is now considerably extensive. “Club Mega,” a group of students, also played a key role in utilizing social media space for visibility and awareness. To the question of how GrEEEn Solutions can be replicated to other countries and the to the question of how GrEEEn Solutions can be replicated to other countries and the conditions that must be satisfied, **Ms. Naik Singru** explained that the program is highly replicable, since it is process-oriented. The process begins with a question: “what is the vision for your city in the next ten years?” The answers to that question are merged with the results of technical assessments of the city and translated into potential initiatives. The model is replicated by creating citizen ownership and contextualizing the process to each city to build unique solutions.

CLOSING REMARKS

Moderated by **Kyung-sook Lee** (Program Director, The Asia Foundation, Korea), the session featured:

Taejong Kim Managing Director, KDI School of Public Policy & Management

Anthea Mulakala Director, International Development Cooperation, The Asia Foundation

Gordon Hein Senior Vice President of Programs, The Asia Foundation



In his concluding remarks, **Taejong Kim** expressed that the meeting had been a stimulating learning experience. He noted that urbanization is a force that faces many challenges, and affects more and more people. **Anthea Mulakala** summarized key takeaways and questions from the two-day discussions. She observed that there are many networks and actors working to create and finance innovative solutions, and that there is an opportunity for a more integrated network to be consolidated through increased connectivity. How can we make the best use of enablers to tailor-make solutions for different contexts? She noted that the purpose of these dialogues is partially to forge relationships that will hopefully lead to future

partnerships. Ms. Mulakala also spoke of the next steps for this year's AADC dialogue series. Another dialogue is to take place in September in Mongolia, on the theme of women and girls' empowerment, followed by an authors' workshop and a publication with KDI Press. **Gordon Hein** mentioned that, as a non-expert in urbanization issues, he benefitted much from the presentations and discussions. He expressed his gratitude towards the participants and organizers and his expectations for the future dialogue and publication.

WELCOME DINNER



The keynote speaker at the Welcome Dinner was Julia Catherine B. Nebrija from the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA). Ms. Nebrija spoke of Metro Manila's vision, and the need for a sustainable system that will carry Manila through future challenges. She also noted the unique atmosphere of Metro Manila and how these aspects should inform the vision for the city, to ensure that urbanization does not take away from its individuality.. The challenge, Ms. Nebrija noted, is giving people hope for today and addressing today's problems, while crafting a vision to address long-term issues. Ms. Nebrija also explained the structure of Metro Manila and the decision-making process.

FIELD VISIT

Participants visited the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center, which serves as a central coordinating and monitoring agency for all PPP projects in the Philippines. It supports implementing agencies and provides technical assistance to all branches of the government. The visit included a presentation that detailed projects of the "Build Build Build" (BBB) Infrastructure Program of the Philippines government. The participants also received an overview of the institutional framework of the PPP Center, as well as its past and current

projects in partnership with various multilateral agencies, national, and local governments and the private sector.



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