GrEEEn City Action Plan in Melaka

SUSTAINABLE URBAN MANAGEMENT (GREEN CITIES) SUPPORT FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES IN MELAKA, MALAYSIA

The Green Cities Follow-up TA will build upon the GCAP by transitioning frameworks and plans to implementation and providing a model for other IMT-GT GCAP cities. To accomplish this, it consolidates and prioritizes GCAP indicators in a user-friendly platform known as PINTAR, increases understanding and capacity for implementation with targeted stakeholders through leadership and training of trainers, and develops a framework for stakeholder engagement and knowledge dissemination through the development of NGO blueprints for Green Growth Asia. The TA's outcomes will be improved capacity for urban planning and capacity building of MGTC and local government officials in Melaka.

Key Outputs

The three primary outputs include: (i) a quantified baseline and targets for Melaka's GGAP as well as prioritized indicator selection and tracking through the PINTAR model; (ii) a capacity building program and modules for enhancing understanding of integrated urban development and environment through a training for heads-of-departments as well as a more in-depth training-of-trainers, and (iii) a plan for a medium-to-long term outreach vehicle for Green City collaboration in IMT-GT through Green Growth Asia.

A team from ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability assists MGTC in the development of data collection and coordination in order to produce a data platform, which integrates KPIs and benchmark data with city management-relevant information for monitoring GCAP implementation. The objective of ICLEI's contribution is to formulate 3E (environment, economy and equity) indicators for the city of Melaka and to develop a simple customized computer-based tool (the PINTAR tool). The 3E indicators and the associated tool will be used to assess the implementation of the GCAP by measuring performance. The outputs of the tool will provide requisite information on priority indicators and enhance decision making.

A team from the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS), Erasmus University, Rotterdam assists MGTC in building capacity around GCAP implementation by developing a training program on 'Green Cities' aimed at enhancing the capacity of organizations and departments involved in the implementation of GCAP, Melaka. IHS has also assisted in developing training for governmental leaders in identifying potential areas where knowledge on green cities and decision support systems can help functioning of their department.

Photo credits: Sonia Chand Sandhu; Amit Prothi; and Melaka Green Technology Corporation

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Background

The 9th Indonesia–Malaysia–Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) Chief Ministers and Governors Forum (CMGF), held in 2012, pursued a new initiative for Green Cities in IMT-GT through the creation of green city action plans. The action plans takes into account existing GrEEEn City examples, frameworks, development master plans, and planned anchor projects to identify potential actions and projects that will support these communities to become models of urban sustainability. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) responded by assisting the cities of Melaka (Malaysia), Songkhla and Hat Yai (Thailand), and Medan and Battam (Indonesia) to develop comprehensive GrEEEn City Action Plans (GCAP)[1].

Melaka prepared the first GCAP as part of the initiative and set an example for other cities within the subregion. City government departments, local residents, the business community, national ministries, and development agencies have since pursued a way forward for sustainability, which led to several initiatives that mark the implementation of the GCAP planning process. One initiative utilizes a unique model for Melaka Green Technology Council (MGTC) to access technical expertise through a Technical Assistance (TA) package with ADB as

Green Cities Support for Follow-up Activities in Melaka, Malaysia.[2]

In addition to the TA, Melaka has started to implement the GCAP through its renewable energy program, a 5-megawatt solar farm that was inaugurated in 2013, and establishment of the Melaka World Solar Valley. Moreover, Melaka has started transforming the Melaka River from a polluted backyard drainage canal to a popular cultural amenity, tourist attraction, and enjoyable green space. Melaka has several other implementation efforts underway, including a pilot energy efficiency project to upgrade streetlights and selected public buildings, electric vehicle charging stations, development of the Hang Tuah Jaya Green City, conversion of diesel buses into electric buses, and initiation of the Melaka Green Seal for buildings certification. The action plan provides Melaka with a path toward becoming a sustainable community, and it reflects a comprehensive approach that brings together individual actions that have already started.

Implementing the GCAP in Melaka

In order to implement the GCAP, a key step is breaking down the GCAP initiative into achievable actions and assigning subcommittees (intragovernmental Urban Management Partnerships) with the responsibility for implementing their respective actions and/or projects,

thus collectively delivering the goals of the initiative. Melaka has implemented this step in several ways. One example is the formation of the Green Technology Council, and their service as executing agency for the Green Cities Follow-Up TA.

Another step is summarized by the aphorism "What you measure is only what you manage," implying the need for establishment of indicators and associated indexes. These are measures of the effectiveness of management performance. In a city context, indicators are measures of a city's performance. Given that the city management involves a complex and integrated set of activities, it becomes necessary to prioritize those activities and the associated indicators as key performance indicators (KPIs). Similarly, there are other initiatives, which provide useful benchmarking information—based on KPIs—about how one city compares with other cities. This information is for the city's use to drive performance improvements. While there are a number of KPI frameworks for intercity comparisons, there are also intra-city ones to compare the city's own performance over the course of time. These identify KPIs across categories of environmental or other sustainability issues. All of these KPIs tend to be outcome indicators, which reveal how well the city has performed in the context of that category. The establishment of baseline data and the identification of targets is key to implementing the GCAP and is included in the Green Cities follow-up TA. This TA is a unique platform/opportunity to demonstrate a reimbursable TA model, innovating offerings available for middle income ADB-member country engagement.

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[1] Technical Assistance for Public–Private Partnership Development in the Brunei Darussalam–Indonesia–Malaysia–Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area and Indonesia–Malaysia–Thailand Growth Triangle Manila (TA 7626-REG).

[2] ADB Technical Assistance for Sustainable Urban Management (Green Cities) Support for Follow-Up Activities in Melaka, Malaysia. Manila (S-CDTA 8781-MAL).