

Forum: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
Question of: Setting Guidelines for Sustainable Urbanization
Submitted by: Cambodia
Co-submitted by: Brunei Darussalam, Lao People's DR, Malaysia,
Myanmar, Papua New-Guinea, Philippines, Timor-Leste



The Association of Southeast Asian Nations,

Concerned by the imminent rapid incline of urban population in ASEAN member states in the coming decades,

Alarmed by the health implications caused by low access to sewage systems and clean water,

Expecting an increase of natural disasters especially in the coastal regions of ASEAN countries,

Highlighting the need for information exchange among member countries to increase awareness and effectiveness,

Desiring to alter transportation for effectiveness and decreased inner-city traffic congestion,

Keeping in mind that although urbanization may be less prevalent in certain ASEAN countries, it is still an issue that affects all parties involved and therefore must be collectively dealt with,

Recognizing that this is a fast approaching issue and must be resolved soon,

1. **Calls upon** all ASEAN member states to create a summary of their previous and current actions, developments and research pertaining to sustainable urbanization which will allow:
 - a. Each country to evaluate their own actions and plan for the future based on the following categories:
 - i. The civic and social state of the country's urban areas,
 - ii. Health and well-being of citizens residing in urban areas,
 - iii. Environmental quality of their cities,
 - iv. Built infrastructure of their urban areas,
 - v. Industry and innovation,
 - vi. Security,
 - b. The exchange of methods each individual country has used to allow for new solutions;
2. **Strongly urges** the creation of an association-wide early warning system so that citizens have the opportunity to prepare themselves before potential natural disasters, that is comprised of:

- a. A nation-wide alarm system with alarms in each city, town, and village of every country for people without access to phones,
- b. An alert system that sends a notification to everyone over cell phone,
- c. A website with further information on natural disasters including:
 - i. Statistics on the current situation,
 - ii. Natural disaster rates of each country,
 - iii. Information about how to prepare in case of an emergency including, but not limited to locations of storm shelters and valuable resources,
- d. Already existing warning systems that will be connected internationally;

3. **Encourages** improved urban land and infrastructure usage in each member state, for example:

- a. The inclusion of recreational green spaces which thereby:
 - i. Provides space for landmarks and historical/cultural sites,
 - ii. Encourages biodiversity within an urban setting,
 - iii. Promotes an increase in tourism,
- b. The sustainable reconstruction of road networks within and outside of urban settings, thereby:
 - i. Enabling the transport of resources to and from urban areas,
 - ii. Reducing traffic congestion in the inner city areas,
 - iii. Discouraging automobile transportation, by using inner-city roads for bike traffic and making pedestrian traffic more accessible,
- c. New guidelines for urban infrastructure:
 - i. For countries that are able to expand outward:
 - 1) Avoid interfering with surrounding nature/agriculture, if it is not sustainable,
 - 2) Create more dense cities to promote diversity and prevent urban sprawl in surrounding areas,
 - ii. For countries that do not have the ability to expand outward:
 - 1) Construction of high-rise buildings that take up less individual ground space,
 - 2) Mixed-use buildings that offer spaces to multiple businesses,
 - 3) Implementation of vertical and roof-top gardening to support agriculture while reducing space,
- d. More resilient buildings and roads to limit destruction in the occurrence of a natural disaster,
- e. The building of more waterpipes and the protection of wells to achieve an overall access to safe water supplies,

- f. Expand public transportation sustainably to enable low income families, mentally or physically impaired citizens and students, as well as everyone else, to gain more mobility and access to the city;

4. **Recommends** the implementation of stronger environmentally beneficial protocols in the area of sanitation, including but not limited to:

- a. The construction of new waste management plants,
- b. Accessible city sewage systems for all residents,
- c. Increased access to public restrooms;
- d. The implementation of a pledge system that would promote the use of reusable plastic, thus reducing plastic pollution in urban areas;

5. **Decides** to remain actively seized on the matter.