



## SESSION DESCRIPTION

Session description as of 29 May 2012

# A2 Multi-level governance: Mechanisms for national/local co-ordination on urban adaptation

## Presentations

**Date:** Sunday, May 13, 2012

**Time:** 14:30 – 16:00

**Rooms:** S30 and S32

**Language:** English

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**Organized by:** UN-Habitat

## OBJECTIVE

Even when they enjoy high levels of autonomy, local governments work within national level legal, regulatory, and institutional frameworks. This is particularly true when it comes to addressing adaptation, as the global framework for climate change emphasizes the role of national governments. Additionally, in a number of countries (particularly countries with federal systems), local authorities also operate within state- or province-level frameworks. Broadly speaking, the modes of multi-level governance include *governing by authority* (i.e. where higher levels of government require action on the part of local governments), *governing through enabling* (i.e. where higher levels encourage or reward local level action), and *governing by provision* (i.e. where higher levels enable local level action through training or technical assistance). These modes are not exclusive but can be usefully combined. If done properly, national governments can prompt, guide, and support local authorities to take constructive action that results in a cumulative, country-wide impact while respecting local level autonomy in decision-making.

National governments are developing different approaches and mechanisms for constructively engaging with local governments on climate change adaptation and mitigation. This session will sample the range of national-local coordination mechanisms that are emerging, with an emphasis on the experiences of countries in Asia and Africa. The coordination mechanisms that the panel will explore include *guidelines and training* for local level planning (the Philippines, Korea), province-level *advisory panels* to monitor progress (Korea), and *fiscal incentives linked to performance indicators* for improved environmental management (South Africa). Questions to explore may include: How does the national government obtain periodic feedback from local authorities on progress towards implementing new guidelines? How are new requirements for adaptation planning by local authorities to be funded?

## OUTCOMES

Attendees will come away from the session with a greater sense of:

- The challenges involved in coordinating between national, state, and local levels on addressing climate change;
- The pluses and minuses of various ways that national governments can support local level action in building resilience; and
- The possible benefits of combining various mechanisms of ensuring national-local coordination.

## METHODOLOGY

- The facilitator will provide an overall introduction to the session topic and contributors. **(5 minutes)**
- Each presenter will be allotted 15 minutes. **(3 x 15 minutes)**
- The facilitator will manage final questions and answers. **(35 minutes)**
- Closing remarks by the facilitator. **(5 minutes)**

## CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator *Robert Kehew, Unit Leader, Climate Change Planning Unit, UN-Habitat, Nairobi, Kenya*

*Robert Kehew is Leader of the Climate Change Planning Unit of UN-Habitat in Nairobi, Kenya. In that capacity he coordinates that Agency's Cities and Climate Change Initiative. Previously Mr. Kehew served as a US-based consultant in the areas of municipal development, municipal finance, and urban planning in developing countries. He earlier served as a resident advisor in Nicaragua on decentralization policy. Mr. Kehew holds a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard University and a Bachelor of City Planning from the University of Virginia (US).*

Presenter *Felix William B. Fuentebella, Deputy Secretary General, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), Philippines*

### **National guidelines for local level adaptation and mitigation planning in the Philippines**

The Philippines' ground-breaking Climate Change Act (2009) carved out a substantial role for local government units in responding to the challenges posed by a changing climate. Building on climate change planning work undertaken in Sorsogon City, the Government of the Philippines has set guidelines and built capacity to help local authorities address climate change within existing planning instruments.

*As Assistant Secretary to HUDCC, Mr. Fuentebella has been involved in finding ways to implement provisions of the Climate Change Act so as to guide and engage local government units.*

Presenter *Surprise Zwane, Deputy Director- Local Government Planning, South African National Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa*

### **Proposed fiscal mechanisms for rewarding environmental performance by local governments in South Africa**

South Africa's cities are critical to the country's aspirations for economic growth and poverty reduction. The proportion of South Africans living in urban areas is 62 percent today and may grow to nearly 80% by 2050. Moreover, at present the top 30 cities host 78% of the country's economic activity. Other cities are also becoming engines of growth. The South African government is developing an innovative approach, through its Cities Support Programme, to encouraging improved environmental performance by local governments. This approach aims to tie conditional grants to environmental performance by local governments based on a set of performance indicators. A suite of mechanisms is planned to improve the environmental performance and climate resilience of South African cities. Furthermore, this program will seek to build working relationships with other public agencies, including the South Africa Local Government Association (SALGA), universities, and others. These partnerships will take the form of formal framework contracts for program implementation and memoranda of understanding for additional activities.

*Mr. Zwane serves as Deputy Director for Local Government Planning with the South African National Department of Environmental Affairs. He previously worked for water projects, Khulasizwe Development Projects and the Mpumalanga Provincial Department of Agriculture and Land Administration. Mr. Zwane holds a postgraduate degree in Environmental Monitoring and Modelling from the University of South Africa. Previously he graduated cum laude with a degree in environmental science from the University of Venda for Science and Technology (2005).*

Presenter *Jiyoung Shin, Researcher, Korea Adaptation Center for Climate Change, Korea Environment Institute, Seoul, South Korea*

### **Support by national government to local government adaptation planning in Korea**

In October 2010 the Government of Korea established its Climate Change Adaptation Master Plan (2011-2015). The corresponding Framework Act provided for the central government and local governments to establish corresponding implementation plans. However, since awareness about adaptation planning is low in local governments, the Central Government developed a program for consultation on local level implementation planning. Elements of the program include: (1) disseminating a guideline for developing adaptation plans; (2) establishing province-level advisory panels; (3) building capacity; (4) communicating and sharing information; and (5) monitoring or progress.

*Jiyoung Shin received a PhD in engineering, with an emphasis on environment and landscape planning. Currently she works as a senior researcher at the Korea Adaptation Center for Climate Change, which is based at the Korea Environment Institute. In this capacity she is now coordinating and supporting adaptation planning by local governments.*

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### ***Further recommended reading***

Alber, Gotelind, and Kern, Kristine. 2008. Governing climate change in cities: models of urban climate governance in multi-systems. Conference on Competitive Cities and Climate Change.

### **South African National Department of Environmental Affairs**

[www.environment.gov.za](http://www.environment.gov.za)  
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