



SESSION DESCRIPTION

Session description as of 11 May 2012

A4 UNISDR Making Cities Resilient Campaign

Panel discussion

Date: Sunday, May 13, 2012

Time: 14:30-16:00

Rooms: S25 and S26

Language: English

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Organized by: United Nations International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction - UNISDR

OBJECTIVE

This session will take stock of how a global campaign has mobilized cities and partners and learning for the future. It will focus on:

- Why cities should invest in disaster risk reduction- examples.
- Linking commitment with practical steps and community engagement and wide participation.
- How the Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient have helped define local action and linked to national and global commitments.
- Outputs of the campaign to date:
 - Signed up 1,000+ cities;
 - Engaged with multiple stakeholder partners, such as ICLEI, the private sector, and academia; and
 - Launched useful practical tools such as Local Government Self Assessment and the Mayors' Handbook, and website as platform for information sharing between cities and partners.

OUTCOMES

This panel will be useful for any local-level leader, including mayors, governors, councilors, and other actors, as well as civil society organizations, academia, and public and private sector professionals to gain a better understanding of:

- Good practices in resilience activities being applied by campaign cities and partners;
- The value of engaging with multiple stakeholders, including local authorities, civil society, academia, and the private sector;
- Policy frameworks that validate and enable investment in disaster risk reduction.

METHODOLOGY

- The facilitator will provide an overall introduction to the session topic and contributors **(7 minutes)**
- The panellists will each give a brief presentation about their role and experience in the Campaign **(33 minutes)**
- Panel discussion guided by the following questions: **(30 minutes)**
 - Why should cities invest in disaster risk reduction?
 - What constitutes good practices in urban resilience?
 - How have the Ten Essentials for Action helped local leaders mobilize support and resources for DRR?
 - What are the benefits of multiple stakeholder engagement and partnerships?
- The facilitator will summarize the discussion and open the floor to questions **(15 minutes)**
- Closing comments and next steps **(5 minutes)**

CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator *Helena Molin Valdés, Interim Director, UNISDR*

Panelist *Violeta Seva, EMI, Metropolitan Manila, and City of Makati City, Philippines*

Atty. Violeta Somera Seva is a Senior Advisor to the Mayor of Makati City, Philippines and concurrently the General Secretary of Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative, an international non-profit organization devoted to disaster risk reduction in megacities. She has extensive experience in disaster risk management, having worked as legal and institutional expert for Amman, Mumbai, Pasig City, Makati City and other municipalities and provinces in the Philippines.

Panelist *Al Arquillano, Vice Mayor of San Francisco, Camotes Islands, Cebu, Philippines*

Al Arquillano is Vice Mayor of San Francisco, Philippines. Under his leadership, San Francisco won the UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2011 for boosting the resilience of people below the poverty line. He implemented a system of solid waste management that contributes to better sanitation and drainage, considerably reducing the risk of floods caused by clogged waterways. It is viewed as a national best practice example and, increasingly, a model for cities in other nations.

Panelist *Yelgy Verley, Mayor, Siquirres, Limón, Costa Rica*

Yelgy Verley left her native Siquirres at the age of 16 to complete bachelor degree in foreign affairs at the capital San Jose. In 1993, Ms. Verley returned to her home of Siquirres and accepted an executive position with a technology company in San José. In 2010 she ran for Mayor in Siquirres, and became the first female Afro-descendant Mayor in Costa Rica. After only 12 months as Mayor, her challenge is to attract investment and international cooperation to increase rural development and to create a sustainable local economy.

Panelist *Peter Gruetter, Distinguished Fellow, Internet Business Solutions, Cisco Systems*

Panelist *Andreas Koler, Chief Risk Analyst, alps GmbH*

Panelist *David Dodman, International Institute for Environment and Development – IIED*

David Dodman is a Senior Researcher in the Climate Change and Human Settlements Groups at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). He recently co-edited (with J. Bicknell and D. Satterthwaite) 'Adapting Cities to Climate Change'.