

21 October 2020 @ 10:00 - 11:30 UTC+2
Daring Cities 2020 MEMO

“Driving the Green Recovery and Redesign: Embedding Local Climate Action at the Heart of Economic Stimulus Packages – Session 1”

Master of Ceremony: Kobie Brand, Regional Director, ICLEI Africa
Welcome on behalf of ICLEI: Yunus Arian, Director of Global Advocacy, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

Special Address on “Redesign”

H.E. Koizumi Shinjiro, Minister of Environment of Japan

- Post Covid-19 there must be through a shift to a more sustainable society. Three transitions are essential: decarbonised society, circular economy, decentralised society
 - These three transitions were the theme of the UNFCCC and Ministers discussion on a Covid-19 sustainable recovery in September
- The three transitions can offer a competitive advantage:
 - Can play a role to protect global economy from climate risk in the future
- Zero carbon cities, Japan: has increased to 163 in a year
 - Now includes over half the population of Japan
 - Example: Yakushima island: world heritage site, powered 99% by hydrogen, will achieve zero carbon soon. Supported by Ministry of Environment
 - Role of Ministry of Environment: will coordinate with the government ministries to support all cities in achieve zero carbon cities
- Ministry of Environment: will be powered by renewables by 2030
 - 7 of regional offices are fully renewable powered
 - Early 2021, will hold zero carbon city forum – hope it will be a trigger for local government to consider joining other zero carbon cities.

Remarks from the UNFCCC

Message from Patricia Espinosa, the Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to Daring Cities 2020

- Reflects that it is the 5 year anniversary of Paris agreement: we can celebrate, but must also recognise the scale of work needing to be done
 - There are increased signs of the climate crisis happening right now – and it will only get worse if we do not act fast
- Urban centres are the most important sites of change: its where the climate crisis will be won or lost
- Financing models need to change but the challenges of growing green are not insurmountable
 - Must scale up the use of renewables and must have innovation: e.g must have flexible power grids etc and must enable infrastructure
- There will be huge payoffs:

- Global Renewable Outlook Report: investment in an energy system based on decarbonisation– could result in 42 million jobs in the renewable energy sector by 2050. Amount in GDP growth of 98 trillion USD dollars cumulative gain
- Hurdle is the existing social and economic inequality – not everyone can make the leap
 - We need to improve the lives of workers, must ensure the transformation is a just transition.
- Enlightened self-interest: put divisions aside and work together to address climate change and the transition required.
- The most difficult thing to secure is the political will to move forward with urgency - need to be accountable for their pledges and liaise with the non-state actors, local level challenge is getting all political actors to move together in one direction
- Urges everyone to look to the bigger picture, ends saying we have the roadmap to get there, we just need to act.

Keynote: Recovery-Response-Redesign

Prof. Takeuchi Kazuhiko, Chair of the Central Environmental Council, Government of Japan and President of Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

- Context for the rapid spread of Covid-19: humans have become too close to natural systems and rapid globalisation has not always been a positive force for change
- Covid-19 has deepened social inequality, challenge is not to return to normal but to build back better
- Introduces Triple R framework: three building blocks: response, recovery, redesign
 - Response: targeted, issue-specific interventions needed to address the pandemic's immediate health and environmental impacts.
 - Recovery involves advancing socioeconomic and environmental policies, especially those found in stimulus packages, to ensure resources are allocated to sustainable priorities during and after COVID.
 - Redesign involves transforming institutions and infrastructures that often prevent lasting changes to our energy, food, urban, and other critical support systems
- Focus on Redesign:
 - Need to confront there is no planet B, there are planetary boundaries
 - Need to build a sustainable relationship between natural systems and human beings
 - Need to take an integrated approach to multiple global issues (SDGs, climate change etc)
 - Need to integrate global, social (such as mobility) and human (welfare) systems
- Example of applying the Triple R framework:
 - Response: promoting measures that facilitate teleworking
 - Recovery: allocate economic stimulus to low of zero emissions programs e.g. E-mobility, micro mobility
 - Redesign: most important, reconsidering infrastructures and institutions, e.g. 15 minute city
- Example of Redesign: The Circulating and Ecological Sphere framework:

- First introduced in 2018, helps regions, cities and communities become more self-reliant
- Has become more relevant, provides a framework for redesigning natural, economic and social systems
- Provides example of Toyama City – known as a compact city initiative, but during Covid-19 it has also built upon previous ideas to have city level initiatives such as using digital technology to monitor transport and promote energy saving. Park management is helping strengthen resilience to infectious disease.

Expert Response: Addressing informality and urban poor in climate emergency and COVID-19 recovery

David Dodman, Director, Human Settlements, International Institute for Environment and Development; Author of 6th Assessment Synthesis Report (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

- Linking issues of informality and urban poverty in the context of both Covid-19 and climate crisis, his personal approach is focussed on urban resilience.
 - Thinks meaningful transformative long term changes relies on having multiple actors working effectively together (particularly civil society, the private sector, municipal government and national government)
- Emphasises that we need to recognise that in these current circumstances no one has the answer yet
 - Can't propose a set of answers that are necessarily going to work everywhere (or indeed anywhere)
- First lesson: learning:
 - Can learn about what communities and grassroots groups do in response to a range of shocks and stresses, and support them in achieving positive changes.
 - E.g Lima, Peru: soup kitchens. There are already embedded processes and relationships that exist in neighbourhoods. They are highly organised and are on the frontline in responding to that particular threat of the food crisis.
 - There are already existing databases of knowledge.
 - E.g Philippines: a homeless people's federation supported by the Philippines Action on Community Shelter have been very effective at using community databases that they've been building up for years as a starting point for helping to identify some of the most vulnerable people.
 - E.g India: one of the key elements here has been around providing trustworthy information. Established grassroots groups have been able to work with government agencies at the municipal and national scale for years because they are more trusted by these agencies and the local communities.
- Second lesson: learn from resilience thinking
 - Covid-19 health situation is critical, but solution needs to be done in tandem with basic services and community infrastructure. No point in having high quality healthcare in hospitals if the basic infrastructure that would prevent illness is not in place in communities or neighbourhoods, or if people can't access affordable safe resilient housing.

- Key take away points: we need social protection, nature based solutions, and to be planning for the future
 - ‘Build back better’: need a stronger recognition of what low income residents can do themselves in terms of building back and recognising that local organisations can and should be strengthened to play their roles as effectively as possible. Can only do so if this includes a better inclusion of the low income groups in planning processes.
 - Accountability and meaningful democracy: involves investing in local action as a way of going forward. Planning for the future and redesigning financial systems that will support this.
 - Good evidence from many places that where community groups feel empowered to make financial decisions, they also feel empowered to take a more active part in both implementing and maintaining the investments that are made. Creates both downward and upward accountability.
 - Very important to have cities that are willing to learn from different groups and willing to break across silos to treat issues in an integrated way, and also willing to plan for the future in ways that disrupt some of the old certainties.

Greeting: Faustin Munyazikwiye

Deputy Director General, Rwandan Environmental Management Authority

- Rwanda endorses Vision 2050
- May 2020: NDC was reviewed and submitted during the Covid-19 lockdown.
 - Aims for a reduction of emissions 8% by 2030. Rwanda has 0.001% of global emissions, but they are also pledging to have a reduction. Stresses that this is enormous for the country and wants other countries to join race to zero.
 - Emphasises that even during Covid-19, it is important things keep moving.
 - Stresses that natural climate disasters are particularly deadly- Jan to September 2020, 200 people died due to flooding
 - Highlights the conditional support needed (11 billion USD by 2030) to achieve these targets.
- ICLEI Africa local climate solution: working on various projects to introduce climate resilience principles into climate plans with partners.

Leaders Roundtable

Moderator: Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

Hayashi Fumiko, Mayor, City of Yokohama, Japan

- Zero carbon Yokohama:
 - Promoting the increased use of renewable energies:

- Already have large scale power generation facilities such as wind power and biomass power plants, 18 businesses in Yokohama used renewable energy from these facilities.
 - Moving towards a circular economy: renewable energy from these facilities will stimulate the local
 - Believes that improving the procurement conditions for renewable energy contributes to strengthening the cities competitiveness going forward. Will develop agreements not only in the area of renewable energy, but also promote exchanges with businesses to advance the autonomous energy network.
- Plans to diversify emergency power sources such as electric.
 - City Hall has transitioned to renewables, ward offices will transition by 2025, and to all other city facilities by 2050.
- Closes by stating she will reach out to other major cities. Together they will increase momentum for COP26 in Japan.

Kwon Min, Director General, Seoul Metropolitan Government, Republic of Korea

- Opens with measures against Covid 19: track and trace, prevention and quarantine measures are serving as a model for the world.
- Highlights the importance of cities in tackling the climate crisis: Cities only account for 2% of the earth's surface, but emit 70% of global greenhouse gases. Cities operating systems must be converted to carbon free systems and we must create sustainable industries and jobs.
- Seoul: promise to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030.
 - Since 2012, has been focussed on citizen participation. 3 million citizens participated in replanning and replacing three nuclear power plants.
 - Green New Deal was announced in July.
 - Overcoming economic and climate crisis at the same time. The related industries will grow and will create new jobs.
 - Deal concentrates on building, transportation, forestry, energy and resource circulation.
 - Building sector: currently 2/3 of the city's total greenhouse gas emission. Are retrofitting public buildings and plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the building sector by targeting buildings that currently consume a lot of energy.
 - Transportation: will convert all vehicles in the city into equal friendly electric and hydrogen vehicles by 2050. Internal combustion engine vehicles will be banned from 2035
 - Waste sector: only accounts for 6% of Seoul's total greenhouse gas emissions but the amount of waste is increasing due to the increase in single person households and the impact of Covid-19.
 - Want to create a circular economy which reduces the amount of disposable items and promotes the recycling of resources more actively.
 - Energy: Moving away from nuclear towards renewables. Projects include 'One less power plant' and 'Seoul, city of the sun'. During the last eight years,

renewable energy production has increased eightfold. All public facilities will have renewable energy production zones.

- Forestry: will plant 30,000,000 trees by 2022.
- Highlights that social, economic and climatic emergencies are all one and the same. The plan for recovery must address all of them together.

Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor, Chefchaouen, Morocco

- Local and regional governments have been at the forefront of the fight against the pandemic.
- Covid 19 is a warning that we need to continue building resilient cities.
 - This can only be done through targeting the persistent inequalities, discrimination and exclusion in our cities and territories.
- Recovery needs to be ambitious enough to provide answers not just to the immediate aftermath but also to the critical issues that our communities are facing.
 - Need to ensure that the recovery from the pandemic does not undermine legitimate ecological concerns to recover better from the present crisis and reduce volatility of future challenges.
 - Need to ensure that recovery funds reach the correct spheres of local government
 - There must be a green approach to strengthening local public service in particular. This means returning to full economy activity through sustainable models and considering the importance of the local.
- We must ensure equal access to all during the pandemic and think about how we will reconcile work and personal life in the future to leave no one behind
 - States the legal system is key to unlock the potential to fight inequalities
- Closing remark is that we need to raise the ambition for climate action. The pandemic has shown as that our models of development are far from perfect

Abigail Binay, Mayor, Makati City, Philippines

- First city in the Philippines to introduce city solid waste management code.
 - Providing green stimulus packages to households.
 - Focussing on cleaner air.
- Covid Impact:
 - Trying to improve digital infrastructure and home deliveries to avoid patients going outside.
 - Plastic ban among households and business establishments.
- Adaptive leadership is essential- involving all generations in this process. We need an intergenerational dialogue.
 - Remarks how comforting it is to see more and more women joining active leadership
- The 'new normal' of Covid-19: international experts agree the current curbing measures will likely remain even after a vaccine is discovered. This is undeniable as we brace for the long term impact.

- For our cities to be more liveable, it is crucial for changes to be made. Must have tangible initiatives that bring real time benefits while reducing our collective carbon footprints.

Mahadi Che Ngah, Mayor, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

- Tokyo and Kuala Lumpur low carbon system project:
 - Kuala Lumpur City Hall is collaborating with the Tokyo Metropolitan government to improve capacity building. Aim to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions
 - Transport:
 - Expanding the provision of charging stations for electric cars.
 - All lights at our bus stops operate on solar PV
 - These bus stops are also equipped with free mobile phone charging facilities
 - Effect of Covid-19:
 - Mitigating measures:
 - New development plans are factoring in Covid-19 mitigation measures.
 - Physical distancing measures compare both new and existing buildings and issue new guidelines to all stakeholders and project owners to include relevant physical distancing elements
 - Dedicated parking for delivery: surge in online commerce, have seen a strong increase in the delivery of goods. Motorcycles are a popular delivery vehicle, they deserve proper and dedicated parking facilities. Having designated e-commerce sections can reduce traffic congestion substantially.
 - Urban farming has increased. City Hall is assisting individuals and non governmental associations.

Tunc Soyer, Mayor, Izmir Metropolitan Government, Turkey

- Firmly committed to making a model city for living in harmony with nature
- Green City Action plan:
 - Using funds from European Bank for reconstruction and development
 - Provides a road map for the city to tackle the challenges through policy interventions and sustainable infrastructure investments.
 - Started to implement a variety of projects such as creating new green corridors, urban recreation areas, and urban regeneration based on green standards
- Member of ICLEI's 'cities with nature initiative'.
- Currently preparing application to become the next European green capital
 - The application process helped improve the city because institutional capacity increased
 - Has led to institutional innovation: established a new decision-making executive and consultative bodies and distributed tasks within the municipality and the city
 - Has provided advantages and abilities to find against Covid-19

- E.g small farmers and cooperatives must be supported both to protect them from the negative impacts of the pandemic and to ensure food supply within the city agricultural production. This plays an important role in the city's economy as well as in being a self-sufficient and resilient city. IT support with purchase agreement with the local agricultural cooperatives has distributed food to 10s of thousands of families by purchasing the products from agricultural cooperatives
 - Recently developed a detailed Izmir resilience action plan
- Solidarity between cities is extremely valuable for progress in the coming years: it will become even harder for our cities to manage the rapid pace of growth
 - Climate diplomacy is becoming an integral part of the city diplomacy
 - We all face similar problems and we need more interaction and connectivity between our cities to overcome this crisis through collective action