

Name of the Partnership/Initiative

'Mayors' Commitments Program' of the Asia-Pacific Urban Institute

Expected date of initiation: Launch of the Partnership is planned in late 2002, potentially during the Summit

Expected date of completion: on-going

Partners Involved:**CONFIRMED**

Governments: The sub-national or municipal governments of Honolulu, USA; Shanghai, China; Jabalpur, Kolkata, Ludhiana and Vadodara, India; Jember, Makassar, Medan and Sukabumi, Indonesia; Cabanatuan, Caloocan, Iloilo, Mandaluyong, Muntinlupa, Naga, Palawan and Makati, the Philippines; Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, Rayong and Uttaradit, Thailand; Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh and Hue, Vietnam

Major groups: International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)

Other: The Urban Partnership Foundation (UPF)

PARTNERS PENDING OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION (Those listed were major partners involved with the inception of the program.)

Intergovernmental organizations: Asia Development Bank

Additional partnerships are envisaged.

Lead Partner: City and County of Honolulu, USA

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Main objectives of the Partnership:

The APUI Mayors' Commitments Program is a leadership capacity-building program. It will provide a comprehensive capacity-building service to local political leaders (e.g., Governors, Mayors) and city management executives (e.g., Municipal Commissioners, utility executives) in the Asia-Pacific region who wish to implement more sustainable, pro-poor development (SD) and service strategies for their jurisdictions. The APUI aims to work as a parallel and complementary partner to other programs and institutions, such as Local Agenda 21 and City Development Strategies, that are assisting city administrations in developing SD strategies.

The APUI believes that leadership to implement SD strategies involves more than individual skill and will. Leadership is the mobilisation of a community's diverse resources to address a common challenge or to

achieve a common strategy. Leadership, therefore, is the product of both personal/professional abilities and an operating environment that enables innovation and sustained collaboration. Therefore, APUI will undertake a range of capacity-building activities, at different levels of intervention, to build both individual leadership capacity and an institutional environment that supports applied leadership. These activities would be organised around the preparation and implementation of action ‘Commitments’, made by each participating Governor/Mayor, to undertake specific concrete activities to implement their SD strategies over a two-year time period.

The Partnership would stimulate and promote:

- Measurable, public political Commitments by participating local leaders to achieve specified objectives within a determined time period;
- Increased understanding by political leaders of the technological, engineering, financial and sociological requirements of their SD strategies;
- Improved design of local infrastructure and service projects, reflecting sustainability criteria;
- Partnerships between local institutions, with support from national, regional and international training and capacity-building organisations, to achieve Commitments and associated projects;
- A biennial, regional Summit of participating Governors, Mayors and city executives to report and reward achievements, build new implementation partnerships, and prepare recommendations for policy reforms to provide a better enabling environment for Commitment implementation;
- A cadre of experienced sub-national and local leaders to guide colleagues and promote identified policy reforms to national governments and regional/international institutions.

The Partnership also would provide a platform for collaboration and mutual assistance between diverse ODA providers and urban support programs operating in the Asia-Pacific region.

Relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:

Agenda 21 calls for extensive engagement of local communities and local authorities in most of its chapters, and specifically in Chapter 7 (Sustainable Human Settlements Management) and Chapter 28 (Local Authorities). Considerable support has been provided to support local level involvement in Agenda 21 implementation and sustainable development generally, yet little targeted assistance has been provided to support local political leadership within the framework of Agenda 21.

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 22, states that “...local communities have a vital role in environmental management and development because of their knowledge and traditional practices. States should recognise and duly support their identity, culture and interests and enable their effective participation in the achievement of sustainable development.” Considerable effort has been made to increase local participation. However, more concerted efforts to enable local leadership are required to make this participation “effective”.

Major beneficiaries of the activities will be developing countries, including the small island states of the Pacific. In addition, sub-national and local leaders from Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea and the United States will be invited to join the Commitments process.

Expected results:

A general result of the implementation of this partnership would be an improved, better-structured and co-ordinated delivery of capacity-building support to sub-national and local leaders in the Asia-Pacific region.

Specific results would include:

- Improved local input into the design of infrastructure, housing, and service systems for their communities,

<p>including better consideration of long-term financial sustainability;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stronger involvement of sub-national and local political leaders in the preparation and implementation of local strategies and initiatives for sustainable development; - Development of a tradition, within in the regional community of local government, to base political leadership on clearly defined commitments, objectives and reportable results; - Improved national-level support and enabling conditions for bottom-up sustainable development initiatives; - Identification and clarification of policy barriers to the effective participation of local communities in the implementation of Agenda 21 and related sustainable development agreements; - Stronger representation and voice for sub-national and local government in national and regional processes for pro-poor sustainable development; - Improved co-ordination of capacity-building support for sub-national and local leaders in the region; - Increased partnerships between local authorities and national/regional/international NGOs and Major Group organisations to support implementation of local sustainable development strategies.
<p>Specific targets of the Partnership and timeframe for their achievement:</p> <p>Establishment of ‘Mayors’ Commitments’ reporting, documentation and recognition process—2002.</p> <p>Recruitment of approximately 200 sub-national and local political leaders and city executives to participate in 2003-2004 capacity-building cycle—first quarter 2003.</p> <p>Convening of APUI Summit to launch 2003-2004 program cycle. Registration of more than 100 new Commitments. Establishment of diverse partnerships to provided targeted support to leaders during the implementation of their Commitments—May/June 2003.</p> <p>Establishment of APUI Leadership Council to promote policy recommendations arising from the Summit—June 2003.</p> <p>Selection of approximately 25 Governors/Mayors/City Executives to receive intensive capacity-building support during the period of June 2003 to May 2005.</p> <p>Establishment of partnerships with national training institutes to provide seminars to other Governors/Mayors participating in the Commitments process.</p> <p>Completion of reporting and documentation of implementation of 2003 Commitments – early 2005.</p>
<p>Coordination and Implementation Mechanism:</p> <p>The partnership will be co-ordinated a committee of the partners, who also will be asked to announce their specific Commitments to support the APUI process during the 2003 Summit. The APUI Leadership Council will oversee the policy development process for the Summit(s) and will take the lead role in advocating Summit policy recommendations to national, regional and international forums.</p>
<p>Arrangements for Funding:</p> <p>Funding for the 2003-2004 program cycle is presently being secured. As lead partner, a foundation of both financial and in-kind support will be provided from sources in the City and County of Honolulu. Honolulu also has offered a facility for the APUI in one of its town halls. APUI Commitments partners from the development assistance community will be expected to provide financial support for the costs of participation and technical assistance as well as further in-kind support. Non-donor institutions will provide various kinds of in-kind support. A strategy for the establishment of an APUI endowment to support the long-term operation of the program is under preparation.</p>
<p>Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer:</p> <p>The partnership would provide a much-needed mechanism for coordination of capacity-building efforts and approaches among diverse institutions serving the Asia-Pacific urban sector. Technology transfer will be supported, with sensitivity to local needs and conditions, through the engagement of private sector</p>

firms in APUI Executive Seminars and other Commitments implementation activities.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any):

The partnership was initiated to build links with institutions that promote preparation of local SD strategies, such as Local Agenda 21 and City Development Strategies. Specifically, discussions are underway regarding coordination with the World Bank/UNCHS Cities Alliance, the Asia Development Bank, the US Agency for International Development, and ICLEI. Preparatory activities have been coordinated with the World Bank/UNDP/UNCHS Urban Management Programme and organizations engaged in continuation of UMP-type support will be engaged in the process, e.g., the Urban Partnership Foundation. Cooperation will be sought with national municipal leagues, the International City Management Association, the International Union of Local Authorities, and a variety of country-based training institutes. The Partners will initiate discussions with other ODA providers focused on urban sustainable development and local/sub-national leadership capacity-building.

Monitoring Arrangements

Monitoring the implementation of Commitments is a major component of the biennial program cycle. In addition, the Partners will periodically undertake overall program monitoring and evaluation, where possible with direct participation of the APUI Leadership Council.

Other relevant information:

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