

Media Release

1 April 2014

LKY School and Oxfam Round Up Asia Development Dialogue Series in Singapore

*100 ASEAN participants discuss issues from disaster response
to urban resilience in emerging cities*

Singapore — The Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKY School) and Oxfam, with support from Rockefeller Foundation and Microsoft, organised Singapore's first ever "Asia Development Dialogue" from 31 Mar to 1 April 2014.

Titled "Building Resilience and Effective Governance of Emerging Cities in ASEAN", the dialogue brought together 100 participants, including mayors, city officials, experts on governance and disaster risk reduction, and corporate sector representatives from emerging cities in ASEAN nations, including Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Through public panel discussions, simulations and closed-door mayoral consultations, the dialogue addressed challenges such as disaster response management and other resilience capabilities.

Outlining the function of the dialogue, LKY School Assistant Professor Ora-orn Poocharoen shared, "As Asia assumes a role of primacy in the global economy, emerging cities will be the engines of growth within the ASEAN region. Growth that is both equitable and sustainable can only be achieved through effective governance and resilience capacity building. Fora such as the Asia Development Dialogue allow the leaders of these cities to share best practices and brainstorm on solutions for shared problems."

Apart from Oxfam and LKY School, leading experts from the United Nations (UN), ASEAN, Microsoft and the Centre for Liveable Cities were invited to share their ideas, focusing on innovations in governance and resilience capacity building.

In the opening plenary, Mr Donovan Storey, Chief of Social Policy and Population Section at the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), highlighted the main drivers and characteristics of successful secondary cities — including diverse economic activities, lower operating costs and branding. On the other hand, environmental degradation remains one of the most significant trade-offs that needs to be comprehensively addressed by cities.

Mr Khoo Teng Chye, Executive Director from the Centre for Liveable Cities (Singapore) and LKY School Adjunct Professor, shared Singapore's story of development — as a product of extensive planning, vision-setting and public engagement in the implementation of various policies, to transform Singapore and achieve sustainability and liveability.

This Singapore conference marks the conclusion of the Asia Development Dialogue series, which began in March 2012 and was held in Thailand prior to Singapore. This event is also part of a year-long series marking LKY School's 10th year, designed to create opportunities for intellectual exchange with thought leaders in the fields of public policy, public management and international relations.

Ms Janepicha Cheva-Isarakul, Project Manager for the Asia Development Dialogue at Oxfam said, "Oxfam is committed to promoting sustainable growth in ASEAN through resilience capacity building and effective and accountable governance. As a leading public policy school in the region, LKY School is able to provide the academic expertise needed to achieve our goals. We are honoured to be part of the School's 10th Anniversary celebrations and look forward to future collaborations."

For Mohammad Ramdhan Pomanto, the Mayor-elect of Makassar City in Indonesia's South Sulawesi island who participated in the conference, "Every city has their own hot-button issues and need good solutions to each problem. The conference has opened up an opportunity to share best practices and experiences."

- Click [Programme](#) for "Asia Development Dialogue: Building Resilience and Effective Governance of Emerging Cities in ASEAN".
- Enclosed: [Photos from the Dialogue](#)

- AsiaDevDialogue_pic 1: (L-R); Mr Khoo Teng Chye, Executive Director, Centre for Liveable Cities (Singapore), and Adjunct Professor, LKY School, NUS; Mr Donovan Storey, Chief, Social Policy and Population Section, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; LKY School Assistant Professor Ora-orn Poocharoen.
- AsiaDevDialogue_pic 2: (L-R) Mr Vincent Lazatin, Executive Director, Transparency and Accountability Network; Hon Alfred S. Romualdez, Mayor, Tacloban City, Province of Leyte, Philippines; Dr Marqueza Reyes, ASEAN Technical Advisor for Disaster Recovery and Rehabilitation; Ms Lilian Mercado, Deputy Regional Director, Oxfam GB; Mr Raul Cortez, Corporate Affairs Director, Microsoft Philippines.

For further media queries, please contact Francesca Tanada at +65-6516 6876 or francesca.tanada@nus.edu.sg

About the Asia Development Dialogue

The Asia Development Dialogue is a collaboration between OXFAM, Chulalongkorn University (Thailand) and Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (Singapore), with support of the Rockefeller Foundation. Recognising the importance of multi-stakeholder dialogue and joint solutions to tackle critical urban challenges today, the platform leverages the expertise and networks of each consortium member to bring together diverse stakeholders from government, the private sector, academia, and civil society into the conversation on urban resilience and livelihoods. For more information, visit <http://asiadialogue.org/>.

About Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Part of the National University of Singapore, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy was established in 2004 with the mission of educating and training the next generation of Asian policy-makers and leaders. With over 400 students spanning 50 countries, the School's unique Asian focus allows students to experience public policy education in a distinctively global environment. The School has a number of research centres and institutes that contribute both to scholarly inquiry as well as policymaking, and frequently plays host to

distinguished speakers and visiting scholars. For more information about the School, visit www.lkyspp.nus.edu.sg.

About Oxfam

Since 1951, Oxfam has worked throughout Asia, helping to save lives and support families, communities, and local organisations as they build a future free from poverty. Oxfam is committed to gender equity and putting women's rights at the heart of all we do.

Droughts, floods, cyclones and earthquakes affect hundreds of millions of people across the region every year. Oxfam is working with communities to raise houses, set up early warning systems, plant drought-resistant seeds and prevent the loss of lives and livelihoods when disaster strikes. Oxfam's work in Asia spans across 12 countries.