Many cities, as local governments, are taking pioneering approaches for sustainable city management. However, innovative practices are not shared enough among the cities of the world. This side event aims to provide a platform to encourage more cities to be included in local actions for global solutions to build sustainable cities and to promote international cooperation between cities.

“Economically Productive, Environmentally Sustainable, and Socially Inclusive”

Nearly half of the world population lives in urban areas and this ratio is expected to grow. In order to achieve Sustainable Development, building sustainable cities is indispensable. Sustainable cities should consider the three pillars of sustainable development, i.e. sustainable cities should be economically productive, environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive. Also, they may have to be resilient to climate change and natural disasters.

Currently various activities to build sustainable cities have been taking place around the world. “FutureCity” Initiative, promoted by the Government of Japan, for an example, is trying to realize human-centred cities that create new values to resolve the challenges of the environment and super aging. As committed in the “Tohoku Smart Community Initiative towards the reconstruction of the Disaster-affected Areas” at the International Energy Seminar in Fukushima in March, people suffered from the Great East Japan Earthquake are trying to rebuild resilient communities utilizing recent development of technologies such as renewable energy.

Desirable future cities may consist in following elements: human-centred cities focusing on each individual including women, children, and the elderly; green (low-carbon) cities with advanced environmental technologies such as renewable energy, energy-saving technology, eco-buildings; smart cities equipped with smart basic infrastructure, such as smart grids; sound material-cycle cities working on sustainable consumption and production including 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle); and resilient cities against natural disasters and climate change.

At the end of this event, GOJ with its partners will launch the initiative of the “Future Cities We Want”. The initiative will envisage providing the platform for cooperation with national and local government, international organisation, and civil society. A special meeting to deepen the initiative will be announced.

This side event aims

- To formulate common concepts of “Future Cities”;
- To establish a platform coordinating existing frameworks;
- To build an international network of local governments and city leaders, and bridge the gap between them and international fora;
- To propose a mechanism mobilizing resources including private financial resources especially in the developing countries;
- To promote regional cooperation for knowledge sharing, accumulating experiences, and transferring technologies.
Keynote Speakers, Presenters and Panelists

[Keynote Speakers 11:05-11:15]

Mr. Shuzo Murakami
Professor emeritus at the University of Tokyo. Previously served as visiting professor at the Technical University of Denmark and professor at Keio University. Held Chairman posts for the Central Examination Committee for Architects, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. His main research areas include architecture and urban environment, and sustainable environment engineering.

Mr. Masato Nobutoki, City of Yokohama
Graduated from Urban Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering of Tokyo University, his career includes Mitsubishi Corp., Japan Association and Tokyo University as Project Professor, before joining the City of Yokohama in 2007 to work as Director General in charge of urban management strategy in the Urban Management Bureau. He's been in the Climate Change Policy Headquarters since 2009.

[Presenters 11:15-11:50]

Ms. Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, OECD
Advisor to the OECD Secretary General. Previously, was the Head of the Urban Programme at the OECD where she advised national governments and sub-national authorities and animated the work of the OECD Working Party on Urban Areas. She conducted an extensive programme of work on urban issues including a series of Metropolitan Reviews and National Urban policy Reviews. She also launched the OECD Roundtable for Mayors and Ministers, which provides the unique forum for a policy dialogue on global sustainability issues involving local and national governments.

Mr. Yannick Glemarec, UNDP
Joined the UN in 1989, Yannick has held increasingly responsible positions with UNDP Country Offices. Appointed UNDP Executive Coordinator for the Global Environment Facility and Director of Environment Finance in New York in June 2007. In this present capacity, he has primary responsibility for the operation management of 1,000 projects and activities in over 140 countries.

Mr. Daniel Hoornweg, World Bank
Lead Urban Specialist with the World Bank’s Urban Anchor. Dan is a municipal engineer with more than 25 years experience working with some 500 cities in more than 50 countries. Dan now leads the World Bank's programs on sustainable cities.

Mr. Rae Kwon Chung, UN-ESCAP
Ambassador Chung was the chief negotiator for climate change representing Korea since May 2008, and proposed the idea of NAMA Registry and carbon credit for NAMA. He contributed as a lead author for an IPCC special report on technology transfer and received a personal copy of 2007 Nobel Peace Prize as contributor to the IPCC Nobel Peace prize 2007.

Mr. Arab Hoballah, UNEP
As Chief of Sustainable Consumption and ProductionSCP in UNEP since 2005, his main responsibility is looking for mainstreaming Resource Efficiency and SCP policies at various levels, in particular through a series of sectors. He also spent 14 years in the UNEP Regional Seas programme in the Mediterranean Region. He holds MSc in Economic Tools and Prospective Analysis, an MSc in Law and International Relations and a PhD in Economic Development.

Ms. Yamina Saheb, IEA
Joined the International Energy Agency where she heads the Sustainable Buildings Centre. This role includes conducting research and analysis on the use of policy instruments to reduce energy consumption in the buildings sector. She regularly presents papers and analysis results at international conferences and has contributed to a book published on sustainable cities.

[Panel Discussion 11:50-12:25]

Moderator: Mr. Masahiko Horie, GOJ

Ms. Chikako Takase, UNCRD
Director of UNCRD since February 2002. Joined the UN in 1994, she has worked at as Economic Affairs Officer, including Division for Sustainable Development. Before joining UNCRD, she served as Deputy Chief of the Policy Coordination Branch, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Mr. Heinz Leuenberger, UNIDO
Director of the Environmental Management Branch since March 2006. The Branch is assisting municipalities and cities in methodologies and tools to improve environmental performance of its industries. He is also involved in a design, formulation and implementation of the “Green Industry Initiative” of UNIDO.

Mr. Thomas Melin, UN-HABITAT
Head of External Relations of UN-Habitat. Architect and planner by profession, he has engaged in the field of international urban development for more than 25 years. Among his career, served for Swedish Save the Children in Ethiopia and the Ameen Nasher Higher Institute for Health Science Program in Yemen before Head of the Urban Development Division of SIDA (2005-2009). His publications include “Fighting Poverty in Historical Cities”.

Mr. Gino Van Begin, ICLEI
Deputy Secretary-General of ICLEI. Joined ICLEI in January 2000, he has been ICLEI’s Regional Director for Europe since 2002, and was appointed Deputy Secretary-General of ICLEI in 2007. He brings 23 years of work experience in international institutions and organisations to this position. Before joining ICLEI, he worked in Russia for seven years setting up EU LIFE funded Environmental Centres in the cities of Kaliningrad and St. Petersburg.

Mr. Kenji Suzuki, Tokyo Met. Gov.
Director for International Environmental Cooperation in the Environment Bureau since 2010. Joined Tokyo Metropolitan Government in 1989, worked mainly on international relations of local governments in, e.g., TMG Research Institute and Governor's Headquarter Office. Currently, he is committed to disseminating TMG’s challenges and experiences in climate change advocating global solutions with local actions.

Mr. Mohamed Abushabab, UAE
Deputy director for energy and climate change at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, leading the UAE’s international climate change and UNFCCC. Also manages the UAE’s initiatives in the Clean Energy Ministerial and G20 clean energy and energy efficiency group, and serves as the government lead on the Global Sustainable Cities Network, founded by the UAE with China, Denmark, and Sweden. Prior to this position, he was stationed at the permanent Mission of the UAE to the United Nations in New York. He graduated from the American University.

Rio+20 Official Side Event
Future Cites We Want - Linking and Spreading Sustainable Future Cities

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Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNDESA (UNCRD))
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP)
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)
World Bank
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Tokyo Metropolitan Government
C40, CITYNET, ICLEI