Rapid assessment in 10 countries was carried out resulting to a preliminary scoring in each criteria. Most countries in Asia Pacific are doing well in Transparency, Citizen Participation, and Local Performance (Criteria 7, 8, 9). Criteria of Constitution, Legislative, Local Democracy, and Financial Transfer from Central to Local Government are found average in these countries (Criteria 1, 2, 3, 4). All sample countries are generally lacking in National Urban Strategy (Criteria 10). Meanwhile, capacity building for local governments and local governments’ own revenues are still weak in some countries.

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- However, the effectiveness of local governments depends largely on the national policy, legal and institutional framework, and the level of autonomy given to them.
- A comparative assessment of enabling environment is conducted by UCLG ASPAC, Cities Alliance and UNDP in 30 countries to provide a situational analysis, highlighting the progress and constraints of decentralization, and outline potential ways to improve its implementation.

Enabling Environment for SDGs towards Strengthening Decentralization

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2. Intensive discussions of the SDGs with relevant Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other international organizations.
3. Endorsed a Mayor Decree on SDGs’ task force.
4. Reviewing and harmonizing baseline data according to SDGs perspective (using the baseline from MDGs).
5. Setting up the prioritized SDGs in line with local plan.
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7. Synchronized with other Regent policies.

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THE ROAD MAP FOR LOCALIZING SDGs

WHAT IS THE ROAD MAP?

Road map for localizing SDGs is a tool for local governments to participate and strengthen their role in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Though SDGs is a global development agenda, the role of local government in delivering development at the local level is one of the most important elements of SDGs implementation. Once a road map has been set up, local government will be able to implement SDGs consistently according to the local context regardless of changes in human or financial resource as commonly occur within local government institutional setting.

WHAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ASIA PACIFIC?

Asia and the Pacific comprise 55% of the world’s population and is home to the two most populous countries (China and India). Furthermore, the region is the home of two-thirds of world heritage sites*). India and China are the top two in terms of productive population and is home to the two most populous nations in the world). The region is also the most religiously diverse (one of the most religiously tolerant regions of the world).

FOR WHOM IS THIS ROAD MAP?

The main user of road map for localizing SDGs are Local Leaders, Local Planning Manager, and Local Top Management. As a road map in the implementation of SDGs is a good tool for planning and evaluation. Nevertheless, all sectors, if eventually involved in the implementation as the 17 goals that require a good cross cutting understanding of local development strength, challenges, and opportunities. The Head of Local Planning Agency could play a role in the development of the road map.

SALIENT POINTS

- the implementation of SDGs was not restored in 2015, local government has been working for decades to enhance the programs and services. The SDGs should not be introduced in a stand alone goal but an inter-linked action plan that already exists, i.e., city master plans and annual work plan.

Good understanding of the relevance between the SDGs and the role of local government can be the main indicator of successful communication program on SDGs.

COMMUNICATION ASSESSMENT

- for 50% of local governments SDGs is not a new term. 85% of respondents possess basic knowledge about SDGs and yet its role in the context of local government.

- Only 40% local governments have a dedicated division dealing with SDGs. SDGs is perceived to have great impact on planning practices, future policy objective and target, and new role in public services delivery.

LEARNING ASSESSMENT

- Among 12 targets within SDGs, goal #8, development-oriented policies stand out as the topic that is currently implemented by respondents.

BEST PRACTICES

- Exchange and sharing of experiences on real and practical actions to implement and achieve SDGs is something that local governments are looking for.

- The relevance between SDGs and the role of local government is the main topic for learning agenda.

- First-hand experience with the implementation of SDGs in peer learning visit, workshop, and action plan development are the most preferable format for learning program by respondents.

What is the context? What are the benefits? What are the challenges? What are the expectations? How can we make it work? How do we measure progress of implementation?