



WELCOMING REMARKS

FINAL WEBINAR

**International Urban Cooperation:
Technical Assistance on Climate Action Plans'
Development in Malaysia**

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Thank You Madam Emcee

1. Mr. Michalis Rokas

Ambassador-designate of the EU to Malaysia.

2. EU Delegations Program Managers from Beijing – Bangkok – Jakarta – Kuala Lumpur – Hanoi, and representatives from the European Commission - Joint Research Centre (EC JRC).

3. The Commission's Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA).

4. City Mayors / Presidents

5. Prof. Ho Chin Siong

Director of Low Carbon Asia Research Centre, University Technology Malaysia (UTM).

6. Representatives from the 4 pilot cities in Malaysia, which are Penampang, Tawau, Muar and Hang Tuah Jaya.

7. Distinguished guests especially to our neighbours from Indonesia and Vietnam.

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, depending on where you are. I hope and believe you are safe and well.

I am honoured to have this opportunity to welcome you to this very important **International Urban Cooperation (IUC) Asia’s Final Webinar: Technical Assistance on Climate Action Plans’ Development in Malaysia**. Allow me to welcome you to Malaysia virtually by saying “Selamat Datang”; I hope you will soon be able to visit our beautiful country in person.

For this opportunity to address such an eminent group of people who are committed to mitigating and adapting to climate change, I would like to thank the organisers, the **Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM)**, the **GCoM Southeast Asia Secretariat / IUC Asia HelpDesk**, and the **United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific (UCLG ASPAC)**.

Climate change is real, and it impacts the whole world. Cities, which are home to over 56% of the world population, are at the core of it. For Malaysia whose urbanisation rate will have passed 80% by 2030, cities will be where climate change impacts are mostly felt, but also where meaningful mitigation and adaptation actions can be taken.

It is widely acknowledged that cities are key climate actors that move faster and more effectively than national governments in tackling climate change. It is highly crucial, though, that cities do not simply act without clear mitigation targets, adaptation goals, appropriate policy frameworks and plans that enable their climate actions to be effectively implemented and systematically tracked, measured, verified and reported.

To that end, city climate actions plans (CAPs) that are formulated based on globally accepted protocols and methodology and well aligned with national climate commitments and policies are highly essential. I understand that GCoM actively promotes the development and adoption of such CAPs among some 10,000 member cities around the world.

And I am delighted to see today four Malaysian pilot cities – Muar, Penampang, Tawau and Hang Tuah Jaya – with technical assistance from the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia Low Carbon Asia Research Centre (UTM-LCARC) and CDP, and supported by GCoM through the IUC Asia program, have developed their GCoM Common Reporting Framework (CRF) compliant Climate Action Plans over the past year.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I was informed that the CAPs developed for and with the four pilot cities are the outcomes of a systematic and rigorous process involving Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHGI); Climate Risks and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA); and climate mitigation target and adaptation goals setting. Based on this, each CAP outlines about 40 to 50 theme-based climate actions that are specific and unique to the geophysical, institutional, socioeconomic and cultural contexts of each city, and are aligned with Malaysia's Low Carbon Cities Framework (LCCF).

I received an estimation that, if implemented, the four CAPs can jointly lead to a total GHG emissions reduction potential of 5.6 million tons of CO₂

equivalent per year by 2030; this is equivalent to taking 1.2 million cars off Malaysian roads for one year! With this, the four pilot cities are well positioned to help Malaysia achieve her Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of 45% reduction in GHG emissions intensity of GDP by the year 2030 based on the 2005 emissions level.

In the CAP formulation process, towards ensuring the formulated CAP is eventually put into action, a City Climate Change Working Group (CCCWG) has been set up in each city under the Mayor's decree. I would like to congratulate and thank the four pilot cities, especially their forward looking Mayors / Presidents, top management as well as dedicated officers who are championing and leading the cities' CCCWG.

The four pilot cities, UTM-Low Carbon Asia Research Centre and CDP have done exceptionally well especially in the current COVID-19 pandemic situation. I was informed that of the almost 70 meetings, workshops and engagement sessions in the CAP process, 46 were held virtually using web meeting platforms during the Movement Control Order (MCO) periods that started on 18 March 2020. We remain committed to tackling climate change despite COVID-19! To the pilot cities, UTM and CDP, "Well done, thank you, you have made Malaysia proud!"

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As cities and their planning play a pivotal role in effectively mitigating and adapting to climate change, PLANMalaysia as the highest authority for town

and country planning in Malaysia is forever more committed to supporting Malaysian cities in their climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, especially in development planning.

Over the past decade, PLANMalaysia have rolled out a series of sustainable development and climate change related planning guidelines that cover among others Green Neighbourhoods, Geo-hazards, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Coastal Zones and Resilient Cities.

Even as I speak, my Research and Development Division staff in PLANMalaysia are working hard to complete the Planning Guideline for Low Carbon Cities which will guide local authorities and developers in integrating low carbon elements in development plans, layout plans, building designs, urban services, waste management, transportation, utilities, governance and the whole ecosystem of the built environment.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I see the GCoM CRF CAP exercise involving Muar, Penampang, Tawau and Hang Tuah Jaya as a promising start, a concrete way forward in building even more sustainable, low carbon and climate resilient Malaysian cities.

Before I end my remarks, I would like to emphasize the importance of collaboration and partnership in urban development and management. This certainly requires a strong cohesive commitment and unity from all parties in building a stronger regional corporation towards a resilient and low carbon

communities. In this respect, I believe this webinar will be a sound platform to facilitate and enhance the collaborative effort.

As a last note, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to GCoM and IUC Asia for accelerating the preparation of Climate Action Plans in Malaysia, and also for capacity building in the preparation of Climate Action Plans among Malaysia cities. I hope the initiative will be further replicated and up-scaled to other cities in Malaysia. We welcome and look forward to your continuous support, and will be pleased to share our experiences, knowledge and lessons learnt with other countries.

Thank You.