

CONCEPT NOTE

International Conference on Human Settlements Planning and Development 2018

“Tracking Efforts in Achieving Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable Communities”

The Department of Community and Environmental Resource Planning of the College of Human Ecology, University of the Philippines Los Baños will be hosting the first International Conference on Human Settlements Planning and Development in Manila, Philippines on July 23-25, 2018 with the theme, *“Tracking Efforts in Achieving Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable Communities”*. The conference will focus on efforts and practices of academic and research institutions, government and non-government organizations and practitioners towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11): to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Actors working towards SDG 11 will have the opportunity to showcase their insights and initiatives in the conference which in return will function as an avenue for further collaborations and partnerships.

CONFERENCE BACKGROUND

Human settlements’ concerns have been spatially different yet interconnected. Among urban areas, growth has been happening in an unprecedented scale wherein close to 4 billion people or 54% of the world’s population in 2015 lived in cities and is projected to increase to 5 billion by 2030. Particularly, rapid urbanization happens in poor and middle-income countries at rates that are far in excess of the historical rates recorded in developed nations. This poses massive sustainability challenges in terms of housing, infrastructure, basic services, food security, health, education, decent jobs, safety and natural resources depletion, among others.

Vital as the concerns for the urban space, the nature of problems in rural areas is also shifting. With the falling rate of rural population, growing occurrences of land conversion, increasing



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degradation of the environment and declining importance bestowed to agriculture, rural communities experience distinct issues and problems that also require specific solutions.

Given the changing conditions in the human settlements, the Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities otherwise known as “Making Cities and Human Settlements Safe, Resilient and Sustainable” was crafted in 2015 and set to be achieved by 2030. Efforts were directed towards achieving sustainable human settlements with nations, local communities and cities placed at the forefront. In October 2016, leaders across the globe adopted the New Urban Agenda (NUA) as the new global standard for sustainable development during the Habitat III Conference. NUA focuses on social inclusion and ending poverty; urban prosperity and opportunities for all; and environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development.

Aligned with SDG 11 and NUA, the conference will serve as a platform to trace experiences, best efforts and practices by gathering policy makers, practitioners, researchers and academicians working in the field of sustainability and human settlements to discuss advancement on research and practices on creating resilient and sustainable cities and communities. It will be hosted by the Department of Community and Environmental Resource Planning, College of Human Ecology, University of the Philippines Los Baños – a premier academic institution on human settlements planning.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The conference aims to:

1. Discuss vital issues and challenges on human settlements planning and development;
2. Identify solutions, opportunities and best practices in addressing sustainability and resilience of human settlements; and
3. Foster linkages and partnership among organizations and institutions working towards achieving safe, resilient and sustainable cities and communities.

CONFERENCE SUB-THEMES

The First International Conference on Human Settlements Planning and Development has been structured to include four major sub-themes namely Safe, Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable. Specific topics for each sub-theme include, but not limited to, the following:



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SAFE: *Ensuring safety and security in cities and communities*

- Transportation and Mobility
- Food and Nutrition Security
- Peace and Order
- Water and Sanitation
- Pollution and Waste Management
- Housing and Infrastructure
- Human Rights-based Approach

RESILIENT: *Building resilient communities and ecosystems*

- Human Settlements in Transition
- Land Use Planning
- Ecosystem-based Adaptation and Management
- Resilient Housing and Infrastructure design
- Climate Change and Disasters
- Island Resiliency

INCLUSIVE: *Breaking barriers for inclusive human settlements*

- Economic Development for All
- Socialized Housing and Resettlement
- Gender and Development
- Capacity Building and Education
- Accessible and Inclusive Public and Urban Spaces
- Participatory Planning and Public Participation
- Empowerment of Indigenous Peoples in Planning
- Planning for Special Needs (Persons with Disabilities, Internally Displaced People, Vulnerable Groups)
- Public-private Partnership

SUSTAINABLE: *Advancing efforts towards a sustainable future*

- Sustainable Urban Growth
- Urban/Rural Migration
- Cultural and Natural Heritage
- Sustainable Energy Systems
- Green Economy and Financing
- Sustainable Tourism
- Environmental Governance



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