



Inclusive Economies in Cities in South East Asia:

Livelihood Opportunities, Local Economic Development strategies and Social Protection for Poor Urban Informal Workers in South East Asia

May 10 - 11 2016 | Chatrium Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

Asia is on the cusp of historic change. As more countries have reached middle-income status new challenges have emerged, while other more persistent ones have evolved. The region is experiencing rapid urbanization and growth, coupled with increasing mobility and connectivity. Nevertheless these markers of progress appear fragile; as despite the continent's burgeoning middle classes, chronic poverty and environmental pressures are deteriorating, threatening to derail economic progress. Indeed, there are systemic weaknesses that leave cities and countries more vulnerable than ever to new macroeconomic shocks or to natural disasters. In 2015 the inclusion of SDG goal 11, making cities more "Inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" has refocused attention on the importance of urban inclusion as a crucial piece of the puzzle for bringing about more inclusive urban development. With the advent of ASEAN, a slowing Chinese economy and slackening commodity prices, the inclusivity agenda risks to drop out of sight in South East Asia as many countries reaffirm their commitment to the principles that have helped their economies grow during recent decades. With the OECD estimating that in 2015 60% of ASEAN's workforce is to be found in the informal sector¹, at this juncture, could new tools for inclusive growth vie with labor market competition to become a key strategy for the qualitative growth of the region's economies?

Inclusive economies involve providing all citizens with access to an economically empowering and equitable environment in which their livelihoods can thrive. In addition to furthering opportunities for decent work through vocational and entrepreneurial training; social protection, gender sensitive policies, financial inclusion, and basic services provision must also be extended to urban poor groups in order for them to be able to participate and contribute to the economic success of their cities. These groups must also become more aware of their rights and enhance their capacities for organization and association, in order to raise their voice and hold governments and other stakeholders to account. Despite the well-trodden achievements of the "Asian economic miracle" new economic shocks born out of the increasingly interconnected nature of economies threaten to further expose the fallacy of trickle down economics. Policies on the local, and on the national level must therefore not focus solely on quantity of growth, and the race for external investment, rather, they must encourage new methods for bringing about economic growth for all. This holds the potential to buoy urban and national economies in as yet unexplored ways in Asia.

The role of cities as drivers of economies is now clear. As the rural poor look to cities in search of new opportunities, the bulk of urban migrants find work in the informal economy, where they work for meager incomes, are unrecognized by the law, have inadequate access to social protection, and are often excluded from urban development processes. Urban poor groups, especially women, face specific exclusionary and discriminatory processes because of their dual roles as both homemakers and wage earners. Their wages are critical for households and supporting this group could be a major source of untapped potential for supporting dynamic inclusive economies.

Given the complexity of addressing challenges of economic inclusivity in cities, there is an increasing need for multi-sectoral approaches that leverage cross-disciplinary analysis, leading to joint solutions spurring inclusive

¹ OECD, 2015

livelihood opportunities and economies. Indeed, as the role of cities as drivers of economic growth has been increasingly recognized, Inclusive Local Economic Development (LED) strategies appear as a pathway that leverages quality growth and that could become key vehicles for collaboration between the informal sector and local, regional and national economic planning authorities.

Under the banner of the Asia Development Dialogue, a regional dialogue platform for governments, private sector, civil society, and academia, Oxfam, in collaboration with WIEGO, UCLG-ASPAC, CityNet, supported by The Rockefeller Foundation, is organizing a two-day workshop entitled *Inclusive Economies in Cities: Livelihood Opportunities, Local Economic Development Strategies and Social Protection for Poor Urban Informal Workers in Asia* to foster and promote new ways and tools for inclusive growth and inclusive local economic development in South East Asia.

Objectives

The workshop is held with the following objectives:

1. **To foster multi-disciplinary dialogue** and provide collaborative spaces for innovations, knowledge generation, and sharing of best practices that will contribute to addressing issues associated with the informal sector, urban poor livelihoods, and social protection at the country level and regional level.
2. **To strengthen local government capacity** to tackle issues related to governance of the informal sector by providing the opportunity to learn about roadmap formulation and new mechanisms for inclusive local economic development.
3. **To enhance networks** among associated stakeholders, including local governments, private sector, civil society organizations, and academia and provide peer-to-peer learning on good governance and inclusive economic growth.
4. **To provide applicable tools** for CBOs, local governments and the private sector for improving inclusion while also supporting and catalyzing local economies.
5. **To formulate a common position** among the various actors of LED and informal economies in South East Asia going forward to Habitat III.

Expected Outcomes

1. **A better understanding of current activities** of government, private sector, and civil society organizations working with the informal sector in South Asia and South East Asia
2. **Shared and enriched knowledge of the benefits of inclusive local economic development** and the pathways required to achieving it through accommodating the informal sector via improved skills development or education. Required steps for the development of inclusion-conducive enabling environments which extend social protections, public services, financial, and business support services to the poor.



3. **New Collaborative approaches for inclusive local economic development through** enhancing social protections/ public services to poor sections of society and for engaging young entrepreneurs and encouraging the development of SMEs.

Time and Venue

DAY 1 : Discussing challenges of the informal economy, and how best to overcome them

Time	Theme	
8.30 9.00	Welcome - Participant Introductions – Ice Breaker	Hashim Zaidi/Nicholas Taylor
09.00 09.45	Outline of the objectives of the meeting and key challenges of Inclusive Economies in Cities in SE Asia	Emma Porio, Ateneo de Manila University TBC Representative, OXFAM
09.45 10.45	PERSPECTIVE 1: The role of the Informal Economy and of Women Challenges of informal workers, particularly women home-based workers, and the pathways for facilitating greater roles for women and informal workers in Local Economic Development. Lessons Learnt from the Inclusive Cities Programme, WIEGO	Rhonda Douglas, WIEGO Representative, Municipal Partners for Economic Development (MPED) programme, Cambodia Poonsap Tulaphan, HomeNet Thailand
10.45 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11.00 12.00	PERSPECTIVE 2: Governance of Local Economic Development Local Economic Development & Management of the Informal Economy from the perspective of Local Governments and National Governments	Bernadia Tjarandewi, UCLG Representative of the City of Surabaya (TBC) Representative of the City of Penang (TBC)
12.00- 13.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
13.00- 14.00	PERSPECTIVE 3: Meaningful Private Sector Engagement in LED. Is there a skills mismatch? Is there an opportunity for informal economies to benefit from the new economic opportunities offered by ICTs?	Representative of the ADB Representative of the Private Sector Airian Hassani, CSR Director



14.00-14.15	SUMMING UP Formalizing the Informal Economy? What are the main sticking points between these perspectives?		Youngmin Chang, CityNet (TBC)
14.15-14.45	DISCUSSION: Lessons learnt multiple perspectives: What are the key challenges and how should they be approached?		Rhonda Douglas, WIEGO Representative, Oxfam
14.45-15.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
Intro 15.15	GROUP ACTIVITY – TOWARDS INCLUSIVE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Discussion of common positions and brainstorming of new tools and proposals that could be used by the stakeholders involved in Local Economic Development		
15.15-16.30	1. How to connect Private and Public Sectors for skills development? Led by Arian Hassani, Regional CSR Director,	2. How to extend Social Protection and basic services to informal Workers at the community scale? Led by Dr Lin Lim, UNDP Beijing	3. What are the various LED models available to cities? How can the informal sector play a part in boosting a city? Led by a Mayor and a community representative
16.30-17.15	Presentations of Group Work 15 minutes each - Questions and Final Remarks		Moderated by Nicholas Taylor, ADD Consultant
19.00-21.00	<i>Networking Cocktails and Dinner (Venue TBC)</i>		

DAY 2 : Connecting Needs: Frameworks to Understand and Enhance Support for Inclusive LED in Cities

Time	Activity	Lead
08.45-09.15	Connecting the dots: Frameworks, Nets, Agendas in support of Inclusive LED What frameworks, tools or inter- linkages should be envisaged for enhancing the role of informal workers in local economic development?	Dr. Sanjay Kumar, SEWA Bharat
09.00-09.45	FRAMEWORKS 1 Inclusive Economies Frameworks	Ashvin Dayal, Asia Regional Director Rockefeller Foundation
	FRAMEWORKS 2 Local Support Networks How can communities create their own "formal" networks? How	Representative HomeNet (TBC)



09.45 10.30	can they be better supported?	Representative from Patamamba, Philippines
10.30 – 10.45	Coffee/tea break	
10.45- 11.15	The International Agenda The SDGs and Habitat 3 -	Dr. Donovan Storey, UN-ESCAP (TBC) Ms. Tri Rismaharini, City of Surabaya (TBC)
11.15 12.00	The Regional Agenda The ASEAN Community and its implications	Mr. Gil Gonzales, (TBC) ASEAN Business Council Representative of APEC
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch break	
13.00 – 14.00	Panel Discussion Market Linkages, Social Protection and Local Government: The Enabling Environment for MSMEs in Asia	Representative, Ministry of Home Affairs, Indonesia XXX Private Sector XXX Chamber of Commerce Mr. Men Sinouen, Artisans Association of Cambodia
14.00- 14.15	Introduction to the Group Activity: Discussion of potential shared positions for advocacy for these frameworks and agendas	
14.15- 15.15	1. What is the best way to advocate to and influence regional and international frameworks? Led by Joseph D’Cruz (TBC) UNDP Regional Hub Bangkok	2. Which new proposals developed during this workshop could ensure the integrity of the city for all of its citizens and stakeholders? Led by Dr Sanjay Kumar, SEWA Bharat (TBC)
15.15 – 15.30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
15.30 – 16.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentations from the - Next Steps (Virtual COP, Publication, Wrap Up) 	

Partner Organizations

CITYNET

CityNet is the largest association of urban stakeholders committed to sustainable development in the Asia Pacific region. Established in 1987 with the support of UNESCAP, UNDP and UN-Habitat, the Network of cities has grown to include 132 municipalities, NGOs, private companies and research centers. The organization connects actors, exchanges knowledge and builds commitment to more sustainable and resilient cities. Through capacity





building, city-to-city cooperation and tangible projects, we help our members respond to Climate Change, Disaster, the Millennium Development Goals and rising Infrastructure demands.

UCLG ASPAC

United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific (UCLG ASPAC), the regional section of UCLG, is based in Jakarta, Indonesia. The organization is the key knowledge management hub on local government issues in the region. UCLG ASPAC involved in DELGOSEA since the first phase of the program in 2010. It is an informal network of Local Government Associations (LGAs), local authorities, non-government organizations and academic institutions who deal with local authority affairs in ASEAN countries. The activities aim at setting up partnerships and networking, promoting and replicating best practice examples and success stories in democratic local governance throughout the region, facilitating interaction and exchanges between State- and Non-State Actors and reinforcing the role of NSAs and Local Governments in decentralization processes. More information is available at www.uclg-aspac.org and/or www.delgosea.eu

Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)

WIEGO is a global network focused on securing livelihoods for the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy. Informal workers need voice, visibility and validity. WIEGO creates change by building capacity among informal worker organizations, expanding the knowledge base, and influencing local, national and international policies. The WIEGO Network consists of individuals and institutions from three broad constituencies:

- membership-based organizations (MBOs) of informal workers such as trade unions, cooperatives, and worker associations
- researchers and statisticians who carry out research, data collection, or data analysis on the informal economy
- practitioners from development agencies (inter-governmental, governmental, and non-governmental) who provide services to or shape policies towards the informal workforce

OXFAM

Oxfam International is a global movement for empowering people to realize and advocate for their rights, and making key stakeholders responsive and accountable towards their needs. We work with the poorest and vulnerable communities across the globe on issues of gender justice, economic empowerment, and humanitarian assistance. Our strategy is to work through local partners to reach out to these marginalized groups to give them a collective voice and support them in climbing out of poverty. Oxfam is a confederation of 17 affiliates with a staff of 7500 working in 94 countries around the globe and impacting over 20 million lives. In the Asia region, we currently operate in 16 countries reaching out to over 2.5 million people through various initiatives with a financial outlay of \$100 million. Oxfam aspires to support development of lasting solutions to the injustices of poverty and envisions a world where people are valued and treated equally, enjoy their rights as full citizens, and can influence decisions affecting their lives.

Rockefeller Foundation

For more than 100 years, The Rockefeller Foundation's mission has been to promote the well-being of humanity throughout the world. Today, we pursue this mission through dual goals: advancing inclusive economies that expand opportunities for more broadly shared prosperity, and building resilience by enabling people, communities and institutions to be prepared for, withstand, and emerge stronger from shocks and chronic stresses. The Foundation operates both within the United States and around the world. The Foundation's efforts are overseen by an independent Board of Trustees and managed by its president through a leadership team drawn from scholarly, scientific, and professional disciplines. For more information, please visit www.rockefellerfoundation.org

