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SINGAPORE SUSTAINABILITY SYMPOSIUM 2014

PROSPERITY WITHIN GLOBAL LIMITS

8 – 10 Jan 2014

10 Points Contributed to Singapore World Cities Summit, June 2014

1. CITIES MATTER! URBANISATION IS A GLOBAL PHENOMENON

The increasing scale and complexity of urbanisation has to be examined and understood. Leaders, planners, and inhabitants of cities will benefit from opportunities to discuss common challenges and develop new solutions.

2. CITIES ARE OUR BEST FUTURE!

While sustainability challenges of cities are significant, urban areas also hold the key to achieving many global sustainability goals. The sustainability investments we make now in cities will therefore impact the future many times over.

3. MORE CITY DESIGN, LESS CITY PLANNING

Sustainability is multivariable and multidisciplinary. Cities should focus more on city design, by considering many variables and their interconnections, and less on optimising single variables.

4. THINK REGIONALLY!

Sustainable urbanisation should extend to broader relationships beyond cities. Cities should work collaboratively within their regional networks to account for resource use and degradation, regardless of the place of production or consumption.

5. BEING GLOBALLY MINDFUL

A greater awareness of environmental impacts and future outcomes will help Mayors make better decisions today to keep their cities prosperous, healthy and resilient long into the future.

6. MEASURING AND QUANTIFYING THE ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINTS OF CITIES

Management and measurement systems for energy use and water consumption first require reliable baselines. That and a life cycle analysis for the importation and disposal of materials are the first steps to further reduce resource consumption.

7. MORE EDUCATION, BETTER EDUCATION, APPLIED EDUCATION

Education in sustainability is an influence that is felt at all levels: from primary education to provide a strong foundation in the principles of sustainability; to case studies and tools in executive education for policymakers and business leaders; to multidisciplinary graduate programmes in sustainability science or business.

8. CITIES, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Technology and innovation will continue to be an important part of overall sustainability strategies, from engineering and product development to management structures and entrepreneurship — and cities are ideal test-beds for implementing or experimenting with new solutions.

9. CITY FINANCING AND INVESTMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Aligning or reforming the sources, timing, and forms of city finance with long-run city sustainable development goals would support the implementation of high impact solutions. Possibilities include: standardisation of project investment criteria; better matching of debt instruments and maturities to project scope and scale; political recognition and legitimation for long-run sustainability planning, etc.

10. GETTING THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS INVOLVED

It is essential to involve citizens as well as corporations in a city's sustainable development efforts. These stakeholders have different roles to play, and may require different incentives or tools to understand how they can contribute.



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