



SESSION DESCRIPTION

G3 When cities and companies collaborate for urban resilience

Panel discussion

Date: Wednesday, 10 June 2015

Time: 11:00-12:30

Rooms: S34/35

Language: English

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Organized by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

OBJECTIVE

This session explored the nexus of private companies' engagement, city governments/ administrations and international cooperation actors in their work toward enhancing urban resilience. Urban resilience is a topic of interest for cities, whose future competitiveness depends in part on their resilience toward external shocks, for the international community aiming to reduce humanitarian and economic losses of large-scale events. However, private companies are also interested in two ways: a) working in urban areas themselves, they rely on the continued functionality of urban infrastructures and b) as providers of specialized technology or infrastructure, they hope to support urban resilience efforts. In that sense, the session shed light on the success factors, the challenges, and breaking points of partnerships between private companies and cities in the context of urban resilience.

It has become obvious that, while cities are often highly interested in cooperating with private companies and installing state-of-the-art technology, they can be overwhelmed by the proposals, the bidding processes and the information supplied by the specialized private companies therein (information gap). They can be challenged to identify the best technology/infrastructure for their city's risk profile, as well as by the steering process during and after the technology's installation.

At the same time, private infrastructure experts can underestimate the need to integrate diverse levels of government in installing infrastructure, despite the cities being their clients. The cooperation can thus pose great challenges to both sides.

This panel discussion aimed therefore to provide cities' decision makers, donors, implementers, and private companies with a sound overview over success factors of public and private collaboration toward urban resilience, as well as their pitfalls – and possible ways to circumvent them.

OUTCOMES

Participants gained a better understanding of:

- Success factors of fruitful and effective public and private cooperation toward urban resilience,
- Pitfalls of such cooperation and possible approaches to circumventing them,
- Good practices for cities and implementers and difficulties to manage in the triangle between subnational governance, international cooperation and private businesses.



METHODOLOGY

- Time break down of the session (90 minutes total).
- The Facilitator opened the session with a short introduction of each speaker. **(5 minutes)**
- The facilitator gave an inspirational speech formulating 3-5 hypotheses on success factors and pitfalls of PPP toward urban resilience using examples from the practice. **(15 minutes)**
- Each speaker was given 7 minutes time to formulate their position on the hypotheses formulated. **(5 x 7 minutes)**
- The remainder of the session was organized around the guiding questions, with each panelist given time to respond to individual questions, and to respond to comments made by other panelists. **(25 minutes)** There was a short intervention of an ICLEI city-business collaboration expert.
- The facilitator managed questions and answers from the audience. **(7 minutes)**
- The facilitator concluded with closing remarks. **(3 minutes)**

Guiding questions:

1. What's their urban business: What can private companies contribute to urban resilience? What are the preconditions for such contributions to take effect? What's their interest?
 2. Should they get their hands dirty? How can International donors, implementers, and NGOs facilitate between private companies and city administrations without doing harm?
 3. Make or Buy: What do cities need from private actors that they cannot accomplish themselves in urban resilience?
 4. Who is steering? How can city governments retain control over their development and work with the private sector? How can information gaps be bridged?
 5. How can private sector, cities and international cooperation organizations cooperate fruitfully and effectively towards enhancing urban resilience?
- The panelists took positions on the hypothesis developed by the speaker.

CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator *Katharina Schaaff, Advisor, Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management, Eschborn, Germany*

Speaker *Setsuko Saya, Head of Regional Policy for Sustainable Development Division, OECD, Paris, France*

The speaker formulated 3-5 Hypotheses on working effectively between the private sector, public entities and donors in an urban context of newly industrializing countries

Panelist *Dr. Tantikom Supachai, Advisor to the Governor of Bangkok, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, Bangkok, Thailand*

Panelist *Fleur Rüter, Draeger Academy, Drägerwerk AG & Co. KGaA, Lübeck Germany*



What are good practices and typical challenges working with city governments in emerging countries as a European specialized medium-sized company? What are the preconditions for working effectively with the governments?

Panelist Evaydée Pèrez Sarraff, Climate Change Center Director, Dominican Institute of Integral Development (IDDI), Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Input: Olga Horn, Assistant, City-Business Cooperation, ICLEI World Secretariat

What are the key components and for successful city-business collaborations? What are the different types of collaborations?

Further recommended reading

Title of the work or source:

<http://www.gidrm.net>
