CONCEPT NOTE

ASEAN SMART CITIES NETWORK

This concept note outlines Singapore's proposal to establish an ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN).

Rationale

2   Most of ASEAN's growth has been, and will continue to be, driven by urban centres, with 90 million more people expected to urbanise by 2030 and "middleweight" cities of between 200,000 and 2 million residents forecast to drive 40% of the region's growth.[1]   However, this rapid urbanisation is not without its challenges as it has implications on important issues such as city congestion, water/air quality, poverty, rising inequalities, urban-rural divide, citizen security and safety. Technological and digital solutions can be utilised to resolve these issues and to enhance quality and accessibility of services, thereby improving our citizens' lives across the urban-rural continuum, creating new opportunities for them and helping ensure that no one is left behind.

3   ASEAN Member States (AMS) recognise this trend, and many have already designated certain areas as smart cities or launched smart city development projects. In this context, Singapore proposes to establish an ASCN to synergise these efforts and bring the smart cities in AMS together, thereby contributing to ASEAN Community-building.

Scope

4   The ASCN is envisioned as a collaborative platform where up to three cities from each AMS, including capitals – with room for expansion when it matures – work towards the common goal of smart and sustainable urban development. It will include National Representatives (see paragraph 8 for details on AMS' expected representation) to synergise development efforts across all levels. Its primary goal will be to improve the lives of ASEAN citizens, using technology as an enabler. By focusing on our people, it will adopt an inclusive

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[1]   According to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), the main 50 cities in ASEAN, with populations of over 500,000 people, drive an "overwhelming share" of the region's economic development.

approach to smart city development that is respectful of human rights and fundamental freedoms as inscribed in the ASEAN Charter. The networking of Smart Cities across ASEAN would also contribute to enhancing better mutual understanding across cultures.

5   The ASCN aims to:

a) **Facilitate cooperation on smart cities development.** Member cities and their National Representatives will come together to explore potential complementarities, share best practices, develop individualised action plans for smart city development from 2018 to 2025 (to coincide with the ASEAN Community Vision 2025), and craft a framework for smart cities development that is unique to ASEAN;

b) **Catalyse bankable projects with the private sector.** Member cities will be linked up with private sector solution providers to kick-start practical and commercially viable projects with tangible outcomes; and

c) **Secure funding and support from ASEAN's external partners.** Member cities will pair up with specific external partners on a voluntary basis, and form mutually beneficial partnerships to drive smart cities development, while promoting better understanding between ASEAN and its external partners at the cities level. Multilateral financial institutions, such as the World Bank (and International Financial Cooperation), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), and Global Infrastructure Hub (GIH) will be approached as well.

6   Smart cities development cuts across many sectors such as transport, water quality, energy, health care, education, public services, data, and information and communications technology (ICT). In light of cities' often differing priorities, the ASCN will be designed to allow member cities to focus on areas that matter to them, in line with each city's local and cultural context.

Core Elements

7   The core elements of the ASCN will be:

a) <u>City-specific Action Plans for Smart City Development (2018 – 2025)</u>

- These initial action plans will be developed by member cities (in consultation with their National Representatives) during the *Smart Cities Governance Workshop (SCGW)*, a standalone 5-day workshop that Singapore will organise in May 2018.

- They will contain specific projects and action lines that the member city will undertake from 2018 to 2025, in its desired areas of focus.

- They can be developed from cities' existing blueprints or action plans for smart, inclusive, and sustainable urbanisation, if any.

b) ASEAN Smart Cities Framework

- The ASCN member cities and their National Representatives will also jointly craft an *ASEAN Smart Cities Framework* that (i) articulates ASEAN's definition of a "smart city"; (ii) outlines key principles; and (iii) identifies core outcomes.

- The Framework will not impose on existing national development plans. It will be a normative document that guides the smart city development in each ASCN city, which is specific to each city's local and cultural context.

- An initial draft of this framework will be prepared by Singapore and circulated to AMS in March 2018.

- The member cities and National Representatives will discuss a revised draft framework at the SCGW in May 2018. The framework will be targeted for endorsement at the first ASCN meeting in July and adoption by the ASEAN Leaders at the 33rd ASEAN Summit in November 2018.

c) Annual Meeting of the ASCN

- Singapore will convene the first annual meeting of the ASCN in July 2018 alongside the World Cities Summit, inviting all member cities and their National Representatives.

- After AMS formally endorse the draft *ASEAN Smart Cities Framework*, member cities will share their action plans and meet

with private-sector solution providers from ASEAN and beyond to explore commercially viable projects.

- After 2018, the ASCN will continue to meet annually to discuss progress on each city's action plan, launch new projects with private-sector solution providers where feasible, and explore new opportunities to bring ASEAN's external partners on board.

- This annual meeting shall be chaired and hosted by the ASEAN Chair, with the support of the shepherd to assist the Chair and to help promote continuity of efforts across several ASEAN Chairmanships.

- ASEC will produce an annual report based on the outcomes of this meeting.

d) Twinning Programme

- The ASCN member cities will each pair up with one of ASEAN's external partners on a voluntary basis, forming mutually beneficial partnerships for cooperation on smart cities development.

- These partnerships could focus on implementing commercially viable projects and other initiatives as mutually agreed, based on the cities' action plans.

- As ASEAN Chair, Singapore will facilitate the formation of these pairings in the ASCN's inaugural year by organising a "matchmaking" platform alongside the ASCN's first meeting in July 2018.

- The finalised list of pairings between ASCN cities and external partners will be collated. The twinning programme will then be announced during the 51st ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Related Post-Ministerial Conferences in August 2018.

Representation

8   Each AMS will be asked to nominate up to three cities (including its capital) as 'pilot' cities for the inaugural year of the ASCN, along with the following representatives:

Role	Status / Seniority	Responsibilities
Chief Smart City Officers *(one for each member city)*	Chief Urban Planner/ Chief Resilience Officer *(or equivalent)*	• Participate in the SCGW to craft their respective city's action plan and discuss the ASEAN Smart Cities Framework. • Attend the annual meeting of the ASCN.
National Representative (NR)	SOM-level official in the national government overseeing smart and sustainable development.	• Participate in the SCGW to guide their cities in developing action plans and discuss the ASEAN Smart Cities Framework. • Lead the AMS' delegation at the annual ASCN meeting. • The NR of the ASEAN Chair will also serve as the Chair of the ASCN.

9   Singapore hopes to receive AMS' list of nominated cities and representatives by end-February 2018. The ASCN will have room for membership expansion, as the mechanism matures.

Reporting Mechanism

10   Effective cross-pillar coordination is a perennial issue that ASEAN has yet to fully resolve. Smart city development already features in action lines across multiple sectorals in all three ASEAN Community pillars.[2] The ASCN will pave the way for more effective cross-pillar collaboration in ASEAN, by enhancing cooperation at city level to address city-specific issues across the three pillars.

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[2]   Examples include (i) Initiative 3 under Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, under which one of the main outputs is to "*Launch smart city initiatives in ASEAN cities*"; (ii) Action Point 3.1.1 under AIM 2020 is to "*Develop Best Practice Guides and Standards for Smart City Development*"; and (iii) the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities in the Environment sectoral.
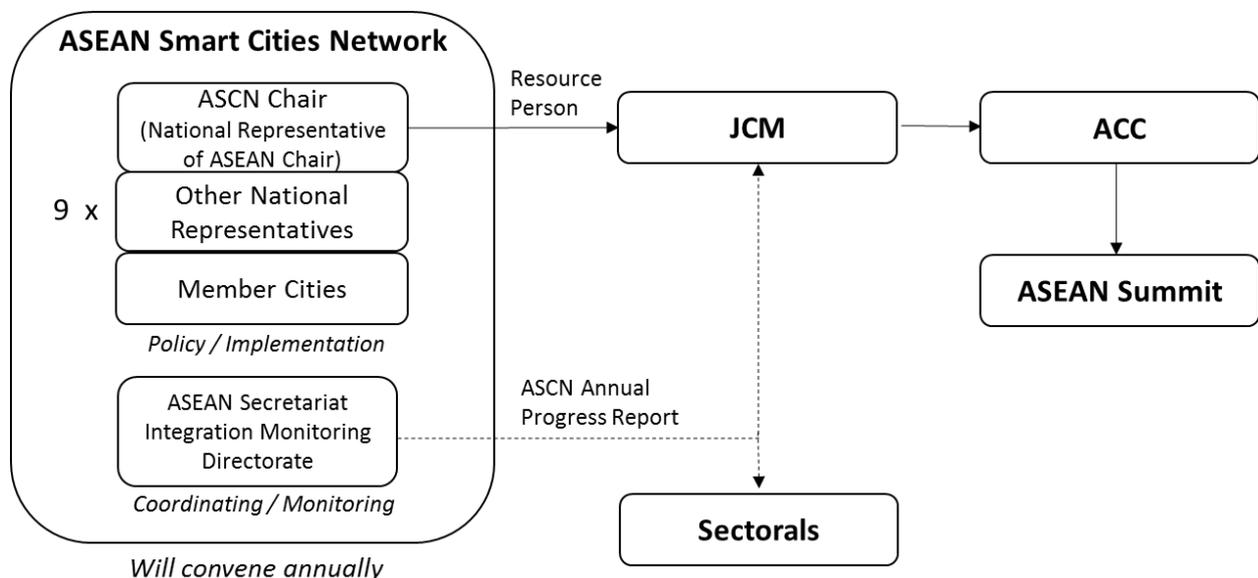
11   In this context, the Joint Consultative Meeting (JCM) will serve as the ASCN's primary reporting mechanism. Following the ASCN meeting every year, the Chair of the ASCN (i.e. the National Representative of the ASEAN Chair) and the ASCN shepherd will attend the JCM as resource persons, and submit a report of the ASCN's progress and key achievements. The ASCN's report will also be distributed to relevant ASEAN sectorals for notation. The JCM will then report to the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) and the ASEAN Summit.[3] As the ASCN matures, the ASCN could review the reporting mechanism and make a recommendation to the JCM on a reporting mechanism that would best support smart cities development in all ten AMS.

12   Within the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), the monitoring/secretariat role will be played by ASEC's Integration Monitoring Directorate (IMD) under the ASEAN Economic Community Branch. IMD will monitor the progress made on the member cities' action plans and assist with the drafting of the ASCN's annual reports.

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Annex

Reporting Mechanism

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[3]   This is in line with the JCM's draft Terms of Reference (TOR) which states that the JCM shall assist the ASEAN Summit to address cross pillar issues by "identifying and prioritising strategic cross-cutting and ASEAN community-building issues, and endorsing the necessary documentation, for the discussion and decision by the ACC and the ASEAN Summit."

Timeline

Time	Event
February 2018	AMS to submit nominations for (i) member cities; (ii) "Chief Smart City Officers"; and (iii) National Representatives
May 2018	5-day *Smart City Governance Workshop* in Singapore
July 2018	First Annual Meeting of the ASCN and Matchmaking with External Partners
August 2018	Twinning Programme officially announced at 51st AMM and Related Meetings
October 2018	JCM • Note city-specific action plans • Note list of external partners for ASCN member cities • Endorse ASEAN Smart Cities Framework
November 2018	Official Launch of the ASCN by ASEAN Leaders

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LIST OF PILOT ASEAN SMART CITIES NETWORK CITIES[1]

S/N	Pilot ASCN Cities
1	Bandar Seri Begawan
2	Bangkok
3	Banyuwangi
4	Battambang
5	Cebu City
6	Chonburi
7	Da Nang
8	Davao City
9	DKI Jakarta
10	Ha Noi
11	Ho Chi Minh City
12	Johor Bahru
13	Kota Kinabalu
14	Kuala Lumpur
15	Kuching
16	Luang Prabang
17	Makassar
18	Mandalay
19	Manila
20	Nay Pyi Taw
21	Phnom Penh
22	Phuket
23	Siem Reap
24	Singapore
25	Vientiane
26	Yangon

[1] The ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) is envisioned as a collaborative platform where the ASCN cities work towards the common goal of smart and sustainable development. The ASCN will have room for expansion as the mechanism matures.

ASEAN
SMART CITIES NETWORK
Pilot Cities

Mandalay

Ha Noi

Nay Pyi Taw

Luang Prabang

Yangon

Vientiane

Da Nang

Bangkok

Siem Reap

Chonburi

Battambang

Phnom Penh

Ho Chi Minh City

Manila

Cebu City

Phuket

Davao City

Kota Kinabalu

Bandar Seri Begawan

Kuala Lumpur

Johor Bahru

Singapore

Kuching

Makassar

DKI Jakarta

Banyuwangi