U.S.-ASEAN Smart Cities Partnership

This concept note outlines the United States' proposal to establish a U.S.-ASEAN Smart Cities Partnership. If welcomed, we would expect Vice President Pence to announce our partnership in November at the U.S.-ASEAN Summit.

Rationale

The United States congratulates ASEAN Member States on the establishment the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) that is intended to assist cities to meet the many and varied challenges of rapid urbanization and improve the lives of the people of the region. Based on the ASCN goals of facilitating cooperation on smart city development; catalyzing bankable projects with the private sector and; securing funding and support from ASEAN's external partners, the United States proposes to establish the U.S.-ASEAN Smart Cities Partnership ("the Partnership") to develop and explore activities and programs that will benefit the ASCN. The Partnership would contribute to the implementation of the U.S.-ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action (2016-2020) and support the ASEAN ICT Master Plan of Action (2016-2020).

Scope

The U.S.-ASEAN Smart Cities Partnership is intended to be a flexible, responsive, and multi-year commitment to ASEAN. The Partnership will be able to help address smart city challenges across a range of sectors, especially in the areas of infrastructure, energy, and information and communications technology. The Partnership will take into account the ASEAN Smart Cities Framework and also draw upon individual Smart City Action Plans (SCAPs) to inform specific programming and activities.

Core Elements

The U.S.-ASEAN Smart Cities Partnership has three main pillars. The following are potential areas for collaboration under each pillar of this Partnership. The U.S. welcomes ASEAN Member States' ideas for additional collaboration.

1. **Promote U.S. private sector engagement in smart city solutions and the digital economy in ASCN cities.**

   a. The U.S. proposes to convene a U.S.-ASEAN Smart Cities Partnership meeting in 2019 that will bring together ASCN smart city officers and national representatives, U.S. government and city officials, and industry leaders to discuss smart city challenges and identify business opportunities.

   b. Based on input from the SCAPs, the U.S. could organize reverse trade missions to key cities in the United States to help facilitate trade and investment deals.

   c. Through relevant U.S. agencies, the Partnership may propose feasibility studies and other technical assistance to promote smart city development in the ASCN.

2. **Share best practices and promote collaboration between innovative programs in U.S. cities with their counterparts in the ASCN**

    a. The Partnership seeks to support the sharing of best practices through exchange programs between U.S. cities that are globally recognized for their innovation in smart and sustainable development with Southeast Asian cities in the ASCN to strengthen connections between U.S. city leaders and ASCN leaders.

    b. The U.S. proposes to establish a U.S.-ASEAN Smart Cities Partnership Center for Innovation to promote cooperation and collaboration between U.S. and ASEAN businesses, city governments, NGOs, and academia. Programs could encourage entrepreneurship, development, and commercialization of smart city technologies.

    c. The Partnership could facilitate further collaboration between ASCN cities and the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Ongoing NIST programs seek to facilitate the deployment of smart city technology in a way that is replicable, scalable, and interoperable.

3. **Strengthen regional cybersecurity capability and capacity at the sub-national level.**

    a. The Partnership could pursue the possibility of expanding regional cybersecurity and digital economy training programs for ASCN cities for sub-national/city-level officials.

    b. Through the Partnership, the United States could work with interested ASCN member cities to help identify, assess, and share cyber-related vulnerabilities and gaps in the development of ASCNs and in the smart city enabling technologies.

    c. The Partnership seeks to share U.S. experience and practice on a free, open, and secure cyber environment, working hand in hand with regional cyber centers of excellence such as those established by Singapore and cooperation between Thailand and Japan.