



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ



UNEP – Sustainable Buildings & Climate Initiative Building and Construction Authority of Singapore

REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS 27TH OCTOBER 2009 SINGAPORE

Aims of the meeting: To develop common carbon metrics for building energy performance and to address the needs and gaps within industry in the region to mitigate climate change

Welcome & Keynote Address

Welcome:

Choo Whatt Bin, Executive Director, Research and International Development Group, BCA
Arab Hoballah, Chief, Sustainable Consumption and Production Branch, UNEP

Keynote Address:

The Role of Building Emissions in Climate Change Road Map to COP15: SBCI's 2009 Activities & Common Carbon Metrics

Arab Hoballah, Chief, Sustainable Consumption and Production Branch, UNEP

Annex A: Regional Roundtable on Sustainable Buildings

Summary: The buildings sector is responsible for approximately 1/3 of global energy-related CO₂ and 2/3 of carbon emissions. However, the sector also offers the largest low-cost potential for mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in all world regions by 2030. In developing and transition economies the cost effectiveness of emission reductions and the potential magnitude of emission reductions are greater than all other sectors combined.

SBCI's 2009 Activities

UNEP-SBCI is a partnership between major public and private sector building industry stakeholders worldwide and UNEP. SBCI's long-term goal is to provide means of monitoring building performance in relation to core criteria with an emphasis on climate change. SBCI's 2009 activities are centered on developing a common platform to enable monitoring of building performance in a consistent way throughout the world for discussing and reaching consensus on buildings and climate change issues.

Common Carbon Metrics

The international building industry, represented by SBCI's membership, agreed on the need for a common language and performance-based definition for sustainable buildings. Currently, there is no global consensus on this definition. Some countries have defined sustainable buildings through national rating schemes and legislation, but most do not have a reference to use, and lack the basis to define the costs or benefits of sustainable building practices. A global benchmarking system in terms of carbon emission as a start would provide a means to measure, monitor, and report on the building sector's performance and address key sustainability issues, particularly in developing countries.

Open Discussion

Needs and Gaps within Industry in the Region in relation to Mitigating Climate Change

Moderator: Ang Kian Seng, Director (Research), BCA

Format: Plenary Discussion – introduced and led by Moderator

Annex B: List of Regional Roundtable Meeting Attendees

Singapore

The discussion commenced with BCA's affirmation of support for the UNEP-SBCI initiative, with BCA having recently joined as a member. BCA drives Singapore's green building movement through its Green Building Master Plans. Since April 2008, BCA has mandated a minimum standard on environmental sustainability for all new buildings and existing buildings undergoing major retrofitting above 2,000 sqm, to be equivalent to the Green Mark certified level. With the large existing building stock consuming a third of our national end-use electricity, BCA's 2nd Green Building Master Plan places special emphasis on 'greening' existing buildings.

Participants from regional countries were invited to share their countries' progress and initiatives of the building sector towards mitigating climate change.

Indonesia

The Indonesia Green Building Council (IGBC) expressed interest in joining UNEP-SBCI so as to have some guidance and expertise to mitigate the contribution of buildings to greenhouse gas emissions, particularly in major cities like Jakarta. UNEP indicated interest in working with industry stakeholders in Indonesia including the IGBC, since industry-led initiatives are often vital for the sustainability movement in developing countries.

India

CII-Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Centre shared that the green building movement in India is mainly a private sector-led initiative, and more public-private partnerships are needed going forward. Currently, India has 52 LEED certified green buildings with 309 million sq ft of green building footprint. National codes and standards such as the National Building Code (NBC) and Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) are used to address the minimum performance standards for energy efficiency in buildings. Besides LEED rating system, there is also another rating system developed by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) called GRIHA. Currently, there are 15 projects registered under GRIHA. At the national level, the Government of New Delhi has signed an MOU with TERI to have hundreds of existing homes across New Delhi to be retrofitted to become energy efficient.

China

China acknowledged the global efforts towards mitigating climate change and indicated their commitment to continue to pursue sustainable development. The building sector consumes about 28% of total energy consumption. Due to continued urbanization involving 50 million people that is expected to last for another 20 more years, energy demand from buildings is expected to increase. The Chinese government has therefore placed a lot of emphasis on green buildings. The China Green Building Council (CGBC) has been established to look into developing and shaping its newly established green building rating system.

Malaysia

The Malaysia Green Building Council (MGBC) has recently launched its green building rating system called the Green Building Index (GBI) in May 2009. The development of this index is led by the private sector and it has received wide recognition from the industry. The government recently provided further support by providing incentives for green buildings in its Budget announcement. Incentives will be given to buildings with Green Building Index certification. Acknowledgements to Singapore's Green Mark and Australia's Green Star were made for the successful development of the Green Building Index in Malaysia.

Brunei

Sustainable building initiatives in Brunei are currently fragmented across various stakeholders. The delegates noted that such regional meetings to discuss sustainable building issues and initiatives were useful. The information exchange between stakeholders in the region would assist countries in formulating new initiatives through shared experiences.

Consensus

The participants of the Regional Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Buildings agreed that it would be useful to establish regular dialogue and information exchange on Sustainable Building initiatives in the region. The regional meeting platform helps to facilitate discussions and collaborations for further improvements on sustainable buildings in the region. Going forward, it would be useful to harmonize the methods for measuring, monitoring and reporting key building performance issues to provide the basis for establishing baselines, performance benchmarking, and improving building performance.

Closing

Thank you & Appreciation:

Choo Whatt Bin, Executive Director, Research and International Development Group, BCA
Arab Hoballah, Chief, Sustainable Consumption and Production Branch, UNEP