

Future of Urban Development initiative China Working Group launch event

Beijing, China, 14th Oct 2013

Event Summary

The Future of Urban Development Initiative by the World Economic Forum (WEF) serves as a partner in transformation for cities around the world as they address major urban challenges, and aims to make innovation accessible to city leaders and businesses in a mutually beneficial setting.

Following a successful pilot in Tianjin in 2012, the initiative will significantly scale up its work in China in 2013-2014 term. Through the scale-up:

- The Champion City Model will be replicated with 2 additional Chinese cities:
 - Dalian, the host city of WEF's Summer Davos and a major port city of North Eastern China
 - Zhangjiakou, an old industry town at the north western corridor of Beijing seeking sustainable transformation
- Through the process, experts and industry leaders will work closely with mayors of the Champion Cities to formulate innovative recommendations to address 3 common urbanization challenges and then catalyse implementation:
 - Urban energy management
 - Integrated urban land and transportation planning
 - Sustainable industrial restructuring and development
- Insights from the in-depth work with Champion Cities will be shared with a broader audience of cities, industry leaders and experts to maximize impact.

In order to achieve the ambitious goals, a China Working Group (CWG) has been set up to play key bridging role between international experts and industry leaders serving on a global Advisory Board and the Chinese Champion Cities. The CWG consists of senior executives or experts with extensive urbanization experiences in China.

The initiative organized a China Working Group launch event on 14th Oct 2013, to officially kick off the CWG community and brief the participating experts regarding the new Champion Cities, focused urbanization challenges and the outcomes of the initial discussion with the leaders of Dalian and Zhangjiakou during the Future of Urban Development initiative private session at the Annual Meeting of the New Champions (Summer Davos) 2013 in Dalian, as well as obtaining suggestions and feedbacks from the experts regarding how the initiative could best work with the cities to address their urban challenges.

Summary of key discussion points:

- The existing China Working Group members are mostly technical experts and it would be good if more economists are invited to join the group; in addition, more experts from the business community is also helpful, in particular real estate developers, as they are the organizations on the ground implementing urban development projects.
- The initiative should develop mechanisms to track and evaluate the extent of implementation of the Champion Cities regarding the strategic recommendations developed during the 7-step process. The initiative has already launched its "alumni program" with the inaugural Champion City –Tianjin, and the tracking mechanism could be very useful.
- When working with the Champion Cities, in addition to engage the city leaders such as the mayors, it is also very important to involve as many relevant governmental agencies and other key stakeholders as possible to have the most comprehensive understanding of the real challenges cities facing, e.g. local DRCs, functional departments responsible for

transportation, utilities, energy and other infrastructures, key local businesses, academics, communities etc.

- The initiative need to understand the real challenge Champion Cities are facing, not just on the surface, but to understand what's the main barriers/obstacles, why things are not happening as they should be, so that the solutions developed will be really helpful to the cities.
- There are many existing urbanization related initiatives in China already, and a common issue these initiative/projects encounter are the recommendations developed are not very well adopted and implemented. To address this, on the one hand, the recommendations developed need to be more effective, commercially viable, tailored to the cities' needs while considering the accommodating capacity of the cities; on the other hand, expectations from all the key stakeholders, from the mayors to the communities, need to be collected, analyzed and aligned to make the outcome impactful.
- While developing city level strategies, national level plans and targets also need to be considered, e.g. the energy intensity targets and carbon intensity targets of the 12th Five Year Plan (FYP), the recently announced PM 2.5 targets.
- Currently the initiative is mostly focusing on themes such as energy, transport, urban planning and industries, but urbanization challenges Chinese cities facing also include other aspects, e.g. social welfare of the migrate workers, governmental debt problems etc. It would be good if the initiative could look at these as well in the future
- While the initiative looking at international best practices the Champion Cities could leverage, it should not just focusing on examples from the developed countries, experiences and lessons learnt from developing world, in particular cities currently under stress, are also valuable.
- The currently selection of Champion Cities are mostly focusing on cities with good development potential. It is probably also worth selecting cities on the wrong pathways, e.g. Erdos in Inner Mongolia famous for its ghost towns, and advice them on how to turn things around.

Participant list (with Contact details)

China Working Group Member

Name	Position	Organization	Contact Number	Email Address
Maria Pia Ancora	Urban Development Specialist	Asian Development Bank	+86 13910697349	mpancora@adb.org
Dr. Liu Yanli	Senior Manager, Industry team, Construction China	BASF	+86 13916267024	Yanli.liu@basf.com
Yan Xuedong	Vice dean for School of Traffic and Transportation	Beijing Jiaotong University	+86 15810074718	xdyan@bjtu.edu.cn
Alan Searl	First Secretary, Energy & Climate Change	British Embassy Beijing	+86 13911730584	Alan.searl@fco.gov.uk
Zhai Qi	Deputy Secretary General	China Business Council for Sustainable Development	+86 13901292988	zhaiq@cbcsd.org.cn
Sheng Fenglei	Program Coordinator	China Business Council for Sustainable Development	+86 18601245571	shengfl@cbcsd.org.cn
Qiu Aijun	Vice Director General	China Center for Urban Development	+86 13683326861	qiuaijun@yahoo.com
Liu Yue	Director	China Center for Urban Development	+86 18710176911	yolanda_liuyue@hotmail.com
Liu Peng	Director	China Architecture Design & Research Group	+86 13801006305	liup@cadg.cn
Zhiming Pan	Building Energy Efficiency Specialist	Natural Resources Defence Council	+86 15801523267	zpan@nrdc-china.org
Jack Maher	Research Fellow, China Sustainable Cities Project	Natural Resources Defence Council	+88 18610249284	jmaher@nrdc-china.org
Tao Ran	Director, China Center for Public Economics and Governance	Renmin University	+86 13810671194	Rantao1972@ruc.edu.cn
Wang Yun	General Manager, Architecture Research Center	Vanke	+86 13823119929	wangyun@vanke.com
Zhong Lijin	Senior Associate	World Resources Institute	+86 13911675155	Lijin.zhong@wri.org

Core Project Stakeholder

Name	Position	Organization	Contact Number	Email Address
Li Guanghai	Managing Director, Strategy & Sustainability	Accenture	+86 186 1010 8856	Guanghai.li@accenture.com
Tony Chan	Associate Director, Planning team leader	Arup	+86 21 3118 8808	yong-wei.chan@arup.com
Li Tie	Director General	China Center for Urban Development	+86 10 68538808	litie@263.net.cn
Paul Procee	Lead Urban Specialist	World Bank	+86 10 5861 7772	pprocee@worldbank.org
Olivier Schwab	Executive Director, China	World Economic Forum	+86 10 65999500	Olivier.schwab@weforum.org
Robin Ried	Associate Director, Head of Urban Development	World Economic Forum	+1 3472768349	Robin.ried@weforum.org

Project Team

Name	Position	Organization	Contact Number	Email Address
Xu Hao	WEF Secondee; Manager, Strategy & Sustainability	Accenture	+86 18610998397	Hao.xu@accenture.com
Liang Jie	Engineer	Arup	+86 18601756809	Jie.liang@arup.com
Li Chong	Senior Manager	World Economic Forum	+86 13911640766	Chong.li@weforum.org