



UCR-COP EVENT

Update Efforts and Share Experiences on Building Urban Resilience in Viet Nam

Date:	14: 00 – 17:00, March 2 nd 2017
Venue:	Army Guesthouse, 33C Pham Ngu Lao, Hanoi
Organizer:	UCR-COP Secretariat (ISET Viet Nam) and 100ResilientCities (100RC)
Participants:	100RC, ADB, WB, SECO, UNDP, GIZ, Da Nang CRO, Can Tho CRO, IMHEN, VIUP, and other members of UCR-CoP

Meeting notes

1. Introduction

Ms. Mai (ISET-Vietnam) introduced the purpose of the first UCR-CoP event in 2017, which is to share with UCR-CoP participants about the 100 Resilient Cities program funded by the Rockefeller Foundation (RF), and the engagement of Da Nang and Can Tho cities of Vietnam in this program. The event is also expected to bring participants, including donors and development agencies into a discussion to identify resilience gaps/opportunities of Vietnamese cities and how UCR-CoP members can work to support urban resilience building for these cities.

2. Overview of the 100RC

Mr. Amit Prothi from the 100RC provided an overview of the 100RC, its objectives and activities.

- The 100RC is an initiative starting from 2013, in the recognition that cities are complex, siloed ecosystems with many different stakeholders in many different sectors and are inadequately organized around their challenges and priorities, and that existing solutions do not reach cities in an efficient way.
- The 100RC had selected a group of 100 cities from all around the world over three rounds of application, and offered each of them with four types of support: (1) A Chief Resilience Officer (CRO); (2) Development of a City Resilience Strategy (CRS); (3) A platform of services; and (4) the 100RC network, with a view to promote resilience thinking and building in these cities and efficiently scale resilience building solutions.
- Da Nang and Can Tho are the only two Vietnamese cities selected. Da Nang joined the 100RC in 2014, has had its Chief Resilience Officer and CRO Office, issued its Resilience Strategy released in 2016, and has already initiated implementation activities. Can Tho is

a third round city selected in 2016, is in the process of selecting a Chief Resilience Officer and establishing a CRO Office for the development of the City Resilience Strategy. ISET is the strategic partner who supports both cities throughout this process.

3. City Resilience Strategy Development, the experience of Da Nang

Mr. Dinh Quang Cuong, Da Nang CRO and Director of Da Nang Climate Change Coordination Office (CCCO) shared his experience and lessons as Da Nang CRO and in the development and implementation of Da Nang's CRS. See his presentation [here](#).

- The project officially started in Da Nang in Nov 2014 when the Agenda Setting workshop was organized. In Jun 2015 we started the process of developing the CRS, which was completed and released in Sep 2016 (See the Strategy [here](#)). Experience shows that the actual time needed to get things done could be much longer than that is originally planned.
- CRO is placed directly under the PPC to promote cross sector coordination.
- The project started with the current organizational structure (i.e., the climate change steering committee and working group) but then added some new members as the resilience approach under 100RC is much broader than climate resilience
- The CRS was being developed when the city Party's Committees in Vietnam were holding their assemblies, which provided an opportunity for the CRS to be integrated with core priorities identified in the assembly.
- The design of the Da Nang CRS is more like a plan of actions than a long-term strategy. The actions are ready to be implemented.
- Da Nang is in the phase of implementing the strategy, starting from Jun 2016, and facing some challenges in this process. We are in need of additional support of 100RC, ISET and other partners in terms of the connection and the resources to put these plans of actions into reality.
- Under the CRS, for core areas of priority were identified for Da Nang: housing, livelihoods, ecosystem, and information connectedness. Over 30 priority projects were identified, including:
 - Support to continued operation of Da Nang CRO office (and CCCO) to support resilience projects
 - Expansion of the housing credit program to the entire city
 - A green park in Man Thai ward, Son Tra district
 - Collaboration of Quang Nam and Da Nang for co-management of the Vu Gia – Thu Bon river basin and coastal areas.
 - Efficient energy use in buildings
 - Software for assessing community housing vulnerability with CSIRO
 - Piloting natural disaster insurance for storm-resistant houses with SwissRe and VinaRe

The 100RC in Da Nang applies the City Resilience Framework, which provide a comprehensive lens for the assessment and planning process. Multiple stakeholders were involved, including the private sector. For example, a representative from the tourism sector is a member of the Steering Committee. The 100RC also connects Da Nang to a group of platform partners who can be a source of technical expertise and services.

Recently Da Nang Department of Planning and Investment (DPI) asked CRO office to support them with the development of city Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) using the 100RC Resilience framework lens (under which there are four areas, or dimensions, of resilience: Health and Wellbeing; Economy and Society; Infrastructure and Environment; Leadership and Strategy).

Q&A:

Q: Who approved the City Resilience Strategy of Da Nang?

A: The CRS of Da Nang was approved by the Chairman of the People’s Committee of Da Nang

Q: Why is the CRS called a strategy when it is more like an action plan?

A: This is a terminology issue of the program as a whole. 100RC wants to be consistent among its 100 cities, and so the document is called by the same name in all cities. It is because of the context of Vietnam that this document resembles an action plan more than a strategy.

Q: What is the status of the CRS now after being approved and released?

A: Da Nang already started the implementation of several priority actions identified in the CRS.

4. The City Resilience Framework

Mr. Amit Prothi of 100RC provided explanation of the CRF as a methodology to understand urban resilience. The information can be found in the presentation [here](#).

Some comments from the audience:

- Some think that the framework is interesting but a bit too complex. That may affect the application/use of the framework in the long run once the project has finished.
- The structure of the CRF may create some confusions because:
 - By focusing on main drivers, we may overlook some important factors that are classified as sub-drivers, for example, corruption and law enforcement.
 - The assessment is qualitative. Some people in Can Tho were a bit confused when they were asked to rank different drivers.
- It was suggested that the resilience assessment exercise should be conducted with different stakeholders and not only government officials

- Tim (GIZ) suggested that, for the CRF framework and approach to be sustainable, the 100RC and ISET need to make clear how the 100RC program contributes to the existing government efforts/plans...
- Some asked for clarification of the difference between Resilience Strategy and SEDP, their relationship, and how the strategy supports the existing SEDP. Other questioned about the indicators used in the strategy and whether there is any overlap with indicators used in the existing SEDP.

Responses from 100RC, ISET and Da Nang

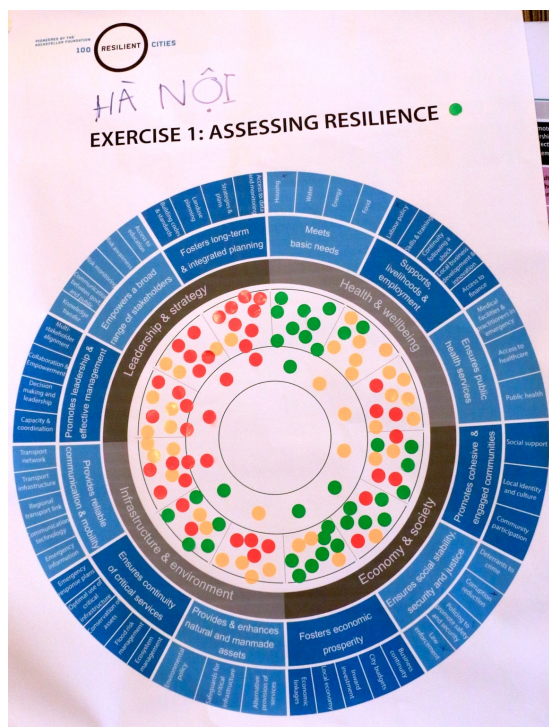
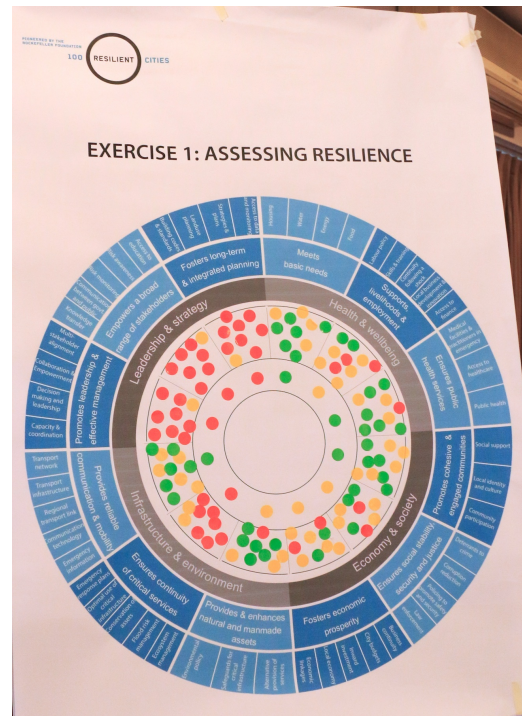
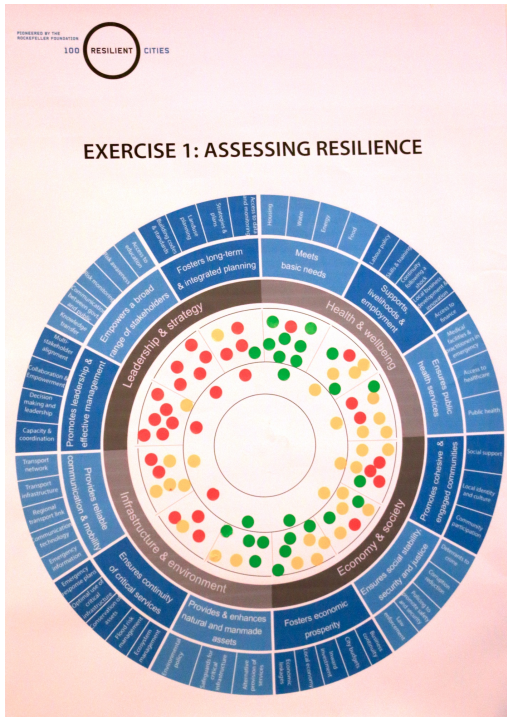
- The existing planning approach (e.g., SEDP development) does not consider shocks and stresses and how they affect SEDP goals and objectives. The CRF brings the resilience lens to the SEDP, to help people to rethink (about their plans) and consider potential shocks and stresses and then reconsidered their targets.
- The CRS is intended to complement the SEDP from the resilience angle, not to replace the SEDP entirely. It serves as an advocacy document to the local Government to advocate for the urban resilience thinking and to support decision-making processes. (But) it takes time...
- The CRS does not cover all areas present in the SEDP. Only relevant indicators were included, such as % of temporary and weak house (in the housing sector), and those related to flood risks.
- The CRF helps to start and to facilitate discussions. The assessment using the CRF helps to start discussions and dialogue between relevant stakeholders and provide inputs for deeper analysis.
- Examples from other cities show that it is possible (to use the CRF and the 100RC) to organize and facilitate discussions at the high-level government.

5. City Resilience Assessment exercise

The workshop was divided into three small groups, who were asked to apply the City Resilience Framework to provide an assessment of the resilience of a generic Vietnamese city, based on twelve drivers (indicators) given under this framework.

An overall assessment of the three groups' results is that indicators under the dimension of Leadership and Strategy, while better performing areas include the provision of basic services and critical infrastructure, and economic development. It was noted that the weak performance of the Leadership and Strategy drivers poses a challenge in building resilience for cities, as this is a sensitive area to work on.

This is a useful exercise for cities because it helps to kick start the dialogue and inform the next steps of more detailed resilience assessments, which will inform priority action identification and implementation.



PRELIMINARY RESILIENCE ASSESSMENT FOR A GENERIC VIETNAMESE CITY-RESULT FROM GROUP EXERCISE

- area of strength
- can be improved
- not doing well

6. Stakeholder mapping exercise

Participants were asked to identify the specific areas of resilience that they or their institutions are working and map them on the CRF wheel. This helps to provide an overall picture of who's doing what, and of important gaps in urban resilience building, and thus highlight areas of potential collaboration.



RESULT OF STAKEHOLDER MAPPING EXERCISE APPLYING THE CRF

Sincere thanks to all UCR-CoP members who showed up and participate in these useful exercises and discussions!