
This is a raw transcript of the Opening Plenary of the World Cities Summit, held at Marina Bay Sands, Singapore, on 2 June 2014. The panel comprised:

Moderator:

- **Tommy KOH**
Ambassador-at-large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore

Speakers:

- **WU Hongbo**
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations
- **Helen CLARK**
Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- **Melanie Schultz van HAEGEN**
Minister of Infrastructure and Environment, The Netherlands
- **RASHID Ahmed bin Fahad**
Minister of Environment and Water, United Arab Emirates
- **Kirsten BROSBØL**
Minister of the Environment, Denmark
- **CHEN Lei**
Minister of Water Resources, China
- **Gotabaya RAJAPAKSA**
Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and Urban Development, Sri Lanka
- **Greg CLARK**
Minister of State for Cabinet Office (Cities and the Constitution), U.K.
- **Peter BAKKER**
President, World Business Council for Sustainable Development

[Start of Transcript]

Prof Koh: “Welcome back to the Joint Opening Plenary. Please take your seat as soon as possible because we are behind time. Speak louder, okay. Please take your seats as soon as possible because we are behind time. I want to say to the women in the audience that we do a good job in the first segment, In Conversation, where there were no women and I’m very happy to draw your attention to the fact that on this panel, three of the eight

panellists are women and I would say that please give them a big, and I would also say that my good friend Helen Clark is equal to at least two men.

So, I want to begin by telling you that we have invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations Dr Ban Ki-Moon to be with us today. He was unfortunately not able to be here because of other pressing issues but he has sent the Under Secretary General for Social and Economic Affairs Mr Wu Hongbo to represent him and to read out his message. It gives me great pleasure to invite Mr Wu to come to the rostrum here and to speak on behalf of Secretary-General Ban.”

Mr Wu: “Ladies and gentlemen, good morning. May I have the pleasure to convey to you the message from His Excellency Mr Ban Ki-Moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations. His message is as follows. It is a great pleasure to greet all those who have gathered for the World Cities Summit, Singapore International Water Week and the Clean Enviro Summit Singapore. I applaud Singapore’s longstanding commitment to water and sanitation and thank the government for hosting these important events.

Water is vital for human well-being, economic development and the preservation of the environment. Sustainable water resource management can support livelihoods, make our cities more liveable and preserve the health of people and the climate. Access to safe drinking water and sanitation has been recognised by the United Nation General Assembly as a human right and achieving universal access is one of the most important development challenges we face.

Well we have already met the MDG target of increasing access to safe drinking water and the basic sanitation. Let us not forget that well over one billion people are still without access to improved drinking water source. Some 2.5 billion people lack access to the dignity and the health afforded by access to a toilet and protection from untreated waste and one billion people have no option but to practice open defecation which puts women in particular at increased risk of violence and rape.

That is why the United Nations is spearheading a global call to action on sanitation and why the United Nations General Assembly last year designated November 19 as World Toilet Day. Water and sanitation are critical concerns as member states shape a post-2015 development agenda and a set of concise and inspiring goals that will capture the imagination and mobilise the world.

We know that increasing strains are being put on our water supplies and eco systems through population growth and the changing lifestyle. Nowhere is this more evident than in cities. More than half of humanity already live in urban areas and over next few decades, we will see the emergence of more mega cities with over 10 million people and more hyper cities with over 20 million.

Urbanisation is clearly one of the most significant global trends of the 21st century. It is occurring fastest in developing countries’ that are the least prepared to tackle the associated challenges. The vast majority of urban waste water is discharged insufficiently treated or directly untreated. At the same time, cities are centres of

employment and innovation and offer opportunities to advanced sustainable development. Seizing this potential requires conscious investment in water and sanitation, sustainable food systems, social infrastructure, low carbon transport and sustainable energy.

The World Cities Summit, Singapore International Water Week and the Clean Enviro Summit together offer a useful platform for sharing and co-creating innovative and cost-effective solutions that will not only address the issue of water and sanitation but also contribute to our efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and build on equitable world of opportunity for all grounded in sustainable development. Thank you for your commitment and please accept my best wishes for productive meetings. That's the end of the message, thank you very much."

Prof Koh: "I thank Mr Wu and would request him to convey our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his important message. Mr Wu I don't know whether you heard me. Thank you and ask you to convey our Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon for his important message.

I want to explain how I intend to organise this session. We have until 12.30 and we have eight very distinguished panellists. I have composed one question for each of the eight panellists to begin. So I will proceed to ask them a question each, after which I will open this to you and you may pose your questions to them individually or to the whole panel either by raising your hands or using your mobile device. At 12.20, 10 minutes before conclusion, I will bring this to a close and we will have a poll. We will poll you on four questions. This is a new feature this year. We are going to use your digital device to poll you on four important questions.

So I now have the pleasure of asking the first question to the very honourable Helen Clark. Helen, UNDP is the UN's global development network, an organisation advocating for change and connecting countries to help people build a better life. From your immense experience of working with more than 170 countries, can you share with us what it will take for cities to achieve pathways to sustainable human development? What will it require in terms of leadership and in terms of governance?"

Ms Clark: "Thank you Tommy, fellow panellists, ladies and gentlemen. In a nutshell, it's going to take a lot of leadership and vision, governance and capacity, sharing technology and expertise and participatory governance and I want to address those issues in my brief comments at the beginning of this session. First to make those cities have a huge contribution to make to sustainable development. When we consider that already half of the world's population is living in cities and by 2050, that will be 70 per cent. When we consider that cities produce 80 per cent of global GDP, so how people in cities work, travel, consume energy, live, matters a lot for sustainable development.

Are cities up to the challenge? Yes they are because throughout human histories, cities have been centres of growth, innovation, creativity and culture and the opportunity is to harness all of that in the service of sustainable development. On leadership, cities need

leaders who can see the big picture that it is possible to create sustainable and liveable cities both by retrofitting the old and creating the new from the beginning but it does require new capacities for joined up decision making and policymaking to design cities which can achieve economic progress and social progress while they maintain their environmental systems.

In joined up decision making, cities can look for triple wins across the dimensions of sustainable development. For example in transport, designing systems which will reduce congestion, have a low carbon footprint, improve air quality, this is good for people, it's good for business and growth. They can look for the energy efficiency solutions which uphold the green building codes, retrofit the old to reduce energy costs for households and businesses and for the new city standards going forward. They can plan for the kind of development which incorporates the clean transport, the clean energy with communities which co-located residential areas with work opportunities.

Cities also can make their commitment to quality universal services and many mega cities enjoy considerable evolution and responsibility across areas like health, education and other social services and they can certainly plan for liveability for sport, for recreation, for culture as part of city design, knowing that man does not live by bread alone.

Now on the capacity to achieve this kind of sustainable city, technical capacities are extremely important and well-educated and trained officials are vital but on its own this is insufficient. The integrity of city administrations matter a great deal and put bluntly, we need for the sustainable cities of the future, honesty, transparency and a commitment to non-corruption.

UNDP has recently established a global policy centre for public service excellence right here in Singapore. We established this here because Singapore stands out for the quality and integrity of its public administration. It has lessons to share as it has on building sustainable living environments through joined up approaches. Knowledge sharing is very central to what UNDP does and through global policy centre like this, we hope to inspire others to live to the standards of integrity and transparency and administration which Singapore has long stood for.

On the issue of participatory governance, the truth is that not all wisdom resides among leaders in political systems or officialdom. City administrations need to be open to input and collaboration with their communities with their NGOs, their citizens networks, their academic and private sector constituencies. This is good for innovation, it's good for responsiveness, it helps meet actual needs and it's very good for accountability. Fundamentally, everybody benefits if people can be part of shaping the decisions which affect their lives and their futures and we've been involved in practical ways of lifting the level of participation in city governance around the world.

I'm optimistic that the world's cities can step up on sustainable development but I've got a message for national governments as well and that is, they must give cities the space to do their job. We need empowered cities which can meet the needs of their citizens and

too often we see national governments really a little bit afraid of their big cities so they seek to limit and circumscribe their powers. I think they need to loosen up so that cities can innovate for sustainable development solutions. That's of national benefit.

Perhaps my last point would be to draw on experience as Prime Minister of New Zealand where during my time we legislated for local government to have a power of general competence. That meant apart from foreign policy and defence decisions, they can take on any functions that their citizens were prepared to pay for. That really was empowering local governments in consultation with their citizens and as well thrice every year I chair the national council with local government where we met formally co-chaired with the chair of local government New Zealand and the executive of the committee of mayors from around the country and we went systematically through agendas and issues which national government and local government needed to address together. So that was really joined up government, seeing the need for cities, counties to be working together with national government to get the right environment for moving ahead and I'd recommend that as a way forward for others as well. Thank you, Tommy."

Prof Koh: "Thank you, thank you for a very important answer. My second question to the Minister for Infrastructure and Environment of the kingdom of the Netherlands, Minister Melanie Schultz van Haegen. My question is this. Your country the Netherlands is one of the most successful countries in the world. It has a competitive economy and a high degree of social solidarity. Your environment is clean, it's green, it's safe. You have however one major challenge. I believe that one-quarter of your country lies below the sea level and more than half is flood-prone. You have built polders, dykes, canals, excellent systems for managing floods but are you prepared in case the sea level rise were to exceed the projections of the IPCC? "

Ms Haegen: "Thank you very much for that question Mr Chairman and thank you for the compliments regarding our country. I'm glad to be here today. Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let me answer by starting telling you a story that goes back to the year 1953. About a 19-year-old boy from California named Harry Morgan (?). One February evening, he was sitting at the cinema waiting for the movie to begin but before it started he saw a news item. A news reel about terrible floods in a small faraway country, that country was the Netherlands and right there at that moment Harry Morgan decided to help but since he had no money, he didn't know how. So he took his bicycle and started pedalling and hitchhiking east and after three days he arrived in Chicago where he heard a contest on a local radio station and he called in and amazingly he won a plane ticket to a European city of his choice. This really happened.

So a couple of days later he arrived in Holland. He travelled to the flooded areas and started to help. He filled sandbags, brought supplies to people in need and found shelter for people who'd been homeless. He wanted to make a difference to people he didn't know, in a country he only knew from a cinema screen. So this happened over six years ago and the Netherlands never faced such a devastating flood again because we decided to take serious action, not only to rebuild but to be prepared for the next emergency, to act before it's too late and indeed one-third of the Netherlands lies below sea level and

four out of five people, Dutch people live in urban areas and for them and for our economy, we must always be prepared.

The Dutch approach starts with the view that everywhere on earth, water is a complex system. Its proper management requires three things; prevention, partnership and flexibility and we look at the world from that perspective. First, we focus on prevention. We know that there's no such thing as total safety but prevention means we can both save lives and manage our economy in the best possible way. So we are ready when a disaster strikes so we can react quickly and cope in the best possible way and we can rebuild as soon as possible and we do this by making water an increasingly important element in spatial and urban development and we do so by giving water more space when necessary.

Second, we focus on partnership and good governance; partnerships between governments, the private sector and citizens but also between different levels of citizens and different levels of governments, cities, provinces, our regional water boards and the national government. So at the moment we're working on a new delta programme aiming to make our country safe for generations to come. It's financed from a special government fund, it's lead by special government commissioner ensuring cooperation between all the parties involved and this autumn, I will be deciding on our new water policy for the next 50 years. So also in the Netherlands we have to be prepared for the future.

Thirdly, we aim for flexibility. So we know we must be prepared for a higher sea level and for both extreme rainfall and drought but we cannot exactly predict the future, so we must always be able to adapt to changing circumstances along the way and this new and lasting sense of urgency is the result of a great disaster that struck our country but I believe this sense of urgency should be felt worldwide because other cities in River Delta in the world face the same emergency and we all face the same growing need to prevent water pollution, providing water security, waste water treatment whether you live in America, in Africa or in Asia or in a growing city like Amsterdam or Bangalore or Singapore. Everywhere we face the same problems and the same emergency situations.

So ladies and gentlemen, in 1953, Harry Morgan travelled back to the United States and after several months in the Netherlands, he told the other Americans that their financial aid really really made a difference and that's indeed what we should do, make a difference together. Just like Harry Morgan, we can all help out after disaster strikes, but it's even more important to be ready before it happens and the three conferences we are opening today are about the most important questions we and our children face; how to ensure renewable energy, healthy food and clean air and water but also about the best ways to treat waste water, bring sanitation to those who really need it and about making our growing cities resilient in the face of climate change but the heart of the matter is this – all these challenges are inter-connected, so we can only solve them with solutions that are connected as well.

We know that more floods, droughts and storms will come so we cannot let a moment pass. We need to act now. So let us dedicate ourselves to action and to new and innovative solutions before it is too late. Thank you very much.”

Prof Koh: “Thank very much Minister for a very good answer and thank you for keeping within your three-minute time limit. You will get a prize from the organisers. The third speaker in my list is Dr Rahid Ahmed Bin Fahad, the Minister for the Environment and Water of the United Arab Emirates. Minister, my question is this, the UAE specifically Dubai has won the bid to host Expo 2020. You have made sustainability one of the Expo’s three themes. Can you share with us how you intend to promote liveable and sustainable growth at Expo 2020?”

Dr Rashid: “Thank you very much Professor. First of all, it’s really an honour for me to be back in this big event and to be also part of this distinguished panel and with this distinguished audience. Also, let me start by inviting everybody to join us at Dubai Expo 2020. Also, thanks I’d like to send also thanks to the trust you all given us in UAE and the support to have Dubai Expo 2020. Before going into the subject of what we’re going to do for sustainability, the slogan of Dubai Expo 2020 is around connecting minds, creating the future and sustainability makes one of the three themes in addition to mobility and opportunity.

Sustainability is the story of the UAE. As all of you know, the UAE we’re coming from a harsh environment, a dessert environment and to see unlike my panellists we are coming from water scarcity region with my fellow panellists they are coming from water abundance environment. So to work and from that harsh environment, sustainability being is the vehicle and the journey and our vision for the future. So water and energy been on the focus for us and how to make our cities, how to make our economy, how to make our country more sustainable with the environment as in the heart of it.

As we said, sustainability is one of the themes for the Expo 2020. We are looking for Expo 2021 and to showcase in that one event, how can we a big mega event, how we can make it sustainable then from our experience building our nation for sustainability. So that event will be built on that concept. As we are moving as we’re building our experience how we made our cities more liveable, how we make our cities sustainable so that I can give some example how we’re going to build this event.

As I said, we will deploy most innovative solutions as we are doing now. We do it for water, we do it for energy. So the technicality and the solution will be the heart of Expo 2021 and we will be consider a lot of aspects such as building road construction, transport ways, so the heart of it, sustainability it will be in the heart of making Expo 2021. For example, 50 per cent of the energy needed for the event will be generated on site by solar, from solar. Same thing also applies to the waste, to the water so we tried to make it a carbon neutral event. As far as transportation, you will see Dubai Expo 2021 driverless zero-emission electrical vehicles. This will be the heart of the transportation at the event. As far as building, as we are in Dubai and the UAE of the whole, we’ve been implementing green building cause for many years. This event will be built at least 30

per cent of the materials used will be from recyclable. So this is how what we will do making sure the event is really of sustainability.

On top of that, this structure it won't be built just for the event no, this event will be built for the future as the structure will be used for the future events such as museums, such as making amusement, other centres. The Expo also already been announced there will be more than \$100 million euros fund for innovation and partnership. This fund has already been catered for innovation that we can affect and give solution for sustainability.

So we in the UAE and in Dubai, we look forward for Expo 2021 and as we said before, we thank the world for choosing the UAE to host it and we can assure you we'll astonish the whole world with the Expo 2021. Thank you very much."

Prof Koh: "Thank you very much Minister. Minister, I was very struck by one point that you made which is that over 50 per cent required for the construction of Expo 2020 will be derived from solar power and that you government has also set up a \$100 million euro fund for research into sustainability. Thank you, Minister.

The next speaker on my list is the Minister for the Environment of the kingdom of Denmark. Her name is Kirsten Brosbøl. Correct? I'm going to ask her a sweetheart question. You've heard of sweetheart deal, but this is sweetheart question. Minister, your country Denmark has often been said to have the world's happiest people. You have a vibrant market economy and a generous welfare state which many people think are contradictions but you have succeeded in marrying a vibrant market economy and a generous welfare state. Your cities and environment are impeccable and unlike Singaporeans, the Danes seem to prefer to use their bicycle rather than their car and you're making very good progress in promoting clean and renewable energy. So my question to you is what's the secret of your country's success?"

Ms Brosbøl: "You'd like to know that wouldn't you? Thank you very much Professor for posting that question. I can tell you one thing that first of all it wasn't always so and I believe it's a result of brave politicians before me making brave political choices that this is the way we want it to be and I can tell you as well that it didn't happen overnight. It takes time but I think it's fair to say that the Danish achievements within the field of environmental and water sustainability certainly didn't come overnight and it does take a political decision to move it forward and that I believe that Denmark is recognised to be one of the first movers within this field and in the early 70's we did face some serious environmental problems. We had dead fish in the inland seas and our rivers were polluted. We did witness the first global energy crisis in the 70's that was one of the push factors to make this choice to go this way and it gave us some insight on where we were heading and we decided in Denmark to do something about it to change our path and doing that we created the Ministry that I'm now heading, the Ministry of Environment and we started to invest in a more sustainable future and since then many nationalities, many gathered in this room today have come a long way and not least Singapore and I'm quite impressed with your achievements.

So if Denmark holds the title as the first mover, a lot of countries present here today can be proud of being fast movers. It's difficult to point out one specific character or historical incident that is the driving force behind the Danish development of environment protection. I guess that many different dynamics have driven Denmark's strive towards sustainability over the years. Our history is a story of gradual progression. We started with basic environmental protection and pollution prevention and then came more incentive-oriented policies such as water pricing and then in recent years a new change towards more holistic-based planning system with a strong focus on stakeholder dialogue, integrated approaches and international standards.

I'd like to share with you a few fixed points for leadership that I also intend to pursue on driving a successful change towards a higher degree of sustainability. First I think it's very important to make it easy for citizens to act sustainable. This might sound a little bit simple but if we don't understand the needs and the behaviour of our citizens, we will fail as politicians to deliver the results that we strive for. For instance, we can make as many water saving campaigns as we want but it doesn't help anything until the big supermarkets or markets put water saving taps or toilets in the stores so it's accessible to people to make the right green choices and also urban planning can play a strong role in reducing environmental impact because the dense cities can deliver sustainable and cost-efficient solutions for public transport, energy, water, waste and recycling.

The key is of course that we plan in an intelligent way based on the needs and the behaviour of our citizens. Maybe one important reason behind the concern of Danish citizens on environmental protection is that Danes in general we have easy access to nature. The Danish coasts are not blocked by massive hotels or fences, the beaches are not fenced but open to public. I think it's an important driver for sustainable development that Danes have this access to nature and it's become important for Danes to be able to enjoy nature and we've become attached to nature in a way that drives the willingness also to take responsibility to protect it.

Another point I want to make if I have time is that when we have limited resources, we need to think about multipliers. When we want to address one problem, let's think about how we can solve more problems at the same time. I can give you a few examples on this. Due to more frequent and intense rainfall, many Danish cities at the moment are considering how we can create more reservoirs for rainwater and the traditional solution of course is to make expensive underground reservoirs but instead modern and visionary planners and architects have cooperated with local communities to create waterparks or skateboard parks or curved streams with a joint green areas with new opportunities for play and exercise. So we address several problems and solve several problems at the same time.

And the third point just briefly I can mention is the need for integrated public-private partnerships. Another example is that when my Ministry invests US\$2 million in a public-private partnership, we expanded this to US\$10 million with the participation of green tech companies, water utilities and local authorities to create a new bio refinery, a

state of art Danish waste water plant that not only contributes to cleaner environment but also lowers water prices and produce green energy and fertilisers.

So I'm fully convinced that the willingness to invest in water technology like the bio refinery here in Billund rest on a long Danish tradition for strong environmental awareness and also legal protection which results in a stable green market and I believe the last point here I already exceed my time, sorry, is that I believe regulation here is the key. I mean we will not make any progress here if we don't have a strong regulation that politicians make the decision. We need regulation then the market will also follow if they have a stable framework and they know that they security of investment. This will make also the business case that this is possible and without stopping economic progress and economic growth. So let that be my last. Thank you."

Prof Koh: "Thank you, Minister. The next speaker is the Minister of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China Mr Chen Lei. The question I've composed for him is this, China is the most populous country in the world. It is however not well-endowed with water resources. In spite of this, China has made tremendous progress in recent decades in making available safe drinking water both to your urban and rural population in cleaning up your polluted rivers and lakes and in coping with increasingly erratic water patterns. So could you, Minister Chen, share with us some of your most important success stories and some of your greatest challenges? Minister Chen will speak in Chinese then simultaneous interpretation."

(Translation) **Mr Chen:** "I am very happy to be given an opportunity by the chairman to answer questions. I am also very willing to make use of this occasion to introduce to everyone, China's experience and practices for water production. In the world of now, with the sustained increase in world population, increasingly rapid urbanisation, and global climate change, shortage of water has become increasingly prominent. Water-related disasters are very common and water safety is in a severe state. Governments of many countries, the World Water Council, United Nations Secretary-general, the Water and Sanitization Committee and other international organisations are striving towards the thousand year-development goal for water and sanitisation and are appealing for special establishment of water domain as part of the goals of development after 2015.

The Chinese government places strong emphasis on the water problem, speeding up the development of water-saving facilities, strictly executing an all-rounded water resource management system, bringing about sustained increased in development of hydro-powered facilities and actively explore scientifically-proven water management methods. It has in total, solved the problem of safety of drinking water for 4.41 villagers, fulfilled the United Nation's water and Sanitisation thousand-year development goal 6 years in advance, reached water-supplying capacity of 700 billion cubic meters, guaranteed water-utilisation safety, effectively dealt with frequent severe floods, droughts and typhoons, greatly reducing the damage and losses from these disasters, developing 6780000 surface irrigation wells while maintaining a zero increase in water usage from irrigation, has reached a total grain output of 609.1 billion kg. Installed hydropower capacity is close to 3.1 billion—which is 22.4% of the total power generating capacity, 900 billion plus annual power-generation capacity, the equivalent

of conservation standards of 2.91 tonnes, reducing carbon emissions by 8 hundred million tonnes. China constitutes 6% of the world's freshwater resources, 9% of the world's arable land, solving the food problem for 20% of the global world population, supports the rapid socio-economic development, contributing to the global sustainable development.

Ladies and gentlemen, humans are dependent on water and development is possible because of water. "Shaping our Cities, Water and Environment for a Liveable and Sustainable Future" is not only the theme of this year's International Water Week, but also the common vision of all the countries in the world. The Chinese government has proposed to develop a conservation culture and a Beautiful China blueprint. China's citizens are striving hard towards the China Dream, having safe, blue waters and clean landscapes are the reason for the proliferation of the human population and are also the brilliant colours of the China Dream. China shall continue to adhere to water management concept that is people-oriented and promotes harmonious relationship between Man and water, expedite the solving of problems faced in the development process, encourage scientific development to ensure that usage of water resources can be sustained, uphold the principle of water conservation, use water to set the scale of development, urban layout and industrial structure, promote socio-economic development, and the carrying capacities of water resources and water environment. Secondly, we will be committed to changing the water and sanitary conditions, assigning the target of safe drinking water as the mission of all levels of government, further improving guaranteed water supply rates and water quality and providing excess to clean drinking water to rural areas.

Thirdly, we will strengthen the integrated prevention and control system, increase the standards of preventive measures provided for droughts and floods, strengthen management of rivers and lakes, strengthen preventive measures for flood disasters and ensure adequate urban flood prevention drainage and other such constructions. There will also be adequate plans to mitigate disasters and monitoring and early warning systems, emergency rescue and other non-engineering measures to safeguard the lives of people. Number four is to establish a strong agriculture foundation, put in huge efforts to develop irrigation and through developing the scale of effective surface irrigation, promote high-efficiency, water-saving irrigation techniques, provide a comprehensive farmland irrigation and drainage system, improve fields with low yield and other measures to increase the total agricultural production ability and ensure food safety. Number five, conservation will be prioritised, a water-conserving society will be built, vigorous efforts will be made to promote conservation of water for industrial, agricultural and home use and unconventional water resources will be exploited to promote the whole society to move towards economic structure, production methods and consumption patterns that are conducive for preservation of water resources.

Number six is the commitment to protection, development and promotion of a conservation culture, based on respect to and protection of nature, ensuring reasonable water-using environment, building a sponge type-city based on natural accumulation, natural penetration and natural evolution, active development of clean hydropower

energy and promotion of green development. Number seven is emphasis on comprehensive management, implementation of the strictest water resources management system, thinking of the functions of water resource, environment and ecology as a whole, strengthening the control of water resources exploitation, control of effective water use, enforcement of the 3 “flood lines” limit in water function zones, developing of monitoring and early warning systems for carrying capacity of water resources, environment and to strengthen the integrated management of water resources. Number eight is the biochemical reform and innovation, the completion of hydropower mechanism development, exerting the effects of government and the market, increased percentage of hydropower investment in public finance, increased capital injection into the finance sector and the general public, launch of a system where citizens actively conserve water and the system of fines for over usage of water for non-household purposes, development of mechanisms to compensate for damage to aquatic ecosystems, advancement of water trading and establishment of a market for water and the building of a fair and comprehensive water management system.

Ladies and gentlemen, we live on the same earth. Our common bond to water has caused us to be more closely linked. I would like to use this chance to make a few suggestions. The first is to set a water management goal. This year is the crucial year to discuss agendas revolving around the development from 2015 onwards for the international community. We should work together to support the development from 2015 onwards, with the establishment of safety of drinking water, water-use efficiency, water-related disasters prevention, preservation of marine ecosystems and other water goals to lend new impetus to expedite the solving of the global water problems. The second is to implement water management measures. Actions speak louder than words.

Governments of the world should transform promises of political commitment involving sustainable development into concrete actions to draft water management policies and strategies, expand the potential of hydropower, and implement integrated measures for water management to effectively deal with all kinds of water-related challenges. The third is innovative water management technology; encouraging communal water usage in urban and rural areas, flood prevention and disaster mitigation, conservation of water, usage of seawater desalination, reclaimed water usage, research and innovation on areas like restoration of marine ecosystems, widespread use of new techniques, new materials and new facilities. Number four is strengthening cooperation on water management. Government of all countries, international organisations, research organisations, professional bodies and water-related enterprises should make full use of multi and unilateral collaborative platforms to update and exchange technology and hold dialogues on countermeasures to share water management experiences and promote the water management abilities of all countries.

Yesterday afternoon, the whole of yesterday, I had an in-depth discussion with some Singaporean colleagues in water-related fields and studied Singapore’s water management strategies like seawater desalination, water treatment and usage of reclaimed water. I think that with regards to water management philosophy, water management practices, and water management-related innovation and technology,

Singapore is at the forefront of the world in many areas. Singapore has also provided a good success example that is worthy of us to learn from and adopt. Ladies and gentlemen, to deal with water challenges, ensure water safety, and promote sustainable development is not only our common pledge, but also our common responsibility. Let us work together and concentrate our resources to forge ahead towards a better future where Man and water are in harmony. Thank you everyone.”

Prof Koh: “I thank Minister Chen for his very important statement but I’m afraid I can’t give him a prize for punctuality. The next speaker on my list is the Minister for Defence and Urban Development of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Minister my question for you is this, your country Sri Lanka has suffered from a conflict for many years. The country is now at peace and you have embarked on an ambitious programme to achieve its full potential. What are the urban development activities that are being undertaken to facilitate this process both in the commercial capital of Colombo as well as in the rest of the country?”

Mr Rajapaksa: “Thank you Professor Tommy. I think Colombo is a good example where we had faced all these problems we have to talk about a metropolitan city and within a very short period addressing most of these issues from scratch. As you mentioned, Colombo, Sri Lanka was facing terrorism for over 30 years, three decades and in 2009 we were able to bring peace and stability to Sri Lanka and the government was facing the same challenges that any country faces after a conflict like that and the Sri Lankan government was able to address most of these challenges very successfully while developing the infrastructure all over the country; the roads, electricity, irrigation, water all this, I think it’s very important to point out the issues that we address in the capital of Sri Lanka, the commercial capital, Colombo.

Colombo was the capital or the gateway to Sri Lanka for many centuries and it was administered by many colonial administrators since 16th century from the Portuguese, Dutch and the British for nearly 500 years. In early, after the independence immediate, before the independence and after the independence I think early 80’s, Colombo was one of the most attractive, beautiful cities in the east and unfortunately because of the terrorism and also because of the unplanned and the growth of the city, at the end of 2009 and the end of this, once we achieved the peace the government has to address many issues to bring back Colombo into what we expect – a green, liveable, people-friendly city. In fact, among these challenges, we had the same basic issues like providing better quality housing for low-income, under-served settlement. During this period, because of various reasons, people migrated to Colombo specially from the areas of conflict and they came and settled down in strategic reservations of the railway lines, the roads, canals and also in government lands, creating this under-served settlement and addressing this issue was a major challenge that Sri Lanka faced and as of today, we have immediately started moving them into mid-level and high rise apartments where we were able to view better environment for them to live and within these five years, we were able to provide these facilities within the city itself because most of these people were working in the city, so we were not been able to move them out of the city but to provide them with the living within the city. And also because of that, flood control and improvement of draining infrastructure was a very important factor. Because of over the

years because of the growth, haphazard growth in Colombo, most of catchment areas which were there and also the low-lying areas were filled without any control and it had destroyed the catchment areas as well as the biodiversity of these areas and it was very important to bring back these catchment areas and also to address the controlling of floods in Colombo. And several projects were launched to overcome this problem, especially one large project which is financed through a World Bank loan. It's presently improving the city's overall drainage infrastructure. The standard of the primary and secondary canals is being improved and new micro drainage canals are being created and also the lake which is called Beira Lake, which is a large lake like in Singapore at the centre of the city is being dredged and uplifted to ensure superior drainage and also to improve the quality of the water and at the same time, new water retention areas are being created in the outskirts of the city.

Also, it's very important factor the streamline in the city by separating commercial activities from public administration. Since late 1970s, the government had started to shift its ministries and departments from Colombo to the adjacent administrative capital. However, several government buildings and including the headquarters of armed forces still remain inside the commercial capital of Colombo. We were able to shift these administrative buildings to the administrative capital to expedite this programme and release this valuable commercial land for the investment, especially after the peace, many local and foreign investors are coming into Sri Lanka to, and also the tourists so that to cater for these commercial development that we have expedite taking this, freeing this valuable land and using for commercial purpose.

Then of course the basic improvement of the road network and specially within Colombo city and also improving the pavements for the use of pedestrian in Colombo. As many other capitals I suppose, 80 per cent of the people who are coming into the city or living in the city or using the city are using public transport. So it's very important to improve the pavements for the pedestrian and also the improving of public facilities such as the market places, bus stalls, the toilets etcetera and a very important thing, improving garbage disposal and solid waste management. We face this issue of dumping of the garbage without any control and we have introduced very strict regulations on separation, recycling and disposal of the garbage and also we have embarked on a very challenging project again with the World Bank to create a sanitary dumping site for the garbage.

At the same time, we have developed parks and more public and open spaces for people to use and enjoy and it's a very popular project where many people are using this more public spaces today. At the same time, improving, Colombo has many heritage buildings over the years which were in a bad situation but after recently we have started renovating these heritage buildings and preserving the old architecture. These are Dutch and Portuguese architecture, British architectural buildings and using for commercial purposes and within the last five years, we were able to bring back Colombo city back to its old situation of Colombo to become a very green, people-friendly and environmentally-friendly for the people to live. Thank you very much."

Prof Koh: “Thank you very much Minister and we wish your country success in its reconstruction from this very difficult conflict. The next speaker, the very honourable Greg Clark, the Minister of State for Cabinet office in-charge of cities and constitution of the United Kingdom. Minister, in your role you look into city policy as well as local growth. In many parts of the world, new cities are being built but in the United Kingdom, the first country to industrialise, there is a legacy of big, old cities. Can you share with us how they and other old cities around the world can be competitive with the new and young cities.”

Mr Clark: “Thank you, Chairman. Yes I will and I’m conscious that in the audience we have many old cities and many new cities and it’s been a great opportunity to share perspectives. I think one of the things that has come out of the summit so far that pertains to this is that there’s a real shift in the thinking about cities, certainly by national governments, from being places that are thought of as places of social problems to increasingly places of economic opportunity and that has been I think very helpful for the agenda that we’re all working and I think with the global focus on growth coming out of the financial crisis, the contribution that cities can make and indeed have to make to growth has really changed the focus that is being brought to bare. What I would say is drawing on some research that I have carried out through my work in the UK with my friend Greg Clark, also called Greg Clark who’s in the front row, we’ve published a paper during the, for the Centre for London and the global cities initiative which is available on the Centre for London website but some of the principles that we identified I think do address this question of how old cities can play their part in future growth. I think the first thing to say is to recognise the value of age as was apparent in the Mayor’s Forum yesterday, cities are now competing with each other for recognition and for attention and being old, usually is associated with a character and a recognition that as something very valuable to be built on. So I think it’s very important as the mayor of Bandung was saying yesterday to build up those strengths and those differences.

Let me give you an example. In the UK we have city of Liverpool. Liverpool by population is now only the 589th biggest city in the world, way down there but because of its history and its recognition, I dare say probably everyone in this room has heard of Liverpool perhaps in a way that.”

Prof Koh: “Maybe because of the football team you know.”

Mr Clark: “Of course the football team, perhaps even The Beatles?”

Prof Koh: “And The Beatles.”

Mr Clark: “Perhaps even other aspects in history but these things come together in the reputation of a city, that is a big asset I think for old cities and every old city has that and something that they have reason to be proud of and to draw to people’s attention and should be built on.

So that's the first thing, I think to recognise and to build on the advantages of history. I think the second aspect is not however to be in prison by the past. An essential characteristic of cities is that they are dynamic places, that they are places of change, it's why people come to cities in the first place. So cities with a heritage mustn't be imprisoned by that past. Sometimes people compare cities to living organisms and it is true that there's a lot of that analogy that I think applies to cities but one point of difference is that generally speaking, the bigger the organism, the slower the metabolism and that has to be opposite for cities. The heart should beat faster in cities. A big city should be pulsating with life, it should be very vibrant. An elephant has a slower heartbeat than a mouse but a city should have a very fast heartbeat and so it's very important as an object of policy that I think city leaders should make sure they push through the constraints that the past might impose to make sure that they still have that pace and if you look at London, recent visitors to London will know that if you picture the London skyline, you can probably think of Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, perhaps the Tower of London, St Paul's Cathedral but actually now you can actually picture The Shard or the London Eye or the refurbished Tate Modern.

These are buildings or refurbished buildings of the last 15 years that have taken their place in a history skyline and here in the centre that we speak in in Singapore, Marina Bay Sands has already become an iconic image of Singapore. So that capacity to change I think is important. The third thing that I would say is that cities need to reflect the true economic geography that comports the city and sometimes that's changed over the years. The historic boundaries of the city may not be how the city truly operates today.

Mayor of Malmo earlier described the importance of the city to its hinterland. In the United Kingdom, Manchester, the city of Manchester has actually been at 10 different municipalities but voluntarily they've come together and to, and created an entity called Greater Manchester, that speaks together, acts together and projects itself together. I know through conversations we've had with the Mayor of Auckland for example and in Helsinki and other places around the world. I think Ángel Gurría earlier on referred to the consolidation of cities as I think a necessary condition for success.

Connections between cities, very important. The old model of world cities defending themselves against intruders is very much the past left in medieval times. We know that there is this paradox that cities are increasingly competitive with each other but increasingly need to collaborate with each other and the Minister said in the earlier session, perhaps one of the best examples of this, is the proposed connection, the high speed train line between KL and Singapore, cities that are indubitably competitors but clearly collaborators as well and in the UK we are building high speed train links between London and our great cities across the country.

And finally, leadership. Just as nations can be well led or poorly led, a concentration on the cities, a revival of the importance of cities as a contribution to growth, inevitably I think throws a spotlight on city leadership. Leaders of cities can make a huge difference and I think need to be increasingly assertive not least because over the previous century not just in the United Kingdom but around the world, national governments have often

usurped a lot of the power and autonomy that cities used to have in the past and in my view, need to take back.

So I think that vigorous local leadership is very important. I was interested that Helen Clark referred to her time as Prime Minister of New Zealand, introducing a general power of competence for local government. My government has just done that in the last three years in the UK. I think this reflects a global zeitgeist that empowering cities to do things their way is very much in the national interest as well as the local interest but I think paradoxically that requires a deliberate project to make that so. It won't just happen by accident.

One of the reasons that David Cameron, my Prime Minister created my post of Minister for Cities is to drive the machinery of national government to give power away, to invest power and resources into cities and counties so that they can make their contribution to national growth. So I think the message and the lesson for cities around the world that have a history and have traditions associated with them is that they need not be usurped by the new cities that are emerging almost from scratch, that there is a potential for revitalisation and renewal and they can take their place as being the motors of growth in every country and for the world. Thank you very much."

Prof Koh: "Thank you, Minister. That was a very interesting reply. The final speaker is Mr Peter Bakker, the President of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. If my question for the Danish Minister is a sweetheart question, I'm going to ask Mr Bakker a very provocative question and I've already asked him for his forgiveness in advance for asking him a provocative question. My question is this, Mr Bakker, when Asians look at the environment, they often see the negative consequences of the activities of business and industry. For example, they see factories that's charging their untreated waste into our rivers and lakes, they see power plants, factories, vehicles, polluting the air, towns and cities, they see companies destroying our forest and nature reserves, they see other companies using fire to clear land for plantation, they see other companies contaminating our food and beverage in a search for higher and higher profits. So my question to you is on balance, is business a good, a force for good or for evil?"

Mr Bakker: "Are you done Mr Chairman? Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen for the opportunity. After seeing the provocative question, I wasn't so sure it was a right idea to be on this panel. It's not true that after university all the bad people go to business and all the good people go to government. It's not true, let me assure you. I think your question is one a serious note, is a reflection of low levels of trust. If you look into the Edelman Trust barometer that's published each year at the World Economic Forum, it's true that over the last few years trust in business has been declining. Trust in CEOs has actually been declining even more. There are some bad news for some of you, trusting governments isn't doing too well either and of course our host country Singapore is the great exception because you're amongst the most trust institutions in the world.

To me it's very simple. When there is a deficit of trust, and I agree there is a deficit, there's only two ways to overcome it. The first one is to commit yourself to real action, to implement solutions that are aligned towards the values of societies. The second action you need to put in place is you need to be radically transparent about what it is you're doing about it and you need to be consistent in the transparency, give the good news, give the bad news.

So, as the President of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, you will not be surprised that I believe business is a force for good. I have a number of reasons to back that up. Firstly, there is a new generation of leaders is emerging. The young global leaders are here in the room and you can see it. They all know that business cannot succeed in a society that fails. CSR is dead, CSR is over. Businesses that want to lead their industries, that want to make a real impact on their customers understand that they need to integrate sustainability into every decision they make.

Solutions are now fact-based, and I'll talk a bit about solutions in a minute, and we need to drive solutions to scale. There are too many great stories out there who die in smallness. We need to start scaling stuff up. Three ways to scale, first, we need to innovate. Secondly, we need to look at valuation. Are we giving the right incentives to business and to other parts in society for them to act as a good force and thirdly, we need to work and learn to collaborate.

So let me talk a bit about business solutions. In WBSCD, a group of 200 leading global companies and 35,000 national companies worldwide, we've created a thing called Action 2020. We've worked with 800 scientists over the last two years in the world to get to a list of priorities of sustainability issues. For eight of the nine priorities that were chosen, five natural capital, four social capital, we have now developed a whole series of business solutions that are scalable. Let me give you some examples because I'm waffling but there are three summits being opened here in this plenary on cities.

How can we turn cities into zero-emitting cities? How can we get maximum energy efficiency in buildings and what is sustainable mobility all about? If we look at water, how can business eliminate untreated waste water from its operations but also to the point that Tommy made this morning, what can business do to contribute to sanitation, through community hubs and poor areas and in the environment, there's a whole broad range of solutions dealing with climate change, with eco-systems and with land use but let me focus on cities in my last minute.

If we don't make cities sustainable, the world won't be sustainable. It's not only the fact 70 per cent of the population will be in cities a few decades out, cities today emit 75 per cent of the emissions, use 75 per cent of the materials on the planet. So we must get cities to become sustainable. The great news is there is few levels of politics so powerful as mayors of cities. That's where action is possible and where action gets traction, so what we have done over the last two years is run a project called Urban Infrastructure Initiative. Here's some marketing for you, it's all not-for-profit. So don't worry, you can download it for free on the internet. Fourteen global cities work with 10 major, 14 major

companies work with 10 cities around the world in the early design phase of how do you make a city sustainable and that has completely changed the design in those cities. It's become more sustainable, more efficient, more liveable as a result. Those are the collaborations that I think we should all be striving for and not just talk about them but really implement them.

So Mr Chairman, yes I think business will be a force for good. There are enormous opportunities for business in the transformation that the world needs to make to become sustainable. The only thing and that's why we should stop asking each other too provocative a question, we must learn to collaborate together. Only then will we drive the scale that we need. Thank you."

Prof Koh: "I thank Peter. Peter I think you've convinced all of us that you are a force for good and the Business Council for Sustainable Development is a force for good. I think a very important point if the CSR is not enough and that business should integrate sustainability into its corporate policy. It's now 12.15 but we must have a Q&A session, so let's take five questions. You can put up your hands and send them with your mobile device. Joy, please help me. Maybe let's start with a woman, let's start with a woman here and then you and then I see another lady there and you, four, one more at the back. Okay five, let's have five questions. You first."

Q: "I am Sahana Singh, editor of Asian Water Magazine and today morning Minister Khaw spoke about how it's important to keep politics honest. He said that was a very major ingredient needed for success and I wanted to ask all the ministers present here whether they could share some of the steps, some specific steps that have been taken by their governments to keep politics honest as Minister Khaw said to keep the integrity of public services intact. What steps have been taken by your governments and what steps need to be taken by those that are not doing very well in that area?"

Prof Koh: "Sahana's question is how do we have honest politics, maybe you shouldn't ask politicians that question you know?"

Q: "No but there are some honest politicians here I believe, so maybe they can."

Prof Koh: "Alright, second question please."

Q: "Thank you, thank you. My name is Narinder Nayar. I'm Chairman of Bombay First. I've a question for the Minister from Netherlands. Madam Minister, your country has done wonderful work on reclamation and it's a true example there. I come from Bombay city which is on the coast and I realise we've got to improve the quality of life of our citizens. We have to build more housing, we need more land and therefore more reclamation but there's a strong lobby against reclamation. People say reclamation not a good thing. So how did you fight the lobby of anti-reclamation? And one more question if I may take is what would be your advice for a city like Bombay where Lord Stern Report, everybody reports has said that with the temperature rising, the sea level rising, a city like Bombay, a city like Dhaka are going to be affected. What would be your advice for a

city like Bombay, what proactive steps should we be taking to prevent this disaster if and ever it takes place? Thank you very much.”

Prof Koh: “Thank you for two very good questions. Third, wait wait, slowly. Who’s next?”

Q: “My name is Eleanor Allen. I’m the Global Director of Water for ARCADIS. I have a question for Minister Brosbøl. Taking into account the decades of work and knowledge we’ve gained about our assets and water, waste water, and the liabilities of these assets, if we think about cities of the future, do we need to do something differently today knowing we’ll have these assets in 50 years?”

Prof Koh: “Okay, fourth question.”

Q: “Hi, my name is Nivedita from Vienna and my question is to Mr Bakker, how do you propose to increase trust because if you talk to businesses about sustainability, many of them don’t listen, don’t want to know, don’t want to change, especially in the US or India. So how do you increase trust?”

Prof Koh: “Thank you, one more question. Yes, please.”

Q: “Hi, this is Stefan Schurig from the World Future Council. I think we’ve heard excellent stories about what’s actually happening on the ground in particular regions of the world and I think these are great success stories. However, we’ve also heard from the note, from the Secretary-General that the world in general is going against what we need to achieve. We’re still having massive impact of climate change. So my question is actually when seeing all these success stories but globally going into the wrong directions still, what do you think is the main or the main important rate-limiting factor for progress from your experience, what is the main, the one thing that we really need to pursue to accelerate our progress?”

Prof Koh: “Okay, what is the most important one thing that you’d like to change. That’s the question. So I think let’s have some answers. There were two questions addressed directly to you Melanie, would you like to answer those two questions?”

Ms Haegen: “Yes, I got two questions. One on the lobby on reclamation.”

Prof Koh: “Yeah how do you overcome the anti-land reclamation lobby in Bombay, not in your country. And secondly what advice for other low-lying cities like Bombay and Dhaka and others.”

Ms Haegen: “In the Netherlands, there’s not anti lobby against reclamation because we created our land during the past centuries. There’s a joke they say that god created the world and the Dutch created their own lands and this is why there is not much of opposition against land reclamation and the last project we did was two three years ago, a project that over land reclamation to help or Port of Rotterdam become bigger. I don’t

know why there's an anti lobby in Bombay against land reclamation but we can show the people who are worried about this land reclamation how you can do it in an environmental good way because the last reclamation we did was building with nature so we took into account the environmental effects of land reclamation. We took into account the sea level rise so we made it in such a way that it is resilient for the future.

So I have to know specifically where the anti lobby is, what the anti lobby is against to help you turn their views on this and for the bigger part, you asked me what could I advise Bombay for the future looking at climate changes. Well it's very important for all cities, most cities in the world are in low-lying areas, in delta areas, it's very important for Bombay and other cities to prepare on future climate change. So prepare for sea level rising, prepare for more floodings from the rivers, prepare for subsistence because what you see when cities are growing and urbanisation is going very very fast, people are subtracting illegal ground water because there's not enough water supply. So if you want to look at the future, you shouldn't only look at protecting yourself with technical systems, but also take care of water supply, take care of good funding because it's a quest that takes a long time and takes a lot of governments before you are ready. So you need long-term funding, you need long-term organisation, not only technical solutions but total solution."

Prof Koh: "Thank you, thank you. I will ask Helen about the question about how do you keep politicians honest."

Ms Clark: "Thank you, Tommy. Good question and I think the example has to be set from the top that's why the example of Singapore is a very compelling one because when independent Singapore started out from the leadership level down, they took a very very strong position on corruption. They say they don't want this in our country and for our public service, we want to be a clean country in terms of values and ethics. So that's one very important step.

In most societies you look to strong institutions to uphold those values. That needs to be based on a strong and independent police force, prosecution service, judiciary, sometimes specific institutions, integrity instructions like anti-corruption bodies etcetera. Also a parliament that's on the case, which scrutinises the way in which public resources are being used as helpful and the role of civil society in the media can be very very helpful in combating corruption. So a range of things come together to really make for clean and honest societies.

Tommy, if I can take one minute, the last question was what to be done to really make sustainable development move and my answer is political will. Leaders have got to take on big vested interests and get things done differently. Not easy, but again it comes back to leadership and political will."

Prof Koh: "Thank you very much, Helen. There was a question for Peter Bakker. So how do you win the trust of the people?"

Mr Bakker: “Yeah like I tried to say in my opening remarks, when trust is in deficit, there’s only two things that you can do. Be very consistent in the actions that you put in place and be radically transparent about what it is that those actions are and what they achieve. I haven’t said much on radical transparency. Let’s go there. Business is moving fast. You may have heard of concepts like DRI (Directly Responsible Individual), SASBI (Statistical Analysis System Business Intelligence), integrated reporting. The transparency, the disclosure in business is being wracked up as we speak and progressive leaders are implementing that and will become radically transparent about what their financial, their environmental and their social or societal impacts are. The progressive companies of the world will show the rest of the companies how this will be done. Regulation will force it upon the rest.

So it’s absolutely clear if you want to make the world sustainable, regulation has a role to play and that’s another reason why collaboration between private sector and public sector where direct relations is being set, is so crucial.”

Prof Koh: “Thank you, Peter. There was a question for the Ambassador of Denmark, Kirsten can you answer the question?”

Ms Brosbøl: “As I heard the question, it was about cities of the future, how, what can we do differently.”

Prof Koh: “Her microphone is not on, can you turn on the microphone? Try again.”

Ms Brosbøl: “I’ll try again, it’s working. As I understood the question, it’s about how do we create cities of the future, anything we can do differently from today and I mentioned a few examples in my introductory remarks about how we have created through public-private partnerships, some new and innovative solutions and I think first of all, of course it takes local authorities, local politicians who are willing to make the decision to move forward and then we need to create partnerships with citizens and with businesses to create these new solutions that can solve a multitude of problems at the same time. I mentioned how we planned for climate change adaptation and create instead of just doing it the normal way to get, create reservoirs underground, we create new waterparks at level and also to create new green areas for the citizens to enjoy where they live. This is one example.

Another example is the waste water management where we can see through the partnership with private businesses how we can create a new way of handling waste water and at the same time utilising the waste from that to create new energy and fertiliser which is also one example of how you can through these innovative partnership with businesses, create new solutions for the future. So we have examples, we have the technology. It takes brave decisions and also to come back to my point about regulation, I think also what we need to do is make long-term decisions that makes a stable investment environment for businesses so they can see what is the direction, where can we put our investments to make sure that we can also have a return from that investment.”

Prof Koh: “Thank you, Kirsten. I want to conclude this session by asking everyone to answer the same question. The question is what is the one big change or one big idea you have or advocates that will move the world towards a sustainable future, towards a future in which the people of the world will live in harmony with nature? And I give each of you 30 seconds to answer the question. I begin with, in reverse order so we start with Peter and then Greg Clark and then Minister Rajapaksa. Peter, quick answer. One big idea.”

Mr Bakker: “So world astronauts in the spaceship and the spaceship is in trouble. Let’s stop thinking about divisions for government, business, citizens. We’re all astronauts, we need to save the spaceship, we need to move forward. So collaboration and in this case collaboration as the city level is a crucial platform to build solutions.”

Prof Koh: “Thank you. Greg Clark?”

Mr Clark: “I draw an optimism from the trends in population towards cities because at their best, cities can be extremely sustainable and can make a big impact in terms of emissions, in terms of some of the aspects of unsustainability. So I think there is optimism in our subject matter, but I think in advancing the agenda, people are motivated by different concerns and different worries and fiscal movements and forces for change can be at their strongest when they bring people together from different motivations and I think when it comes to sustainability, to bring together people who are passionate about sustainability per se, with those people who for example are interested and concerned about energy security, those others concerned about cost of living.”

Prof Koh: “Sorry, you’ve got to make it shorter. So what’s your 30 second answer?”

Mr Clark: “Bringing together the different motivations and strengths into a single cause.”

Prof Koh: “Okay, Minister Rajapaksa.”

Mr Rajapaksa: “It’s the capacity building you were talking about, empowering the local governments, smaller level with the capacity building at that level is very important.”

Prof Koh: “Thank you, Minister Chen Lei, what is the one big change or idea you want to see?”

(Translation) **Mr Chen:** “I feel that the government’s influence, public participation, law, public policy, funds and innovations should be utilised to realise the goals of sustainable development. The effects of publicity and discussion are also very important.”

Prof Koh: “Hao, xie xie. Kirsten.”

Ms Brosbøl: “Yeah as I mentioned before I think overall brave political decisions and a strong regulation framework to make stable investment environments for businesses so that we can also make business case out of sustainability, that this is the way forward, also to create competitive economy. We can combine economic growth with sustainable environmental development.”

Prof Koh: “Thank you, Minister Rashid.”

Dr Rashid: “Well I can’t summarise it in a few points. We need, the world needs visionary leadership, also we need commitment of all the stakeholders, global cooperation is very viable but at the end as we all will say, we have to think globally but act locally.”

Prof Koh: “Thank you, Melanie?”

Ms Haegen: “It’s all about mindset, sustainability must be firm, innovation must be our goal and we should all be in the lead. Government cities and businesses together.”

Prof Koh: “Thank you, Helen last wise word.”

Ms Clark: “I think people are motivated by having a world that’s fit for their children and grandchildren to live in so the idea of seeking a better balance between human progress and looking out for the environment has been made a compelling one.”

Prof Koh: “Thank you, now it’s time for the poll. Let’s put on the screen the four questions that need you to vote upon. So can we go back to the first one, sorry. When do you think our vision that all the people of the world will have access to safe drinking water and modern sanitation can be realised? 31 per cent said in 2030. 39 per cent said 2050 and 28 per cent said never. So next question do you think our goal to limit the temperature rise by two degrees centigrade can be achieved and 79 per cent said no. Third question, is our vision of cities with our slums and homeless people achievable? 58 per cent said yes and 41 per cent said no. The last question, urbanisation is an irresistible trend in this century. Will our towns and cities be liveable and sustainable or whether they’ll be polluted, unhealthy and dysfunctional. I’m very happy with this, 70 per cent said they will be liveable and sustainable and I think on that happy note, we can adjourn for lunch.”

Emcee: “Thank you so much Professor Koh and our distinguished panel. Ladies and gentlemen, please give our distinguished panel a big round of applause and I do believe right now we would like to invite all our panellists to step forward in front of the table for a group photo. All our photographers are ready. We’ll give you some time to make your way to the front of the table, ladies and gentlemen and thank you to everyone in the audience for taking part in our polling questions and also for putting forward your questions during the Q&A session and really made it very very lively indeed. So we have come to the end of the opening plenary and if you have used any of the interpretation

headsets, please remember to return them at the collection counter at the front of the foyer before leaving this floor at level 5.

Lunch will be served at the Cassia, the Hibiscus and the Heliconia rooms which is located at level 3 and for the Water Leaders Summit delegates, your lunch will be served at level 4, at the Rosalie room, 4601B. So that's once again for the Water Leaders delegates, your lunch will be served at level 4, the Rosalie room 4601B and for the rest of our invited guests, lunch will be served at level 3 at the Cassia, Hibiscus and the Heliconia rooms. Now we do have some very interesting sessions lined up for you this afternoon. The lectures by the Lee Kuan Yew World City and Water Prize 2014 laureates will commence at 1.30pm sharp in this same ballroom. We also have the Clean Environment Leaders Plenary session that will commence at 3.30pm this afternoon at the Orchid room 4201B located at level 4. And again we'd like to remind everyone if you have used any of the interpretation headsets, to please return them at the collection counter at the front of the foyer before leaving this floor, level 5. Thank you so much ladies and gentlemen and enjoy your lunch."

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