



United Nations

HABITAT III
SIDE EVENT REPORT

Submitted by Lead Organization	
Name of the lead organization	United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability
City and country where the lead organization is based	Tokyo, Japan
Title of the event	Resilience within Water Systems: The Quest for Strategies and Innovations in the Anthropocene
Date	10/17/2016
Room number	R12
List of partner organizations	University of Tokyo (Tokyo, Japan)
Number of attendees	61-80
Percentage of women participating	41-50%



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<p>Background information on the event (themes, issues, context).</p>	<p>Due to the recent rapid urbanization combined with a high rate of economic development, cities are experiencing degradation and depletion of natural resources, including water and related ecosystem services. Moreover, extreme weather events due to climate change are leading to increased incidents of water shortages, flooding, heat stress and disease outbreaks. Consequently, ecosystems within and around cities are reaching the limit of their capacity to withstand the anthropogenic changes in the biophysical processes of the Earth. This suggests an urgent need for cities to adopt innovative and creative approaches to sustainable development and resilience building. This is especially true in relation to the water related challenges that urban areas face in the Anthropocene: challenges which point to a clear need to develop new strategies and innovations to curb degradation of the water environment and to build resilient water systems. A number of cities are investing in measures designed to strengthen water resilience and reduce the degradation of water environments. However, without an understanding of the medium to long-term risks and impacts of these measures, short-term resilience measures could have unintended consequences. Moreover, while policy debates on resilience often focus on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, they often lack a specific reference to water issues in the urban environment. This side event represents an opportunity to exchange views and experience on issues pertaining to water resiliency in urban environments. The side event will explore science-based concepts and approaches related to strengthening resilience in the context of the urban water environment with the aim of generating specific proposals or ideas leading to action oriented results. The discussion will consist of panel presentations by leading scientists to be followed by an interactive dialogue among all event participants.</p>
<p>Concise summary of the event proceedings, including key points discussed</p>	<p>The side event discussed systems and science-based approaches to contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing in particular on Goals 6 (clean water & sanitation), 11 (sustainable cities & communities) and 13 (climate action), as well as the New Urban Agenda to be adopted at HABITAT III. Speakers exchanged views and experience on the multi-functionality of water in building urban resilience and sustainability. Participants explored the science-based approaches, strategies and innovations to better equip policymakers and city practitioners for straitening resilience in the context of the urban water environment.</p>



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<p>Recommendations that emerged from these discussions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The science-based approaches and strategies should reflect latest developments and innovations, be integrative, adaptive to current conditions, technologically sound and financially feasible. • Urban institution needs to be re-structured in order to allow a systems approach to coordinate plurality, networks of interlocking arrangements that enhance resilience • Stronger science-policy linkages help cities to become resilient and sustainable. • Understanding multi-functionality of water in cities is important to respond challenges of urban water environment.
<p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 1st speaker at your event.</p>	<p>Dr. Kazuhiko Takeuchi (Mr), Japan, Professor, University of Tokyo</p>
<p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 2nd speaker at your event.</p>	<p>Dr. Thomas Elmqvist (Mr), Sweden, Professor, Stockholm Resilience Centre</p>
<p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 3rd speaker at your event.</p>	<p>Dr. Xuemei Bai (Ms), China, Professor, Australian National University</p>
<p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 4th speaker at your event.</p>	<p>Dr. Kensuke Fukushi (Mr), Japan, Professor, University of Tokyo</p>
<p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 5th speaker at your event.</p>	<p>Dr. Shokhrukh-Mirzo Jalilov (Mr), Uzbekistan, Postdoctoral Fellow, United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability</p>
<p>Dissemination of the outcomes of your event?</p>	<p>We will develop a “policy brief” based on the recommendations that are generated at the event.</p>