

PRESS RELEASE

THE 24TH ASEAN WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE CITIES & RELATED MEETINGS

Tuesday, 23 June 2026

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 23 JUNE – Brunei Darussalam through the Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation, Ministry of Development hosted the 24th ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC) and Related Meetings on 23 – 24 June 2026 at J Hotel, Kiulap, Bandar Seri Begawan.

The two-day event gathered officials from across all ASEAN Member States, alongside the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN dialogue and development partners. The meeting served as an important platform to review regional progress, exchange innovative policy ideas and technical expertise, and strategise actionable pathways toward building environmentally sustainable, liveable and resilient ASEAN cities.

In her welcoming remarks, Dayang Hajah Martinah binti Haji Tamit, Director of Environment, Parks and Recreation, in her capacity as Vice Chair of the AWGESC, stated that Brunei Darussalam as the host country recognises ASEAN cities are both the engines of regional growth and the heart of its communities. She noted that cities face increasingly complex challenges driven by rapid urbanisation, climate change, waste generation, air pollution, and resource scarcity. However, she emphasised that navigating these challenges also presents valuable opportunities for innovation deeper collaboration, and a stronger sense of regional solidarity.

The meeting commenced on the first day with updates on the projects supported by ASEAN dialogue and development partners. Key discussions focused on initiatives under the ASEAN-ROK Clean Air for Sustainable ASEAN (CASA) and ASEAN-ROK Integrated Municipal Solid Waste Management (IMSWM) frameworks. On the second day, discussions transitioned to reviewing the implementation progress of the AWGESC Action Plan 2016 – 2025.

The meeting was attended in person by delegations from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, alongside the ASEAN Secretariat. They were joined by representatives from dialogues and development partners, including the ROK Mission to ASEAN, Clean Air Asia, Seoul National University, ASEAN-Korea Programme Management Team (AKPMT), Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), GIZ and Nanyang Technological University (NTU). Delegations from Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam, as well as development partners from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), participated virtually.

-2-

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of ASEAN's commitment to strengthening regional cooperation in promoting environmentally sustainable cities and enhancing urban resilience. Cambodia will host the 25th ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities and Related meetings, which will convene in 2027.

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