



Dear Valued Members and Partners,

Namaste!

I am glad to meet you in person in our Executive Bureau Meeting 2023 in Nepal. It is my pleasure to welcome you, city leaders, to our home and to host the First Session of UCLG ASPAC Statutory Meeting.

I am glad this meeting is about facilitating cooperation and learning among city members and empowering them to make their cities resilient and sustainable. Throughout my leadership as the President of this organisation, I can say that cooperation is a magic word. By cooperating, cities are enabled in various ways. Their knowledge is enriched, their skill is upgraded, and their network is expanded. Resilience and sustainability will also be needed by cities in facing challenges ahead. Encouraging city cooperation to enhance those two areas is like making pathways for cities and supporting their preparation. I believe the timing is also perfect because we are preparing for our Congress this year. Galvanising the cooperation will fuel the journey.

I am also glad that the discussion is organised in Nepal. This first session of Statutory Meeting is unique because this meeting will also invite you to the three beautiful and historic cities in Nepal: Kathmandu, Lalitpur, and Dhulikhel. The three cities along with the umbrella organisation of municipalities in Nepal, Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN) are ready to welcome you and widely open the opportunity to collaborate further with your city.

I really hope that the dialogues we have and the hospitality we prepare will leave you with good memory and make you look forward to your next visit to our cities and country. Finally, please have a fruitful dialogue and enjoy the beauty of Nepal.

Mayor Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha
President, UCLG ASPAC
President, Municipal Association of Nepal
(until December 21, 2022)
Mayor, Dhulikhel Municipality



Dear readers,

I enthusiastically welcome year 2023 with you all, city and local government leaders. As we open this year with dialogues about cooperation, we are also moving towards the biggest gathering of our organisation, the 9th UCLG ASPAC Congress that will take place in Yiwu.

This year, we will start implementing the Integrated Urban Climate Action for Low-Carbon and Resilient Cities (Urban-Act) programme. Through this, we will contribute in enhancing vertical integration and enabling conditions for planning and implementation of evidence-based and inclusive urban climate action in line with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This programme addition will strengthen our commitment to support cities and local governments in achieving their climate ambition through the Climate Resilience and Inclusive Cities (CRIC) programme and Global Covenant of Mayors Southeast Asia project, both funded by the European Union. We will also support cities and regions in SDGs localisation as well as in our sub-regional platform, the ASEAN Mayors Forum 2023.

Year 2023 is the year of refreshment. As an organisation, we will not only welcome a new leadership, but will also move to greater path to enhance our roles in supporting local governments. We can only do it through collaboration; joining hands towards the future city that we all aspire: resilient and sustainable. Therefore, I invite all leaders and partners to actively participate, and take the opportunities ahead. Our support will become fruitful with the commitment of local government setting the eye towards the future city they would like to see.

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi
Secretary General, UCLG ASPAC

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Get to Know Nepal Better: Kathmandu, Dhulikhel, Lalitpur



UCLG ASPAC Executive Bureau Meeting 2023 (first session) is conducted in Nepal. Hosted by Kathmandu, city of Dhulikhel and Lalitpur also join to ensure all participants get the best out of their visit to this country and to explore further opportunities. Below we share you some of them!

Kathmandu



- The city was originally called Kantipur, meaning “city of glory.” But, it is also known as the city of temples.
- Kathmandu is home to seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites and numerous world heritage sites, including Durbar Square, the Swayambhunath Temple, and the Boudhanath Stupa.
- The most famous temple in Kathmandu is the Pashupatinath Temple, a Hindu shrine dedicated to Lord Pashupatinath.

- The famous river in Kathmandu valley is the Bagmati River and it is considered sacred by Hindus.
- The city has a vibrant nightlife and is known for its many bars and clubs.
- Kathmandu is the gateway to tourism in Nepal and a popular destination for mountaineers, trekkers, and adventure seekers.
- Kathmandu is known for its many street food vendors, which offer a variety of Nepalese and Tibetan dishes. The city is a popular destination for shopping, with a wide variety of goods available, including traditional Nepalese handicrafts and Tibetan artifacts.
- Kathmandu Valley is also home to some educational institutions, including Tribhuvan University, which is the oldest and largest university in Nepal.

Dhulikhel



- Dhulikhel is a melting pot of a variety of communities such as the Newars, Brahmins, Chhetris, Tamangs and Dalits in Nepal.
- More than 20 Himalayan peaks, including Mt. Annapurna (8,091m), Mt. Ganesh Himal (7,429m), Mt. Langtang (7,234m), Mt. Phuribichyachu (6,637m), Mt. Gaurishanker (7,134m), Mt. Lhotse (8,516m) can be observed from different points of the city.
- The city has now become a health and education tourist destination because of the Kathmandu University and the Dhulikhel Hospital.

Lalitpur



- Lalitpur is one of the three major cities in the Kathmandu Valley. Lalitpur Metropolitan City is Nepal’s third largest city.
- Lalitpur, also known as Patan, is best known for its rich cultural heritage, particularly its tradition of arts and crafts, is also home to the first museum in Nepal, the Patan Museum.
- Patan, the oldest city in the Kathmandu Valley, has been a centre of commerce since the first time it was founded.
- The city of Lalitpur is known for its artistic diversity.

Towards Resilient and Sustainable Cities

What Resilience Is

City resilience is described as the capacity of cities to function, so that people living and working in cities – particularly the poor and vulnerable – survive and thrive no matter what stresses or shocks they encounter (City Resilience Index Brochure).

Why It Gains Importance

Cities have always been facing risks, such as resource shortages, environmental degradation, natural hazards, and many others. Besides, there are global pressures at city level that raises the risks, such as climate change, disease pandemics, economic fluctuations, and terrorism. When all of these happen, we are also faced with the fact that more and more people are to live in urban area, raising the challenge to the next level.

City Resilience Index = Articulating Urban Resilience, Putting them in a Measurable Way

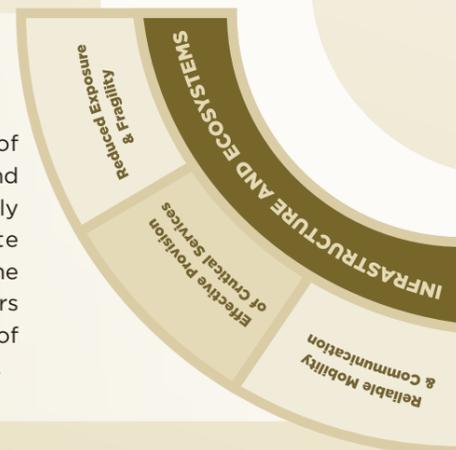
Leadership and Strategy

This aspect is predicated by knowledge. It sees the effectiveness of city leadership, urban management, reflected by inclusive governance involving government, business, civil society, and evidence-based decision-making. It also provides access to information and education and develops in an integrated way. Covered under this aspect are effective leadership and management, empowered stakeholders, and integrated development planning.



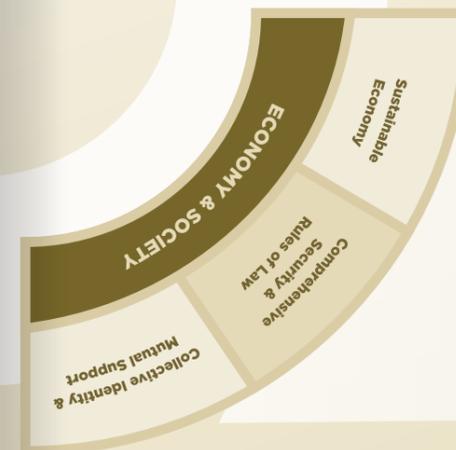
Infrastructure and Ecosystems

This aspect relates to place, covering the quality of infrastructure and ecosystems that protect, provide, and connect people. Continuity of critical services, particularly water supply, power distribution, and solid waste management, and transportation systems which enable the flow of goods, services, people, and information. It covers reduced exposures and fragility, effective provision of critical services, and reliable mobility and communications.



Health and Well-being

This dimension focuses on people: It focuses on the extent to which the city enables everyone to meet their basic needs (food, water, shelter), particularly in the time of crisis. Covered under this dimension are minimal urban vulnerability, diverse livelihoods and employment, and effective safeguards to human health and life.



Economy and Society

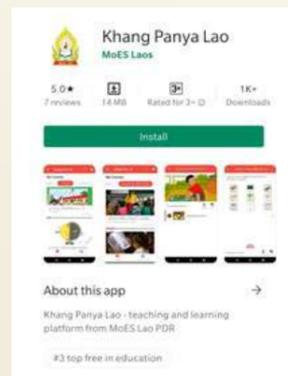
It relates to the organisation of cities; how social and economic systems enable urban populations to live peacefully and act collectively. Included in this dimension are the collective identity and mutual support, comprehensive security and rule of law, as well as sustainable economy.

People

Opening Access to People's Basic Needs

The first aspect is Health and Well-being, putting emphasis on people and their basic needs. Local and national governments in Asia-Pacific region have developed various relevant practices open access to people's basic needs, particularly in the time of emergency, including the COVID-19 pandemic. Other cities and local governments can learn and cooperate to accelerate development of their cities and areas.

Cambodia - Development of Khang Panya Lao



Khang Panya Lao (meaning Wisdom Warehouse in English) is a digital educational platform that is accessible via website and application (APP) allowing offline access. The development of this platform is an access opening to knowledge as it can be used as a blended learning, for teaching tools in schools as well as additional resource for learning at home for students and teachers providing continuing education in the face of pandemic and related emergencies. It The development of this platform is an access opening to knowledge as it teaching by supporting and improving the professional development of teachers, principals, pedagogical advisors, and education technical staff. It also serves to improve the digital skills of children, young people, teachers, and education staff. Launched on October 5, 2021, by the Ministry of Education and Sports of Lao PDR, this platform has reached out 100,000 users in Laos (eeas.europa.eu, access on March 3, 2023).

The development was conducted with the support of the European Union, the Global Partnership for Education and UNICEF in collaboration with Aide et Action, Australia-DFAT and BEQUAL, ChildFund, Humanity & Inclusion, JICA, Room to Read, Save the Children, UNESCO, UNFPA, USAID, WFP, and the World Bank.

Cash Transfer from Government to Promote Maternal and Infant Welfare



Photo: PIXNIO

Started in 2019, Government of Cambodia allocated budget for cash assistance to pregnant women and children (under the age of two). According to the Ministry of Social Affairs, the programme aims to address the malnutrition of infants and children of poor families (from birth) to promote physical and mental growth as well as maternal and infant welfare. This practice expands people's access to nutritional food as their essential needs. The programme has three stages: 1) giving 40,000 riel (\$10) to pregnant women who got their four prenatal check-ups; 2) adding 200,000 riel when the women give birth; 3) give 40,000 riel each time the women come in for post-partum health check-up/vaccination prior to their children reaching the age of two (max.10 visits).

This programme is different from the COVID-19 assistance for the poor and vulnerable families as also implemented by the government.

Malaysia - Building Capacity of Youth to Lead Sustainability



YELL (Youth Environment Living Lab) is a web-based platform developed to allow young people in Malaysia to move from awareness to actions related to climate and the environment. The platform connects various related stakeholders with same vision to network and share good practices related to climate and environment. The development of this platform brings access of relevant knowledge and network all in one place for youth, enabling them to understand where they are and where to head to.

This platform was supported by UNDP Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei Darussalam and UNICEF Malaysia following a survey to 1,393 Malaysian youths who have shown eagerness to act on climate and environmental issues. Check further: <https://yell.my/>

Philippines - Providing Affordable Housing Programme



Local government of Quezon is challenged with the fact that approximately a third of the total households in the city populate the slum areas. This happens as as most of the people do not have regular incomes and even some do have, they still cannot afford decent housing at commercially available rates.

In 2010, the local government of Quezon decided to come up with a multi-dimensional programme instead of relying on the National Housing Authority (NHA) and the Socialised Housing Finance Corporation to provide affordable housing for the poor.

The programme started with a systemic survey to study the housing needs, causes of housing lacks, and possible solutions. Local government of Quezon upgraded its departments and created a structure that allows multi-stakeholder participation. The newly created structure set up revenue measures to generate and mobilise funding to develop the housing project; it also made partnership agreements with landowners, housing developers, and civic organisations with similar mind to add up the resources and facilities supporting the affordable housing programme.

Local government of Quezon optimised the Idle Land Tax and the Socialised Housing Tax and has been able to generate about Php70 million and Php250 million a year respectively to fund the housing project. The galingpook.org website noted that local government of Quezon has eight low-cost housing projects that can accommodate 2,367 households. Possible financing has included national funding Pag-ibig Fund, Social Housing Finance Corporation loans, and local government in-house financing.

This programme not only provides solution for the housing challenge, but also upgrades the living condition of the poor by providing various facilities as well, such as health and day-care education. Local governments also organise beneficiaries into homeowner associations that maintain cleanliness and order in the newly created communities. The associations also play role as the conduits between local government and people for programmes to improve their living conditions and income. This programme is also supported by appropriate legislation to ensure its continued implementation.

City Organisation

Enabling Population to Live Peacefully and Act Collectively

The second aspect is Economy and Society, emphasising on how city is organised to enable people to live. Included in this aspect are ensuring attractive business environment and creating collective identity and mutual support. This is well reflected in the transformation of Yongqing Fang Alleyways.



Guangzhou: Transformation of Yongqing Fang Alleyways

Yongqing Fang Alleyways, located in Enning Road District, was once an important treaty port connecting the eastern and western China during the Qing dynasty. Located in the area of 120,000 square meters, urban decay and lack of development made Yongqing Fang Alleyways filled with dilapidated old buildings. Thanks to the rejuvenation initiative by the city government in 2016, the area has now become the must-visit tourist spot in Guangzhou for its beautiful streetscape, popular cafes, cultural and creative shops, and home-stays hotels. The en.people.cn mentioned that in 2019, the average number of visitors to the ancient street hit 3,000 per day during weekdays and 5,000 on weekends at the peak time.

Yongqing Fang Alleyways is the result of mini transformation in the old town of Guangzhou. The strategy is part of city expansion conducted through inner-city renewal and is expected to become incubators for new urban life as well as highly valuable differentiators for city branding and marketing.

The mini transformation refers to the design strategy that emphasises on building restoration and switching on existing resources in the area; thus, avoiding the relocation of original residents. The preservation of the historical sites has also allowed local people to keep their emotional attachment to the physical location. The rejuvenation effort is conducted with environmentally sustainable strategies, recreating old city life and reduce negative impacts.

The mini transformation/rejuvenation of the area was not without challenges. Discarding the decaying parts and retaining the memories of old buildings required detailed efforts. It also adopted modern architectural elements for better space structure and transformation of building interior to meet the needs of modern activities.

What new Yongqing Fang Alleyways offer

Inspired from the former conditions, such as old historical, temporary, and even illegal buildings on the site, problems of drainage, lighting and cables, including the demolition waste, the new Yongqing Fang Alleyways offer new functions supporting the improvement of local people's lives.



Shared Public Space



The Grand Wooden Steps, the Water Feature Garden, and the Roof Garden are the multifunctional public spaces. The Grand Wooden Steps are used as resting and display area during the day; and to show movies at nights to provide entertainment for local people and visitors. The Water Feature Garden is located at the back of main street and shielded with existing old trees. Recycled roof tiles are also used to reduce the project's overall environmental impact. The Roof Garden public space is created to connect the back of the buildings and provide a semi-private leisure area.

Multifunctional System



This system is developed to solve challenges of drainage, lighting, and aged electrical cables hanging creating a dangerous and unsightly mess. It kept the door sill stones of the original buildings and continued the stone edges on each side of the alleys. The designed was also created to hide the cables organised. Low levels of light were also installed to make the multifunctional system display attractive.

Sustainable Design



The initiative carefully treated the demolition waste, including tiles, brick, and natural stones and used them as materials for new landscape components. Those materials made a unique historical atmosphere and brings back memories for local residents and visitors.



Place

Build to Connect, Protect, Provide

The third dimension, Infrastructure and ecosystems, emphasises on the quality of infrastructure and ecosystems that supports people, and ensures continued critical services, even under shock or stress situations. This is well reflected in the Philippines' national government project continuation by the current leader.

Philippines - "Build - Build - Build for Better Lives"

Government of Philippines under the leadership of President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. continues the "Build, Build, Build" infrastructure programme. On the website, pna.gov.ph mentions that the goal of "Build, Build, Build" programme is to achieve a golden age of infrastructure in the Philippines to enhance mobility and connectivity, as well as spurring economic growth. The construction is to invest adequately in infrastructure to support and sustain the country's growing economic activities represented by its gross domestic product (GDP).

The programme includes construction, maintenance, upgrade, rehabilitation of roads reinforcing the growth of various sectors and restoring various linkages: tourism, industries and trade corridors, seaports, airports, railway stations to further augment the logistics, transport, and economic activities. Included under this project is the North-South Railway Project.

North-South Railway Project

The North-South railway project (NSRP) is one of the major infrastructure projects of the Philippine Government. The project, consisting of more than 650km of commuter and long-haul railway lines, is expected to be the primary rail backbone linking Metro Manila to regions in southern Luzon and to provide better transportation and logistics services between two rapidly growing urban regions: Metro Manila (the country's largest city in terms of urban density, with a population of approximately 12 million) and the island of Luzon (the biggest and most populous island in the country with 48 million residents)).

What the Project Offers and Benefits



Consists of **163-kilometer** railway system and **35 stations**;



will serve **27 cities and municipalities** in the National Capital Region and nearby **provinces**;



constructed in three segments: 1) Malolos-Clark, 2) Tutuban-Malolos, and 3) Solis-**Calamba**;



will reduce travel time **from more than 4 hours to less than 2 hours**;



will create **more than 59,000 jobs** during **construction** and ;



create over 4,600 jobs during actual **operation**;



by 2040, **more than 600,000 passengers** will be using the railway daily (result: lower greenhouse gas emissions in the **country**);



will provide safe access for all, including the elderly, women, children, and people with **disabilities**;



all infrastructure will be designed to be disaster-resilient and able to withstand **typhoons and earthquakes**.



Knowledge

Empowering All to Act through Information

The fourth dimension, Leadership and Strategy, emphasises on knowledge; including learning from past experiences, providing access to information and education so that individuals and organisations can take appropriate actions (being inclusive).

Kolkata - Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System

Numerous studies rank Kolkata as one of the top 10 most vulnerable cities in the world due to high exposure to flooding under climate change projections. Heavy rains occur during the monsoon season when cyclones pass through the region. Flat deltaic terrain, insufficient natural drainage, and tidal blockage of channels amplify flooding and water logging in the city. With this background, Kolkata Municipal Corporation, supported by ADB, has developed Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System (FFEWS). This development is expected to reduce impacts from flood-induced traffic congestions, reduce economic loss and impacts on livelihoods, supply information on flood for better urban planning, and improve flood awareness and safety at community level. The FFEWS will be the first comprehensive city-level early warning system in India. It has been designed to provide forecasts and real-time updates from sensor nodes installed in key points throughout the city. The information generated by FFEWS will enable informed decision-making before and during disasters. The system includes weather forecasts; flood models for various intensities of rainfall; real-time information on key pump status, sump and canal water levels, actual rainfall, inundation levels, and a messaging system to provide warnings and real-time information to city officials and local people.

Key Features

- Cost-effective sensors**
- Access anywhere**
- Multi-parameter monitoring of other climate-related data**
- Time series data**
- Cloud-based data collection, processing, and storage**

FFEWS is people-centred at heart. It empowers individuals, communities, and other stakeholders to act quickly and appropriately to reduce flood risks. Key stakeholders were consulted during the design phase to identify the best places for monitoring. Real-time information and forecasts will be available on an access-anywhere basis for KMC decision-makers, on-the-ground staff, and other stakeholders. The data will be accessible online through web browsers and mobile apps. Notifications based on trigger values will be provided through the mobile apps, and whenever necessary, text messages will be sent to key functionaries. Warning messages will be sent in simple language and will focus on actions people need to take to ensure their safety and plan their daily activities, such as commuting. The messages will be specific to different groups of vulnerable people.

Key Benefits

- City Managers**
- Citizens**
- Communities**
- Civil society and academia**
- Private sector**
- Small shops and vendors**
- All stakeholders**

Christchurch - Partnership to Plan City's Future

Christchurch was hit by series of earthquake from 2010 to 2011. Over than 100,000 houses were damaged, more than 50 per cent of buildings in CBD were severely damaged, nearly 8,000 homes in land zoned too difficult to repair, land subsidence more than 0.5 m.



Responding to this, Regenerate Christchurch was developed. Regenerate Christchurch is a new kind of partnership enabling the Crown and the Christchurch City Council to work together with the local community to plan the city's future. Community engagement is key. In this context, community engagement is not a meeting to brief the community on what decisions have been taken and to answer questions. Community engagement is part of a decision-making process, a meaningful exchange where ideas flow both ways before decisions are made. Christchurch also emphasised on the importance of innovation, which is also supported by the law. In the case of Christchurch, they have New Zealand's performance-based building code stating on how a building must perform in its intended use, rather than describing how the building must be designed and constructed. The result included the innovation developed by Canterbury University Engineering Department called Post Tensioned, Low Damage Technology. It has not only been used in buildings in Christchurch, but it has also garnered international interest.



An example of structural innovation in Christchurch is the Forte Health Medical Centre, which incorporates three world firsts: It's rated at 180% of New Building Strength (which means it's almost twice as strong as what the building code requires it to be), features a steel strengthening system, and an energy dissipation unit (the rod with the bump) both of which are world firsts.



Collective Power of Local Governments at the 10th APFSD

UCLG ASPAC partook the 10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development from March 27 to 30, 2023, held in Bangkok, Thailand. Organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the Forum is the regional preparatory process towards the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). With the theme “Accelerating the recovery from the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels in Asia and the Pacific”, the Forum assessed progress on the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation); Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy); Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure); Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and Goal 17 (Partnership for the Goals).



As part of its advocacy, UCLG ASPAC serves as the focal point of the Asia-Pacific Local Government Coordinating Body (APLG), the regional coordination mechanism of local governments in the region. UCLG ASPAC led the preparation of the Joint Statement of Local Authorities to the APFSD which was delivered by UCLG ASPAC Secretary General Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi at the plenary session on March 27, 2023. She highlighted the need for local level SDG indicators in line with the national frameworks, capacity building for local governments in Least Developed Countries especially the Pacific on the Voluntary Local Review (VLR), and innovative financing and investment to localise the SDGs. “Local

governments are helping each other through decentralised cooperation and we need national governments and the international community to provide an enabling environment that will let us be more effective in the essential work that we do. With our collective power, the power of we, we can build our common future.”

UCLG ASPAC organised/co-organised, together with partners, several in-person and virtual side events at the APFSD. At the side event “SDG11 in Focus: Glocalisation: Catalysing Local Implementation of Global Goals in Asia and the Pacific”, UCLG ASPAC Secretary General emphasised the importance of localisation to realise the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. Ms. Germelina Singson-Goulart, Executive Vice President for Operations of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) and Mayor of the Municipality of Caoayan, presented the context of Philippine decentralisation and reality that most local governments do not have the technical and financial resources to realise the development goals. Mr. Abdul Halim Iskandar, Minister, Ministry of Village, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration, Indonesia, acknowledged that localising the SDGs is crucial and discussed village-level implementation of the SDGs.



UCLG ASPAC members had the opportunity to share their work on SDGs localisation at the Urban Engagement Space, a dedicated area for interactions on SDG 11, on March 29, 2023. Mr. Rajan Sultan Pirzada, President, Association for Development of Local Governance (ADLG), highlighted the importance of local solutions to universal problems. He shared the EU-UCLG ASPAC’s Project on SDG. Caoayan Mayor Germelina Singson-Goulart discussed about LMP’s work on the Philippine Voluntary Subnational Review in 2022, and the challenges and initiatives she led in the municipality.

UCLG ASPAC Secretary General also served as rapporteur for the Roundtable on SDG 11. She presented the recommendations including: harmonised and inclusive local data platforms in synergy with central data platforms; people-centred urban, territorial and spatial planning processes; inclusive urban governance; and financing to enable multi-level climate and urban action in the Asia-Pacific region.

Caoayan Mayor Germelina Singson-Goulart delivered a second Joint Statement of Local Authorities in plenary which focused on the vital role of local governments in the achievement of the SDGs. She underscored that “Localisation and SDG 11 are crucial enablers of all the SDGs that must be invested upon.”



The Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership Report 2023 “Delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals through Solutions at the Energy, Food and Finance Nexus” was launched during the APFSD. Prior to this, UNESCAP virtually launched the Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2023. The Report of the 10th APFSD will serve as the region’s input to the HLPF to be held in July 2023.



Cooperation with Indonesian Ministries and Cities

UCLG ASPAC also closely collaborated with Ministries in Indonesia, such as Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), and cities in Indonesia, host city of UCLG ASPAC Secretariat. It was reflected on the various events organised and hosted.

UCLG ASPAC - MoFA: Indonesia-Pacific Forum for Development



December 7-8, 2022 | UCLG ASPAC once again took the opportunity to have the Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Resilience as part of the Indonesia-Pacific Forum for Development (IPFD) in Bali. This event was initiated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of Indonesia and the first for UCLG ASPAC to collaborate with MoFA Indonesia for the IPFD side event. It attracted more than 100 participants (online and offline).

UCLG ASPAC - MoHA Meeting

UCLG ASPAC, and the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (MoHA) successfully held the 2023 meeting of Coordination and Evaluation of the Cooperation, hosted by the local government of Jambi. The meeting was attended by 100 distinguished city officials representing 26 Indonesian cities and regencies; MoHA, State Secretary, and National Secretariat for SDGs/Ministry of National Development Planning. In this meeting, UCLG ASPAC also invited PT Sarana Multi Infrastruktur (SMI), a State-Owned Enterprise dedicated to achieve sustainable development for investors, government, and society. The direct discussion managed to match city's commitment with the opportunities in the country's project financing and development institution.

#1 DAY: Coordination and Evaluation Meeting



The representative from MoHA (FASKER) highlighted: (1) Synergy and Benefits of Collaboration by the Internal Work Unit of the MoHA; (2) Synergy and Benefits of Collaboration by the cities and local governments that are members of UCLG ASPAC; (3) Local Governments' Challenges and Constraints in membership in UCLG ASPAC; (4) Achievements and Good Practices as the result of Collaboration; (5) Favorable policy for continued support to UCLG ASPAC. Five members (City of Samarinda, City of Jambi, City of Pangkal Pinang, City of Banjarmasin, and Regency of Ogan Komering Ilir) shared their positive responses and expectations.

#2 DAY: Knowledge Sharing with PT SMI, Bappenas, and Seoul Metropolitan Government



On the second day, UCLG ASPAC organised a knowledge-sharing session with PT SMI, allowing local governments of Indonesia to better understand alternative financing for climate actions, challenges, and opportunities; development of VLR to bring the inclusive SDGs report that contributes to the VNR; good practices of Seoul in becoming the eco-friendly and liveable city.

Intensive discussion took place between city representatives and PT SMI, such as the City of Balikpapan, committed to developing a low-emission city, shared their expectation to get assistance in the development of waste and water management and support for expanding their green public space for environmentally friendly development. The City of Yogyakarta also expressed their interest in knowledge management related to project from preparation up to implementation of funding and suggested that PT SMI and UCLG ASPAC hold training related to project preparation and project implementation that can be funded by PT SMI. Responding to these, PT SMI signaled positive possibility. For the City of Balikpapan, PT SMI mentioned the possibility of direct funding under the Government and Enterprise Collaboration Budget scheme. As for the City of Yogyakarta, PT SMI mentioned they are ready to give assistance and suggested to strengthen the city's feasibility study.

In VLR Socialisation session, the City of Surabaya shared its experience and practice during their VLR development in 2021. The VLR of Surabaya was accommodated in Indonesia's VNR that was presented at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development/HLPF 2021. Participants showed positive responses. City of Samarinda, Jambi, and Balikpapan indicated their willingness to develop VLR and expected assistance from UCLG ASPAC in the development process.

Site Visit

All participants also joined site-visit to the project location of the Integrated Resource Recovery Centre (IRRC) Waste to Energy (WTE) in Talang Banjar Market and Sanitary Landfill in Talang Gulo (TPA Talang Gulo). IRRC is a 2016 grant project from the United Nations Environment and Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in partnership with UCLG ASPAC. Under the IRRC scheme, the waste management in Jambi produces gas and electricity that are freely used by the local people. Jambi was selected as pilot city for this project due to its membership status and strong leadership commitment.



Participants also visited the Talang Gulo sanitary landfill, developed from a collaboration between the Government of Indonesia and the Government of Germany in the Emission Reduction in Cities-Solid Waste Management (ERIC-SWM) Programme, and participated in tree planting as part of the Jambi-UNESCAP-UCLG ASPAC air-pollution programme and visited the location of leachate treatment.



UCLG ASPAC - MoHA: SPM from Journey to Implementation



UCLG ASPAC Secretary General, Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, attended the SPM Awards hosted by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) Indonesia taking place in Jakarta. SPM, standing for Standard Pelayanan Minimum, is Indonesian standard for cities to deliver their public services. In 2021, UCLG ASPAC supported and facilitated the revision process. The final version was officiated under the (new) Regulation 59/2021 and started to apply from 2022. The SPM Awards is held to acknowledge achievement of Indonesian cities in performing the standard as stated in Regulation 59/2021. UCLG ASPAC facilitated the development process of the standard in 2021 and its attendance in this event confirmed the organisation's commitment to continuously promote local governments' initiatives in optimising public service delivery and to maintain fruitful cooperation with MoHA.

Nine sub-national governments were selected and announced as winners of implementation period 2022.

Province category

Winner:
North Kalimantan

Runner up:
West Java

Second runner-up:
West Sumatra

Regency category

Winner:
Karanganyar

Runner up:
Soppeng

Second runner-up:
Bogor

City category

Winner:
Tangerang

Runner up:
Prabumulih

Second runner-up:
Padang



Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi took this opportunity to meet with the Secretary of the Directorate General of Regional Development, Ms. Sri Purwaningsih. She underlined the commitment of UCLG ASPAC as regional local governments association to maintain the supports to MoHA on the implementation of SPM and the SDGs achievement. Following up the commitment, UCLG ASPAC and MoHA will meet to discuss the extension of the MoU that will assure the enhanced cooperation and collaboration to support the local governments in Indonesia in dealing with future challenges and optimising opportunities as well as providing assistance for capacity building and services on several thematic issues such as city to city cooperation, climate change, disaster response, urban management, SDGs localisation, and various other services based on members' needs.

UCLG ASPAC - Metropolis: For Cities in Indonesia



UCLG ASPAC and World Association of the Major Metropolises (METROPOLIS) successfully co-organised a workshop "Listen to Metropolitan Cities: Financing Opportunities for Sustainable Urban Transitions/Transformations," on March 20, 2023, supported by Jakarta Capital City Government, host of the UCLG ASPAC Secretariat, FMDV - The Global Fund for Cities Development, and the United Nations Capital Development Fund. The event was held to gain a better understanding of the needs (including financial support needs) of Indonesian metropolitan city members, that significantly increase in number joining the UCLG, UCLG ASPAC, and Metropolis (Joint Membership). Cities' sharing in this event will be further used as inputs for Metropolis' Strategy 2023 drafted in its upcoming congress this year. Mr. Jordi Vaquer, Secretary General of Metropolis said, "We find that listening to cities is much better than acting and implementing based on assumptions."

City sharing: Bandar Lampung: needs to explore and manage the funding and identify the development potential | Palembang: is interested in contributing to more knowledge-sharing sessions between metropolis cities | South Tangerang: needs better city planning management, green infrastructure | Bogor: importance on the essence of collaboration and learning between local governments and various stakeholders in implementing development projects | Jakarta: learn about financing opportunities and waste management | Medan: planning and implementation of projects on waste management | Semarang: Public-Private Partnership (PPP) schemes.



Ms. Kyungah Chung as a Secondee from Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) in UCLG ASPAC shared Seoul's private investment project, involving what is called a pre-negotiation system. Representatives from FMDV and UNCDF shared about the Smart Green ASEAN (SGAC) project targeting ASEAN Cities that is funded by the EU.

This full-day workshop was attended by city government representatives from Jakarta, Bandar Lampung, Bogor, Palembang, Semarang, South Tangerang, Medan, and Bandung with a total of 41 participants.



GCoM Southeast Asia

Regional Workshop and Launch of City-Level CAPs



UCLG ASPAC, Secretariat of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Southeast Asia (GCoM SEA), successfully held the two-day workshop in Bangkok, March 30-31, 2023. The workshop attracted 101 participants ranging from GCoM pilot cities in the region, European Union (EU) delegations, development, and technical partners, to GCoM signatories in Asia and Europe. The highlight of the workshop was the launching of Climate Action Plans (CAPs) of eight pilot cities from Indonesia (Medan, North Minahasa, Pontianak, and Tangerang) and Malaysia (Iskandar puteri, Petaling Jaya, Putrajaya, and Segamat). The Vietnamese pilot cities (Cao Lanh, Hue, Nam Dinh, and Sapa) are finalising their CAPs and will launch it after the workshop, while pilot cities in Thailand (Hua Hin, Mae Hia, Nonthaburi, and Suphanburi) will launch their CAPs later this year.

The workshop was graced by Mr. Kiatchai Maitriwong (Executive Director of Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organisation or TGO), H.E. Mr. David Daly (EU Ambassador to Thailand), Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi (SG of UCLG ASPAC/GCoM Southeast Asia Secretariat), Ms. Abigail Sombillo Binay-Campos (Mayor of Makati and GCoM Board Member for Southeast Asia), and Adviser to the Governor of Bangkok (Environmental Affairs) Mr. Pornphrom Vikitsreth.

The event facilitated cities and partners to share their knowledge and experiences in five distinct panel discussions: reporting methodology, low-carbon development, circular economy, adaptation measures, and nature-based solutions. There were also some interactive sessions during the working group on circular economy and poster presentations by pilot cities. As part of the site visit, the workshop participants went to Chulalongkorn University Centenary Park where they managed to see the practices of climate adaptation. The park, which was formally inaugurated in 2017, currently serves as a public space, a green space, and water retention.



Tangerang

February 6, 2023 | The public consultation in Tangerang was attended by 36 participants, comprising local government officials, non-governmental organisations, and community representatives. The session was graced by Ms. Henriette Faergemann, the Attaché of Environment, Climate, and ICT of the European Union Delegation of (EUD) to Indonesia and a video message by Mayor Arief Rachadiono Wismansyah.

Result: Input received during the public consultation included priority on improvement and renovation of the existing facility, instead of buying and constructing new infrastructures, for effective and efficient actions.

Public Consultation on CAP Development in Indonesian Pilot Cities

UCLG ASPAC, the host of the GCoM Southeast Asia Secretariat, successfully organised a series of public consultations on Climate Action Plan (CAP) development in three Indonesian pilot cities: Tangerang (February 6), Medan (February 9), and Pontianak (February 13), and North Minahasa (March 9). Local governments in these consultations involved various other stakeholders and put the importance of women participation.



Medan

February 9, 2023 | The public consultation in Medan was attended by 52 participants, including local governments, academia, private sectors, and non-governmental organisations. Attending this session were Mr. Seth van Doorn (Project Manager of Foreign Policy Instrument of the EUD to Indonesia).

Discussion: The Development Planning Agency of Medan presented a programme formulated to enhance the city's resilience to climate risks and impacts. It includes the development of electric public transportation, the procurement of smart lamps, investments in Waste-to-Energy Power Plants (Pembangkit Listrik Tenaga Sampah/PLTSA) and low-emission public transportation.



Pontianak

February 13, 2023 | The public consultation in Pontianak was attended by 59 participants comprising representatives from local governments, academia, private sectors, and non-governmental organisations. The event was blessed with the presence of Mayor Edi Rusdi Kamtono who officially opened the event.

Discussion: Issues faced including flooding, waste management, and renewable energy; largest contributor to GHG emissions is transportation; forestry and land use sector previously had a net carbon sink, but the decomposition of peatlands has now contributed to emissions. The waste sector has also contributed, particularly industrial, solid, and domestic waste.



North Minahasa

March 9, 2023 | The public consultation was attended by 79 participants, covering local government representatives, working groups, university lecturers, and community representatives. It was also graced with the presence of Mr. Seth van Dorn of the EUD to Indonesia and Mr. Alan Mingkit (Regional Assistant on Development Economy of North Minahasa Regency), representing the Regent of Minahasa.

Result: Feedback was received from village community that local government needs to validate data on climate resilience.



CRIC: Pilot Cities Meet Partners in First Panel Discussion in Surabaya

Climate Resilient and Inclusive Cities Project successfully facilitated CRIC First Panel Discussion in Surabaya between March 1-3, 2023. The discussion panel was attended by representatives from 10 pilot cities and South Asian and European Partners.

Representatives from CRIC Pilot Cities detailed local climate risks and vulnerabilities. Fruitful discussion started after cities' presentation where cities' stakeholders share their experiences and climate actions.

Prof Rizaldi Boer from CCROMSEAP IPB and team attended panel discussion in persons, met offline - for first time - with all CRIC pilot city stakeholders and responded to cities' presentation. Prof. Rizaldi Boer said that CRIC project's initiatives to build pilot city stakeholders' capacity play important roles in developing climate action plans. Cities need to understand climate mitigation and adaptation reporting systems developed by national government and provide climate related information.

Dr. Bernadia Tjandradewi opened CRIC Project panel discussion by mentioning the importance of CRIC initiatives that support Government of Indonesia's Nationally Determined Contribution targets. Warm welcoming remarks also conveyed by Novita Sari, EUD Programme Manager highlighting supports from European Union to create resilient and inclusive communities in Indonesia. Emil Elestianto Dardak, Deputy Governor of East Java Province conveys the needs to mainstreaming climate change issues in everyday life to create resilient and inclusive cities.



The CRIC panel discussion concluded with presentation from CRIC Partners of findings from pilot cities visits. "Many interventions in CRIC pilot cities give us hope (that they will be able to solve environmental problems)," says Pascaline Gaborit from Pilot4Dev. Prof. Isabelle Milbert also from Pilot4Dev said that CRIC Project is progressing every day and she hoped that the initiatives could continue in the future.

Completing learning circle, representatives of CRIC Pilot Cities visited Jambangan recycling center in Surabaya to observe community-based waste management initiatives. CRIC Project is not only supporting triangular cooperation between stakeholders from Indonesia, South Asia and Europe but also promoting dialogues among pilot cities and other cities in Indonesia.

CRIC Partners Visit to Pilot Cities

Partners visited the project's pilot cities on February 19-28, 2023.



Partner's activities during visit in Samarinda. Danko Aleksic from ACR+ discussed waste management with Samarinda Mayor and city officials.



In Mataram City, NTB, CRIC Partners Pascaline Gaborit and Isabelle Milbert met waste bank communities and observed black soldier fly recycling center in the area.



A very warm welcome received by CRIC partners from city's mayor and officials in every visit, including CRIC Partners' visit to Ternate.



Sara Silva, CRIC Partner from Ecolise discussed water and sanitation issues in Gorontalo City with city stakeholders, visiting Santorini project and black water treatment facility.



Sara also visited one of water springs managed by community near Lake Limboto and observed sedimentation in the lake that has been invested by water plants.



Kupang City's Mayor and city's officials met CRIC Partner directly after receiving audiences from different members of the community. CRIC also introduced the new campaign in Kupang: "Stop groundwater mining!" sign to promote sustainable use of water in the area.

Gender Responsive and Participatory Budgeting Workshop: Capacity Building for Local Governments in Malaysia



UCLG ASPAC, in collaboration with Penang Women’s Development Corporation (PWDC), and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), held the two days Learning Workshop on Gender Responsive and Participatory Budgeting (GRP) for local governments on February 13th and 14th, 2023. As part of the Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre (KLRTC) 43, the event was hosted by the Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL), Malaysia. The learning workshop equipped a total of 42 participants from 12 local governments in Malaysia to understand the GRPB contents and mechanism as a tool to help interpret their learnings into test projects of GRPB in their localities.

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, the Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC stated, “The GRPB in local government is important. This issue is a two-pronged approach that includes a top-down approach, which is Responsiveness in local government budgeting, and a bottom-up approach, which is Participatory to ensure community (particularly women) participation. Instead of having a separate budget for women, GRPB is an important tool to improve the transparency, accountability, effectiveness, and efficiency of the management of public expenditure and provides for a more equitable distribution of public finances for women and men.” Hence, she concluded and committed to continuing UCLG ASPAC support to the local governments and their associations by providing knowledge and information, building their capacities, and providing opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and best practices.

In this learning workshop, participants visited the “Pusat Pembelajaran Komuniti Chow Kit or Chow Kit Community Learning Centre” which is the centre for the poor community managed by DBKL. The centre provides social support to street children, homeless men and women through various programmes. DBKL hosted a luncheon with all participants at the Kuala Lumpur (KL) Tower located in the heart of Kuala Lumpur. At the end of the workshop, four cities from local governments developed and submitted for the GRPB test projects in Malaysia as pilot projects in their respective local governments. Proposals include the replication of the “Pusat Pembelajaran Komuniti Chow Kit” to Klang City.

SSW Committee: Digital Governance in Southwest Asia Webinar



UCLG ASPAC South-southwest (SSW) Standing Committee held a webinar on “Digital Governance in Southwest Asia” on January 19, 2023 to share the benefits and challenges of digital local governance in Southwest Asia and the good practices of digital governance in the region. The webinar also shared India’s experience of digital governance for possible adoption by members of the SSW sub-region.

HDP Nexus Committee: Pilot City Selection



On February 2023, Humanitarian Development Peace (HDP) Nexus Committee selected cities as pilot project. The selection process was conducted by experts appointed by KAIDEC and resulted in three selected cities, namely Jayapura, Semarang (Indonesia), and Phnom Penh (Cambodia). The selection was also based on the scoring system applied from various activities conducted by HDP Nexus Committee. The selected cities will implement project which will start in the next six months period and is expected to complete by the end of 2023.

Thematic Committees: Comprehensive Action for Cities and Local Governments

UCLG ASPAC (Standing) Committees has also actively organised discussion with its members: Standing Committee for Southeast Asia, Standing Committee of South and Southwest Asia, Standing Committee of Women in Local Government, Culture Committee, Belt and Road Local Cooperation (BRLC) Committee, 21st Century Maritime Cooperation Committee (21CMCC), UCLG ASPAC Tourism Committee, HDP Nexus Committee, and Circular Economy Committee. Each of them has their own workplan and activities held to support city members.

Each (Standing) Committee continuously uphold win-win collaboration and encourage knowledge exchange to support its members in achieving cities’ development. UCLG ASPAC (Standing) Committees are principal organs in the organisation that works to drive cities actions in specific thematic areas. Find out more in <https://uclg-aspac.org/standing-committee/>.





LEAD4SDGs: Multi-Stakeholder Intervention to Rank SDGs and Build the Capacity

February 27-28, March 1, 2023 | Gwadar, March 15-17, 2023 | Quetta: LEAD for SDGs organised dual Three-day Programmes for multi-stakeholder intervention to rank SDGs and to build the capacity of the newly elected Local Government Representatives of Balochistan on Legal, Financial and Administrative Authorities and Localisation of SDGs in Gwadar and Quetta. The sessions involved Consultation, Identification and Prioritisation of Local Actions with financial support from the European Union and UCLG ASPAC. Members of provincial and district Alliances on SDGs participated in large numbers.

The first two days encompass training on responsibilities and powers under Balochistan Local Government Act 2010, Local Government Finance Commission, and other important topics. newly elected chairmen, and deputy chairmen of municipal committees, representatives of union councils from districts across Balochistan were oriented on the SDGs, localisation of SDGs, the inclusion of SDGs on priority in the Annual Development Plan, and the importance of prioritising the SDGs targets at the district level considering the provincial and national levels SDGs Framework.

On the third day, a detailed consultation was held with a focus group comprising development sector partners, members of the media, and local government associations. Priority of SDGs were identified at the district level considering the Balochistan Provincial Framework of the SDGs for Local Actions.

During the consultation, SDGs 3,4 and 6 were rated as the most considerate in Balochistan. It was observed that the areas of health, education, and clean water are suffering from corruption, irresponsible staff and unnecessary construction of schools and hospitals without assessing demographics. It was stated that employees are not working in the areas where they are appointed, but on the contrary, prefer to work in big cities. Another said that the use of Balochistan's resources is not available to the people here nor clean water.



The suggestions made in the sessions emphasised the restructuring of the SDGs Taskforce at the Provincial and District level and ensuring the involvement of Local Government representatives in the SDGs Taskforces. It was underlined that the Provincial Finance Commission should facilitate the flow of funds at the local level and Local Government representatives to accelerate development actions. It was suggested that training sessions on Local Government powers and Localisation of SDGs at the level of Union Councils.

Subregional Update



Korea Heart-to-Heart

The Governors Association of the Republic of Korea (GARoK) organised the 2022 K2H (Korea Heart to Heart) Programme on April 13 - October 9, 2022. K2H is a six-month training programme designed to foster a new generation of public officials and future decision-makers from around the world. It provides opportunities for local public officials from foreign local governments, sister cities of Korean local governments, to experience and benchmark Korean culture, history, language, and local administration. This annual fellowship programme has had more than 869 public officials from 33 different countries participating since 1999.



LCA Sindh: Flooding in Pakistan

Local Councils Association (LCA) Sindh immediately responded to the emergency flooding in Pakistan (September 2022) and distributed 25,000 ration Begg, 5,500 Tents, 2,700 Trapals, and 5,000 Mosquitoes Nets., The President of LCA Sindh, Mr. Syed Kumail Haider Shah made extensive visits to the affected areas of the province and evaluated that Sukkur, Rohari, Pano Aqil, Khairpur districts were among the most specifically targeted areas for immediate response in Sindh province.



LGNZ: New Parental Leave and Allowances

LGNZ has developed the policies on child-care allowances and parental leave to reflect commitment to diversity and inclusivity. "Caring for children ... is one of the major hurdles that stop people running for council - especially women," Susan Freeman-Greene, Chief Executive of LGNZ, said. LGNZ's new guidance on parental leave and childcare allowances will make it easier for elected members to be both a parent and a leader, says LGNZ CE Susan Freeman-Greene.



LCP General Assembly: Acknowledging Mayor's Achievement

The League of Cities of the Philippines' (LCP) held Special General Assembly on June 2, 2023, to celebrate the significant contributions of city mayors over the past three years. In the event, the League honoured 65 city mayors for their hard work and dedication to improving the quality of life of their constituents. Out of the 65 awardees, 38 mayors have successfully served their cities for nine years.

New Members

(to be approved at the Executive Bureau Meeting 2023 in Kathmandu)



Biratnagar Metropolitan City

Mayor : Mr. Nagesh Koirala

Website : www.biratnagarmun.gov.np/en

Biratnagar is a metropolitan city in Nepal. It is connected to a major custom route with India and has the second largest land port in Nepal.



Dharamshala Municipal Corporation

Mayor : Mr. Onkar Singh Nehria

Website : enedharamshala.in

Dharamshala is a city in the upper reaches of the Kangra Valley. It is a popular destination for Indian and foreign tourists, including students studying Tibet.



Gyeongju City

Mayor : Mr. Joo Nak-Young

Website : www.gyeongju.go.kr

Gyeongju is a UNESCO-designated city. It embraces Buddhism, science, and vibrant ancient culture blossomed by the artistry of the Silla people.



Lalmonirhat Municipality

Mayor : Md. Rezaul Karim Swapan

Website : www.lalmonirhatmunicipality.gov.bd

Lalmonirhat is a municipality town and fast-growing. It is situated beside the Dharal River and well connected with road, water, and railways.



Mardan City

Mayor : Mr. Himayat Ullah Mayar

Website : -

Mardan is a city and the headquarters of Mardan District, which is famous for its agriculture industry and for its archaeological sites.



Pariaman City

Mayor : Mr. Genius Umar

Website : pariamankota.go.id

Pariaman, meaning 'A Safe Area', is a coastal city. One of the tourism highlights is the Tabuik festival, which has been held annually since 1831.



Qingdao Municipal People's Government

Mayor : Mr. Zhao Haozhi

Website : english.qingdao.gov.cn

Qingdao, a coastal city in East China's Shandong province, is a regional hub of transportation, trade and finance with a diversified industrial base.

Gunsan's Citizen-centred Project: A Growing Self-Supporting Lifelong Learning City

GUNSAN city's practice "On-site Community Culture Café" Project garnered positive feedbacks and appreciation at the 16th International Congress of Educating Cities Andong 2022 (IAEC World Congress), Gyeongsangbuk-do, October 25-28, 2023. In the event taking theme "Seeing Future Education in Tradition" participated by around 1,500 people, including lifelong education experts from 510 member cities and non-member cities from 38 countries around the world, Gunsan City was selected to present best practices for lifelong education together with 16 cities, including Tampere (Finland), Venice (Italy), Adelaide (Australia), Medellín (Colombia), and Buenos Aires (Argentina). The event also announced the city's citizen-centred practice as an excellent example of lifelong education.



On-site Community Culture Café is a local innovation project that restores local community life by providing lifelong learning opportunities, overcoming economic difficulties, revitalising the local commercial district, and providing jobs. This practice has emerged as Gunsan became an industrial and employment crisis area in 2018 due to the suspension of operation of Hyundai Heavy Industries' Gunsan Shipyard in 2017 and the closure of GM Korea's Gunsan plant in 2018.

Under this project, local people, minimum five persons, can take free lifelong learning courses such as humanities, liberal arts, culture, arts, and performances at any time and place they want. A ten-week programme provides a two-hour class once a week, and there are three programme cycles in a year. The city government provides the instructors, managers, and pays for their allowances and space rent. This way, the programme revitalised the local commercial district by providing jobs to instructors and managers and providing usage fees to small business owners who provide learning spaces.



The "On-site Community Culture Café" was officially registered as a trademark in October 2019 and it has become a citizen-centred lifelong learning project and the education brand unique to Gunsan.



Gangwon Forestry Exhibition 2023



IN the fall of 2023, we welcome you to the Gangwon Forestry Exhibition 2023!

From September 22 to October 22, 2023, Gangwon Province will host the "Gangwon Forestry Exhibition 2023" for 31 days, taking theme "Seeking the Future of the World and Mankind in the Forest" at the main venue, Goseong World Jamboree Training Centre, and the sub-venues, Sokcho, Inje, and Yangyang in Gangwon Province. Our Exhibition is the world's first forestry-themed event covering the history, culture, ecology, environment, and other aspects of forestry, aiming to share various forestry-related resources and information, enhance exchange and cooperation and create future growth momentum through sustainable forest industry development.

Korea's land area consists of 63% forest, and 22% of the total forest area in the country is in Gangwon Province-covering 81% of its total land area. The Gangwon Forestry Exhibition will include exhibitions and experiential events related to forestry, academic conferences, various events, and performances. Visitors can expect to see a variety of attractions such as tree gardens, flower gardens, and the Solbangwol (Pine cone) Observatory.



The event area of the forestry exhibition is composed of five buildings: The Green Earth Hall, with the theme "Meeting the Forest of Hope"; the Forest of Peace Hall, with the theme "Speaking of the Forest of Peace"; the Cultural Heritage Hall, with the theme "Feeling the Forest of Humanity"; the Forest of Healing Hall, with the theme "Enjoying the Forest of Healing"; and the Forestry Industry Hall, with the theme "Creating the Forest of Growth."

The opening and closing ceremonies will include popular artists' performances, children's musicals, music concerts, and other special performances. In addition, the permanent stage and outdoor Observatory stage will hold busking performances, magic shows, miming, and other regular events to enhance the exhibition's atmosphere. Various experiential events that everyone can enjoy will also take place throughout the main and sub-venues.

The Solbangwol Observatory, 45 meters high and with a total length of 1.2 km, is located on one side of the event venue. It is a landmark observatory made to look like pinecones and seeds. Visitors can enjoy a panoramic view of major peaks such as Mount Seorak's Ulsanbawi and the East Sea and Sokcho City from the top of the observatory. Additionally, when entering the main gate, visitors will see a 9m tall symbolic sculpture made to look like pine nuts, as well as major exhibition halls, plazas, flower gardens, etc.

You can find detailed information on purchasing tickets and the event at the Gangwon Forestry Exhibition 2023's official website (www.gwfe.or.kr), official SNS channels (Instagram, Facebook, Naver Blog), and YouTube.

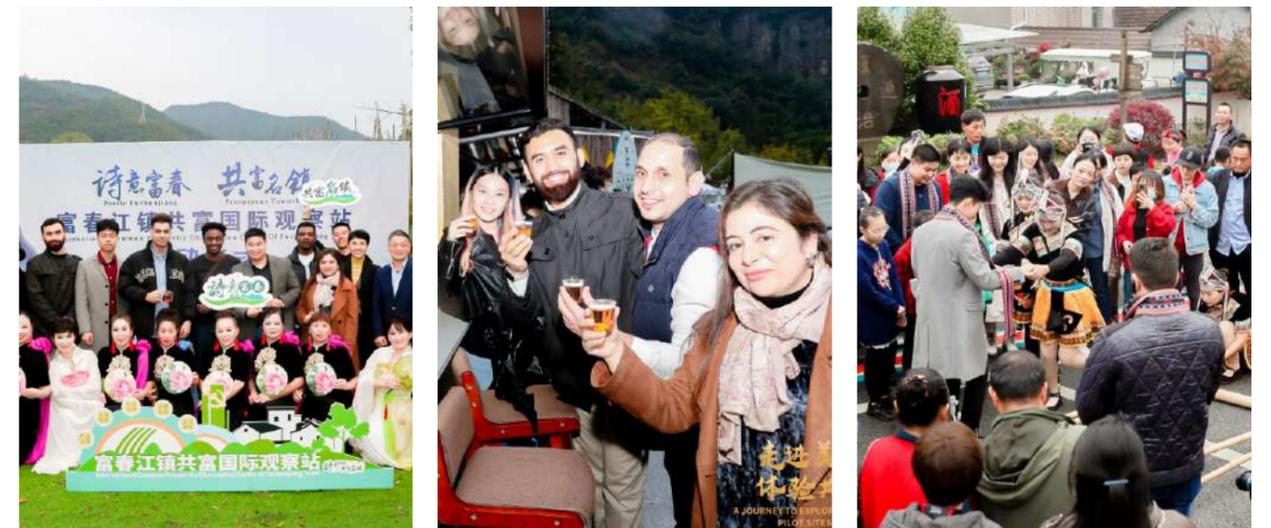
We hope to see you all in Gangwon-do in September 2023.



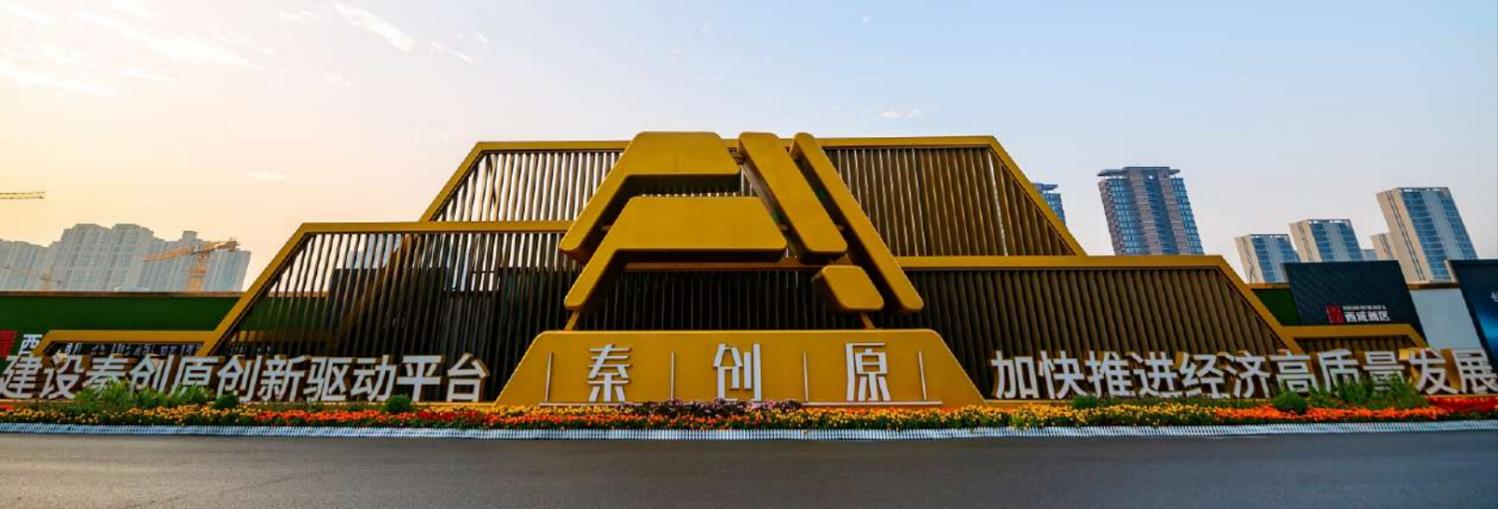
Experience a New Chapter of Development

HANGZHOU is one of the most important opening-up cities in China. In recent years, increasing foreigners come to Hangzhou and call this place their home.

From November 18 to 19, 2022, about 30 expatriates, including experts, business executives, entrepreneurs, representatives of international students and representatives of foreign business institutions in Zhejiang from more than 10 countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Finland, Pakistan, Rwanda, Japan and South Korea were invited to experience Hangzhou's achievement in building beautiful countryside in Fuyang District and Tonglu County. They walked into headquarters of ZTO Express, getting to know its basic logic of comprehensive logistics service platform. They also watched Yue Opera, tea art, cheongsam show and other performances, learned about embroidered shoes, gourd paintings, Shenao lanterns, paper-cutting and various other intangible cultures, and tried delicious black tea from Luci Village, special rice dumplings and Mishaipa, a local noodle dish.



Common prosperity is an important feature of Chinese modernization. Hangzhou echoes the call to build itself into a world-class modern metropolis, taking the lead in exploring the path of common prosperity and modernisation with universal significance, and injecting surging vitality and drive into the practice via reforms, such as building basic pilot units in this regard, in a bid to meet the people's aspirations for a better life.



The Qinchuangyuan Platform

IN March 2021, the Shaanxi Provincial Government set up the Qinchuangyuan Platform to translate Shaanxi's science and education resources and innovative advantages into economic development. Turning out, it was set to be a general innovation-driven platform to pool innovation resources, create innovation drivers and build an ecosystem for innovation in Shaanxi.

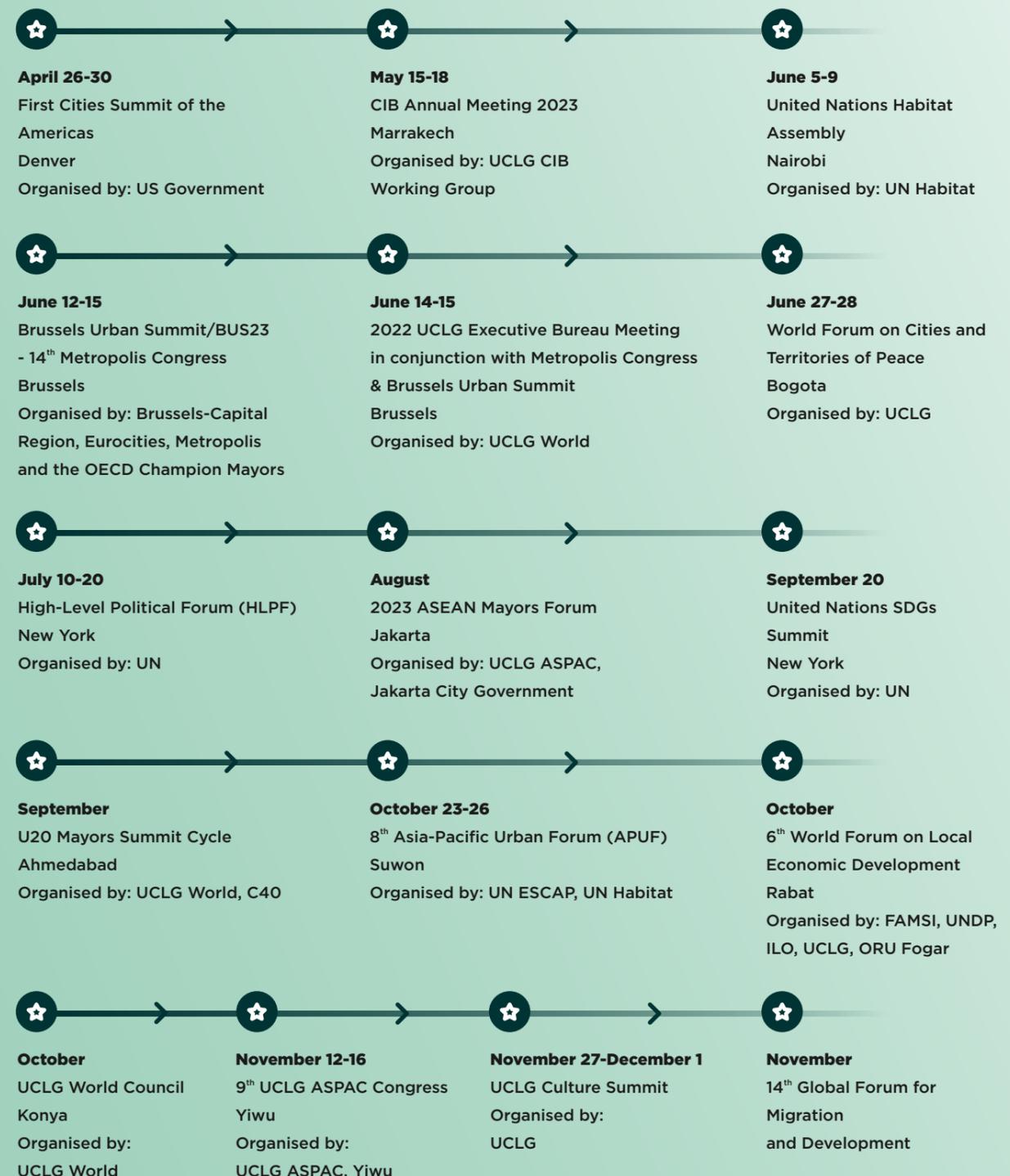
Qinchuangyuan Platform is now the largest incubator for the practical application of scientific and technological research in Shaanxi province. It aims to encompass the incubators, which serve as a comprehensive and multi-functional platform for research and development, pilot runs, and production, the accelerators for achievement transformations, and the promoters for integrating industry supply chains and innovation chains to deliver impressive results.

Here is the interpretation of Qinchuangyuan: "Qin" is short for Shaanxi, implying the tenacity and persistence of the land and its people; "Chuang" means innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and excellence; "Yuan" refers to a highland, which means the platform is aimed at building a plateau for innovation, it also means to keep flowing, signifying that the platform will continue producing achievements in scientific innovation. Besides, "Yuan" also means to trace the source, hoping that Qinchuangyuan can become the general source of innovation-driven development in Shaanxi Province.



With the Western China Science and Technology Innovation Harbour and Xixian New Area as its window, and the province's high-tech zones as essential components, the Qinchuangyuan Platform opens arms to colleges, universities, scientific research institutes, enterprises, and cities. After gathering optimal allocation of innovation resources for promoting high-quality economic development, the Qinchuangyuan Platform is expected to grow into a powerhouse of innovation in Shaanxi Province.

Calendar of Activities



We would like to thank our members and partners for contributing photos and materials used for this publication.

Please send your feedbacks and suggestions to communication@uclg-aspac.org

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