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United Cities and Local Governments  
Asia-Pacific

# LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

N E W S L E T T E R



## Rethinking Growth

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FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT



Dear valued members and partners,

Namaste! Greetings from Nepal.

It has been several months after my new role as the President of this organisation. I would like to thank all members and partners for the support given to me during this time. It is an honour and valuable opportunity to be able to represent local governments across Asia-Pacific and to uplift our voices in various occasions.

Aside from the interventions we made and will make in the future, I encourage all of us to start doing what we can do for the future of our cities. Re-thinking our city development is one that we surely need to do. This pandemic has exposed many vulnerable things that were covered: health infrastructure and system, data and technology utilisation, and many other things. It just shows that we cannot continue doing things the way we did.

Knowing our needs and opportunities are part of the process that we want to go through. Only by doing so, we can envision the path ahead and make strategies. Besides, we can also know our strengths and grab opportunities to support our efforts. It is also an essential step to take, as it will further determine how we translate each plan into actions.

At the beginning of my tenure, I also treasure the support given to me by the Secretariat Team. We will not be able to continuously serve our members and partners without the full support and commitment from the Secretariat Team members wherever they are stationed, Jakarta, Kathmandu, Kuala Lumpur, and Pakistan.

Let us hold on tight to the shared spirit and goal that we have, to continuously assist local governments for the betterment of local people within Asia-Pacific region. We can do this!

**Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha**

President, UCLG ASPAC  
President, Municipal Association of Nepal  
Mayor, Dhulikhel Municipality



Dear readers,

I am glad that we can greet you again on the first Newsletter in 2021. We went through 2020, a year full of challenges and uncertainties. As we enter 2021, we have seen sparks of hope through vaccine dissemination.

During these times, we, at the Secretariat, are glad that we could assist our members in various possible ways. Under the framework of SDGs localisation, we managed to support local governments in incorporating these goals into their local development plan. We also assisted members to engage with relevant stakeholders for shared commitment to ensure smooth implementation of the plan and to help members achieve the ambition for climate resilient and inclusive cities. We organised Training of Trainers (ToT) for resilience and developed its modules in coordination with UCLG World Secretariat.

With a new year ahead, we, at the Secretariat, are very enthusiastic. Not only we are more than ready to help our members in the recovery from the pandemic, but also for the new leadership in our organisation. We believe that the newly formed Governing Body for years 2020-2022 will bring new insights to our organisation and eventually will benefit our members.

We have learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges, we see huge opportunities that members can take, from digitalisation, civic engagement and participation. This is the right time to set the future that we want and to rethink the direction we'd like to go. Whether moving towards green and inclusive or circular and thriving, smart and compact cities and regions, whatever terms we use, the fundamental part is to have people at the centre of local development.

The end of the pandemic is in sight. It does not mean that we can loosen the protocols but we can gear up for the post-pandemic era with renewed spirit!

**Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi**

Secretary General, UCLG ASPAC

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# RETHINKING GROWTH

**THE COVID-19** pandemic has stroke cities and slowed down local economy. This has also exposed the vulnerable parts of city: its health infrastructure and system as well as social system, among many others. This has inhibited local development and showed that improvements on city management is imperative. In the efforts to recover, local governments are expected to re-think how they plan and govern their city post-COVID-19.

We present five possible scenarios that local governments can consider when re-thinking the development plan of city; either to focus on health (Healthy City), environment (Green Cities), engagement of vulnerable groups (Inclusive City), or strive to become a Thriving City. These scenarios are not the only possible ones but great to be put as top priority for planning our future cities.



## HEALTHY CITY

**HEALTHY** City is one that is continually creating and improving those physical and social environments and expanding those community resources which enable people to mutually support each other in performing all the functions of life and developing to their maximum potential.<sup>1</sup>

Starting from an initiative of the World Health Organisation (WHO), the concept was firstly introduced in 1986. The Healthy City concept has spread across the various parts of the world ever since.

### Singapore

Singapore has been named one of the world's five healthy cities by BBC and CNN US.<sup>2</sup> The nomination highlighted urban planning, health care system and public transportation, set up of cycle lanes and health trails system, encouraging sports, and garden city construction.

### Concept development



By 2030, population of Singapore is estimated to grow to 6.9 million, which will lead to land scarcity, increased demand for transport and resources (water, energy, food) and increased waste production and emission. The healthy city concept, thus, puts emphasis on optimising the opportunities to use underground space for the benefit of a healthy above ground urban environment. It is conducted by relocating urban functions and sources that have a negative impact on urban health to underground spaces, and to redevelop above ground spaces to improve the healthy living environment. For example, underground highways (instead of above ground) improve air quality, decrease noise pollution, create new space above ground for recreational and living purposes, and re-connect parts of cities that were previously separated by these highways.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.who.int/healthpromotion/healthy-cities/en/> (accessed 30 March 2021)

<sup>2</sup><https://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/research/research-centres/ues/programme/expert-view/healthy-city> (accessed 30 March 2021)

<sup>3</sup><https://www.zja.nl/nl/TheHealthyCity#:~:text=In%20times%20of%20population%20growth,enhancing%20factors%20that%20determine%20health>



Wonju<sup>4</sup>

Located on the South Korea Peninsula, Wonju has shown great commitment in development of the healthy city concept.

The Implementation




Wonju City started with the five-year plan focusing on the setting out of systematic policies: life style modification, disease prevention and rehabilitation, and setting healthy industry, infrastructure and environment. After evaluation from the community survey and key informants’ interviews, the city continued with the Vision 2020, a 10-year plan with two approaches: individual approach and socio-environmental approach.

The individual approach included life style modification, disease prevention, and rehabilitation; while socio-environmental approach comprised setting, infrastructure, environment, and health industries. Included in the setting were healthy schools, healthy work places, healthy hospitals, healthy communities, healthy markets and food safety, and healthy farming villages. The infrastructure included transportation, culture and welfare, safety and social marketing. Environmental planning and education were under the environment; while advanced health technology, smart healthy city, and health tourism were included in health industries. Those priorities were set after consultation with experts as well as local government officials.

Healthy City Projects

Name of the Projects	Interventions
Sport and medicine centre	Physical check-up, exercise prescription, health education
Environment-friendly streamside park	Construction of a flood-control dam, and providing various themed spaces
Culture street project	Cultural space for citizens and pedestrians with amenities: installation of fountains, land purchased for performance spaces, and building purchased for exhibitions
Climate change response education and research centre	Education and research centre, renewable energy exhibition facility
Walkable city	Safe road for both drivers and pedestrians: One-way traffic with three lanes, underground distribution line and pedestrian path extension

**Award**

The city received various awards from WHO (Good Practice Award, Best Proposal Award in various categories) and AFHC (Creative Development Award).

<sup>4</sup>[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/318840649\\_A\\_Healthy\\_City\\_Project\\_A\\_Case\\_Study\\_of\\_Wonju\\_City\\_South\\_Korea\\_and\\_its\\_Relevance\\_to\\_the\\_Cities\\_in\\_Nepal/fulltext/598128dd4585150575ba1d73/A-Healthy-City-Project-A-Case-Study-of-Wonju-City-South-Korea-and-its-Relevance-to-the-Cities-in-Nepal.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/318840649_A_Healthy_City_Project_A_Case_Study_of_Wonju_City_South_Korea_and_its_Relevance_to_the_Cities_in_Nepal/fulltext/598128dd4585150575ba1d73/A-Healthy-City-Project-A-Case-Study-of-Wonju-City-South-Korea-and-its-Relevance-to-the-Cities-in-Nepal.pdf)

Key Success

Located on the South Korea Peninsula, Wonju has shown great commitment in development of the healthy city concept.

**Investment from Tobacco Tax for Healthy City**

The programme was sustainably financed by tobacco consumption tax. This practice is the first in the country and has legal approval from city council. Minimum 34% of the total budget for the programme came from the tax (2015).

**Strong Political Commitment**

This programme is conducted voluntarily, so strong commitment from local government is needed; such as investing more funds and human resources in the projects and provision of administrative support to implement multi-sectoral collaborative projects, in addition to getting support from central government.

**Collaboration with University**

City of Wonju collaborated with Yonsei Healthy Research Centre for evidence-based planning and execution.

**Innovative and Enterprise City**

Since 2010, city of Wonju has also declared itself as innovative and enterprise city, based on the concept of healthy city. It developed innovative city zone comprising headquarters of the national health insurance service, health insurance review and assessment service, Red Cross Society, and the national forensic service. As for the enterprise city, medical service complex was built.

Canberra

Listed among the 20 healthiest cities across globe, city of Canberra lists below features:

- Superior healthcare system (safe and cost-efficient care to local people)
- Sun-drenched location for Vitamin D supply
- Low crime rate
- Enforcement of environmental laws

Indore

Crowned as the cleanest city in India four times in a row, Indore has applied:

- Bins separation at home: dry, wet, and hazardous waste,
- Local people behaviour changing process: joint visit of municipal officials and public representatives, mass road-sweeping exercises by religious leaders, involvement of self-help groups,
- Implementation of various campaigns: zero-waste markets and colonies, composting awareness campaigns,
- Imposing fines for non-segregation of waste at home and public littering

Sources: <https://bdaa.com.au/three-of-the-worlds-healthiest-cities-are-found-right-here-in-australia/>  
<https://theprint.in/opinion/from-dumping-grounds-to-golf-courses-how-indore-became-indias-cleanest-city/487917/>



# GREEN CITY

**GREEN** city is a concept developed to address sustainable development in order to minimise the exploitation of energy, water and materials at each stage of the city, community, and building life cycle (Lehman 2011). As an environmentally friendly concept for city planning and development, the green city concept has a number of definitions and approaches. The Green City Planning and Practices in Asian Cities publication mentions elements for a green city include green resources (water, energy, materials), green social system, green open space, green waste, green transportation, and green building. There are also five main principles that also need to be incorporated: adaptation and responsiveness to climate, ecology, and context; people's quality of life; reduction, reuse, and recycling of resources; cradle to cradle and cradle to grave; and clean technology and innovation. In the long-term, the green city concept targets at decreasing the city's environmental loads by reducing material and energy use, improving natural spaces, mitigating the effects of climate change, and creating a more equitable and engaged society. There is no one-for-all solution to be applied to every city. Adaptable, responsive, and innovative solutions that differ from one place to another enable green cities to emerge in various guises and recognise the variation and dynamism of cities (ADB, 2015).

## Kuwana – Daiwa Smart House

The project is a collaboration of local government and private sector to design Kuwana city (specifically Mie Prefecture) to achieve net-zero energy consumption.

### Implementation

A solar power generation system (of Daiwa Energy) is installed as a communal facility. Regulation applied is that the homeowners association (the residents) rents the solar power generation system to the company, and uses the rental income to improve services to support residents' daily life.




Solar power generation facilities (for entire town)

All houses are smart houses adopting passive design, taking advantage of natural sources. They are designed to reduce the use of air conditioning systems and lightning: optimising tall shade trees, lawns and water-retaining pavements to reduce heat-island effects, installation of a rainwater tank at each house so that collected water can be used for watering their garden to reduce water bills. The aim is to make maximum use of natural resources and achieve a low-carbon town. It is estimated that the total amount of primary energy generated by individual houses and communal facilities exceeds the total amount consumed by individual houses, which makes the achievement rate of a net zero energy town at about 104.8%.

1 Solar power generation panels


Generate



Solar Power Generation Panels  
(for each house)

2 EcoCute and ENE-FARM

Use wisely




Generate

A highly efficient water heating system generating hot water and electricity

3 Lithium-ion battery (storage capacity of 6.2 kW)

Store



To store electricity at night for use during the day and power outage in case of emergency

## Seoul – Leader of Green Roof Projects in Korea

*Hanul Madang* (garden in the sky) Rooftop Garden is a project developed in Seoul National University to promote green roof infrastructure at public institutions in Seoul. It is an initiative to reconnect green space that has disappeared. The rooftop garden area does require a high level of maintenance (weeds, plants irrigation). It is also dry, less fertile than ordinary soils, and subject to evaporation rates. However, if well managed, it provides leisure, recreational, healing, educational, and tourism values. It also offers new experiences, a healing space that relieves stress from everyday research and study, and a space for events and welcoming visitors.

*Hanul Madang* is managed by landscape architecture students from Graduate School of Environmental Studies (GSES). Some spaces in the garden are dedicated to students so they can directly grow tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, cucumbers, pumpkins, etc.. From early 2012, students commenced beekeeping activities. They sell the honey as souvenirs to visitors of rooftop garden. *Hanul Madang* is managed by the students themselves, and the landscape develops based on their participation, not as a fixed form. It is not only a beautiful garden but also a space for living things to coexist and operate within this ecosystem.

Seoul City is leader in the green roof projects in the country. Seoul City Hall Seosomun Annex started in 2000 with a 298 m<sup>2</sup> rooftop garden. Following this, green roofs projects have spread nationwide.



Hanul Madang Rooftop Garden



Beekeeping activities



Hanul Madang landscape



Event and garden party at Hanul Madang



Student participation in garden management activities





# INCLUSIVE CITY

**INCLUSIVE** city is a concept that involves a complex web of multiple spatial, social, and economic factors: Spatial inclusion (access to affordable necessities, such as housing, water, and sanitation); Social inclusion (access to equal rights, participation for all, including the most marginalised), and Economic inclusion (access to economic opportunities for all).

## NAGAREYAMA - Think Motherhood, Think Nagareyama

Nagareyama city is located near central Tokyo. It is home to 79,046 households, of which 26.9 percent are married couples with children (2017). From the data, 60 percent of married women in Nagareyama are with pre-school age children and work outside home. This figure rises to 70 percent in the section/district of the city where the population is growing.

Like many small and middle-sized cities in Japan, Nagareyama faced declining number of population. Approximately 15 years ago, the city experienced challenging situation: the shrinking overall population, increase in the old-age population, and potential municipal debt.

Analysis and surveys revealed that Nagareyama was located close enough to Tokyo business centre and possessed rich natural resources to attract young families. Survey showed that most of the women in the city wanted to balance their lives by achieving their professional goals and having enough time to spend with their children.

Based on these facts, the city designed and offered public services to promote the well-being of motherhood and families, based on three pillars: development of urban green spaces, increase in public services and infrastructure to support parenting and children's education, and promotion of family activities and tourism events to attract non-residents.

“Usually, women have the power within families to decide where to live... They consider the quality of the living environment and the education for their children. The city identified these women's needs through the survey and has provided services that take into account their priorities.”

- Mayor Izaki.

## Implementation

### Establishment of Child Transportation Services in the Central Train Station

It provided solution for parents with children of different ages and needed to take them to different day care centres or nursery schools located in different districts. Busses will take children to 32 nurseries/childcare centres and returned to the pick-up point according to the office hours. During the bus ride, teachers take care of the children, read books, sing songs, and play games and do the same at the pick-up centres (located inside the facility) while waiting for parents to arrive. The service also offers extended hours, including a children's dinner for JPY350 (\$3.20 USD) when parents work late.

### Entrepreneurship Programme for Mothers

It was the solution for mothers facing difficulties returning to office after maternity break. The programme also provided childcare facility so mothers could focus on it. Many of its graduates have started to use their professional skills, such as running a local cafeteria where mothers work as chefs; running a translation service to operating a photography studio; designing and publishing tourist brochures, and operating an information platform for visitors to the city.

### Providing Subsidies for Business Relocated and Using Vacant Properties in the City

The city provides financial support of up to US\$10,000 for rent and remodelling cost for a maximum of three years. A Nagareyama resident used this programme to establish Trist, a service that provides reemployment assistance and helps women set up to work remotely. Trist collaborated with seven private companies, including Microsoft Japan. Trist offers IT, team-building, and productivity skills and go through a matching and hiring process with potential employers.

### Developing Green Infrastructure and Promoting Historical Heritage

The goal is to create a safe and family-friendly environment, where families could interact and raise their children in a natural setting. In 2006, it launched Green Chain Project to encourage individuals, families, businesses, and developers to use energy-efficient appliances and plant trees. The city also promoted eco-tourism through “Subsidy Programme for Tone Canal Tourism”, a partially underwriting renovation costs for residents who want to establish tourism-related shops and services and rent historical buildings and heritage sites in the canal area.





# THRIVING, CIRCULAR CITY

**CIRCULAR** city takes the Kate Raworth's concept on the Doughnut Economy model. This model brings together the environmental sustainability and social justice topics. It offers a way to work towards creating a safe and just space.

### The Social Foundation

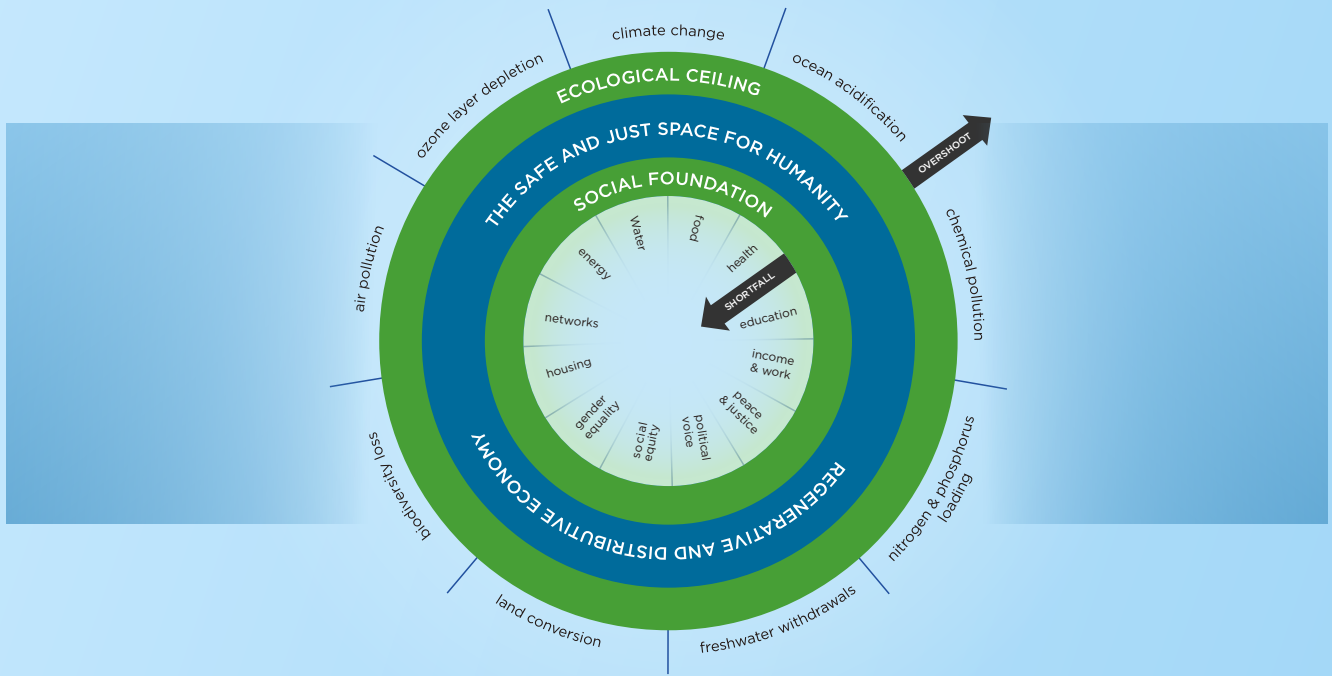
Inner part of the doughnut is the social foundation. It consists of 12 areas deriving from the internationally agreed standard established through the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015: water, food, health, education, income & work, peace & justice, political voice, social equity, gender equality, housing, networks, energy.

### The Ecological Ceiling

The outer part of the doughnut represents ecological ceiling of our planet. It consists of nine planetary boundaries, set up by Earth-system scientists to identify Earth's critical life-supporting systems and the global limits of pressure that they can endure. Those include: ozone layer depletion, climate change, ocean acidification, chemical pollution, nitrogen & phosphorus loading, freshwater withdrawals, land conversion, biodiversity loss, air pollution.

### A safe and just space for humanity

This is the space to meet the needs of people within the means of the living planet.



City of Amsterdam plans to be a thriving and equitable city. To realise its vision, it focuses on becoming a circular and climate-neutral city. Following the report Amsterdam Circular: Evaluation and Action Perspectives, the city has decided to prioritise the value chains of Construction, Biomass and Food, and Consumer goods. It has also adopted this doughnut model as a tool to develop a holistic vision for a circular economy, to design relevant strategic directions, and to measure progress.

In the implementation stage, the city brought together 50 officials from various departments in the city and region, and over 100 stakeholders. They went through four steps, each with a workshop organised with various stakeholders.

- **Mirroring the current targets of the city with the doughnut model**
- **Developing holistic circular economy directions for the three priority value chains**
- **Enhancing the current targets to align them with the ambitions in the circular economy directions and the doughnut model**
- **Enriching and validating the directions with knowledge from the ground**

## Results: 17 Circular Economy Directions in Construction, Biomass and Food, and Consumer Goods

Each direction was designed and tested in a participatory process with over 50 representatives from the municipality of Amsterdam. The directions were validated by over 100 external stakeholders, including businesses, experts, and knowledge institutions.

Each direction describes:

- **Description of the circular economy direction**  
What is the direction, why it is relevant for the city?
- **Main impacts of the circular economy direction**  
What are the key doughnut themes (social foundation and planetary boundaries) impacted by the direction?
- **Current state in Amsterdam**  
What are the current activities in the city? Where the city is currently at with reference to developing this direction?
- **Who needs to be involved and what should be done?**  
Which stakeholders need to be involved (e.g. businesses, governments and civil society)? What should they do to implement the direction?

The city also determines levers and instruments for the circular city. Levers are enabling elements to facilitate the transition to a circular economy. Policy instruments are interventions that the city can leverage to stimulate the transition towards a circular economy.

Levers for the Circular City		Policy Instruments for the Circular City	
Digitalisation	Logistics	Regulation	Knowledge, Advice, and Information
True and Fair Pricing	obs and Skills	Legislation	Collaboration Platforms and Infrastructure
Innovation Networks		Fiscal Frameworks	Governance
Systems Thinking		Direct Financial Support	
Experimentation		Economic Frameworks	

Sources: The Amsterdam City Doughnut, A Tool for Transformative Action by Doran Economics Action Lab (DEAL) in collaboration with Biomimicry 3.8, Circle Economy, and CAO (March, 2020)  
Building Blocks for the New Strategy Amsterdam Circular 2020-2025, Directions for a thriving city within the planetary boundaries (June, 2019)

UCLG ASPAC  
COUNCIL MEETING 2021:  
KICKING OFF THE  
NEW CHAPTER



**UCLG ASPAC** held the Council Meeting 2021 in hybrid mode attended by hundreds of local governments and representatives from cities, local governments and associations in Indonesia (onsite) and within the Asia-Pacific sub-region (online). The meeting was organised as a response to the postponement of UCLG ASPAC Congress that was planned to be held in Zhengzhou 24-28 April 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Discussion held in this meeting marked the new chapter of the organisation as it elected the new Governing Body (President, Co-Presidents), Council and Executive Bureau members, discussed the UCLG ASPAC Manifesto 2021-2025, the work plan 2021, approved new member, and other essential matters.

UCLG ASPAC members have elected its new President, Mr. Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha, Chair of the Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN) and Mayor of Dhulikhel. Flag ceremony was held virtually from Immediate Past President Tri Rismaharini (former Mayor of Surabaya, and recently appointed as the Minister of Social Affairs of Indonesia) to the newly elected President Ashok.

Manifesto 2021-2025

Throughout various onsite and online discussions from 2018, UCLG ASPAC set six points as its priorities, including:

- 1
- Promote effective democratic self-government and good governance
- 2
- Put equal and adequate basic services to improve quality of life and city resilience
- 3
- Put global/regional agendas and national commitments into effective local implementation
- 4
- Aggregate, elevate, and advocate for local voices and issues to national, regional, and global levels
- 5
- Empower and enable COVID-19 recovery and resilience for local governments and cities
- 6
- Strengthen performance and service delivery of the Secretariat

The priorities were extracted from discussions of Manifesto Committee consisting of members applying voluntarily: Fuzhou Municipal People’s Government, Makati City Government, Taipei City Government, Wuhan Municipal People’s Government, Wuxi Municipal People’s Government, Zhengzhou Municipal People’s Government, All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIILSG), Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), and Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ).

Responses

Members positively welcomed the priorities set, with additional inputs shared during the meeting including the proposal to establish Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction as initiated by Padang City as well as consideration to include the existing activities into the strategic plan of the organisation despite changes impacted by COVID-19 as mentioned by Mayor Bima Arya Sugiarto of Bogor City, the newly elected Chair of Association of Indonesia Municipalities (APEKSI). Sejong has proposed the need to establish the Decentralised Committee.

Governing Body 2020-2022

UCLG ASPAC Council Meeting 2021 managed to elect the new Governing Body for period 2020-2022.

See page 16-17 for complete list of new Governing Body 2020-2022

Other Matters

**UCLG ASPAC Congress 2021** | City of Zhengzhou planned to host the 8<sup>th</sup> UCLG ASPAC Congress on August-September 2021. Adjustments made would be on theme, supporting activities, and that the organisation planned to be conducted hybrid.

The Council Members accepted the proposal made by Daejeon to host the 2022 UCLG ASPAC Council and Executive Bureau Meetings to be held in conjunction with the UCLG World Congress.

Establishment of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction

City of Padang proposed the establishment of Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction as it aligns with UCLG ASPAC Manifesto.

New Member

PALEMBANG	Mayor: Mr. Harnojoyo	Website: <a href="https://palembang.go.id">https://palembang.go.id</a>
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Palembang is the oldest city in Indonesia. Known as Srivijaya Land, it was the biggest Buddhist Kingdom that controlled Malacca Strait. Venice of the East, is another name of the city. Together with Jakarta, Palembang hosted the 2018 ASIAN Games. Palembang is divided by Musi river, but connected by Ampera bridge. It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest city is Sumatra island.



# UCLG ASPAC GOVERNING BODY 2020-2022



## PRESIDENT

**ASHOK KUMAR BYANJU SHRESTHA**  
President, UCLG ASPAC  
President, Municipal Association of Nepal  
Mayor, Dhulikhel Municipality

## CO-PRESIDENT



**HOU HONG**  
Mayor of Zhengzhou City  
representing East and  
Northeast Asia sub-region



**MADELAINE ALFELOR**  
Mayor of Iriga City  
representing East and  
Southeast Asia sub-region



**STUART CROSBY**  
President of Local Government  
New Zealand representing  
Pacific sub-region  
Councillor, Bay of Plenty Regional Council



**RANJIT S. CHAVAN**  
President of All India  
Institute of Local Self Government  
representing Associate and  
International Organisation Members



**CHEN YINI**  
Vice Chair of Chinese People's  
Political Consultative Conference  
Guangzhou Committee representing  
Women in Local Government



**ANIES RASYID BASWEDAN**  
Host  
Governor of Jakarta  
Capital City Government



**TRI RISMAHARINI**  
Immediate Past President



**CHEN HASOU**  
Founding President  
The Chinese People's Association  
for Friendship with Foreign Countries

## EAST AND NORTHEAST ASIA



**MR. SONG HA-JIN**  
President of Governors  
Association of Korea (GAOK)  
Governor of Jeollabuk-do



**MR. ZHENG JIANXIN**  
Mayor  
Changsha Municipal  
People's Government



**MR. WEN-JE KO**  
Mayor  
Taipei City Government



**MR. YOUNGJIN KWON**  
Mayor  
Daegu Metropolitan City



**MR. LIU XIN**  
Mayor  
Hangzhou Municipal People's  
Government



**MR. YASUTOMO SUZUKI**  
Mayor  
Hamamatsu City



**MS. LU, SHIOW-YEN**  
Mayor  
Taichung City Government



**MR. JIANG JIANG**  
Vice President  
Chinese People's Association for  
Friendship with Foreign Countries  
(CPAFFC)

## EAST AND NORTHEAST ASIA



**MR. HUR TAE-JEONG**  
Mayor  
Daejeon Metropolitan City



**MR. YOU MENGJUN**  
Mayor  
Fuzhou Municipal People's  
Government



**MR. PARK HEONG-JOON**  
Mayor  
Busan Metropolitan City



**MR. LI MINGYUAN**  
Mayor  
Xi'an Municipal People's  
Government

## SOUTHWEST ASIA



**MR. H. SYARIF FASHA**  
Mayor  
Jambi City



**MR. HENDRI SEPTA**  
Mayor  
Padang Municipality



**MR. DR. BIMA ARYA SUGIARTO**  
Chairman  
Association of Indonesia  
Municipalities (APEKSI)  
Mayor  
Bogor City



**MR. BENHUR TOMI MANO**  
Mayor  
Jayapura City



**MR. H.E. SAY KOSAL**  
President  
National League of  
Local Council (NLC)

## SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST ASIA



**MS. FOZIA KHALID**  
President  
Local Councils Association of the Punjab (LCAP)  
Chairperson of Toba Tek Singh District



**MR. CHINTAN TAMANG**  
Mayor  
Dhankuta Municipality



**MS. BOTIKA MAITINNARA**  
Chairperson  
Kiribati Local Government  
Association (KILGA)



**BERNADIA IRAWATI TJANDRADEWI**  
Secretary General

## DESIGNATED MEMBER



**TAMOTSU OKAMOTO**  
Chairperson, the Board of Director  
Council of Local Authorities for  
International Relations (CLAIR) of Japan

## SECRETARY GENERAL





**Mr. ASHOK KUMAR BYANJU SHRESTHA**  
President of Municipal Association of Nepal | Mayor of Dhulikhel Municipality  
The Newly elected President of UCLG ASPAC (2020-2022)

## A LOOK-OUT TO THE STRATEGIC INSIGHT OF THE NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT

### ? What is your vision and mission by becoming the President of this organisation?

We have to admit that there is rapid urbanisation primarily in the South Asia and the Asia-Pacific region. However, there is also rise in population and demand to fulfil the needs evolved through urbanisation faced by the people still struggling below the poverty line. Plus, there exists lack of technical infrastructure, knowledge, and proper financial mobilisation. Our first priority will be to assist in establishing good governance and democratisation in cities of the Asia-Pacific region as per the strategic plan of UCLG ASPAC. Apart from the development of the cities, we should now also start developing experts and social-political champions who will promote the values of democracy in the region. The cities in the Asia-Pacific region have huge population and the local governments are extremely diverse both in terms of geography as well as culturally. The cities and the local government should be made equally just, capable, accountable as well as transparent in their functioning in the next 10 to 15 years. This will be our key priority.

### ? What are challenges faced by local governments today? What are your suggestions for them?

One of the challenges is the unplanned settlements in our cities resulting from unmet needs on housing. Second, there is rising demand on employment. The other issue is the impact of climate change and the skill to tackle with issues of urbanisation such as managing solid waste management and wastewater treatment plants. This has impacted the public health of people living in the cities as well as affected its beautification. Apart from the challenges, local governments need to also realise that prosperity takes place in line with the values of the cities, its economy and the social lifestyle with strong partnership between the local governments and the partner organisations. Inequalities in various areas have also hindered rapid development of cities. We need to continuously preserve the natural resources and cultural heritages of cities as they positively contribute in making cities sustainable and developing local economy. Lastly, there are so many plans, ideologies, expertise and programmes in urbanisation, that we need to continuously make efforts to seek the possibility of adoption for the betterment of our city.

In regards to COVID-19, we need to identify what is working in terms of coordination between central, federal and the local governments. There also needs to be sharing between cities to learn what is working and where we can focus on. We have first-hand experience on the positive role played by local governments during the global pandemic. We need to support their capacities and their initiatives in building technically qualified human resources and equipment and seek more active role in infrastructure development. The local governments are the closest to the people with the services it renders and understands the sentiments of the people.

### ? What changes you expect to see in this organisation during your tenure?

UCLG ASPAC already has its expertise in assisting and empowering cities all over the world in democratisation and identifying problems faced by cities and finding solutions through peer-learning, sharing as well as influence policy advocacy in new issues arising due to urbanisation. These are our key responsibilities. Apart from this, we need to mainstream the masterplan within cities of the Asia Pacific region to attain the sustainable development goals by 2030. Our priority will be to implement the manifesto UCLG ASPAC has developed after identifying issues in cities in the region as well as globally. For this, we will emphasise building of sister city relations between cities and assisting each other as well as improving economies to establish cities in the region such as tourism cities, cultural cities, industrial cities, and even environment friendly cities. Our priority will be to reduce environmental pollution and manage climate change. A lot of cities in the region are also coming up as emerging cities so we can also work towards establishing innovation hubs by involving the youth and encouraging their participation for economic, social and cultural development. There are various bases of urbanisation coming from various development models of the countries and these could be documented in the form of a book for further research. Plus, as the internal resources of local governments is not sufficient for overall development so we need to partner with international agencies such as the UN, World Bank, ADB as well as other donor agencies to lobby allocation of resources on our key priorities.

### ✓ Message to members and partners

I appeal to all members and partners of UCLG ASPAC for stronger partnership on issues of urbanisation as this is beyond the responsibilities of a single local government. Our cooperation and coordination will not only institutionalise strategic development of UCLG ASPAC but will also help us in development of local governments and increasing the quality-of-service delivery to the people. There is utmost need for unity of cities in the Asia Pacific region not only to identify our common problems but also to build a concept of city-to-city cooperation and the core belief UCLG ASPAC stands for. Unity is power to overcome all challenging issues such as poverty alleviation, infrastructure development, social changes and climate change if we make it our common agenda.



# THE 8<sup>TH</sup> ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



**23-26 March 2021** | Under the framework of Asia-Pacific Local Governments Coordinating Body (APLG), UCLG ASPAC, in the local governments’ statement, represented by President and Dhulikhel Municipality Mayor Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha, stated three key actions that support the implementation of SDGs at the local level:

- 1 The effective decentralisation with vertical and horizontal integration across all levels of government;**
- 2 The integration and contextualisation of SDGs in planning through localisation;**
- 3 To recognise and support the voluntary local review (VLR) and voluntary subnational review (VSR) as bottom-up approaches that will provide reality-grounded information to the voluntary national reviews (VNRs).**



During the Agenda 2 of APFSD, UCLG ASPAC Secretary General Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi highlighted:

- 1 The indispensable role of local governments in the achievement of the SDGs and pandemic recovery;**
- 2 The need for access to clear channels on COVID-19 recovery financing;**
- 3 The enabling environment for local governments and to engage them in the process.**

UCLG ASPAC, together with Huairou Commission, UNESCAP, and UN-Habitat, co-organised the side event “Our Vision of a Sustainable and Resilient Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic: Grassroots Women and Local Government Leaders Speak-out” on 22 March 2021. The side event focused on how the organised grassroots group led by women and local governments addressed the pandemic and how they adapted the lessons learned in developing their recovery plan and programme.

**The outcome of the APFSD will be submitted by UNESCAP to the upcoming High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development to be held in New York from 6 to 15 July 2021.**

The Asia-Pacific Local Government (APLG) is a coordinating body set up with the facilitation of UN ESCAP. It aims to increase local government engagement at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), following an ESCAP convened ‘Local government consultation for the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda in Asia and the Pacific’ held at the UCLG ASPAC 7<sup>th</sup> Congress in 2018.

# ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION



**10-12 March 2021** | UCLG ASPAC, the coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Local Government Coordinating Body, represented local governments within the Asia-Pacific region in the first Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Subang Jaya Mayor Noraini Roslan represented local governments at the roundtable on “Supporting migrants’ protection, integration and contribution to development”. In the intervention, Mayor Noraini Roslan called for stronger collaboration with the national government and partnerships with all stakeholders to better implement the Global Compact, call for access to migration data to ensure local policies are evidence-based and responsive to the needs of migrants. Enabling environment and access to financial resources were also highlighted to enable delivery service and inclusivity.

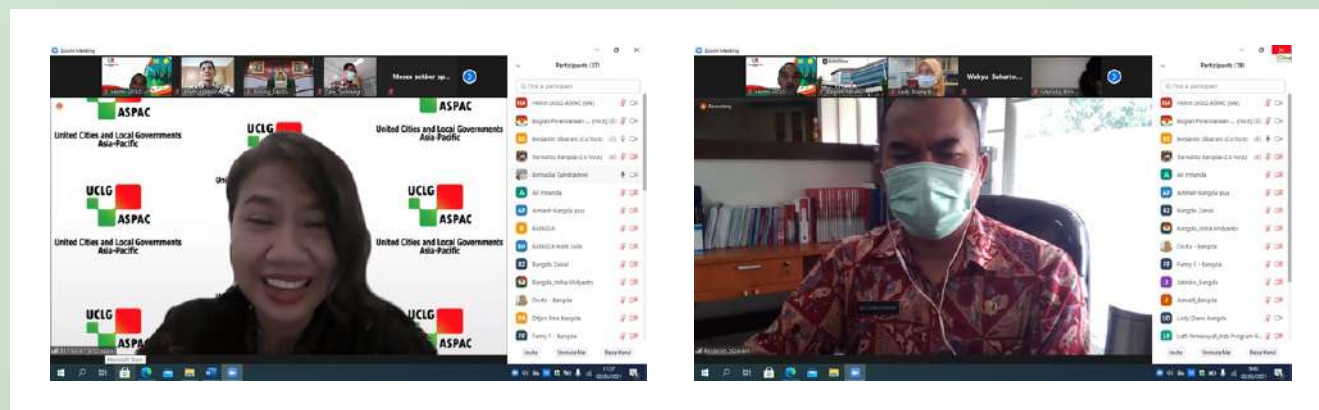
UCLG ASPAC Secretary General Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, in her stakeholder intervention, underscored the importance of empowering local governments to fully implement the Global Compact and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She stated that having a good enabling environment, with the clear legal mandate and access to resources, is essential to address the objectives in the GCM. She invited national governments, UN agencies, intergovernmental organisations, civic society, and other stakeholders to ensure that migration is safe, orderly and regular for people.



# BRING UP LOCAL PERSPECTIVES IN NATIONAL REGULATION FOR SMOOTH DELIVERY OF PUBLIC SERVICES AT LOCAL LEVEL AND SDGs INCORPORATION

**UCLG ASPAC** was appointed by Indonesia's Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) to support Directorate General Regional Development Agency in revising the Ministry Regulation No.100/2018. There are gaps and obstacles in implementing the regulation that rules out minimum standard to be applied by local governments in Indonesia in delivering public services (Standar Pelayanan Minimum/SPM) in six sectors: education, health, public works and spatial planning (including access to clean water, electricity, vital infrastructures), public housing, community and public safety (human rights, gender, safety), and social sector (poverty, inequality, disaster).

UCLG ASPAC initiated a series of focus group discussion (FGD) meeting with the directorate from 14 February to 3 March 2021. We shared our inputs from the perspective of local governments for smooth delivery of public services at the local level and ensure the incorporation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Based on the regulation, SPM implementation at the local level requires the performance of four stages:

- Data collection,
- Calculation on the need of basic service fulfilment,
- Preparation for implementation plans,
- Implementation for the fulfilment of basic services.

Highlights of the focus group discussion meeting series:

- Agreement on the four stages for SPM implementation,
- Local governments require clear technical guidance from the national government to be able to integrate SPM to their local development plan and establish local implementation team,
- Acknowledgment that strong commitment in supporting the sustainable regional development is needed so that SPM targets can be achieved at the local level. MoHA will provide technical assistance for regions.

Inputs and results for the revision of the regulation:

- Simplification of SPM indicators,
- SPM achievement index will have grouping scale to 100%,
- Selection of regional SPM team must be articulated on mayor/governor decree,
- SPM performance reporting system will use an online system submitted on quarterly basis,
- There will be incentives for regions with the highest achievement.

## WHAT'S NEXT

UCLG ASPAC will also get involved in the finalisation of the revision as well as implementation to cities and local governments in Indonesia through a webinar planned to be organised in May 2021.



# TRAINING OF TRAINERS FOR RESILIENT GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

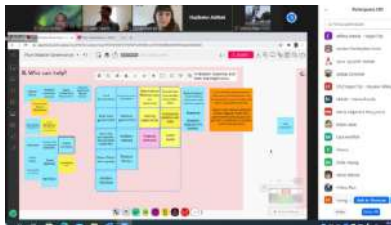
**9-11 March 2021** | UCLG ASPAC continues its commitment to support local governments in the Asia-Pacific region in enhancing their cities resilience through a Training of Trainers (ToT) that involved 30 trainers from cities and associations of the four sub-regions of Asia and the Pacific. The ToT was conducted in collaboration with the Learning Team of UCLG World and contributed to the new development of Learning Module 1 on the localisation of the Sendai Framework, developed by UCLG World in partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat). The module aims to support local governments in the creation of an enabling environment for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience building. It also aims to foster learning and raising awareness about the links between local action and the achievement of the global agendas, particularly that of the Sendai Framework for DRR.

## The Three-Day ToT

The ToT brought up the overall principles of city resilience as well as its connections with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Global Agenda. It highlighted the fundamentals of resilient governance and development and engaged participants (trainers) through activities/exercises for dynamic, engaging, collaborative, and reflective learning methodologies.



**DAY-1 | Localising the Sendai Framework to Achieve Resilient Cities & Territories**  
Risk and Resilience Lecture and Exercise, SFDRR (Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction), Resilience, and the SDGs Lecture and Exercise



**DAY-2 | Fundamentals of Resilience Building and DRR for LRGs**  
Overview of Resilience Principles and Policy Cycle, Governance and Assessment Tools Lecture, 'Futurilities' Role Play Dynamic, Finance, Strategies, and Action Plans Lecture and Exercise



**DAY-3 | Fostering an Enabling Environment**  
Post-Disaster Governance Exercise, Insights from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, Five Keys Line of Action for Local & Regional Government Associations

**UCLG ASPAC thanks all local governments participating in the ToT. We are currently coordinating with the UCLG Learning Team to further enhance the capacity of local governments on city resilience through the development of Module 2 which is targeted to complete this year.**

# PROGRESS TOWARDS CLIMATE RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE CITIES



**UCLG ASPAC** programme for Climate Resilience and Inclusive Cities/CRIC funded by the European Union continued its support for cities to be more resilient and inclusive:

## 1-4 February 2021

**A 5-day Focus Group Discussion. Stakeholder engagement:**

City Working Group of 10 pilot cities

European and South Indian partners from Pilot4Dev, ACR+, Gustave Eiffel University, Ecolise and All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIIILSG)

Reviewers from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF)  
Mr. Arif Wibowo, Directorate for Climate Change's Deputy Director for Vulnerability Identification and Assessment | Mr. Anak Agung Gede Putra, Deputy Director for Adaptation Planning

**Result:** Link and match cities' need with partners' capacities.

## 19 March 2021

**Workshop on Coastal Areas and Climate Adaptation. Stakeholder engagement:**

80 participants, including from 10 pilot cities as well as coastal cities in Indonesia

Ministry of Environment and Forestry  
Mr. Arif Wibowo, Directorate for Climate Change's Deputy Director for Vulnerability Identification and Assessment

**Result:** Knowledge exchange and lively discussions (such as on pertinent questions related to best practices regarding the adaptation of integrated coastal protection in tropical countries)

## Discussion with the Mayors

CRIC team also had the opportunity to meet Mayors of its pilot cities and hand over the Urban Analysis Report. In the meeting, the Mayors re-affirmed their commitment towards resilient and inclusive city.



# SDGs LOCALISATION IN PAKISTAN



**UCLG ASPAC** Local Empowerment, Advocacy and Development for Localisation of SDGs in Pakistan Programme (LEAD for SDGs) conducted consultation with related stakeholders to ensure smooth strategy implementation for SDGs implementation.

## Roundtable Consultation for Strategy Implementation in Balochistan



**11 March 2021** – Roundtable consultations were organised with members of Local Council Association Balochistan (LCAB) and Provincial Alliance at Quetta, Balochistan. Participants included LCAB Executive Committee, Board Members, Core Committee of the Provincial Alliance on SDGs in Balochistan (PASB), and LEAD team. With LCAB, meeting aimed at validation for the LEAD for SDGs Programme Advocacy Strategies and Prioritisation of Action Plan in Balochistan; while with PASB, the consultation aimed at underpinning the next six months advocacy and awareness actions of the alliance for SDGs localisation in Balochistan consultation with related stakeholders to ensure smooth strategy implementation for SDGs implementation.

## Training Workshop on Localisation of SDGs and Processes of District Plan Development in Balochistan



**12 March 2021** – One day training workshop was organised for members of PASB and Executive Members of LCAB. Total of 30 participants included representative of local government, media, civil society, UN, and chamber of commerce participated in the training. The training workshop aimed at enhancing knowledge on SDGs localisation and district plan development processes of PASB and LCAB members.

Supported by UNDP sub-office Balochistan, the training workshop included discussion on what SDGs is, UN Agenda of SDGs, the five pillars of SDGs, what SDGs localisation is, how to localise SDGs at sub-national and local levels, and review of enabling environment for SDGs localisation in Balochistan province.

At the end of the training sessions, PASB shared their six months course of actions to all alliance members.

# SDGs LOCALISATION IN INDONESIA

**UCLG ASPAC** collaborative programme Leadership, Ownership and Capabilities for Agenda 2030 Local Implementation and Stakeholder Employment (LOCALISE SDGs) moved forward in 2021 with capacity building activities to enhance the capacity of local governments in Indonesia and ensure SDGs were incorporated into draft of local development plan documents.

## Local Training #2 and Integration of SDGs into Local Development Plan Documents

4 March 2021 | Central Java

10 March 2021 | North Sumatra

22 March 2021 | East Kalimantan

5 April | East Java

7 April | Maluku

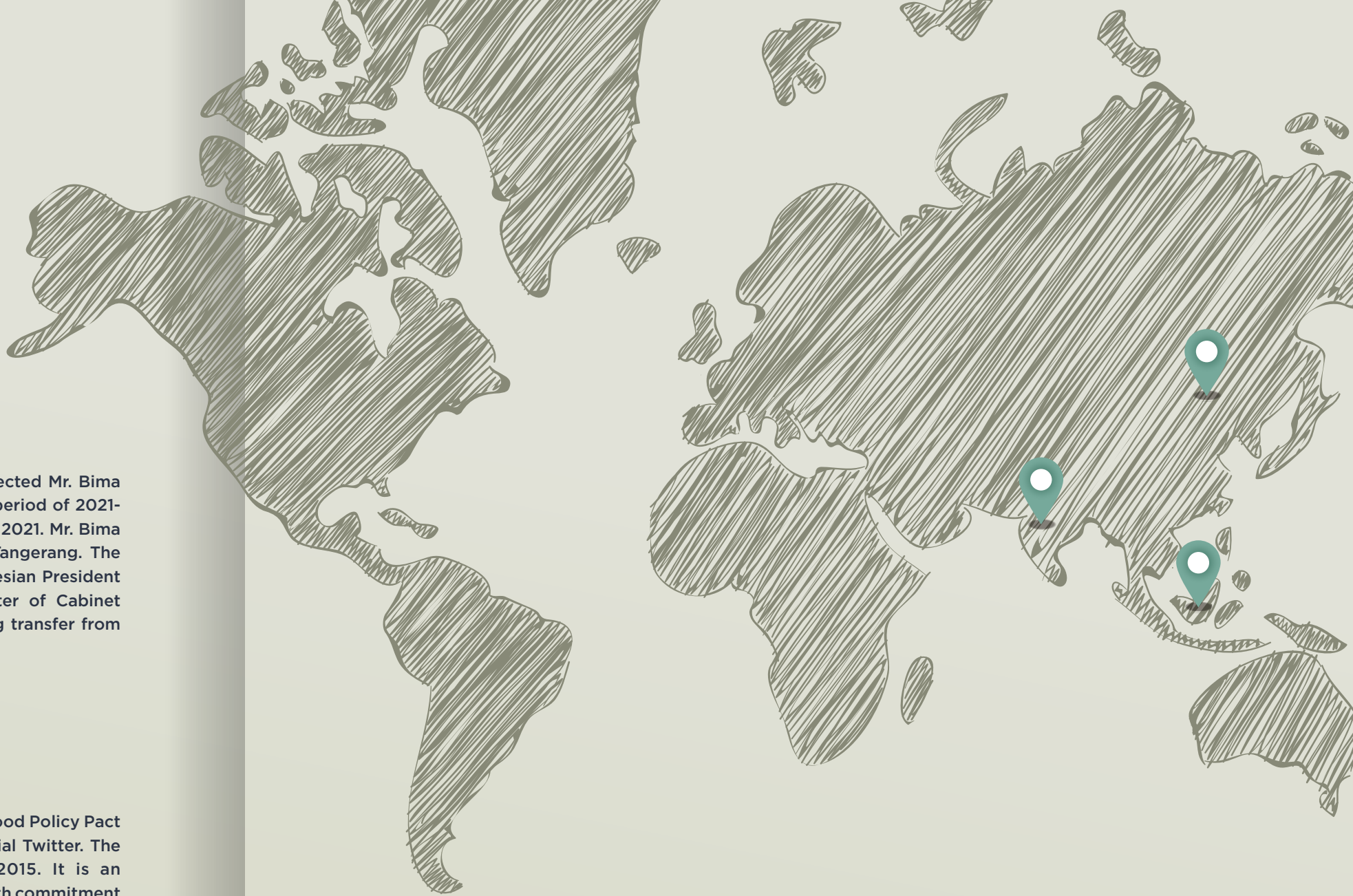
15 April | West Nusa Tenggara

29-31 April | “Enhancing Capacity of Local Governments for International Collaboration to Accelerate SDGs Attainment at Local Level”

Both programmes, LEAD for SDGs in Pakistan and LOCALISE SDGs in Indonesia are supported by the European Union (EU).



# SUB-REGION UPDATES



*Southeast asia*

## SOUTHEAST ASIA

The Association of Indonesia Municipalities (APEKSI) selected Mr. Bima Arya Sugiarto, Mayor of Bogor City, as Chairman for the period of 2021-2024 in its National Conference VI APEKSI on 11 February 2021. Mr. Bima Arya replaced Ms. Airin Rachmi Diany, Mayor of South Tangerang. The event, organised in hybrid mode, was attended by Indonesian President Mr. Joko Widodo, Minister of Home Affairs, and Minister of Cabinet Secretary. The leadership transfer was symbolised by flag transfer from Ms. Airin to Mr. Arya Bima.



*East asia*

## EAST ASIA

Tokyo Metropolitan Government signed the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP), announced on 15 March 2021 on @MUFPP official Twitter. The MUFPP was launched by the Milan Municipality in 2015. It is an international agreement among cities all over the world, with commitment to “develop sustainable food systems that are inclusive, resilient, safe and diverse, that provide healthy and affordable food to all people in a human rights-based framework, that minimises waste and conserve biodiversity while adapting to and mitigating impacts of climate change”. Tokyo will get support through city to city cooperation and exchange of best practices.



*South asia*

## SOUTH ASIA

Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN) celebrated its 28<sup>th</sup> Establishment Day Celebrations on 24 March 2021. The event was attended by Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr K P Sharma Oli. In the occasion, MuAN particularly expressed its appreciation to various parties supporting development in the area, such as the Municipalities Network Policy on Sanitation in South Asia (MuNASS) Team. The MuNASS programme was a collaborative project to strengthen the capacity of the municipalities in designing and implementing robust and effective policies and in developing sustainable financing strategies on sanitation, particularly on Fecal Sludge Management (FSM) and Non-Sewered Sanitation (NSS).



*Pacific*

## PACIFIC

Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) supports the Maori Wards amendment bill in regards to the poll provision for Maori wards and constituencies. The Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA) allows for polls of electors (whether or not a city, district or region) to establish Maori wards and constituencies. Parliament amended the LEA to give this power to councils, in consultation with their citizens. The amendment also allowed electors, through a binding poll, to either require a council to establish wards and constituencies or to overturn a council decision to that effect. Since 2002 the only Māori wards or constituencies established have been those introduced by the Waikato Regional Council, by council resolution in 2012, and the Wairoa District Council, agreed by poll in 2016. The effect of the poll provisions was to discourage councils from establishing Māori wards and in one case, New Plymouth District Council, was used to reverse a council's decision. “LGNZ has highlighted the need for legislative mechanisms to ensure that wards continue to serve communities well into the future,” said LGNZ President Mr. Stuart Crosby.





## GUNSAN:

# EYEING TOWARDS A SELF-RELIANT CITY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT WITH PEOPLE

**GUNSAN** city, which has emerged as a leading area of the Korean Green New Deal policy, will run in 2021 to create a "better Gunsan", a city of renewable energy and eco-friendly future car industries, together with citizens.

Constant striving to diversify its manufacturing-oriented industrial ecosystem into a sustainable future new industry, city of Gunsan has decided to find a sustainable new growth engine. The city has solidified the foundation to foster new industries in the future, aiming to boost the vitality of the local economy and create quality jobs. For the development of the future industry, Gunsan adheres to the national government's Green New Deal and Carbon Neutrality policies.

## What does the city do?

Establish an industrial ecosystem centred on new industries and establishment of sustainable new growth engines, conducted by:

### 1 Supporting eco-friendly transportation policies and projects

Construction of eco-friendly electric vehicle clusters will start next year. It will focus on high value-added green specialised industries based on electric vehicles to foster a "strong research and development zone" designated in July this year. After the Ministry of Public Administration and Security's feasibility study, it plans to be reborn as a mecca for the used automobile parts market. Two projects Port Seven Pier Field Construction and Shipbuilding as well as Marine Engineering Infrastructure settlement are expected to revitalise the sluggish shipbuilding industry.

### 2 Establishing an energy self-reliance city

It is expected that this year, the solar power generation project with a capacity of 200MW will make the city closer to realise the goal of "energy self-reliance city".

- ❖ *Public-led offshore wind power projects*  
To lay the foundation for offshore wind power generation projects, a basic survey shall be conducted for offshore wind power's location conditions and development environment in the region.
- ❖ *Renewable energy generation projects*  
Renewable energy generation projects, including citizen-participated solar power projects, are expected to be carried out next year.
- ❖ *Citizen-Participated Photovoltaic Project*  
**Citizen Energy Development Co., Ltd. is an investment agency in a corporation under commercial law. Citizens invest in renewable energy power generation projects such as solar and wind power, promoted in Saemangeum. The project continues for 20 years through the civic investment inducing 250.74 billion KRW estimates. The value-added inducement effect is 82.044 billion KRW.**

### 3 Creating sustainable jobs

The 'Gunsan Win-Win Job' project aims at equal professional relations between companies and workers of the electric vehicle clusters. Attracting new industry-related companies is expected to have a direct impact on job creation in the region. For example, SK Consortium is planning to establish a start-up cluster and data centre worth KRW 2 trillion and create a GS Global Saemangeum Special Centre. It will also push for creating the "Saemangeum Smart Green Industrial Complex RE100 Integrated Complex" to make Saemangeum the centre of the Green New Deal.

Since many new projects have been launched, the city constantly communicates with citizens to build a self-reliant city. To gradually overcome the economic crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the efforts will establish a solid foundation for fostering new industries in the future.



2021 CHEONGJU CRAFT BIENNALE:  
**THE WORLD S FIRST  
AND HIGHEST LEVEL  
CRAFT EXHIBITION**



**THE** 2021 Cheongju Craft Biennale, the world’s first and the most significant event in the world of crafts and an international exhibition representing craft cities around the world will be held from September 8 to October 17 in the Culture Factory and nearby areas in Cheongju. Despite the Covid-19, it is expected that about 1,000 artists from 40 different countries are to participate in the 2021 Cheongju Craft Biennale. This year, the Biennale features the following events: Cheongju International Craft, Craft Fair, Invited Country Pavilion, Art Museum Project, Craft Camp, and Chungbuk Craft Workshop. The online exhibition will be available on the official website ([www.okcj.org](http://www.okcj.org)) from September 8. For more information, please visit the official website, Facebook and Instagram (@craftbiennale).

**2021 Theme: Tools For Conviviality**

The theme of 2021 Biennale, Tools for Conviviality, is inspired by a 1973 book by an Austrian philosopher Ivan Illich, and his radical critic on the world where tools dominate humans and the necessity to limit the growth of tools to restore humanity. The Biennale will provide the artists and the general public with a window to ponder upon the notion of responsible use of tools to live in an emerging symbiotic society where humanity and tools forge a proper relationship.

**COVID-19 And The Biennale**

Given the circumstances of the pandemic, the Biennale will be conducted online and onsite, breaking away from the traditional large scale exhibition in a fixed location. Alongside the main exhibition, LAB, a collaborative competition guided by the field’s professionals is to be organised. Also, development of the Craft Experience Kit designed to enhance interaction between the exhibit works and the audiences is underway. With the Experience Kit, the Biennale Organising Committee plans to provide Biennale experience to the people of the disadvantaged communities who may not be able to visit the Biennale onsite.

HAMAMATSU:  
**INVOLVING EXPERTS FROM  
PRIVATE SECTOR TO SOLVE  
ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGES**



**FACING** the declining number of population due to decreased birth rates and ageing population, many local governments in Japan wish to find ways to continue meeting the increasingly diverse needs of its residents. There is also a need to be more flexible in the use of latest technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) to solve administrative challenges. The government of Japan is promoting flexible ways to work in response to that as well as the COVID-19 situation. New ways of working have spread in Japanese society. Experts working in the private sector in the Tokyo metropolitan area have become more aware and open to the possibilities of working additional jobs on the side and working in more rural areas.

Under these circumstances, Hamamatsu city has adopted the Professional Advisor System, a project that involves experts from the private sector to play an active role in specific administrative fields and devise solutions to the faced challenges. This system allows recruitment and selection of experts to be hired as Advisors to solve the challenges in each administrative jurisdiction. This system helps local government of Hamamatsu in:

- ✓ **Allowing collaboration with expert for a fixed period of time;**
- ✓ **Allowing experts from the private sector to collaborate with local governments based on projects without affecting their main jobs;**
- ✓ **Ability to collect different ideas and flexible ways of thinking that are not bound by administrative perspectives;**
- ✓ **Ability to utilise a wide network of personal connections.**

The project has started in 2019 and eight professional advisors have been hired ever since. Local government of Hamamatsu will continue the cooperation with private sectors to solve the administrative challenges that the city faces.



## THE 8<sup>TH</sup> UCLG ASPAC CONGRESS AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE:

# “FROM STEADY RECOVERY TO SUSTAINED PROSPERITY IN POST COVID-19 ASIA PACIFIC”

### TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- City-to-City Cooperation
- Green Recovery and Digitalisation in New Normal

- Mobility and Connectivity
- Building Resilient Cities and Communities

### KNOWING ZHENGZHOU BETTER

Located in  
The Centre of China

Capital of  
Henan Province

Built in  
March 1928

Total population:  
10.136 million

Total area:  
7,446 square kilometres

### WHAT ZHENGZHOU OFFERS AND COLLABORATION POTENTIALS:

- Have comprehensive transportation hub, city of highway, railway, aviation and communications.
- Act as the only double-cross centre of ordinary and high-speed railway networks of China.
- Act as the 34 all cargo air routes and 208 passenger air routes; the freight volume in the international region ranks first in China, basically forming a hub of air route network across Europe, America and Asia, covering major global economies, and becoming an important air gateway for the central region to the outside world. In 2019, China Europe train (Zhengzhou) started 1000 shifts (638 departures and 362 returns), an increase of 33 per cent, with an annual cumulative values of \$3.354 billion and cargo weight of 541,400 tons.
- Act as an important industrial city in the central part of China. At present, there are seven main industries such as automobile, equipment manufacturing, coal, electricity, aluminium, food, textile and clothing, electric information, among many others.
- Establish two strategic supporting industries “electronic information, automobile and equipment manufacturing industry” and the two strategic new developing industries “new material industry, biology and pharmaceutical industry.”
- Upgrade three traditional industries: modern food processing industry, aluminium and aluminium intensive processing industry, home and brand apparel manufacturing industry.
- Have 130 scientific research institutions, a number of provincial key colleges and universities such as Zhengzhou University, and Henan Agricultural University, and a number of municipal colleges and universities such as Zhengzhou University, and Huanghe Science and Technology College.

## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES



**27 May 2021**

KLCH Webinar on Urban Managers | virtual



**17 June 2021**

UCLG ASPAC Culture Committee  
Show Must Go On: Culture and Cities  
in the Next Normal | virtual



**21-23 June 2021**

World Cities Summit 2021  
Liveable and Sustainable Cities:  
Adapting to a Disrupted World | virtual



**24 June 2021**

Conference on Dissemination of Learning and Programme  
Outcomes of LOCALISE SDGs: “Encouraging Acceleration  
of Recovery from Pandemic through Commitment and  
Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals Attainment”  
| hybrid



**29-30 June 2021**

ASEAN Mayors Forum Special Event  
(Plus China and India) “Enabling Environment on  
Climate Resilience: Local Governments and Cities  
Commitment to Tackle Climate Change” | hybrid



**9 July 2021**

Guiyang  
Establish Green City Cooperation Mechanism,  
Build Low-Carbon Industrial System | virtual



**7-10 September 2021**

Zhengzhou  
8<sup>th</sup> UCLG ASPAC Congress: From Steady Recovery  
to Sustained Prosperity | hybrid



**July-September 2021**

Gyeonggi  
HDP Nexus Committee: Capacity Building Trainings or Raising  
Awareness Seminar | virtual



**August-September 2021**

Gyeonggi  
2<sup>nd</sup> HDP Nexus Committee | virtual

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

Please send your feedbacks  
and suggestions to

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