Foreword

SEPTEMBER 5-8, 2016, one month before Habitat III Conference, local authorities and representatives in Asia and the Pacific, together with distinguished partners came to showcase their potentials and uniqueness at 6th UCLG ASPAC Congress held in Jeollabuk Province (Jeollabuk-do in local language), Republic of Korea.

Discussing theme Region, Life and Culture in New Urban Agenda, more than 750 participants from 146 cities/regencies 32 countries booked their seats and schedule for speaking at various inspiring sessions.

The selection of the Congress venue which was close to Saemangeum seawall, a spot currently developed to become the heart of South Korean’s industrial area, hid a message that the Congress laid foundation for the future of Asia-Pacific urban life. This report documents issues raised during Congress, its conclusion, and final commitment of all participants.
These highlights built path to the formulation of Jeollabuk Declaration, which was adopted in the closing ceremony of the Congress. The Declaration acknowledges the importance of cooperation and considers uniqueness of local communities as strengths for growth and quality of life. Considering Asia and the Pacific is the largest section and inseparable from the global development agenda, this Declaration addresses global issues and states the responsibilities of local governments and other stakeholders to achieve desired changes. It also recognizes the challenges, but highlights the hopes and possibilities to find solutions through active collaboration with shared vision and commitment to achieve for better future.

After the Congress, all members of UCLG ASPAC are called on for implementation of the Declaration which covers key issues to address in order to improve local governance.

Jeollabuk-do Congress was completed well from the very beginning up to the closing ceremony, thanks to the support and active contribution of all participants, be it host, speakers, attendees, and partners.

UCLG ASPAC Secretariat would like to thank Mr. Ha-jin Song (Governor of Jeollabuk-do), Mr. Hong Yun-sik (Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Korea), Mr. Yoo Jeong-bok (President of Governors Association of Korea and Mayor of Incheon Metropolitan City), Mr. Hwang Hyun (Chairman of Jeollabuk-do Provincial Assembly), Mr. Dong-shin Moon (Mayor of Gunesan), Mr. Ban Ki Moon (Secretary General of UN), and Mr. Kadir Topbas (President of UCLG and Mayor of Istanbul City) for their support in the success of Jeollabuk-do Congress.
UCLG ASPAC Secretariat would like to extend our special thanks to Governor Song Ha Jin of Jeollabuk-do and his team for their dedicated work and all the resources they utilized in helping us from preparation stage, during the event held, and continuing their support in producing this Congress Report book.

We hope this Congress Report will become useful documentation when referring to roles of Asia-Pacific region in welcoming New Urban Agenda.

The UCLG ASPAC Statutory Bodies, consisting of the Executive Bureau Council and, General Assembly, and Sub-Regions met from 5-8 September 2016 in Jeollabuk Province, for the 6th UCLG ASPAC Congress. Taking theme "Region, Life, and Culture in the New Urban Agenda," the Congress gathered around 800 participants, comprising local authorities from 146 cities in 32 countries, UN agencies, and various development institutions.

In the 17 sessions held, participants discussed various topics. Forty eight speakers shared fresh perspectives from their areas; from women, culture, good governance, urban planning, leadership, agriculture, local finance, urban innovation, disaster risk reduction, and tourism, which where then summed up in Chair’s Summary. For the implementation, participants also formulated shared commitment through Jeollabuk Declaration, adopted on 6 September 2016.

The meeting also saw the election of new Governing Body of UCLG ASPAC for period of 2016-2018. Governor of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, Won Hee Ryong, was re-elected as the President of UCLG ASPAC, several other new positions were introduced, and the host of 2017 was also discussed in the meeting.
6th UCLG ASPAC Congress was opened with stunning performance of Sand Art and drum. The Congress delivered its unique intent and its member cities gathered together to seek solutions for problems in local government through Sand art. UCLG ASPAC Congress started with dynamic and impressive performance of percussion team representing Jeollabuk-do.

After mesmerizing all participants and partners, the ceremony continued with opening remarks delivered by President of UCLG ASPAC, Won Hee Ryong, mentioning the theme of Congress that captures important values in the Asia-Pacific region: cooperation, peace, and prosperity for all and pride of our own unique identities.

Governor Song Ha Jin of Jeollabuk-do, in his welcome remarks, pointed out his expectation that the Congress would contribute to the effective communication and cooperation among local governments in the world.

Utilizing this opportunity, Secretary General of the United Nations at that time, Ban Ki Moon; Chairman of the National Assembly of Republic of Korea, Chung Sye Kyun; and Kadir Topbas, Mayor of Istanbul and President of UCLG, also took time delivering their video message, greeting all attendees.

A rice cake cutting ceremony by the distinguished leaders and guests officially opened and symbolized the start of the 6th UCLG ASPAC Congress.
1. Stunning performance of Sant Art awed attendees of Congress opening ceremony.
2. Kadir Topbas - President of UCLG and Mayor of Istanbul
3. Ban Ki Moon - Secretary General of the United Nations
4. Yoo Jeong Bok - President of Governors Association of Korea and Mayor of Incheon
5. Moon Dong Shin - Mayor of Gunsan
FORMER Governor of Tottori Prefecture (Japan), Yoshihiro Katayama, delivered the keynote speech in which he shared Japan’s substantial problem with population decline driven by the migration of the younger generation to big cities like Tokyo. The young generation try to escape from what he describes as ‘local economic depression’ characterized by the lack of attractive jobs and a predominant subcontract economy in the country-sides whereby the local small businesses are subcontractors and therefore have only a minimum profit.

Meanwhile from the perspective of the big city, Tokyo district, population decline is also an issue considering the “baby boomer generation” will become over 75-years old within 10 years. This would increase demand and put strain on medical and nursing facilities and raise expenditures in an already tough financial situation that the country is in. Complementing efforts to support migration from Tokyo district to provincial districts, autonomous organizations are also making efforts to extend healthy lives and are promoting the prevention of lifestyle diseases by correcting diets and regular exercise.

To address this, and in particular to be released from contractors, there is a need to establish advanced research facilities, and to encourage and support “local production for local consumption.” Developing local capability, especially in small companies and the human resource, can be through strengthening research and development by cooperating with universities, the local government, and private partners. He argues that putting these efforts in place, it is possible to revive the local economy and create attractive jobs that will help reduce the migration of young people to bigger cities.

Finally, in highlighting the need for local governments to increase their level of self-sufficiency, the keynote speaker noted the positive aspects of globalization. In particular, he mentioned that mutual coordination, such as through sister cities exchange, local governments with similar urban environment can exchange know how and be able to enhance their policies. He further stressed that the promotion of local government councils and participation in politics by the people is important and active discussions to tackle issues should be taking place.
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In Pre-Congress Session, one of UCLG ASPAC’s programs, DELGOSEA (Partnership for Democratic Local Governance in South east-Asia) took time conducting Standing Committee meeting. In the session, participants of the meeting were once again united with the sharing of DELGOSEA mission: to contribute for a better representation of local government by the DELGOSEA Network represented by the Standing Committee. Participants were also exposed to the outputs that DELGOSEA would like to pursue, including capacitating Local Governments Associations to do advocacy in promoting good governance at the national and regional level of ASEAN, in line with the vision of ASEAN Economic Community 2015.

Launched in March 2010, DELGOSEA has conducted a variety of activities with the above mission at heart and aimed at achieving those outputs. Standing Committee utilized this opportunity to highlight DELGOSEA’s milestones.

In this session, attendees were also updated with information related to the upcoming 2nd ASEAN Mayors Forum. This opportunity was also used to raise awareness on members national meeting and also conduct review on current membership status. Finally, as the Standing Committee was established to support advocacy efforts of the network, this session also discussed possibilities in reaching out to ASEAN country representatives in their respective countries, challenge to do so, target of advocacy, and also evaluation.

Specific Objective:
To foster policy debates and advocacy at the national and regional level on good local governance through cooperation with ASEAN
Following the desirability of having a local government Standing Committee for South and Southwest Asia, the Standing Committee of South and Southwest Asia was adopted. As local government association with Asia-Pacific scope, UCLG ASPAC continuously promoted this Standing Committee. With the idea to make this Standing Committee function effectively, UCLG ASPAC organized the consultative meeting session.

Result of this meeting included report of activities conducted by the standing committee, including the 3rd South Asian Cities Summit; Training Program with the State Government of Maharashtra, Orissa, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Punjab, Andaman & Nicobar, and Gujarat; SMART City plan for Raipur; and MoU signing with Delhi Government and Government of Jharkhand for Swatch Bharat Mission.

Further, plan for next two years was also exposed, covering various issues in improvement of UCLG ASPAC Membership (expanding the benefits, capturing engagement data, customizing local programme, new member enrollment, etc.) and project implementation (Equi-City), as well as a plan to dedicate a team in India to work continuously for bringing and involving the organization in new projects. The Committee also got an update on the establishment of an office in Islamabad.

March 2015, the 1st UCLG Culture Summit in Bilbao announced the formation of ASPAC Culture Committee. The goal is no other than promoting culture in Asia-Pacific cities and local governments through policy formation, exchanging cultural policies and exemplary practices, and be an active culture network in the region.

In the session, participants were once again refreshed with the shared goal of ASPAC Culture Committee and its focus in applying 9 principles stated in the Culture 21 Actions, serving as guiding framework of the Culture Committee. Updates of activities conducted was also part of meeting discussion. It included training workshops in Sustainable Tourism, Cultural Tourism Development, and Cultural tourism: Public Space and Cultural Landscape Management. They were also invited to get involved in advocacy, capacity development and training, knowledge sharing and documentation of best practices and in pilot projects.

Partners were also invited to share their expertise in this session. Asia-Europe Foundation highlighted on the importance of partnership with related civil societies as well as governments. In the context of the institution, the activity shared also included policy dialogue, information exchange on arts, and concrete collaborative projects in various forms of art.

In this occasion, UCLG Committee on Culture took time to share the Agenda 21 for Culture; explaining Agenda 21 as a toolkit that local governments could employ to integrate culture in their local planning and actions.

The session agreed that actions to be taken included dialogue, specifically in recognizing culture as the 4th dimension of sustainable development, learning, and capacity building.
Standing Committee of Women in Local Governments

Standing Committee of Women in Local Governments also took opportunity to gather and conduct a meeting to update its members.

This session saw knowledge exchange of women empowerment in several areas. After session opening by Mayor of Catbalogan City, Stephany Uy-Tan, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC, Bernardia I. Tjandradewi shared to all participants, activities regarding women empowerment initiated by UCLG ASPAC. The most exciting part, however, was discussion session and update among participants regarding women.

Dormani Paudel, President of MuAN, explored that in his city, there is a cluster consisting of 15-16 women, in which women are trained so that they are able to contribute to municipalities. The same idea is also applied in Cochin, India. Mayor Soumini Jain of Cochin explained the same concept; where in Cochin it is called “Prosperity Family” Group. The group has existed to empower women so that they do not depend solely on husband in making money.

Councillor Ali Jones of Christchurch, New Zealand, brought up discussion about support for women. Hansa Patel, Executive Advisor of All India Institute of Local Self Government; addressed this by providing examples of support which include free day care, free transportation for children as well as free education for women and children.

Urban Planning for City Leaders Workshop

This session was designed as workshop dedicated to explain key principles, approaches and models to city leaders to help them find optimum solutions in relation to urban planning.

This session shared urban model of the 20th and 21st century. Urban model in 20th century is described as losing street life as a social interaction medium, and thus diminished cultural identity and urban values. It was, in some ways, “replaced” by mall, which turned out to function as artificial street. It became the social gathering “locus,” where citizens became consumers.

As for the 21st century urban model, the highlight was given to the existence of high quality public space, with proper and well designed density, mix urban uses, efficient mobility, mix social structure (social integration, acceptance of migrants, social diversity, cosmopolitan values, challenge of living together), sustainable energy, and practical and enforceable norms and rules (participatory, democratic, and respectful).

Participants, mostly consisting of city leaders, were inspired with knowledge transfer on how to choose the urban pattern that can best serve a city: implementation of compact patterns, working towards right density, as well as enhancing public space.

In applying compact patterns, leaders were also strongly advised to consider infrastructure benefits (less commuter travel, reduction of car use, shortening trip length), economic benefits (increased business potential, number of customers, and income from taxes), and social benefits (services accessible for broader range of population, enhancement of safety).

In this session, leaders were also encouraged to find their city’s right density, as it would have implications in infrastructure cost as well as on livability.

Sustainable urban patterns can produce compact, mixed-use cities that offer a higher quality of life at lower rates of environmental degradation and greater levels of social cohesion, particularly via public space.
RESPONDING to the challenge that urban population is expected to increase to 66% by 2050, changes of perspective from a space-centered development to people-centered development is needed.

This session was chaired by Tae-Myon Kwon, Vice President for Global Volunteers & Fellowship Program of KOICA (Republic of Korea).

Mayor of Mungyeong (South Korea), Yun-Hwan Ko, emphasized on the importance of regional development and decentralized leadership. Cooperation with local governments in surrounding areas to optimize existing sources provided solution in addressing various emerging challenges, including financial, infrastructure, and manpower. By including public participation, local governments engaged community to achieve common goals. Collaboration with various parties encouraged emergence of smart initiatives which not only overcame challenges faced, but also opened opportunity for public to participate in city upgrading.
In line with it, Mayor of Kochi (India), Soumini Jain, put highlight on leadership that involved public and emergence of innovation from grass root level. The lady mayor considered important to develop citizen-centered city planning, by setting up community driven rehabilitation for vulnerable sections in the society, community driven financial resource pooling for management and involving various stakeholders such as NGOs to manage social issues. Gender-sensitive policy was other form of public-centered planning. The mayor also addressed the importance of technology expertise, promotion of culture, transparency, and collaborative approach for knowledge creation, knowledge sharing, and knowledge dissemination for leaders in relation to New Urban Agenda to pursue sustainable development of cities.

One of many efforts to achieve sustainable city is providing sufficient space for public activities. Deputy Mayor of Thimphu City, Namgay Tshering, shared vision that in 2027, Thimphu City would become Dream City, providing enough space for public to cycle and walk around the city, creating botanical park, outdoor gym, completed with multi-storey parking facility. In easing traffic congestion, local government of Thimphu would also increase frequency of bus services within the city.

However, limited financing capacity and lack of skilled manpower was at the heart of challenges faced by the local government. Flexibility in project planning and implementation was proposed as solution and for finance matters, local authority was allowed to manage service fees and use it to finance the project. Besides, capacity of existing human resources was continually built in technical and managerial terms. In relation to leadership, the deputy mayor also noted that it was necessary for leaders to be fully aware of local wisdom so as not to contradict national scope philosophy.

In terms of urban spatial planning, Mr. Aw Tuan Kee, Ministry of National Development (Singapore), shared framework for planning and developing a livable city. The framework was divided into 2 spheres covering systems established to gain expected outcomes. Dynamic urban governance was determined as basic foundation of the system; which was translated further into more practical conditions. Built on that, there was integrated master planning and development carefully set in order to get expected outcomes. Long-term thought, flexibility in building, effective execution, and systematic innovation was at heart of planning stage, so that sustainable environment, competitive economy, and high quality of life would be achieved.

Summing up, this session emphasized that development, to be able to address 21st century challenges, demands leadership that is responsive of what is called for in the New Urban Agenda. To effectively address urban problems that are cross sectoral and multi-dimensional, coordinating efforts to improve local government’s planning and agenda should be the norm. Adding to this, inclusiveness should be a foundation of urban development. This means ensuring there is support and platform for all members/stakeholders in the community to participate in decision-making. Community development is prioritized by local leaders. There is also a need to increase the number of women leaders. Overall, leadership in the New Urban Agenda necessitates a framework, or vision and direction that the local government will pursue.

Inclusiveness should be a foundation of urban development. Leadership in the New Urban Agenda necessitates a framework, or vision and direction that the local government will pursue.
MODERATED by Tae-Myung Kim, Emeritus Professor of Hannam University (Republic of Korea), the session discussed urban regeneration as an approach to deal with global issue of urbanization. This effort is best achieved through partnership. This session shared knowledge on a variety of good governance implemented for urban regeneration.

Soonhack Lee, Director General of Creative City Bureau, Busan Metropolitan City (Republic of Korea) highlighted the importance of shifting focus to citizens’ needs in urban regeneration. Needs may vary, cooperation with various stakeholders was, thus, essential in fulfilling the needs as well as providing enabling environment for the city and its citizens to develop, such as clean environment and job provision. Summing it up in the city’s vision “Creative City for the Happiness of All,” the formula was successfully applied in Busan’s 2-projects: Hillside Road Renaissance and Gamcheon Culture Village. Success factors of both projects included utilization of unique local assets as well as active participation of various stakeholders (local residents, experts, and public organizations including district government). Local governance of Busan created future plan with emphasis on international cooperation and finding local uniqueness; reaching further goal to contribute to global cultural and tourism belt.

Local government of Busan implemented restoration of space, residence, and culture in those areas in collaboration with various stakeholders, such as village designers, urban restoration support center, local residents, non-profit organizations, artists, and district governments. The result included not only regenerated urban areas, but also job creation and strong community bonds.

In line with that, Oswar M. Mungkasa, Deputy Governor of Jakarta Capital City, also focused on accommodating citizens’ needs, addressing urban shortages and incorporating transparency and public participation. Mr. Oswar explored that since Jakarta had intense economic activity, rapid infrastructure development, and modern technology applied, the city had been perceived as a promising land and thus massive urbanization occurred; while at the same time, there was limited capacity and problems in environment. This resulted in the city facing various problems covering floods, scarcity of raw water, water pollution, excessive deep ground water extraction, and severe traffic congestion.

Compact city development was one of the solutions. Others included providing mass rapid transportation and mixed land use within walking distance and proposing light rail transit. Climate adaptation strategy was also implemented in form of waterfront urban development, river and reservoir revitalization, and multi-functional public space. Local government also involved public participation in Jakarta Smart City project, the technology-based planning and monitoring program where Jakartans could monitor the city and send report directly to local government by mobile application. Local government also initiated to encourage environmental friendly solid waste management using high and efficient technology, encourage water segregation to reduce waste in the final disposal site, gradually expand sewerage system for waste water for all Jakarta, and utilize waste water into an alternative clean water resource.

Hee-Seon Jin, Deputy Mayor of Urban Regeneration Headquarter, Seoul Metropolitan Government (Republic of Korea), shared 2 actions conducted by Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) in fostering urban regeneration approach. The initiatives comprised building locals and establishing administrative governance system. On its first action, SMG included public in regenerating not only their residential neighborhood, but also urban center, while still leading regeneration process from brainstorming, planning, to developing idea for the city. Included in the process were creating priority for city’s needs, where public could learn together, discuss, and finally come to certain agreement with shared vision to develop their city. There were also times when local residents emerged with idea of projects and then implemented.
Culture shall be embedded in the urban regeneration concept. People-centered development shall be in the front to ensure people are engaged. People should be seen as part of the governance, thus extending partnership to them is also essential.

Located in the middle of Ahmedabad, Sabarmati River once became water supplier of the city. As the city grew, the core of the city was neglected. Besides lacking basic infrastructure, the area posed problems, such as emergence of slum area that made the area flood prone, pollution, health and other environmental hazards. Regeneration of the area along the Sabarmati River covered slum rehabilitation of nearly 12,000 hutments; installation of interceptor sewer system to ensure clean water in the river; public space regeneration that includes parks, addition of facilities such as cycling tracks and public seating areas; redevelopment of river front area to hold large events; and redevelopment of recreation facilities (boating facility at 3 different locations).

Ranjit S. Chavan, President of All India Institute Local Self Government, shared the way local government of Ahmedabad regenerated the city right at its lifeline—the Sabarmati River. The regeneration strategy catered physical, economical renewal, and revitalization of local areas. The project, which initially dealt with sensitive issues such as slum rehabilitation and relocation of an old natural market, ended up as a huge success. This strategy pioneered multi-purpose project with significant urban transformation potential and gained global recognition in the field of urban regeneration that makes cities livable and sustainable.

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Councilor of Christchurch (New Zealand), Ali Jones, put emphasis on the importance of partnership in the effort of regenerating urban area. Reflecting on Christchurch’s experience in managing earthquake, the lady councilor shared how a new form of partnership conducted in Christchurch created a big impact and recommended a further cooperation. Regenerate Christchurch, a cooperation body established between the state and city local council, was formed under legislation. The board was jointly appointed and funded by the council and the government. Inclusion of local actors made this partnership new, where those actors (both governments and locals) would work together to plan the city’s future. Regarding partnership, she also highlighted the importance of community inclusion. She specifically noted that governments should no longer think of citizens merely as taxpayers and consumers of services provided. She also highlighted the importance of using local knowledge and empowering community to take an active part in regeneration. In addition, she also mentioned the importance of opening opportunity for innovation.

Summing up, urban regeneration has to be elaborated in more specific ways. In many cases, urban regeneration is only seen as a physical approach in urban development. Culture and local value are often neglected. These are often negatively impacted, and result to some loss in the regeneration and development. Learning from the previous experiences in other cities, culture shall be embedded in the urban regeneration concept. People-centered development shall be in the front to ensure people are engaged, hence the development can be more effective and produce greater outcome. People should be seen as part of the governance, thus extending partnership to them is also essential. Dissemination of success stories of urban regeneration shall also be done to inspire other local governments to ensure sustainable urban development.

Oswari Muadzin Mungkasa, Deputy Governor of Jakarta Provincial Government highlighted that for local government of Jakarta, “sustainability” is more than just about environment issue. It includes living within environmental limits, ensuring a strong, healthy and equitable society, and achieving a sustainable economy.
This session addressed the incorporation of culture in transforming urban areas. Jeong-Duk Yi, Professor of Anthropology, Chonbuk National University (Republic of Korea) Fellowship Program, moderated the discussion to provide insight about how and why culture should be part of approaches to sustainability at local level, in the context of the New Urban Agenda.

As the first speaker, Expert on Committee on Culture, UCLG (France), Jordi Balta Portoles brought an understanding that culture was one of essential dimensions that made up sustainable development, together with economy, environment, and social inclusion. Therefore, sustainable cities should explore interaction between those factors. Ensuring deliverance of cultural rights was vital since it provided legitimacy for cultural policies based on access, participation, heritage, diversity, creativity, etc. and it was obvious that local governments played fundamental role. He added, in cultural development, partnership should involve public, private and civil society actors, while international networking could facilitate learning among cities. Regarding this, advocacy, peer learning, and capacity building activities were crucial.

Next, F.X. Hadi Rudyatmo, Mayor of Surakarta City Government (Indonesia), elaborated the case of his city mainstreaming culture in its development. In addition to city’s campaign promoted to achieve sustainable development (health, educated, fullness, established, and accommodated), the Mayor explored that his city put culture as basis of his city’s vision, where every component of the society had to prove the high-valued culture in Solo. To support the implementation, local government of Solo established policies and formulated the 7 cultural values of Solo City, which connected culture to education, environment, economy, urban planning and public space. These policies ensured cultural conservation, preservation of heritage sites and buildings, governed better team work and ensured use of Javanese attributes in daily activities, including language, script, music, and many others.

F.X. Hadi Rudyatmo, Mayor of Surakarta City Government in Javanese attire stressed the mainstreaming of culture in local development.
Similar strategy was also applied in Jeju (Republic of Korea). Kim, Hyun Min, Director-General of Culture, Sports & International Affairs Bureau, stated that local government of Jeju saw culture as way of life and thus it was put at the center of the island’s development, all reflected on the way its local government managed the city. The efforts made Jeju become the first UCLG Culture Pilot city in Asia, the venue of UCLG Culture Summit 2017, one of East Asia Culture City, and designated as UCLG Committee on Culture co-vice chairman city.

Jeju’s cultural policy for creating a happy and valuable island was implemented through construction of Jeju’s identity through preservation of traditional culture while at the same time adopting modern culture. This came smoothly with the trend of many immigrants visiting Jeju and local government created a new trend by assimilating young new comers with local residents. Furthermore as a way of support, government of Jeju also established system for loan to promote culture and art facility as well as creative activity.

Representing Asia-Europe Foundation, Fatima Avila, Project Executive of ASEF Culture Department, concentrated on the substance of knowledge exchange that opened up opportunity for partnership, policy dialogues, joint activities, and artistic co-creation, particularly between Asia and Europe. In supporting this, annual forum connecting related actors and ministries in Asia and Europe was held.

To summarize, the value of culture in sustainable development is increasingly being recognized. In the New Urban Agenda, there are several points that recognize the importance and contribution of culture for local sustainable development. Moreover, it also noted the linkages between social, economic, and environmental dimensions. Nevertheless, many local governments and their plans are still on a path that discounts the role of culture in development. Urban regeneration projects, for example, tend to focus highly on the physical improvement of a place. Advocates of culture stress that it is integral and enriches local development.

Many local governments, however, lack the knowledge or capacity on how to mainstream culture in their plans. Agenda 21 is a toolkit that local governments can employ to integrate culture in their local planning and actions. Still, the main actions to be carried out are: 1) advocacy efforts, particularly to address the lack of recognition of culture as the 4th dimension of sustainable development; peer-to-peer learning, and capacity building. Recommendations:

- Advocacy Efforts, particularly to address the lack of recognition of culture as the 4th dimension of sustainable development; peer-to-peer learning, and capacity building.
- Peer-to-peer learning.
- Capacity building.

Adding to the importance of city-to-city exchange, a further recommendation is to bring culture closer to citizens through creative and innovative ways (ex. Discounted tickets to cultural venues and events linked to various transportation modes).

Session on Sinking Island

This session recognized climate change as a global problem and sought for solutions. This session provided room for climate change mitigation and reduction of pollution

Adam Shareef Ahmed (Director General, Local Government Authority, Maldives) and Rikiuva Takeke (Secretary General, Kiribati Local Government Association - Kiribati) shared their respective country’s predicament considering the impacts of climate change.

They explored potentials and challenges faced and how climate change gave impacts. Tourism and fisheries were potentials of island city; yet, climate change made fishing difficult due to severe weather. More, increase in sea surface temperatures also made fish migrate to more suitable waters, and ocean acidification affected coral reefs and behaviour of fish.

This session also offered several ways that might overcome the challenges. Collaboration with similarly affected nations was mentioned as one of solutions proposed. Other solutions included community empowerment, and development of smart strategies.
Localizing SDGs Session participated by various partners: ADB, UNDP, UN-Habitat and many others discussed the ways SDGs can work at local level.

With the principle of “leaving no one behind,” localizing SDGs is important. Within this context, local leaders play an important role as a direct service provider to public. Moderated by Sara Hoefflich, UCLG, this session aimed at sharing the challenges, experiences, and lessons learned and stimulating local governments in implementing SDGs. It was expected that all participants could make conclusions and build consensus regarding relevance and importance of implementing SDGs and disseminate knowledge on SDGs. Contributing in implementing SDGs and disseminate knowledge on SDGs.

Focusing on the importance of sub-national governments’ role as key actors for SDGs implementation, it was acknowledged that many SDGs challenges needed innovative measures at local level and therefore many significant investments were required. Key support instruments for the implementation of SDGs might include policy-based loans on decentralization and local governance reforms and technical assistance at national government level, infrastructure investments at subnational level, pilot innovative public sector management at national and sub-national level, event hosting to facilitate knowledge exchange between key actors.

Participants were also inspired with example of LED practices in Sri Lanka and Cambodia. Besides, they also saw important implementation of air quality improvements. Highlight was also on the strengthening of local democracy as well as inclusion of local communities. Specifically mentioned was the role of national parliaments through enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets as well as ensuring accountability for effective implementation. More, for SDGs implementation, analysing data was crucial to prioritize and to plan. Others included enabling institutional arrangement tools, such as multilevel governance, territorial/multi-stakeholder approach, accountability, and developing cooperation effectiveness.

The session’s key message is that the SDGs will not be achieved if local governments are not in support of it. Further, international partners need to react to the needs and demands of local governments. Moving forward, a joint peer learning between UCLG ASPAC, networks, and partners on themes proposed by the local governments can be conducted.

This session discussed experiences and good practices of applying recommendations in Addis Ababa Action Agenda to finance local and regional governments in the Asia-Pacific region. Eva Ringhof, Social Development Specialist of Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA), moderated this session for speakers from Indonesian Association of Regency Governments (IARG), Association of District Development Committee Nepal (ADDCCN), and All India Institute Local Self-Government (AILSG).

To sum up, SDGs are very ambitious and the New Urban Agenda will largely be implemented at the local and regional level. Hence, it is of utmost importance how these goals will be financed and what are adequate financing mechanisms. This session outlined cooperation possibilities and innovative financing options for sustainable urban infrastructure investments.

**Recommendations:**
- Increase capacities of local governments to develop their skills to prepare bankable, sustainable projects and improve budget management;
- Establish and improve enabling environment of regulatory frameworks at the national government to allow interaction of the different levels, and ensure joint investment and creditworthiness;
- Raise own resources through taxes and tariffs, but also consider joint ventures, public private partnerships, and municipal bonds to enable a mix of financing source.
REPORT OF THE 6TH UCLG ASPAC CONGRESS

TOWARD SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION: IMPLEMENTING THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK

ANA CRISTINA THORLUND, representing UNISDR ONEA-GETI, together with Stephany Uy Tan (Mayor of Catbalogan City, Philippines), Dormani Paudel (President of Municipal Association of Nepal), and Syed Ashgar Shah Gillani (President of Local Council Association of Municipal Association of Nepal), highlighted the importance of Sendai Framework Implementation in achieving Sustainable Development Goals. In this session, it was shared that all efforts taken in managing risk disaster should be directed to reduce mortality, number of affected people, economic loss, damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services. The discussion made it clear that Sendai Framework encouraged more and more countries formulate national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, it also required improved availability and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments.

Priority actions: Conducting risk assessments, Effective dissemination of information, ensuring citizen participation, providing support to the legislative and policy environment that will enhance disaster risk reduction management

In order that the effort to reduce disaster risk be successfully implemented, the panel highlighted that people, state institutions and local government should be included. Forging partnership with international organizations and global actors was also mentioned as key to strengthen disaster risk governance in managing disaster risk, invest for resilience and enhance disaster preparedness for effective response, and to be able to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Summing up, this session addressed priority actions identified by local government representatives in implementing the Sendai Framework, which included conducting risk assessments, effective dissemination of information, ensuring citizen participation, providing support to the legislative and policy environment that will enhance disaster risk reduction management and strengthening internal and external partnership, particularly with the private/business sector as well as between local government units.

REPORT OF THE 6TH UCLG ASPAC CONGRESS

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

This session was held as a forum for discussion on the responsibility of local government for sustainable agriculture, addressing related issues. Mr. Yang Byung-Woo, Professor of Agri-Economics, Chonbuk National University (Republic of Korea) moderated this session and connected other speakers: Mr. Kang Seung-Gu, Director General of Jeonbuk Agriculture Fisheries and Food Bureau (Republic of Korea), Mr. Kitai Yoshinori, Counselor of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Department, Ishikawa Prefectural Government (Japan), and Ms. Frankie Carroll, Director General of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, Queensland Government (Australia).

This session highlighted the importance of cooperation of local government and central government in fulfilling their own roles. Detail given was knowledge sharing of the practice of job division of central and local government in Korea and local government of Jeonbuk local authority.

High value was also given on cooperation with different stakeholders for sustainable agriculture development. The cooperation mentioned involved collaboration of local government with private sectors in terms of funding, introduction of new method of agricultural production management by using manufacturing industry’s production administrative know-how and spreading it to farmers and laborers for human resource development, regional organizations in developing regional brand-name agricultural products, cultivating various organic vegetables and selling those to high-class restaurants; and between related cities in Japan. The impact included increase in company branches, multilateral participation in land conservation activities, decrease in abandoned farm land, increase of tourist visit, and local citizens’ confidence and pride as well as various activities initiated by locals. In line with that, emphasis was also given to the essence of local community involvement, and close collaboration between state and local authority, as well as with research centers, and education institutions.

Highlight of this session is collaboration between central and local government, private sectors, local citizens, as well as other institutions such as research centers and education institutions.
REPORT OF THE 6TH UCLG ASPAC CONGRESS

WELCOMING

New Urban Agenda and Habitat III, local governments in urban areas prepared themselves to realize it. Insights and fresh initiatives are needed to innovate and eventually create sustainable regional development. Moderated by Peter Woods, Ambassador of UCLG ASPAC, this session was hosted by Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation and UCLG ASPAC with insights coming from 4 speakers: Zhou Min (Chief Planner of Guangzhou Urban Planning & Design Survey Research Institute, Guangzhou City – China), Kumara Dhammika Senior Municipal Councilor, Galle Municipal Council – Sri Lanka), Bulent Polat (Assistant Director of Social Welfare Affairs, Cankaya Municipality– Turkey), and Sunil Dubey (Senior Advisor, Metropolis – Australia).

In this session, it was agreed that in order that cities to contribute to sustainable development, cities needed to embrace innovations to address urban challenges. Therefore, it was also concluded important to raise consciousness for the innovations and to engage citizens to encourage their participation. Innovation could also support inclusiveness, particularly in creating programs for training the disabled and understanding and addressing their needs. The discussion also mentioned that innovation involved creativity, ideas, and adaptation to challenging situations. The session also pointed out that limitation in finance should not be a hindrance for innovation, that local governments must be inclusive and put people first, particularly minorities such as disabled and create opportunities leading to gender equity. Continue encouraging and facilitating dynamic to stimulate idea sharing and innovations of local governments of diverse sizes and circumstances was a way forward.

PUBLIC space determines character of a city. The more it is well designed and maintained, the less segregated a city. It can also help lower rates of crime and violence and make space for formal and informal social, cultural and economic activities to improve mutual trust and safety. Now, the needs for public space is getting higher, particularly on the inclusive factor in the New Urban Agenda. This session was held to support local authorities in developing public space in their respective area, in terms of knowledge transfer and smart practice sharing by Sayel Cortes (CityNet), Shagrunny bin Md Yusoff (Director of Landscape Department, Seberang Perai Municipal Council–Malaysia), Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi (Secretary General, UCLG ASPAC), and Badri Bahadur Khadka (Director City Planning Commission, Kathmandu Metropolitan City–Nepal), moderated by Rogier Vanden Berg (UN-Habitat).

This session stressed that public space was very important for urban life and it should be considered as key issue of city design. This session saw that public space was actually public service and therefore must be accessible and affordable to all citizens. Debate about public space should also include strong participatory approach. Implementation of this principle was conducted by UCLG ASPAC, through public space project development in 3 sites in Surabaya, Indonesia. Each project was developed with unique approach: using game software to engage young people, involving experts, community and university students through Training of Trainer, and using community-led planning and construction approach.

This session also addressed that in developing public space, safer, cleaner, greener, and healthier urban management services should also be provided. Citizens should also recognize importance of public space in the city.

1. Rogier Vanden Berg (UN Habitat) and Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi (Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC) with participants of Networking Event 6.
2. A publication on “Public Spaces in Asia Pacific - Why Local Governments Need to Act”, jointly developed by UCLG ASPAC and UN-Habitat, was launched.
To achieve sustainable urban development, cities are required to be able to survive, adapt, and grow whilst coping with unpredictable challenges, one of them was waste management issue. This session was held so that participants would learn about available waste management strategies, challenges and opportunities. This session was hosted by UNITAR CIFAL Jeju and UCLG ASPAC, moderated by Mushtaq Ahmed Memon (UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre–IETC), presenting 3 speakers, including Ainhoa Carpintero Rogero (United Nations Environment Programme), Choi Dong Min (Gwangju Technopark – Republic of Korea), Ran Yagasa (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) – Japan), and 3 panelists: Kim Jeong In (Chung-Ang University – Republic of Korea), Lee Woo Sung (Science Technology Policy Institute (STEPI) – Republic of Korea), Ali Gul Qureshi (Kyoto University – Japan).

Firstly, Ms. Ainhoa Carpintero Rogero delivered a keynote presentation on the subject of resilient cities and resource efficiency. She presented the key point of City-Level Decoupling, published by UNEP. Individual projects and the overall performance and outcome of Phase 1, including the relevance of individual projects to the overall program

Thirdly, Mr. Ran Yagasa introduced CCET (Center Collaborating with UNEP on Environment Technologies) Work in collaboration with UNEP-IETC to present their strategic initiative regarding supporting IETC’s outreach and how to develop knowledge-hub and curriculum for waste management.

With their comprehensive intervention of resilient cities, Prof. Kim Jeong In mentioned that our society is overflowing with the “Not In My Back Yard (NIMBY)” mindset. It should be considered not with their self-interest, but with social acceptance among stakeholders based on resource efficiency.

Dr. Lee Woo Sung stressed that it should take regard analysis between environment and economic factors for achieving SDGs in terms of sustainability. Also society calculate who will benefit from the political decision in view of long and short term. It is always important to think based on fundamental approach.

In view of technical point, Mr. Ali Gul Qureshi mentioned that city should be designed as a compact city where is self-sufficient, innovative and easy to accessible for smart growth.

UN-Habitat is providing assistance to local, regional and national governments for sustainable urban planning through its Urban Planning and Design Lab. As a part of that effort, The Urban Planning and Design Lab of UN-Habitat organized this side event to share real experiences from Asia-Pacific region. This session was moderated by Soheil Rana (UN-Habitat) with 3 speakers: Saswat Bandhopadhyay (Professor, Faculty of Urban Planning, CEPT University), Jaiman Umiyashankar Upadhyay (Mayor, Rajkot Municipal Corporation – India), and Mardiyanti Binti Muhammad Basit (Jambi City – Indonesia).

This session pointed out that sustainable cities and communities were inclusive, safe, and resilient. They are areas that should be providing adequate space for streets and public space, and having efficient street network. Mixed land use and connectivity were also mentioned to integrate different aspects of urban living. The session also put highlight on the importance of master plans, urban-rural linkages and the need to save rice fields amidst urban development. More, financial support for the regeneration of old cities and towns were also urged.
Thematic Field Visit

To know more about the local culture, agriculture, technology and industry development, participants were invited to visit several spots, grouped into 2 courses.

**COURSE 1**

**Saemangeum Project Office**
Participants were introduced to the vision, goals, and progress of the Saemangeum Development Project, which is a national project to build a global city on 238 km² size of reclaimed land.

**Gunsan Modern History Museum**
This is the largest scale of modern history museum in Korea. Visiting this place, participants were exposed to Gunsan’s modern history and rich marine culture. Participants were also invited to create Korean’s traditional handheld fan.

**Lotte Liquor**
One of leading liquor companies in Korea is Lotte, and participants gained opportunity to visit and taste it. Its main product is Cheongju, a refined rice wine.

**COURSE 2**

**Hyundai Motor Company Jeonju Plant**
Participants visited Hyundai Motor Company Jeonju Plant, which is the world’s biggest production center for commercial vehicles, including bus with 25 seater and 1.5 ton truck.

**Jeonju Hanok Village**
This spot is one of Jeonju’s treasures. It embodies the most unique Korean values. Participants were mesmerized with its history, beauty of the village architecture, and local cultures.

**Rural Development Administration**
This visit to the central government organization inspired participants witnessing extensive agricultural research and services in Korea.
Exhibition

6th UCLG ASPAC Congress gave opportunity for local government, private and international organizations to promote their city, goods and services to all participants. This year’s Congress showed off 31 exhibition booths from various organizations.

Opening Ceremony of the exhibition was marked by ribbon cutting by distinguished leaders of UCLG ASPAC as well as host of the Congress. After the opening, all attendees were invited to take exhibition tour as well as try local signatures.

Exhibitors:
- Jeollabuk-do
- United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific
- The City of Guangzhou, China
- LGU Catbalogan City (Philippines)
- Seoul Metropolitan Government
- Jeju Special Self-Governing Province
- Daegu Metropolitan City
- Gimje Si
- GUNSAN
- City of Jeonju
- Wanju-gun
- JEONGEUP-Si
- JANGSU
- BUAN-GUN
- Gochang Country
- Mungyeong City
- Namwon City
- Jinan
- Incheon Metropolitan City / Incheon Free Economic Zone
- PYEONGTAEX CITY
- Jeollabuk-do Governor Certification Products Business Association
- SEGI Environment Co., Ltd.
- Jeollabuk-do Center for International Affairs
- Tnk co., LTD.
- L-tech Material Corporation
- K-Water
- 2017 ASIA PACIFIC CITIES SUMMIT & MAYORS’ FORUM
- Korea Tourism Organization
- 2016 Suwon Human City Forum
- Gangwon Province
In Closing Ceremony, participants were entertained by various Korean culture presentation, music, dancing and colorful attire. Hosted by Mayor Moon Dong Shin of Gunsan, participants were also fascinated by food on the Farewell Dinner.

Farewell Dinner was the last event signifying the closure of all meetings and event as a whole. Attendees were once again fuelled with wide selection of food, hosted by Governor Won Hee Ryong of Jeju Self-Governing who was also re-elected President of UCLG ASPAC.
The 6th UCLG ASPAC Congress saw interest of media covering the 4-day event.

UCLG ASPAC thanks all media outlets that attended the Congress and covered the event.
WE, the members of United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC), participated in the 6th UCLG ASPAC Congress 2016 Jeollabuk-do held in Gunsan city in Jeollabuk-do province, Korea from 5th-8th September, 2016.

WE, during the last four days, contemplated on various issues that the world’s local governments are facing. And we found both hope and possibility for our future.

WE, deeply understand the depth of the problems, such as low growth rate, social and economic polarization, low birthrate and aging population, which prevent local communities in the world from developing. We shared crisis awareness that if these social trends will continue, we will encounter the extinction of local communities in the end. However, at the same we also became confident in that we had solutions in us as well.

WE, from this Congress, agreed that the spirit of mutual respect toward the local’s unique characters and cultures is a shortcut to realize universal values of mankind-coexistence and mutual growth, and to raise a country’s competitiveness.

WE, also consented that the rice farming culture and ideology of respecting for life, stemmed from the long and rich history of the Asian Pacific countries, is an appropriate value to the future topic of sustainability.

WE, confirmed that active exchanges between local governments in tourism and culture sectors will enhance mutual understanding and economic cooperation and will significantly contribute to the development of the world community and sense of solidarity.

WE, further agreed that as a member of world politics, we will dutifully carry out our social responsibility regarding worldwide issues such as climate change.

WE, now based on the substance discussed under the theme of the 2016 UCLG ASPAC Congress; Regions, Life and Culture in the New Urban Agenda, the participating cities and organizations hereby adopt the Jeonbuk Declaration and declare the following as a collective action for the future of local governments in the Asia Pacific countries;

1. We acknowledge the strength and cultural characters of local communities as their competitiveness and will work together to utilize them for creating a local development model which achieves both growth and quality of life.
2. We recognize that the culture of agriculture is a sustainable development method in response to the Fourth Industrial Revolution and collectively make efforts to develop the Sixth Industrialization of traditional agriculture and agribio industry.
3. We promote exchanges and cooperation in the tourism sector among cities and local governments to enhance the spirit of mutual respect and extend the role of the Asia-Pacific region in terms of world peace and prosperity.
4. We devote our practical effort not only to address climate change but also to mainstream disaster risk reduction and to provide advance technology to developing countries, which can achieve both development and nature.

WE, participating in the 2016 UCLG ASPAC Congress, acknowledge the definition of endogenous development which mobilizes indigenous resources for the local and national development and will continue our relevant efforts to positively transform our future.

Above all, we are confident that creating values based on lives and culture will provide positive energy to world peace and coexistence and continue our effort to promote and share these values.

We call on all members of UCLG ASPAC to implement our promise agreed in this Declaration and we hope the progress we have made will bring us happiness in the future.

Adopted in Jeollabuk-do, Korea on September 6, 2016