Press Release

Historical background
The United Nations will host an international conference entitled The United Nations Human Settlements III (Habitat III) focusing on “Housing and Sustainable Urban Development” in Quito, Ecuador, Latin America, in October 2016.

Habitat III aims to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urban development focusing on the implementation of “New Urban Agenda.” The Quito conference will assess the Habitat II commitments in Istanbul 1996, which was a significant moment for the movement of local and regional authorities.

Therefore, Habitat III should see the acknowledgement of local authorities as full partners to shape the global agenda in an increasingly urbanizing world.

UCLG World and UCLG ASPAC
As a worldwide association and the local government organisation recognized by the United Nations, the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) offers its global and democratic representation of local and regional authorities.

UCLG ASPAC (Asia-Pacific), the largest Regional Section of UCLG, on the occasion of its second Statutory Meeting in 2015, will conduct a High-Level Conference for Local Governments in Asia-Pacific to facilitate exchange of perspectives, and communicate about ideas and needs to be reported to Habitat III.

Asia-Pacific Conference in Wakatobi
With selected theme “Asia-Pacific Local Government Voices towards Habitat III on a New Urban Agenda,” the Wakatobi Conference will be a joint undertaking of UCLG ASPAC and Wakatobi Regency Government under the leadership of Mayor Hugua of Wakatobi.

The Conference will be held in conjunction with UCLG ASPAC 2015 Executive Bureau and 2015 Council Meetings. The event will take place from 5-7 September, 2015, in Wangi-Wangi Island, Wakatobi.

To strongly proclaim the commitment and support of Asia-Pacific Local Governments towards sustainable urban development and a “New Urban Agenda”, Wakatobi Conference will bring out a declaration that will be presented on the occasion of the “Sixth Asia Pacific Urban Forum” and “High-Level Regional Preparatory Meeting to Habitat III in the Asia-Pacific”, organized by UN and hosted by the Government of Indonesia that will take place in Jakarta, from 19-22 October 2015

Local governments participating to the conference will be also responsible to contribute to the UCLG Global Taskforce for defining the new Habitat Agenda. The Taskforce was jointly established by UCLG, United Nations and International Community to focus on Post-2015 Agenda, Hyogo Framework for Action 2 and Habitat III.
President Jokowi Keynotes
The President of the Republic of Indonesia Joko Widodo is expected to deliver a keynote speech at Merdeka Square Wangi-Wangi on the 5th of September. On that occasion he will give the participants valuable insights on the New Urban Agenda and enlighten them with the perspective of Indonesia’s new development agenda that lies on the mental revolution of the Indonesian society.

The Conference will also have the valuable participation of prominent local government champions/leaders, including Mayor Chen Jianhua of Guangzhou as Co-President of UCLG and Governor Wong Hee-ryong of Jeju, the President of UCLG, high-rank representatives of related Ministries, UN agencies and Academic Institutions.

The Conference will be preceded by a keynote speech and other presentations and followed by Plenary Sessions that will focus on the following topics:
1. Low Carbon Society
2. Good Governance
3. Sustainable Urbanisation

The presentation of the Wakatobi Declaration will be made by Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, the Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC in the closing session to get endorsement and unanimous agreement from the attendees.

Objective
The Asia-Pacific Conference will be a platform for all mayors and local government champions/leaders across the Asia Pacific region to deliver their voices, views, thoughts and interests related to the sustainable urban development as the focus of Habitat III.

In addition, it will also be a valuable opportunity to share and elaborate the Asia-Pacific’s best practices and experiences in dealing with the issues and instruments of sustainable development, such as good governance, sustainable urbanisation and the creation of Low Carbon Society.

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ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE “Local Government Voices向 HABITAT III on a New Urban Agenda”
&
UCLG ASPAC Executive Bureau & Council Meetings
5-7 September 2015, Wakatobi, Indonesia

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