PUBLIC SPACES IN ASIA PACIFIC

WHY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS NEED TO ACT

FOREWORD

The character of a city is defined by its streets and public spaces. Public space takes many spatial forms, including parks, the streets, sidewalks and footpaths that connect, playgrounds for recreation, marketplaces, but also edge space between buildings or roadsides which are often important spaces for the urban poor. Realizing the importance of public space UN-Habitat supports the development of public space policy, coordination, disseminate knowledge and directly assist cities in public space initiatives.

A milestone in this regard is the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and particularly Goal 11 and target 7 with the ambition to: "by 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities". The adoption of SDG 11.7 provides significant recognition of the importance of public space in sustainable development. Until 2030, all countries in the world will be required to take public space into consideration. Therefore there will be a need for supporting local and national governments in developing legislation, policy, norms and practices, which support governments in adopting a holistic and integrated approach to the planning, design, development, creation, protection and management of public space.

Public Space has also been prominent in the process leading up to the Habitat III conference. The draft New Urban Agenda contains many references to the enabling components of public space: the rules and legislation for creating and protecting access to public spaces, urban planning and design for providing adequate quantity and good quality public space, and urban finance and economy for sharing values, promoting local economic development, providing employment and attracting investment, amongst others.

The value of public spaces is often overlooked or underestimated by policy makers, leaders and developers. There are a number of reasons for this, such as the lack of resources, understanding or capacity to use the possibilities of public space as a complete, multi-functional urban system. Often the lack of appropriate enabling frameworks, weak political will and the absence of the means for public engagement compound the situation.

In recent years, however, we have observed a remarkable rise in the number of cities, particularly in the Asia Pacific region, that have managed to use public space as a key lever for urban development. Cities have used public space to improve mobility and access to basic services, making their environment safer and crime-free, stimulating economic activity and investment, preserving historical and cultural assets or facilitating urban renewal and inclusiveness.

The partnership with UCLG ASPAC is at the core of UN-Habitat's efforts to work with public space in a systematic way across many levels. It is for this reason that this publication on Public Spaces for All has been developed together with experts and our institutional partners. The aim of this toolkit is to guide policies and strategies at city level and to provide examples linking policies to practices. This volume of the Public Space Toolkit is a first step which will be complemented in future with additional material and tools. Using these guidelines, we hope cities themselves will devise solutions that suit the specific conditions that they exist within.

Dr. Joan Clos, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

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Public space is an important element of how cities and regions are planned and designed. Making an investment in public space means putting emphasis on people-centered development. This means understanding the linkages between the needs and hopes of people and how public space can serve to address these and enrich quality of life.

Following the expression of commitment of UCLG ASPAC as declared by its members in February 2015 in Pasay City, Metro Manila, the Philippines, the Network in cooperation with UN-Habitat has been working with cities and local governments in this region towards the creation and management of green, safe, inclusive, accessible and interconnected public space. It is highly essential for cities and regions to underline three key considerations in designing, planning and managing public spaces in terms of quality, quantity and users.

Our interventions at PrepCom 3 of the Habitat III Conference in Surabaya in July 2016 with the construction of a culture hall at a high-density area in the city center, capacity building for the public and advocacy sessions at the side event, have shown us that many things can be done to bring prosperity - not only in economic terms, but also from a social perspective - closer to our society.

UCLG ASPAC is grateful for our solid partnership with UN-Habitat. This publication is an extension of our effort to have more and more mayors, governors, and decision makers be able to envision how crucial public space is for the welfare and happiness of our society. Therefore, we should not delay, and instead act to invest on public space now.

The publication contains tips on building public space for all from the aspects of finance, regulations, planning and design. Several best practices from the Asian region are included to inspire others that everything is possible and many are doable.

We hope this will encourage other regional sections of UCLG and support its global goal on learning and advocacy on the importance of planning in our cities and region. With a slogan of "no one left behind" in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the upcoming New Urban Agenda, public spaces for all is certainly foreseeable. Let's work together to bring greater impact in the life of our people.

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General, UCLG ASPAC
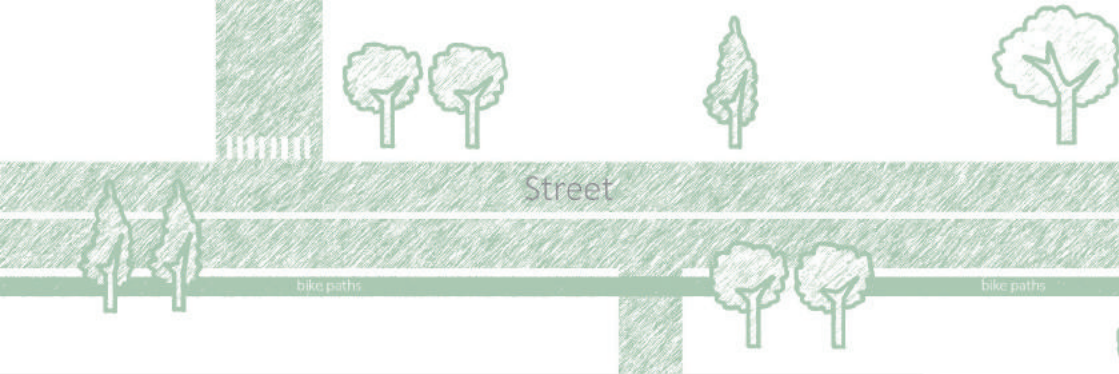
INTRODUCTION

Cities and local governments need to understand the potential and benefits that public spaces offer. Good quality and sufficient quantity of public space in terms of spatial location, distribution, and accessibility will help transform cities and regions into safe, inclusive, liveable and sustainable environments that increase the well-being of the society.

Local governments are responsible for the way cities and regions are planned and managed. As urban populations grow in cities across Asia, questions arise concerning how to effectively manage and sustain the growing needs and demands of all citizens, especially the most vulnerable.

A good network of quality public space provides some of the best means to manage such growth, improving the overall economic and social welfare of cities and their inhabitants. Public space should be viewed as "the skeleton of the city upon which all else rests."

Street

bike paths

bike paths

bike paths

Street

bike paths

bike paths

Street
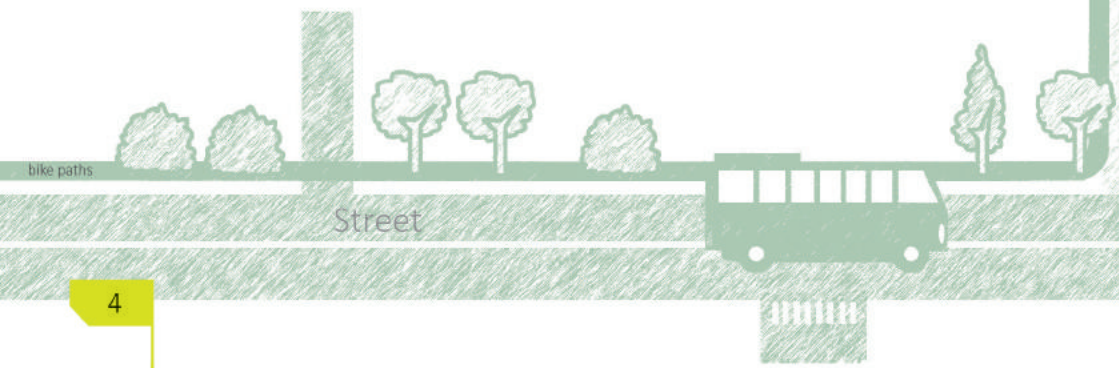
bike paths

Street

WHAT IS PUBLIC SPACE?

> Street and pedestrian in Surabaya

- All places publically owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without a profit motive.

- Public spaces include, but are not limited to streets, bike paths, sidewalks, open market spaces, green spaces such as parks, playgrounds and public facilities such as libraries and public toilets.

- Successful cities allocate 50% of land to public space, of which 30-35% to streets, and 15-20% to open public spaces and public facilities.

- SDG 11.7- *by 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.*

WHY IS PUBLIC SPACE IMPORTANT?

Public space is critical for Environmental Sustainability

Green and open public space brings many important environmental benefits to urban areas, including the cooling of air and the absorption of atmospheric pollutants. Public space can help mitigate climate change by linking places together, encouraging people to move around by walking, cycling and using public transport therefore minimising carbon emissions. Public space can also help adapt to the effects of climate change by acting as sustainable drainage system, solar temperature moderator, source of cooling corridors, wind shelter and wildlife habitat.
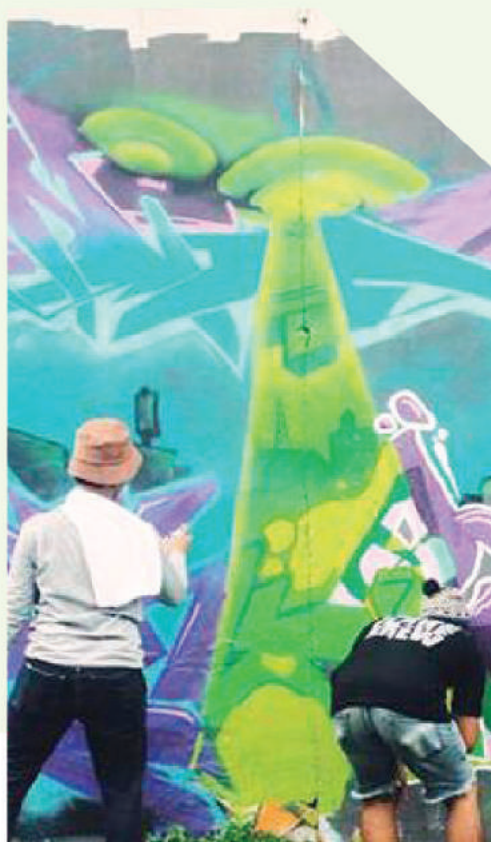
10% improvement

street's walking quality

reduction of **15kg** of **CO2** emissions

per household per year as car reliance reduces

Source: UN-Habitat, Urbanization For Prosperity Policy Statement, 25th Session of the Governing Council

Public space enhances Safety

A mixed and diverse public space (use, users, design, state, time, etc.) provides a place that is vibrant and busy, automatically reducing insecurity. Well managed public space and increase feelings of security. Physical changes to, and the better management of, public space can help to allay fears of crime and violence.

House	House + park	House + playground
$	$ + 8% increment	$ + 16% increment

Source: UN-Habitat Global report on Human Settlements: Planning Sustainable Cities (2009)
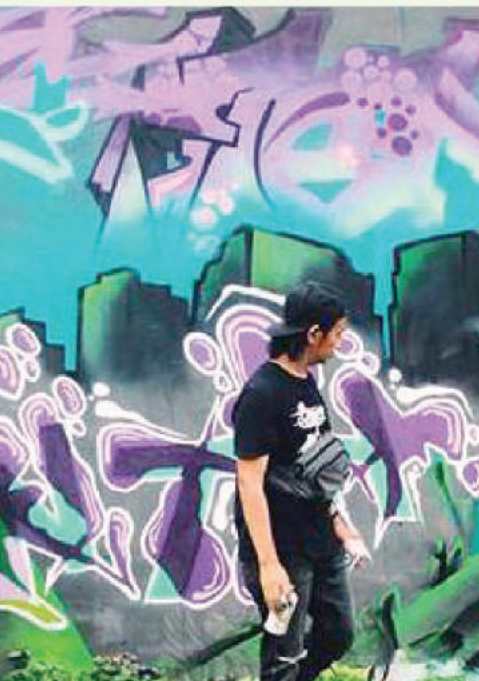
Public space improves Public Health

Access to good-quality, well-maintained network of public spaces can help to improve our physical and mental health by encouraging us to walk more, to play, or simply enjoy the environment. In other words, our open spaces are powerful weapons in the fight against many forms of ill-health.

38,6 m²	11,2 m²	88,4 m²	166,3 m²	66,2 m²	18,1 m²
AVERAGE	HANOI	BEIJING	GUANGZHOU	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI
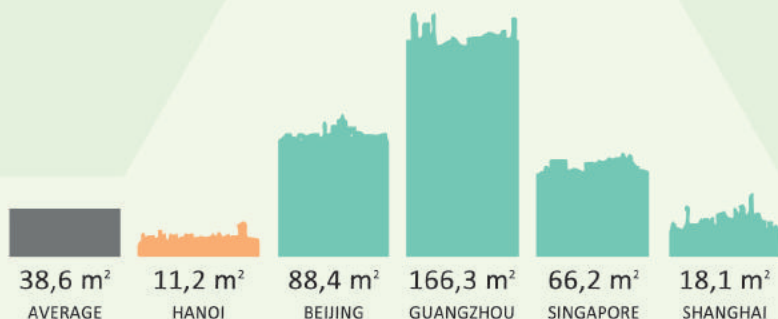
GREEN SPACE PER PERSON IN ASIAN CITIES (m²/per capita)
Source: Source: Economist Intelligence Unit (2011) Asian Green City Index. www.thecrystal.org

Public Space supports Economic Productivity

Good public spaces play a decisive role in attracting investment, uses and activities, thus enhancing safety, increasing property values, generating municipal revenue, providing opportunities for economic interaction and enhancing livelihood opportunities. Public space provides important benefits to all forms of business, both formal and informal. In particular, public spaces where informal business can be carried out provide poorer urban dwellers with precious livelihood opportunities.

> Green roof garden at Tokyu Plaza Omotesando Harajuku

Public Space fosters Social Productivity

Public space provides important room for social and cultural interaction and can foster a sense of belonging and pride in an area.A public space that is open to all, regardless of ethnic origin, age or gender, provides a democratic forum for citizens and society.

Public Space promotes Equity

Improving access to good public spaces for the most vulnerable urban residents is a powerful tool to improve equity, promote inclusion and combat discrimination. Public spaces must not discriminate based upon sex, gender, religion, class and most importantly- people with disabilities.

> Green and open space at the
  Pluit's reservoir banks, Jakarta

WHY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS NEED TO ACT AND LEAD?

Ensuring city-wide distribution of public spaces is a way for governments to reduce inequalities and reallocate benefits. The benefit of preparing a city-wide strategy/policy is the protection and creation of a network of good-quality public spaces. Without a clear strategy/policy, it is difficult for local governments to prioritise, spend and plan resources and to show how much public space is valued, and to mitigate the negative impacts of site specific interventions (e.g. gentrification).

A strong strategic policy framework, supported by **rules and legislation** for creating and protecting access to public spaces, **urban planning and design** for providing adequate quantity and good quality public space**,** and **urban finance and economy** for sharing values, promoting local economic development, providing employment and attracting investment, is core. Public spaces are the wealth of cities and attracts private sector investment.

Local governments should act and lead the process of "Public Spaces for All" as they have the ultimate responsibility to provide good quality public space to their citizens and to manage those spaces. They must be able to see the value that public space can bring and prepare for city-wide policies and strategies which ensure planning, design and management of public spaces at different scales.

Rules & Regulations

Financial Plan

Design

I

Assess the existing public space

Local governments may need to first assess the percentage of the existing public spaces including streets, sidewalk, public markets, community centres, library in order to measure whether the improvement of the quantity, distribution or quality of public space is necessary. In addition to this audit, it is considerably important for local governments to also evaluate each public space in terms of quality, usage and values.

TIPS FOR DEVELOPING PUBLIC SPACE

2

Improve the quantity and quality

Local governments may consider the quantity of public space sufficient, but not in term of quality. Therefore, local governments become compelled to plan how the quality can be improved. In many cities, however, there are big portions of public spaces that benefit only certain groups of the society, such as vehicle-users, as can be seen in the low quality and quantity of sidewalks to accommodate more roads for cars and other vehicles.

3

Public Space Process

From inventory to Implementation and monitoring and review

WHAT CAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT DO?

4

Laws and regulations need to be reviewed, to establish enabling systems to create, revitalise, manage, and maintain public space, including participatory processes to define their use and manage access to public spaces.

2

Local authorities should include the network of public space as part of their development plans.

3

Local authorities should work with communities to foster social inclusion, celebrate multiculturalism, and enable urban livelihoods, thus creating rich, vibrant multi-functional spaces.

1

Need to develop city-wide strategies that focus not only on places and spaces but on the form, function and connectivity of the city as a whole.

5

Land value sharing and land readjustment tools to be widely adopted and promoted for municipalities to capture private values generated by better public spaces to sustain investment in public space.

6

Investing in public space needs to be harnessed as a driver for economic and social development, taking into consideration urban-rural linkages.

7

Urban projects need to ensure adequate public space in planned city extensions, planned city infills and participatory slum upgrading projects. Instruments to enable the creation of public space from private owned land are of critical importance.

8

Cities need to adopt targets, indictors and principles on measuring the distribution, quantity, quality and accessibility of public space

Case study:
From Conceptual design to innovative public spaces for densely populated settlements.
Jin-Gu-Yuan Mixed-Use Complex, Kunshan, China

The urban renewals brought by the Economic Reform since 1978 have changed Chinese cities completely. However, the renewals have focused on improving the cities' economic infrastructure. Consequently, the 'non-productive' public space, especially the part serving average residents, has not received proportional attention.

The historical city of Kunshan has rapidly transformed into a major manufacturing center in the Yangtze River delta. The central city is undergoing major urban renewals. The Jin-gu-yuan mixed-use complex site sits in one of the renewal zones, between a newly-completed gated residential development to its north and the Loujiang River to its south. The low-rise houses occupying the other areas surrounding the site will be all replaced by high-density developments, similar to the high-rise Jin-gu-yuan that has 155 apartments per hectare.

The problems in public space can be partially attributed to the conventional design approach that blindly imitates the urban form of European and US cities and ignores the unique conditions of Chinese cities. These conditions include the larger size of a city, the limited existing public space, the hotter and longer summer, the poorer majority of the urbanities and the need to preserve arable land.

Many small public spaces are better than a few huge 'window-dressing' projects in a dense city. To carve out more public space, spaces have to be piled up, and one has to abandon the traditional 'horizontal' zoning that dictates a singular use for each parcel, either among different functions or between open space and a building site. In this project, the footprint of the building in the conventional design is shrunk

and divided into five portions, creating five gardens between the buildings. The need for a kindergarten has created the idea of a vertical space in the image of a hilltop village. The new layout not only makes the kindergarten more secure, which is a big issue in China, but also affords the children a better view of the river which would have been blocked by a wall under the conventional scheme. The five gardens have plenty of benches with many arranged in a centripetal form to provide settings for quiet social activities. There are small plazas for self-expression. The project also transformed the roofs of buildings into one volleyball and two badminton courts, satisfying the teenagers' needs which are often overlooked by planners. In this way, the largely-paved gardens will accommodate many residents' activities which might not be possible in their small apartments. In festival seasons, it can be transformed into a stage or playground.
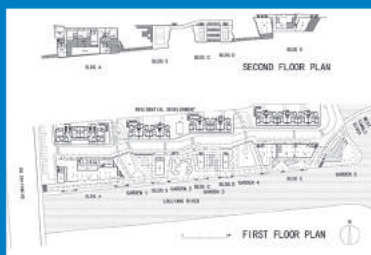
> Spaces for open-ended uses and buildings paired with open spaces are some theories appliaed in the design of Jin-gu-yuan Mixed-use Complex, Kunshan

Case study:
Safer Communities' Project – Delhi, India
Un–Habitat Safer Cities Programme And Safetipin

UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme together with SafetiPin (map-based online and mobile phone safety app) is implementing a project focused on walkability and gender in Delhi, India. The initiative is set empower women and girls as agents of change in making their own communities safer, and equip local authorities with validated baseline information. The project goes further to undertake analysis of the complex perceptions and 'feelings' of safety which impact the decisions for women and girls in accessing city services.

The safety audit tool is one which has been utilised around the world by many city authorities, NGOs and other organizations seeking to analyse urban safety. Audits have typically been used to identify problem areas, quantify environmental contributors to crime and violence and bring about change through advocacy. Building on the Safety Audit concept, 'SafetiPin' is a mobile app that puts the safety audit tool into the hands of citizens at large. It has been designed to collect and share information, including a qualitative component capturing the 'feeling' or perception of safety in a given urban environment. Statistical modelling in Delhi using SafetiPin has shown that it is possible to establish a sense of the perception of safety, based on the scores of individual parameters collected by SafetPin in a manner similar to crowd sourcing.

The project has a central focus on walkability at community/neighborhood level, women and youth. The project mobilises local men and women, community groups, volunteers and youth to engage in audits in selected parts of the city, crosschecking the results for correlation between a sense of safety and other parameters. Secondly, the project generated data at city level, and worked with city authorities to effectively apply that data in plans, strategies and policies.
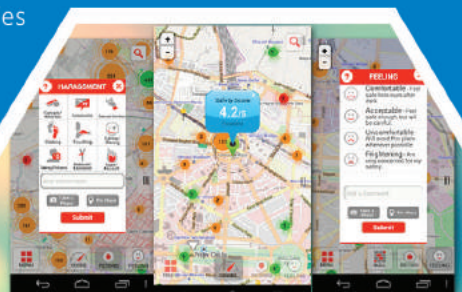
For example, Delhi accounts for 15.4% of crime against women in Indian cities. Delhi has witnessed an 18.3 per cent rise in crime against women in 2014 as compared to 2013, with a 31.6 per cent rise in rape cases. Delhi (5,194 cases) has accounted for 14.2% of total such crimes. Since the gruesome gang rape case in December 2012, we have seen a tremendous increase in reporting of rape and violence against women. This can be seen as due to increased awareness and better systems of reporting within the police. The post 2012 period also saw improvements to transport and installation of CCTV's and other responses to address the concerns of women's safety.

In Delhi NCR, safety audits were carried out from September 2013 and major parts of the city have been covered. The idea was to cover residential spaces, university area, popular markets, main roads and ring roads, bus terminals and metro stations. Safety audits were done in all parts of Delhi NCR including lower al spaces, university area, popular markets, main roads and ring roads, bus terminals and metro stations. Safety audits were done in all parts of Delhi NCR including low income communities and the resettlement areas. At Present, there are over 1200 safety audit pins in Delhi NCR.

> Supporting safer community campaign @ safetipin

BE SAFE.

19

HOW PUBLIC SPACE DRIVES THE LOCAL ECONOMY'S GROWTH AND PROMOTES CULTURE

Public space that is well-planned can drive the local economy's growth. There are cases that show how local governments in Asia-Pacific have made efforts and use public spaces to transform their cities and regions towards becoming more livable, with a dynamic economy and good environment. As an example, Seoul Government has removed the fly-over streets built in the City's center in the early 1980s as part of its economic rejuvenation and put back the streams which have become a popular spot for people to visit. This Cheonggyecheon project has resulted to the increase of land value along the stream and attract visitors and changed the land-use of the areas with more cafes and restaurants constructed.

Local governments should act and lead the process of "Public Spaces for All" as they have the ultimate responsibility to provide good quality public space to their citizens and to manage those spaces. They must be able to see the value that public space can bring and prepare for city-wide policies and strategies which ensure planning, design and management of public spaces at different scales.

Cities and local governments recognize public spaces as key resources for cultural interaction and participation. More and more works have been carried out in putting culture as the central point in planning and designing public spaces. The cultural dimension is made up of the practices and customs and can reflect the forms or types of public spaces required.

Public spaces therefore need to adapt to the cultural contexts, use local knowledge and arts, and to address the potential of cultural activities as a technique to attract more visitors, and raise local economy as well.

> Phsar Thmei - Central Market in Phom Penh, Cambodia

Case Study:
Revitalization of traditional markets and food vendors in Solo, Indonesia

Indonesia's current president and former Mayor of Solo and Governor of Jakarta, Joko Widodo, spearheaded the revitalization of Solo into a clean and safe place to live and work. When he took office in 2005, the city's evident problem was the poorly managed traditional markets and street vendors. This poorly maintained public space was linked to other issues such as insufficient or insecure jobs, the loss of other public space, and the low quality of basic service provision. During his tenure, Joko Widodi was determined to address these pressing problems and implemented reforms with the objective to develop a modern city that maintains its cultural heritage.

Jokowi believed that the city's rich culture was a significant but largely untapped asset. Alongside a dedication to renew the conditions and image of Solo, and by especially working with various groups in a genuine spirit of reform, he worked to boost tourism and strengthen the economy by reviving the image of Solo as the centre of arts and culture.

Numerous dialogues were held by the local government and the street vendors to relocate them, and while tedious, the result had been a success. This reform with the traditional markets and street vendors paved the way for others. The project not only improved the physical space, but more importantly the conditions of the street vendors work place who also expressed satisfaction with the change that did not negatively impact their jobs. Additionally, the reform had an important impact on preserving the cultural assets of Solo, the traditional market building as a built heritage, and the gastronomy as an intangible heritage kept alive by the street vendors.

> Culinary and antique market in Solo

Case Study:
Old town in Jeju, reborn as the centre of culture, Jeju, South Korea

Jeju Island has been carrying diverse programs to enforce sustainable cultural development in line with the Culture 21 Action Plan. One of the nine pillars of Culture 21 is "Public Space, Urban Planning and Culture" that highlights public spaces as important element for cultural interaction and participation. Integration of culture in public space and planning helps also revitalize and create distinctiveness and uniqueness of the cities and regions.

Together with local art groups, civic organizations, and citizens, Jeju has put in placegreat efforts to become an exemplary model and a leading cultural city at the global arena. Jeju is conceiving and carrying out multiple projects that aim to preserve the values of old history and culture of the local community by revitalizing the declining old downtown into a cultural, creative spot. An old university hospital was transformed into a cultural art complex, the Jeju Culture & Art Center, and the usage of empty buildings of the old downtown to create public spaces for cultural art creations and hands-on experiences, exhibition spaces, handicraft workshops, traditional food labs, etc. Fringe festivals and flea markets are revolving around the old downtown areas, projects involving local residency artists.

Jeju's Governor who is also the President of UCLG ASPAC has initiated the formation of the UCLG ASPAC Culture Committee to promote the integration of culture in all aspects of local planning and development.

> Jeju's stone park stands as the pivotal history and culture of the Islands

Case Study:
Lotus Garden, Mumbai, India

The condition of public spaces in Mumbai is generally poor. Malpractices are common in the new public space developments, maintenance of public spaces is limited and community engagement is low. People lack a sense of ownership because they are not involved by the local government, the Mumbai Metropolitan Corporation (MMC), during development or in the maintenance of public spaces. Further, they see public spaces as a "public good" and lack the incentive to take any initiative to maintain them. M ward is the most neglected and poorest area in the city of Mumbai. This is a very densely populated area with almost no public spaces. It is located near the city dumping ground and over 90% of the population belongs to a Muslim community with among the lowest living conditions Mumbai. The area suffers from major solid waste management issues and the few public spaces that exist are abused, not maintained and under constant threat of encroachment. UN-Habitat and its implementing partner, the Mumbai Environmental Social Network (MESN), selected a site that is critical to the community of M Ward, even if it is most challenging area for implementation due to the very complex political situation.

In 2012, MESN raised preliminary funding and started mobilizing the community in one of the neighborhoods called Lotus Nagar. The site selected is a garden space of 1,300 m^2, and it serves a population of more than 200,000 people. This Municipal Corporation owned space is reserved for a garden in the area development plan and the Corporation has agreed to maintain the site after rehabilitation. The participatory design phase was conducted during 2013, with the community engaging through public workshops and design charrettes.

The space is completed and there is such pressure from the community living around the space that at one time they had to limit the number of people using it. The garden up-grading has included levelling, construction of a walkway, flower beds and seating. Play equipment for children and fitness equipment for adults have also been installed, as well as a water tank with the necessary plumbing and water pump. Painting of all the equipment as well as the fencing of the garden has been completed. The residents demanded a high mast in the garden and hiring of security guards to ensure that the space was adequately lighted, safe and thus accessible to all.

Before

After

> Public space improvement in Lotus Nagar provided greater outcome to community

WHY AND HOW COMMUNITY SHOULD BE ENGAGED?

To achieve quality pubic space outcomes, community engagement must be sought throughout the design, management processes, making citizens define for themselves what makes great place. Doing so, it will achieve government accountability and favorability.

An experience of seoul in an on-line planning of a public space in front of city hall, that became available as the result of road diet's programs, is good example how technology contributes to civic engagement in planning process.

The importance of engaging with communities when designing, and maintaining public space is paramount primarily because people living in and around these spaces, understandfirst-hand what is required in order for communities to become prosperous and socially inclusive. Effective public space services must represent the needs of all citizens (women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, minorities, the poor, etc.)– enabling more accountable and responsive local governments.

The strategies employed to engage with communities varies considerably

between local governments. More often than not, finalized public space designs are published in the public domain in order to gather community input. Other approaches include town meetings; technological consultation such as online forums and surveys. Place evaluation by the citizens can also be done, gathering their inputs on certain criteria which include i) comfort and image, ii) access and linkages, iii) uses and activities, and v) sociability. Other governments seek more favorable approaches that include more direct forms of consultation with community in the public space design process. Regardless of the method employed however, the importance lies with community consultation and engagement throughout the urban design phase.

An excellent case study that demonstrates one method of direct community engagement is a program run by the UN-Habitat called 'Block by Block.'

Case Study:
"Block by Block"

'Block by Block' is a public space program that aims to empower communities in the public space planning process. The project has operated across the globe in places such as India, Bangladesh, Philippines, Nepal, Kenya, Haiti, Solomon Islands and Indonesia amongst others. In cooperation with Mojang AB - the creator of the computer game 'Minecraft,' citizens use 'Minecraft' as the tool to design their own public space during a three to four-day workshop. The workshop consists of 25-30 participants from the community that includes men, women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities. During the workshop, participants learn about the importance of public space, brainstorm and design their own public space concepts based upon what they think their community may want or need in terms of public services and facilities. A prioritization exercise is also conducted to identify the most important elements to

Minecraft design of a new public space. Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal.
© UN-Habitat

be included in the final design. The design is then presented to local government leaders and finally, sent to a professional architect for development and implementation on the ground.

The benefit of using this direct form of engagement in the public space process is two-fold. Firstly, community participants can identify and remedy gaps in services and facilities in their own community, therefore achieving more effective public health and economic outcomes. Secondly, local governments are seen to be more representative, accountable and responsive to community needs – therefore becoming more favorable as their preferred government representative.

> Community consultation towards participatory design of public spaces in Surabaya

HOW TO FINANCE PUBLIC SPACE?

Local governments need funds to building and maintaining good quality and quantity of public spaces. Whether through land capture value, direct loans and/or private capital contributions, including in the form of special purpose companies, Public Private People Partnerships (4Ps) or infrastructure public facilities, they have access to long-term financing to cover investment needs. Across most Asian countries today, national governments have facilitated decentralization policies to provide local governments with more autonomy and control over local development policies.

However, most local governments still struggle to find extra financial support in order to fund an increasing demand for basic public services.   The role of national governments therefore remains indispensable in order to revise the public funding arrangements and to therefore, sustain future public space commitments and developments across all urban spaces.

Local authorities can also generate local revenue. Land value sharing and land readjustment are tools that can be widely adopted and promoted for local authorities to capture private values generated by better public spaces to sustain investment in public space.

New powers must therefore be given to local governments in order to acquire independent funding arrangements with financial institutions and 4Ps such as municipal financial institutions (If the conditions are localized and compatible with the legal structures of that country). Other approaches also include removing and/or reducing red-tape in order to sustain funding and approvals for PPPs. It is also important to diversify the local tax basis such as expanding this funding access to people's incomes or local sales tax (VAT or GST), if appropriate. Local-national government relations therefore remain critical to the future funding arrangements for public space works and broader development projects going forward.

There are many cities and local governments such as Jakarta and Surabaya in Indonesia that have successfully expanded their public spaces through cooperation with private companies and foundations.

# Child-Friendly Public Space in Jakarta,Indonesia

The Governor of Jakarta, Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, has initiated the development of Ruang Publik Terpadu Ramah Anak (RPTRA), Child Friendly Integrated Public Space in high-density areas and poor neighborhoods.

In Indonesia, there has not been any province building RPTRA. Not only public park in the city, RPTRA is integrated public space serving people from birth to death.

Basuki Thahaja Purnama "Ahok", Governor of Jakarta

In building RPTRA, Jakarta City Government cooperates with private companies; the City provides land, while the corporations cover the construction and provide public amenities with an average amount of 1 billion Rupiah (approximately 75,000 – 100,000 USD). In this RPTRA program, private companies acknowledge their contribution as Corporate Social Responsibility activity. Since its initiation in 2015, local government has built more than 40 RPTRAs with support of the corporations and foundations and targeted up to 150 RPTRAs to be built in 2016.
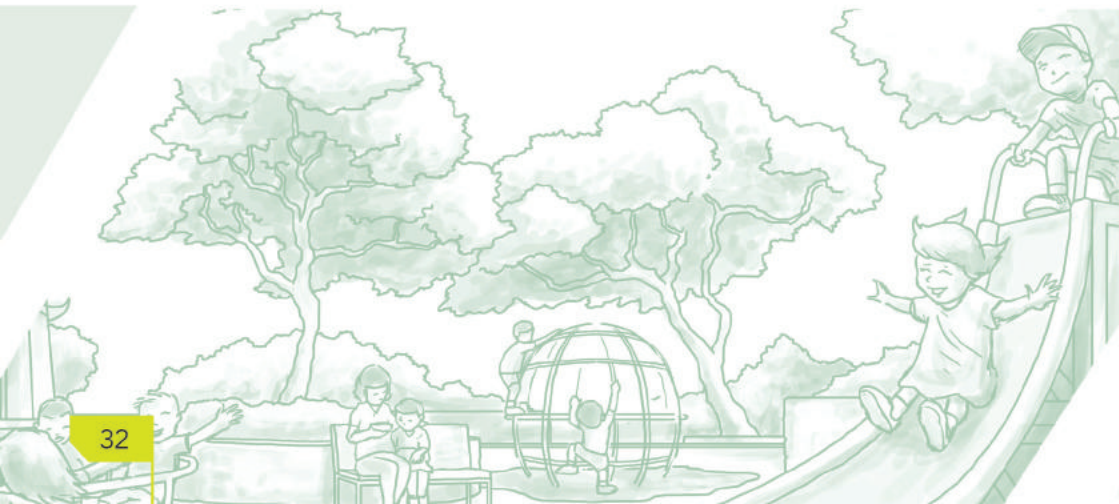
RPTRA is a public space that is child friendly and designed based on local needs. With one of the goals to provide space for people living in crowded areas, RPTRA is expected to become a meeting spot of local communities: they can gather with neighbors, find out what happen to others if any of the frequent-visitors doesn't come and even follow up with local authorities if necessary; and because local government assign local communities to take care of RPTRA in their local area, local people can also exercise their ownership of RPTRA.

RPTRA provides facilities in basic legal administration services (birth & death certificate), lactation room, integrated health service for children, early-age education center, sports center (gym and outdoor space), center for child creativity and arts, services for disaster anticipation (flood, fire), knowledge and skill development, family consultation and give training in revenue generation for family. Facilities provided in RPTRA differ and depend on land areas.


Children played in playground

CONCLUSION

Public space will remain a critical component in order to address the continuing urban growth challenges going forward. Cities and local governments must come alive to support the human needs and wants of their inhabitants. Doing so will make cities more attractive and prosperous for businesses and communities for living.

Local governments need to understand and address the characteristics of quality public space designs and management, namely; the promotion of environmental sustainability and 'urban stewardship', public space that promotes safety especially for women and children and health outcomes for all citizens, public space that supports economic and social productivity, and finally, public space that promotes equitable access for all citizens regardless of their sex, gender, class, religion and/or disabilities. These four criteria are the necessary foundations required in order to reap the vast economic and social benefits that result from quality public space designs.

Cooperation among different stakeholders is crucial when designing or funding public space infrastructure. The first tier looked at community engagement, whereby it was argued that by including citizens in the public space design process, will significantly improve quality public space outcomes and increase ownership and sense of belonging. This approach also enables local governments to be more accountable and favorable amongst its constituencies. The second tier examined the role of local government engagement through local diplomacy. Here it was argued that cities and regions must work in harmony to share ideas and best practice concerning the strategies and tools employed when designing and implementing public spaces. Doing so will significantly reduce costs, time, including to find new and innovative ways to improve the overall effectiveness of public spaces.

Finally, the future sustainability of our cities and urban hubs across the Asia Pacific, rely upon good public spaces. It is therefore incumbent upon local governments to adopt quality public space principles and to work cooperatively with its counterparts, but more importantly, to work with communities to find innovative solutions in addressing future sustainability concerns going forward.
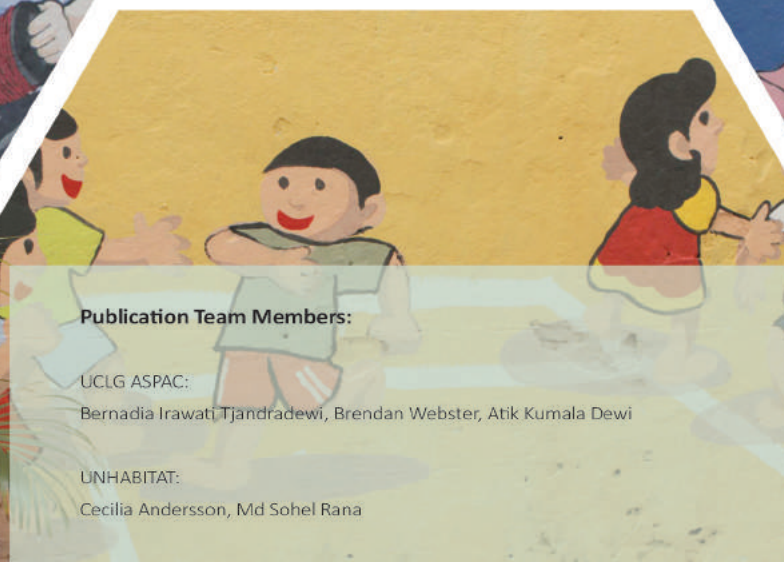
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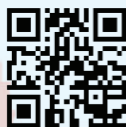Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Brendan Webster, Atik Kumala Dewi

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