

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

NEWSLETTER



SUSTAINED PROSPERITY

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in Southeast Asia



Dear valued members and partners,

As you received our Newsletter, I really hope that you are good and thriving entering this second half of year 2021. This is the second year of the pandemic and I believe this is the situation we all need to be friend with.

As leader for our local people, it is time for us to think ahead and prepare the best scheme to run the city. It is essential to ensure that we all still thrive while living side by side with the virus. The ups-and-downs we have been going through just shows that “new normal scheme” is possible. Surely, it comes with list of protocols to be strictly applied. It is our job to ensure they are well-managed in our city.

Challenges always come with opportunities. This is the premise I always hold on to and today, it is more relevant than ever. The new normal scheme is one of our biggest homework. Despite the challenge it presents, it also provides us with huge and new opportunities to create something new which may not be possible in the normal time. What are those exactly? The answers lie on how far we know our city and our people, its strengths, and challenges, and surely our vision ahead. The axis of those factors will leave us with insights to move forward.

Collaboration is surely essential for us all, most importantly when walking through all this. Only with joining hands, we can fill in the gaps each of us have.

No other words I would like to share to all of you my fellow leaders, but to stay strong and unite despite the challenging situation ahead. One day when we look back, we can keep our chin up as we have contributed a better new world to the next generation.

MAYOR ASHOK

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



Dear readers,

A great leader is one that serves. I believe there is no better time to attest it but now, where actions speak louder than words. Despite of the challenging situation we are still facing today, I am proud to share milestones that our beloved organisation has achieved so far. Surely, these will never happen without support, contribution, and thoughts from you all, city leaders in Asia-Pacific.

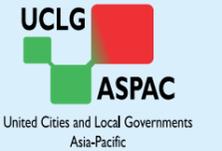
First is the signing of Memorandum of Understanding with the Indonesian Inter Parliamentary Cooperation Body or Badan Kerja Sama Antar Parlemen (BKSAP) for the localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Indonesia. This signing shows the trust of the parliamentary body to our organisation. Next is the Letter of Intent (LoI) signing between city of Guangzhou and Jambi. We are glad that our facilitation for both cities to collaborate finally took concrete form. We hope this can become catalyst of many more possible collaborations to come. For the betterment of local governments’ contribution to local people, we also assist in the finalisation of revision of Ministry Regulation No.100/2018 regarding the application of minimum standard for public services delivery (SPM) in Indonesia. Celebrating the works and commitment of local governments for sustainable development, we also launch the Culture Publication “Culture Policies and Actions of Local Governments: An Asia-Pacific Perspective”. In addition, we continue our commitment to support local governments in the region through ASEAN Mayors Forum as well as in Zero Draft Consultation Meeting to support the development of the Asia-Pacific Action Plan 2021-2024, which in the long run supports the implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030.

Commitment is challenged in difficult times. However, I am glad to see that our commitment remains despite challenges we are facing. We, at the Secretariat, are glad to support local leaders who continuously think of the betterment of their local people.

DR. BERNADIA IRAWATI TJANDRADEWI

Secretary General, UCLG ASPAC

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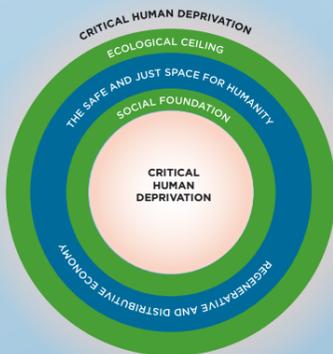
PROSPERITY POST-PANDEMIC: TOWARDS THRIVING CITY SCHEME

IN the post-pandemic era, cities are preparing to improve their way of planning. The goal is to enhance resilience and minimise impacts that may threaten local welfares when challenges rise in the future. In addition to local challenges that each city inevitably faces and the needs to meet their set goals, cities are expected to contribute to solving global challenges. Facing these demands altogether, cities need to ensure they thrive in whatever circumstances.

In 2012, Kate Raworth, UK Economist, introduced Doughnut Economics. Kate introduced the concept as a compass for human prosperity in the 21st century. The doughnut diagram shows two rings: 1) social foundation to ensure no one is left falling short and 2) ecological ceiling that humanity does not collectively overshoot planet boundaries. Space between those two boundaries is a space in which humanity can thrive as it is ecologically safe and socially just.

Kate Raworth introduced the concept long before the pandemic arises. However, more and more cities have found the concept is relevant to the future of their city, including when impacts after pandemic are also incorporated.

The Doughnut Essence



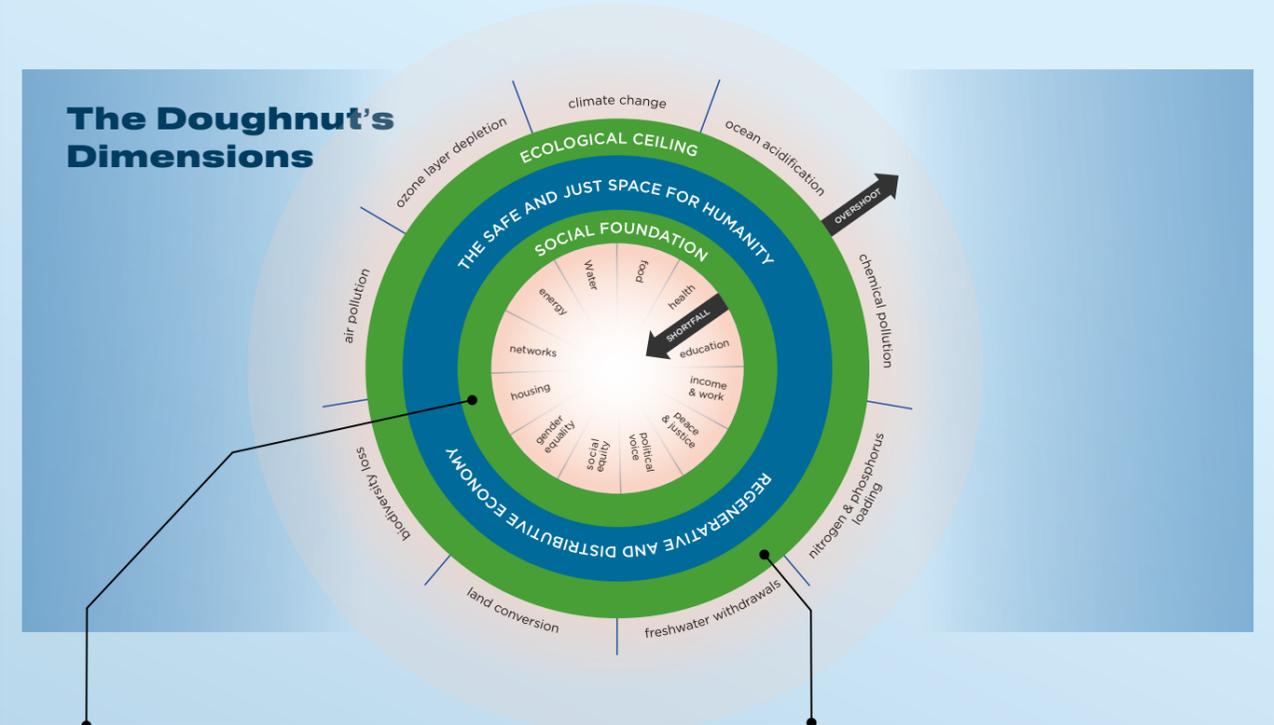
1. The Social Foundation

Below which lies critical human deprivation

2. The Ecological Ceiling

Beyond which lies critical planetary degradation

These two boundaries are foundational in the sense that humanity should always seek to avoid critical human deprivation and critical planetary degradation.



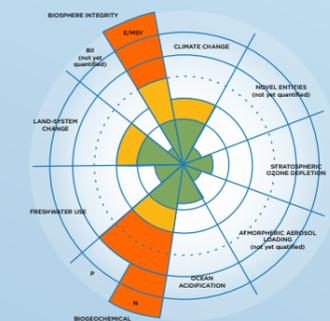
The Social Foundation

Comprising 12 dimensions derived from the social priorities agreed in the Sustainable Development Goals (UN, 2015): water, food, health, education, income & work, peace & justice, political voice, social equity, gender equality, housing, networks, and energy



The Ecological Ceiling

Comprising nine dimensions derived from nine planetary boundaries defined by Earth-system scientists. (Steffen et al., 2015): climate change, ocean acidification, chemical pollution, nitrogen and phosphorous loading, freshwater withdrawals, land conversion, biodiversity loss, air pollution, and ozone layer depletion



Thriving Cities



During the process, cities have learned how the pandemics have impacted their lives and how far their applied system have supported them. Cities have also decided to re-align their planning process. Some cities have declared that they are adapting the Doughnut Economics concept into their city planning, while there are also some cities have already practiced the principle in some areas of the urban life. Check out the practices! Your city might as well have one!

Source: https://www.stockholmresilience.org/images/18.3110ee8c1495db74432616e/1459560224627/Figure-3_web.jpg



REGENERATIVE MELBOURNE: A NEW COMPASS FOR THE CITY

Context

ACCORDING TO Economist Intelligence Unit, Melbourne was categorised the world's most liveable city for seven years in a row between 2011-2017. The measurement was based on an annual Liveability Index study that rates global cities' liveability based on Stability, Healthcare, Culture and Environment, Education, and Infrastructure. In 2019, the city "stepped down" only at second place after Vienna (Austria). In Australia, Melbourne is considered an economic powerhouse with its Gross Regional Product for 2018-2019 at \$369 billion (representing 19% of the country Gross Domestic Product/GDP).

However, the "achievement" does not reflect everyday lives of all local people in Melbourne. The city still faces challenges such as homelessness, housing unaffordability, income inequality, and inequitable access to jobs and services, particularly in certain parts of the city. With the COVID-19 experience, Melbourne is facing the economic crisis brought by the pandemic, rising social inequality, and the climate and biodiversity emergency.

Plan

Responding to these, Regen Melbourne, a network of more than 40 organisations and 600 individuals exploring a regenerative future of the city, has embodied the Doughnut Economics concept and launched the Greater Melbourne initiative. The creation of the Melbourne local doughnut was conducted through eight steps: Community Activation, Research and Mapping, Community Workshops, Leadership Interviews, Preliminary Insights, Roundtable Feedback, Insights Finalisation, and Doughnut Localisation.

Results

Definition of Regenerative Melbourne

- **KNOWLEDGEABLE** | Everyone has access to knowledge as custodians of the environment and society.
- **CONNECTED THROUGH CULTURE** | We are proud of our diversity of culture as drivers of connection and creativity, and we live as much a part of the land as the land to us.
- **FULL OF LIFE** | A network of neighbourhoods that support thriving communities and natural systems. We can swim in our rivers, play, and learn in nature, grow food in our city.
- **AFFORDABLE** | Everyone has secure, safe, comfortable housing powered by clean energy and quality locally grown food.
- **COLLABORATIVE** | Where we do what we love for our livelihoods, and we are valued for our contribution.
- **ENABLED** | Our economic and governance systems enable these visions to come to life.

Community Workshops

Discussions on the community workshops were made and revealed findings and roadmap steps to be taken from 2021 to 2023:

I. Further Developing the Melbourne Doughnut

- Building on the insights generated to date and the Melbourne Doughnut, continue the City Portrait process for Greater Melbourne and incorporate both our local and global responsibilities;
- Establish expert-led working groups for each of the dimensions of the Melbourne Doughnut;
- Investigate gaps and opportunities in local, state and federal government policy that can inform the development of doughnut-aligned policies for Greater Melbourne;
- Establish a data and measurement of working group and identify primary indicators and associated data sources for each dimension of the Melbourne Doughnut.

II. Further Community Activation

- Convene a regenerative business forum to support and enhance collaboration and to share knowledge of aligned business practice;
- Establish at least five Regen Melbourne neighbourhood groups to explore local, place-based activation of Melbourne's Doughnut;
- Recruit at least five Greater Melbourne councils as beacons that engage in the activation of Melbourne's Doughnut within their municipalities;
- Activate community around projects by establishing a Regenerative Project Incubator to support new ideas and ventures that move our city into the safe space described by the Melbourne Doughnut.

III. Further Developing the Regen Melbourne Network

Source: <https://www.regen.melbourne/> (Towards a Regenerative Melbourne report)

NEW ZEALAND: A NEW AND SUSTAINABLE MINDSET

PEOPLE in New Zealand have acknowledged that challenge faced in the 21st century is meeting the needs of all in a fair, equitable, and sustainable way. It has also been acknowledged that economic growth can no longer be used as tool for measurement as endless growth is no longer sustainable.

Doughnut Economics Advocates New Zealand (DEANZ) is an advocacy group for people who are concerned about the threat to the ecological balance presented by climate change and environmental degradation, and the threat to the social balance presented by the relentless pursuit of GDP growth. DEANZ members are committed to work towards a sustainable ecological and cultural future by putting into action the concept of Doughnut Economics.



The Goals

DEANZ brings together members to achieve five goals below:

- Encourage attitude and behavioural change from a growth-led to a sustainability-led economy through education and effective communication,
- Develop and implement programmes that regenerate the Earth's capacity to support life and encourage the sustainability of resource use (reduce/recycle/reuse),
- Innovate to transform ecologically damaging enterprises and practices,
- Ensure that everyone – regardless of their social and cultural background – has access to the resources they need to ensure they can thrive.
- Lower the population growth curve to enable sustainability rather than stimulate economic growth by encouraging a high net level of immigration.

Strategy

- Raise community awareness of the concept of doughnut economics,
- Influence political parties to adopt policies and proposed solutions to social and ecological problems that exist in New Zealand,
- Lobby decision-makers in all levels of government and the private sector to incorporate doughnut economics thinking when making choices about how to deliver goods and services.



Project

Repair Café

A pop-up event where people can bring their broken belongings and local experts will try their best to repair them at no charge at all. This initiative saves money and reduces the amount of materials ended up in the landfills.

Composting

This project consists of two components: Composting Phase and Community Garden Phase. The **composting phase** is planned to involve the construction and installation of two composters, collection, and transportation of the scrap to be put into composters. For more mature phase, construction of seven more composters will also be conducted. The compost is used to create community garden.

In the **community garden phase**, gardens are constructed and co-managed by people involved in the project. Harvested vegetables will be sold and all income will be used to maintain the composters and gardens. In more mature phase, it is planned to establish community gardens across the remaining allocated land.

Other Info

Community gardens in Auckland:

Devonport Community Garden, Kelmarna Gardens, Grafton Community Garden, Mt. Eden Community Garden, Organic Market Garden (OMG), Sanctuary Mahi Whenua, Ranui Community Garden.

Key facts about composting in Auckland:

- Approximately 1/2 of average household bin is food,
- Auckland Council has a four-tiered approach to managing food scraps: Reduce, Rescue, Reuse, Recover. Two are relevant here:
 - Reuse: “keep it local and compost at home”. For apartment owners, this plan offers a great solution,
 - Recover: “keep food scraps out of landfill”,
- Food scrap collection is due to start in Auckland October 2021 and will be transported to Reporoa to go through the anaerobic process.

Source: <http://www.doughnuteconomicsnz.com/>
<https://www.theurbanlist.com/nz/a-list/urban-farm>
Devonport Community Garden Facebook

INDIA: SUSTAINING LOCAL TEXTILE INDUSTRY



INDIA is among the world's producers of textiles. The industry is the second-largest employer in the country providing direct employment to more than 45 million people. It contributes to five percent of India's GDP, seven percent of industry output in value terms, and 12% of the country's export earnings.

With the positive contribution, though, the industry sector still faces numerous challenges for its sustainability, including depletion of natural resources, use of chemicals and processes impacting the environment and health, and insufficient policies/incentives to adopt environmentally friendly practices or ineffective implementation.

Facing the challenges, cities in India (Churu, Kota, Jaipur, Udaipur Rajasthan and Varanasi, Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh) worked together under the framework of SWITCH-Asia Grants Programme (Going Green) to:

- Build sustainable small and medium enterprises (SMEs) among textile artisans, and improve their working conditions through efficient and eco-friendly processes,
- Enhance the capacity of artisans through trainings,
- Develop green products using sustainable raw materials, natural dyes, and reduced water and energy use.

The Implementation

Advocating for the Policy Change

Artisans and SMEs increased their bargaining power by identifying issues and advocating for policy change with government as well as industry bodies.

Applying Environmentally Friendly Processes

Good practices were applied, mainly in areas where the level of environmental degradation was substantial, such as dyeing and degumming in Varanasi, washing of finished products of chikankari in Lucknow; indiscriminate discharge of effluent in Sujangarh/Churu; or use of harmful chemical colours in Kota, Jaipur (Bagru and Sanganer).

Building Capacity of SMEs and Artisans to Get Access to Resources

Including access to entitlement schemes and linkages with banks and financial institutions.

Result

- 70% of target SMEs/artisans adopted at least one change in production process (e.g. use of natural fibres, installation of an effluent treatment plant, use of safety gear, installation of energy efficient technologies, recycling of waste products, etc.), 70% of target SMEs/Artisans began recycling/reusing waste water and at least 60% percent of artisans and SME workers (out of the 70% who have made changes) perceive an improvement in their health as a result of the changes made.

Source: Impact Sheet: Going Green(https://www.switch-asia.eu/site/assets/files/1516/india_going_green_impact_sheet.pdf)

MYANMAR: SUSTAINABLE FOREST, HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT



MYANMAR has been facing challenges in deforestation and air pollution. Worldbank.org mentions that in 2017, approximately 45,000 deaths in Myanmar occurred due to air pollution. Recent research also shows that Myanmar, one of the most forested countries of mainland Southeast Asia, has been facing deforestation with annual rate of forest cover loss at 0.97% (between 2010-2015). WHO, through its Myanmar Newsletter 9 May 2019, stated that use of wood as fuels for household cooking contributes to the air pollution in the country. Approximately 3.8 million people die pre-maturely every year from household air pollution from cooking.

Facing these challenges, Improved Cookstove (ICS) programme was implemented. The practice had been in the country, but not widely applied. Conducted under the framework of SCALE Project, this programme aimed to support ICS sector development as well as stimulate domestic demand for ICS.

The Implementation

Cookstoves Market Assessment

The market assessment included baseline socio-economic and energetic studies. It singled out challenges and opportunities of the cookstove sector in the country. Findings were used to pinpoint strategy and determine actions most suitable, including choice of value chain and media for promotion.

Stove Testing and Development Facility

The facility was developed within the Forest Research Institutes to become the national level reference facility in research and development on biomass cookstove and fuels and standard development for further control and actions on ICS sector to ensure Myanmar population get access to high quality stoves.

Distributors and Retailers Mapping and Commercialisation Plan

Through gatherings and meetings of producers and distributors, the interests of distributors and retailers towards the improved cookstoves design raised. Communication between producers and distributors was also improved.

Result

- Approximately 30 trained ICS skilled producers reached a total average production of between 6,000-8,000 standardised quality, locally appropriate, affordable ICS models per month;
- Distribution chains in 8 states/divisions received over USD 40,000 of added value income from ICS distribution;
- 60 SMEs were involved in the production and distribution of ICS, with sustainable business plans, and contribute to job creation;
- 41,500 households using ICS received benefited from time and/or money savings and improvement in sanitary conditions.

Source: <https://www.switch-asia.eu/project/scale/>
[https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/searo/myanmar/air-pollution-\(9-may-2019\).pdf?sfvrsn=d43c20b4_0](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/searo/myanmar/air-pollution-(9-may-2019).pdf?sfvrsn=d43c20b4_0)

ZHEJIANG AND SICHUAN: TOWARDS SAFE AND ECO-FRIENDLY PRESERVED FOODS



PRESERVATIVES are widely used in the food industry in China, including in Zhejiang and Sichuan. In the Sichuan province alone, preservatives (in agro-food processing industry, such as bamboo shoot) are often used much higher than what is set on the national standard. On the other side, water pollution resulting from food processing also adds up to the challenge. The practice surely affects the environment and does not positively contribute to sustainable livelihood, as it highly frustrates consumers.

Both of province Zhejiang and Sichuan worked on these challenges through Edible Bamboo Shoots programme. It contributed to sustainable bamboo shoots markets and established standardised green production chain for safe foods in the bamboo industries.

The Implementation

The programme was implemented through various forms:

Promoting Safe and Eco-Friendly Preserved Foods

Efforts included market survey, laboratory tests, and awareness raising activities. It was noted that consumers were not aware of the eco-friendly bamboo shoots but showed 10-15% increase of awareness after the project. For preserved vegetable, fruit, and meat products, it was noted that consumers choosing safe and eco-friendly products increased to 8-10%.

Capacity Building of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the Food Industry

It applied clean technology for primary and final product processing. Demonstration sites were also established in Zhejiang and Sichuan provinces to promote technology and developed B2B model for knowledge transfer.

Engagement with Policy Maker

Training sessions were conducted for government representatives and industrial associations to monitor and evaluate sustainable food production. Both of provincial governments also received policy recommendations on bamboo shoot processing standards.

Scaling-Up Strategy

Knowledge Transfer to Other Sectors

Replication of the good practice was applied to around 600 SMEs producing preserved vegetables, fruits, and meats. Manuals on green practice were also developed based on successful practices of bamboo shoot SMEs. It was noted that the manuals have helped the vegetable, fruit, and meat processing industries to apply green approach and clean technology.

Standard Development

Standards on eco-friendly bamboo shoot farming and SMEs primary processing technology were developed in collaboration with governments of Zhejiang and Sichuan.

Capacity Building for Policy Makers

Trainings and study tours were conducted for government representatives working on environmental standards for food products to enhance the ability to train the SMEs, supervise, and administer existing standards for long-term sustainability.

Establishment of Information Platform

A platform was developed in Lin'an City, Zhejiang Province, to supply information and training materials. The platform creates close links among farmers, households, semi-processing, and preservation small enterprises with medium to large corporations producing final bamboo shoots products (canned shoots, salty shoots, dried shoots) and connections with companies, scientists, and policymakers.

Result

Increased Interest on Eco-Friendly Food

Awareness raising conducted to promote eco-friendly food showed positive results. It was noted that general consumption of bamboo shoots increased by 9.52%, consumption of bamboo shoots produced by demonstration SMEs has increased by 30% on average, consumption of preserved vegetables, fruits, and meats by 8% on average. All those products were produced according to green production standards.

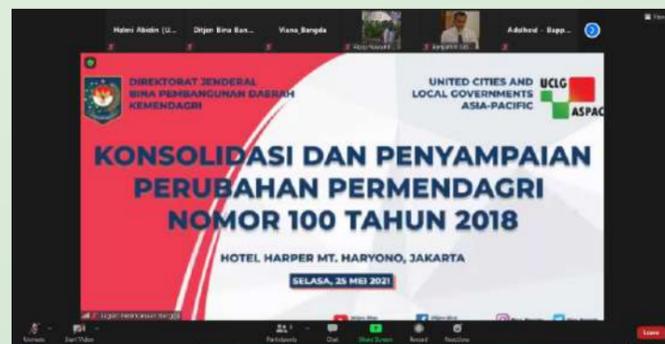
Pollution and Waste Reduced

Prior to programme intervention, food processing in Zhejiang and Sichuan used excess water, polluted, and produced excess waste. In Sichuan, harmful chemicals such as salt and sodium pyrosulphite led to serious pollution. After working with 391 SMEs, their overall water utilisation efficiency has improved around 40% (from 0.138 tonnes of shoots produced per tonne of water in 2011 to 0.194 tonnes of shoots produced per tonne of water in 2016). Water recycling rate has also increased to 71.7% (prior to this, only one SME recycled water with 16% recycling rate). Water pollution has also significantly reduced: total phosphorus was reduced by 90%, chemical oxygen demand and biological oxygen demand reduced by 80%, suspended solids reduced by 58% and ammonia nitrogen reduced by 49%. Besides, more than 95% of the waste resulted from food processing is now reused or recycled to produce fodder for livestock breeding (such as goats, cattle, and pigs) or fertiliser.

Establishment of Demonstration Clusters

Source: Impact Sheet | Switch Asia Project - Edible Bamboo Shoot Project (<https://www.switch-asia.eu/resource/impact-sheet-edible-bamboo-shoot/>)

SUPPORTING REVISION OF THE MINISTRY REGULATION: ACCELERATING APPLICATION OF MINIMUM STANDARD PRINCIPLES FOR LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICES



UCLG ASPAC continued its support to Indonesian Directorate General Regional Development Agency for the revision of the Ministry Regulation No.100/2018 regarding the application of minimum standard for public services delivery (SPM) at local level. The consolidation meeting, organised by Ministry of Home Affairs on 25 May 2021, sought final approval and consultation with stakeholders (relevant ministries and local governments) on the amendment of the regulation.

Our participation was part of the implementation of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA). The consolidation meeting is part of 11 series of focus group discussion (FGD) with our initiation and conducted with the directorate from 14 February to 25 May 2021. The overall target is to share final inputs from the perspectives of relevant ministries and local governments on the amendment of the regulation and to ensure the incorporation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

FGD series

- 14 January 2021
- 11 February 2021
- 22 February 2021
- 28 April 2021
- 3 February 2021
- 15 February 2021
- 24 February 2021
- 25 May 2021
- 5 February 2021
- 18 February 2021
- 26 February 2021

Consolidation Meeting

Attendees: 80 participants from various stakeholders such as Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Public Works and Housing, and National Disaster Agency including representatives of local government such as DKI Jakarta and Bogor City.

Format: Focus Group Discussion and sharing with open debate for feedback collection

“The implementation of SPM at the local level is one of the Indonesian Government top priority until 2024.”

Ms. Sri Purwaningsih
Secretary of the Directorate General of Regional Development (Dirjen Bangda)

“Regulation must be clear and easily understood by the local governments.”

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi
UCLG ASPAC Secretary General

Feedback

Ministry of Social Affairs

- The attachment form has been adjusted according to the Regulation Number 9/2018.
- Attachments of the Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs for the social sector are ready and can be approved.

Ministry of Public Works and Housing

- The Ministry already received the draft, more specifically the management aspect, of Regulation No.29/2018. Concern was on the regulation structure, Article 5 on data collection, number and identity and citizens, specifically for housing sector after a disaster occurs only data collection will be carried out.
- Commenting on the Article 16 Paragraph 2 on SPM recapitulation.
- Commenting on the Article 17 Paragraph 3 technically the implementation can be coordinated with the technical ministry.
- Commenting that the attachments regarding housing and surveys, are not the same as per attachments shared to Ministry of Public Works and Housing.

Ministry of Education and Culture

- Regarding education, consolidation is necessary to avoid overlap to other programme at the Ministry of Education.
- Every citizen has the right to get proper service according to the new paradigm shift in Government Regulation (PP) No. 2/2018. Aspects to be included in SPM: types, quality, and recipients of basic services.
- Problems may arise in the four stages of implementation, particularly on data collection.

Ministry of Health

- Commenting on the existing form that has been changed without explanation.
- Commenting on attachments by name by address, the aggregate number of what percentages have received services.
- Responding to Form 2 A4 related to health facilities, not all of them were mentioned, such as number of experts and number of health human resources.
- Responding to Form 2 B5 regarding types of basic and health services.
- Responding to the form regarding the number of needs, regarding medical devices, and ultrasound devices.

Ministry of Planning (Bappenas)

- Providing feedback on the four stages in government regulations, the translation of planning and implementation, the priority of the document, which is translated into the Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs.
- Commenting on the Regional Development Information System (SIPD) that is being developed at the Ministry of Home Affairs, can be integrated to SPM system.
- Commenting on the translation of local incentives and disincentives
- Commenting on the attachment of technical inputs that can be synchronised with existing application.

National Disaster Agency BNPB

- Providing feedback related to disaster data at the provincial level, services at the district-city level, prevention services related to disasters, disaster victims, evacuation services for disaster victims.

Current Status: The revision is now entering the final approval process.

POST LOCALISE SDGS: COMMITMENT ON SDGs ATTAINMENT



UCLG ASPAC has recently concluded LOCALISE SDGs (Leadership, Ownership, and Capacities for Agenda 2030 Local Implementation and Stakeholders Empowerment for Sustainable Development Goals), a programme funded by the European Union (EU). With the SDGs attainment is scheduled in 2030, UCLG ASPAC's commitment to support local and regional governments in attaining the global agenda remains.

Guangzhou – Jambi City Collaboration



One of its commitment was realised through facilitation of collaboration between Jambi City and Guangzhou. Both cities signed the Letter of Intent (LoI) on 26 July 2021 to formally express their willingness to collaborate further in the fields of health (telemedicine), education, tourism and culture, promotion, and youth.



Welcoming this collaboration, UCLG ASPAC Secretary General, Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, said that "UCLG ASPAC is ready to facilitate both countries in a telemedicine programme that is also our joint programme with Guangzhou. There are myriad opportunities if we could implement the telemedicine programme to create significant impacts in handling the COVID-19 Pandemic." She mentioned that the LoI signing was an excellent start to continue to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).



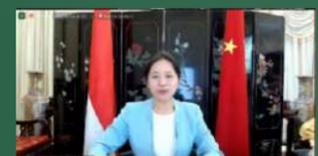
Dr. Heriyandi Roni, M.Si., Head of Centre for Facilitation of Cooperation, Indonesian Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), said, "Today, we witness one of the evidences that this pandemic will not hinder us from continuing to improve our work and creativity. The limitations we face today, have encouraged us to keep transforming, innovating, exploring our potential and creating opportunities to promote the welfare of people throughout the country."



Mayor Wen Guohui of Guangzhou mentioned that "The project is not only beneficial to the health of women and children, but also an important indicator in the process of gender equality and women's empowerment." Further, he also expressed his expectation to "strengthen the connection between health departments of both sides, and promote implementation of related cooperation projects, which will benefit people of the two places."



Mayor Syarif Fasha, ME, of Jambi City also acknowledged the excellent quality of Guangzhou's health care and system saying that "We can attest that the Guangzhou health and city planning systems are very good, and we hope by that we can share information and collaborate in the health sector, including cooperation regarding COVID-19 pandemic management."



Ms. Qui Wei Wei, Consul General of the People's Republic of China for the Republic of Indonesia in Medan, also expressed their support on this collaboration saying that, "The Chinese Consulate General in Medan is willing to provide support and assistance for the development of friendly relations between the two cities. ... We also look forward to cooperating with all sectors in the consular area to jointly promote sustainable development of China-Indonesia partnership."

What s Next

UCLG ASPAC will continue to support the momentum of advocacy that has been fostered by LOCALISE SDGs, including: the SDGs Monitoring and Evaluation tools with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) in alignment with the support to update the Indonesia's Standar Pelayanan Minimum/SPM (Minimum Standard for Public Services); supporting the upcoming Voluntary Sub-national Review (VSR) and Voluntary Local Review (VLR) for other cities; and initiate the updates of UCLG ASPAC's Cities Enabling Environment (CEE) Rating or SDGs Snapshot. UCLG ASPAC will also continue to encourage local and regional government members to showcase their best practices in SDGs issue in the Asia Pacific region and globally.

On the capacity building side, UCLG ASPAC will continue to maintain the LOCALISE SDGs' website (<https://localisedsgs-indonesia.org/>) as a means of sharing information and knowledge management platform. It is expected that the website will be found useful by more and more local governments in Indonesia, continuing its outreach through virtual events to at least 245 local governments in the country.

UCLG ASPAC-INDONESIAN PARLIAMENTARY MoU SIGNING: SUPPORT TO LOCALISE SDGs



13 August 2021 | JAKARTA – UCLG ASPAC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indonesian Inter Parliamentary Cooperation Body or Badan Kerja Sama Antar Parlemen (BKSAP) to ensure the localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). BKSAP has tasks to coordinate and strengthen the SDGs awareness raising among parliament members in Indonesia as well as to build partnership on SDGs implementation with other parliamentarians at the global level. The signed MoU marked a five-year collaboration of the two parties to strategically build partnership on the implementation of SDGs at national and regional level.

The MoU was signed at BKSAP Office in the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR RI) premises between Damayanti, the Deputy of Session, Secretariat General of the House of Representative of the Republic of Indonesia and Secretary General Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi representing UCLG ASPAC. Both parties have agreed to promote the implementation of the MoU by transforming the workplan into concrete actions.

Upon the signing, Dr. Bernadia addressed in a short interview that “2030 Agenda for sustainable development is a global development agenda that promotes partnership as one of important vehicles to attain its goals and targets. Today, I am very happy to be here to build a strategic partnership with Indonesian parliamentarians as a concrete move to strengthen the capacity and raise the awareness of the parliamentarians on SDGs attainment. As we are already aware the parliament members have strategic functions to support the SDGs localisation as well as to ensure the SDGs implementation at local level. UCLG ASPAC is committed to support this initiative and will remain at our disposal for further collaborative actions. UCLG ASPAC encourages mutual partnership between local governments and parliamentarians to ensure the SDGs attainment by the year 2030”.

UCLG ASPAC and BKSAP are now collaborating to develop an annual workplan which includes series of activities from capacity building to advocacies.

Commitment to Support Local Governments – Where It All Started

UCLG ASPAC, under the framework of LOCALISE SDGs programme, has been collaborating with associations of local parliament for city level namely Asosiasi Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah Kota Seluruh Indonesia (ADEKSI) and for regency level Asosiasi Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah Kabupaten Seluruh Indonesia (ADKASI) to support SDGs implementation. One of the programme results is the production of pocketbook designed for parliament members on COVID-19 response and SDGs attainment. The collaboration with parliamentary bodies also produced more applicable partnership with the legislative members such as attendance at virtual discussions, and development of Voluntary Sub-national Review (VSR) among other relevant activities. The partnership also set a foundation for local parliamentarians to be more active on SDGs policy dialogue as well as to provide support for the implementation at local level. Indonesian parliament has a pivotal role in ensuring that the SDGs are integrated into development planning. With its three key functions in legislation, budgeting, and oversight of the executive bodies, the parliament is government’s strategic partner in the implementation of SDGs. Good understanding on SDGs among the parliament members will help accelerate the SDGs attainment both at sub-national and national level.

ZERO DRAFT CONSULTATION MEETING: CONTINUING COMMITMENT FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION ACTION PLAN 2021-2024

UCLG ASPAC continues its commitment to support cities particularly in disaster risk reduction. To support further development of the Asia-Pacific Action Plan 2021-2024 for successful implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030, UCLG ASPAC engaged stakeholder groups and gathered their inputs on the zero draft of the plan through virtual consultations and a survey on 13 and 21 July 2021. The consultation aimed at ensuring inclusion of priority actions identified by key stakeholder groups including local authorities. The consultation meetings involved the Asia-Pacific Local Governments Coordinating Bodies (APLG) members and partners, such as United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), UCLG-MEWA and individual and association of local governments including Makati City, Vigan, Banda Aceh and All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIIILSG).



Dr. Bernadia I. Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC, opened and facilitated the two-organised consultation meetings emphasising the importance of gathering inputs regarding the draft as we are all responsible for implementing the draft action plan.

The action plan is divided into three scales: Regional Scale, National Scale, and Local Scale. This is the reason this consultation meeting also engaged with not only local governments, but also non-state bodies in civil society.

Main points raised in the meetings included:

- The action plan should consider multiple actions that are overlapping between priorities. There is a need to consider having 'cross-cutting actions',
- It is suggested to also take notes on the innovative actions taken by several countries (e.g., Disaster Insurance for Buildings, DRR-sensitive land-use/zoning/city planning, etc.),
- The action plan should also ensure the cascading actions from regional to national to local (vertical integration) to have a holistic approach on the DRR and Resilience efforts,
- It is suggested to ensure government commitments (through declaration, regulation, etc.) for implementation,
- It is suggested to set annual goals that can progress over the years.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030 was adopted in 2015 and the national governments and partners in the Asia-Pacific region agreed to implement the two-year Action Plan for Implementation (2018-2020). The Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework 2015-2030 outlined a long-term roadmap of priorities to achieve seven global targets and a two-year Action Plan (2018-2020) with specific prioritised activities to work towards these goals. The Asia-Pacific Action Plan 2021-2024 is continuation of the two-year Action Plan.

CULTURE PUBLICATION LAUNCH: CELEBRATION FOR CULTURE POLICIES AND ACTIONS TAKEN BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



UCLG ASPAC Culture Committee proudly launched its new publication “Culture Policies and Actions of Local Governments: An Asia-Pacific Perspective” on its organised webinar “Show Must Go On: Culture and Cities in the Next Normal”, 17 June 2021. This webinar and publication launch was a celebration and appreciation for local governments’ commitment to incorporate and enliven culture even amidst the pandemic challenge.

Mr. Hee-ryong Won, Governor of the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, in his opening message, stressed that global solidarity plays a critical role in the fight against the pandemic and the importance of culture and arts in enhancing resilience across society. “The publication being launched today is filled with sweat and passion from local governments that seek to enhance the self-generating power and competitiveness of culture and arts amidst challenges posed by COVID-19,” he said.

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC, facilitated a live poll with the participants. The survey showed that culture is part of the local government development plans and that local governments have undertaken activities on culture during the pandemic. Inclusivity was the key word that surfaced when the participants were asked about initiatives that should be prioritised by local governments to facilitate COVID-19 recovery for the cultural sector.

The publication “Culture Policies and Actions of Local Governments in Response to COVID-19: An Asia-Pacific Perspective” was a collective effort by the UCLG ASPAC Culture Committee and members and included initiatives from six local governments in the region. These local governments delivered their perspectives during the webinar.



Mr. Juan Carlo Medina, Mayor of Vigan City, shared that heritage activated progress in the city and will continue to be an important factor in its recovery. Cultural activities continued in Vigan, including implementation of infrastructure projects in its heritage district and conservation complex, improvement of public spaces, and virtual conduct of festivals and capacity building webinars. Production of local specialties were also supported by providing loan assistance to small businesses.

Mr. Sung-su Park, Deputy Mayor of Andong City, introduced the city’s cultural projects. The Ama-do Project, co-hosted by Andong City and the Andong Festival and Tourism Foundation, consisted of three programmes: exhibition programme, art talk, and art performances. The Andong-E Gamyeon is a shortened version of the International Andong Mask Dance Festival held every year. Andong successfully completed the two projects without any new infections and provided the spotlight for local art and artists in the city.



Mr. Tai Gun Kang, Chief of the Culture Policy Division of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, recognised the need for discussion on the role of culture and arts during the pandemic and addressed this by organising a culture session during the Jeju Forum. Jeju also offered subsidy for artists and supported the production of online culture content.

Mrs. Young-mi Lee, Senior Manager of the Cultural Policy Division of Seoul Metropolitan Government, discussed how the Cheer Up Concert provided online performance opportunities to art groups and artists with cancelled performances. Acknowledging that the citizens are suffering from “Corona Blue” or depression due to self-isolation and social distancing, the local government started the “Soothing with Culture” Project to cheer up the citizens through various online and offline activities.

Ms. Rui Zhang, Member of International Cooperation & Exchange Office of Xi’an Municipal Administration of Culture and Tourism, stated that the COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on the cultural tourism in Xi’an. She described the steps undertaken by the city to restart this industry: 1) shutting down cultural tourism enterprises to prevent the spread of COVID-19; 2) introducing supportive policies to assist the cultural tourism industry; and 3) launching online and offline cultural activities.

Mr. Aloysius Mapalo, Supervising Tourism Operations Officer of Baguio City, focused his presentation on the Ibagiw Creative Festival, a month-long event that provided creative tourism and supported artisans and craftsmen in the city. The festival fostered interactive engagement between creators and their audience in various art forms and spaces.

Mr. Jordi Pascual, Coordinator of UCLG Culture Committee, enlightened participants on the efforts of the committee to promote culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development. This included the creation of the toolkits such as “Culture 21 Actions” and “Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals: A Guide for Local Action,” launch of the Observatory of Good Practices showcasing more than 230 good practices indexed according to the 17 SDGs, and work on the Culture 2030 Goal Campaign. He also briefly described three projects: Seven Keys workshop being implemented by Xi’an, Culture21 Lab undertaken by Makati and Greater Dandenong, and the Rome Charter which invited cities around the world to consider the right to participate in cultural life as the centre of recovery.

Ms. Duong Bich Hanh, Programme Specialist and Chief of Culture Unit in UNESCO Bangkok, expounded on the institution’s efforts to assist cities through various tools and publications. This included publications such as the “UNESCO Creative Cities’ Response to COVID-19”, “Cities, culture, creativity: leveraging culture and creativity for sustainable urban development and inclusive growth”, and “Culture | 2030 Indicators.” She also invited local governments to the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation and the UNESCO Creative City Network Conference.

In his closing message, Mayor Medina reiterated that culture should be assimilated with recovery. “May we all bounce back with renewed dynamism in revitalising economic activity with culture at the centre of our efforts,” he concluded.



UCLG ASPAC congratulates Jeju Special Self-Governing Province as the Lead Local Government of the Culture Committee for the activities as well as to all committed local leaders for the efforts taken and innovations developed. We also thank participation of all cities for the conclusion of the publication and to all participants and speakers in the webinar.

COLLABORATIVE COMMITMENT ON SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA



UCLG ASPAC, Secretariat of ASEAN Mayors Forum, once again summoned local governments within the sub-region of Southeast Asia and relevant stakeholders to enhance collaboration and share insights through webinar on 29-30 June 2021. In its seventh year, the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) highlighted the theme of “Enabling Environment on Climate Resilience: Local Governments and Cities Commitment to Tackle Climate Change.” Organised amidst the pandemic, this year’s event was conducted virtually and recorded special attendance of China and India enriching the discussion on collaborative commitment.

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC and AMF Secretariat, opened the event in the hope of fruitful interaction among mayors, senior local and central government officials.



The Governor of Jakarta, **Mr. Anies Rasyid Baswedan, Ph.D.**, welcomed the participants with a kindred hope as the Co-President as well as the Host City of UCLG ASPAC Secretariat. “Cities have a great role in tackling the impacts of climate change, to provide a liveable living environment for its inhabitants.” He stated that cooperation is not only a formality, but it is critical for the local government’s role in the world in the future. He also said that vertical and horizontal integration in action and policies matter. Collaborating with other parties, Jakarta is committed to tackle climate change, reduce GHG Emission, and create more public space.

Subsequently, **Ms. Armida Alisjahbana** as the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and **Mr. Kung Phoak** as the Deputy Secretary-General (DSG) ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) shared their warmth for better cooperation, coordination, and integration in the region between cities and national institutions.

Ms. Armida Alisjahbana stated that Southeast Asia is vulnerable to climate change. “The Paris Agreement requires action across levels of government. As local communities and the national government develop COVID-19 recovery strategies, it is time to accelerate this action to be more resilient and greener. No local or national government should act alone, vertical integration of policies is critical. The role of cities must be well defined.”

The DSG ASEAN for ASCC, **Mr. Kung Phoak** mentioned the fast expansion and exponential development of mega-cities in Southeast Asia has resulted in significant environmental consequences. He stated that ASEAN has seen remarkable progress in these targets, especially through the work spearheaded by the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities, particularly in two priority programmes on Sustainable Urban Planning, Development, and Implementation and Increasing Climate Resilient and Low Carbon Cities. “Today’s forum serves as a window of opportunity to take stock and learn from each other’s experience in climate-proofing our cities and he hopes that this gathering will also allow us to reflect on possible avenues for cooperation as we champion climate-smart cities in ASEAN,” he said.



There were four sessions held throughout two days of the AMF Special Event. The first three sessions emerged to call forth the issue of climate sensitive urban development. During the Plenary Session, the panellists had their solidarity arrived on a better enabling environment for cities to conduct climate action, such as capacity building for local governments.

These panelists were **Dr. Medrilzam**, Director for Environmental Affairs of the Ministry of Planning (Bappenas) from Indonesia, **Mr. Jarurot Phooprasert**, Expert on Architectural Planning, Department of Public Works, Town & Country Planning (DPT) from Thailand, and **Mr. Epimaco V. Densing III**, Undersecretary of the interior & local government of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) from the Philippines. There is also an emphasis on how increasing climate resilience could also go together with efforts in disaster risk reduction; particularly many mega-cities in the ASEAN are vulnerable to climate-change induced disasters.

Mayor Madelaine Alfelor as Mayor of Iriga City, Philippines, where with the right awareness, and capacity building, good climate governance can build resilience and also capacities for people at the local level, by involving communities to handle local climate and environmental concerns. Besides serving as a platform for sharing best practices along with the challenges during the implementations, these sessions displayed how local governments tapped into international climate action frameworks or agendas designed by non-state and non-governmental actors

Mr. Huang Dingxi, Professorate Senior Planner of Guangzhou Urban Planning Association embraced the interconnectedness of all SDGs targets for the city’s development when it comes to increasing climate resilience. This included providing more public open green spaces, integrated waste management system, and many more. Furthermore, **Mayor Bima Arya Sugiarto** of Bogor City, reminded speakers and participants that efforts in establishing policies and regulations on climate resilience will be most effective when they are based on accurate data.

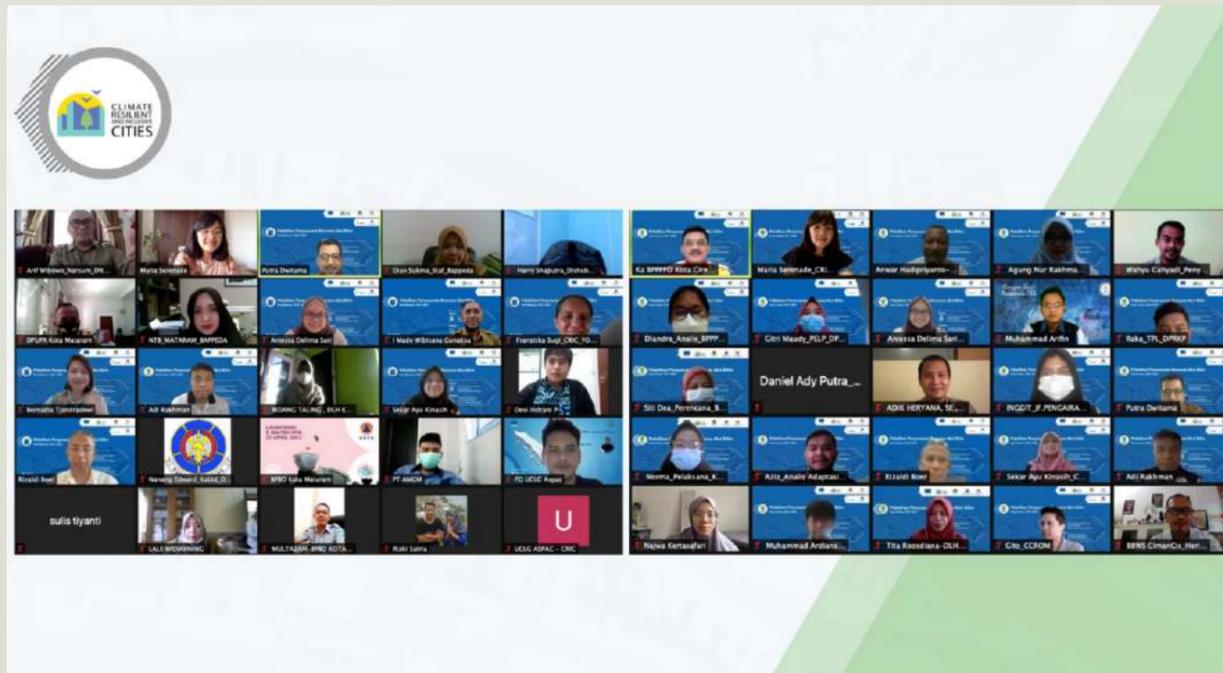
The last session invited **Mr. Curt Garrigan** as the Chief of the Sustainable Urban Development Section Environment and Development Division of the UNESCAP, **Ms. Melissa Elsa P. Cruz** as the Chief Advisor South South Collaboration on Climate Information & Services of the GIZ GmbH from GIZ Office Manila, and **Ms. Rika Zikriyyah** as the Head of Communication and Marketing Unit of Jakarta Smart City.

The issue discussed in the last session was low-carbon and resilient cities. Committed to tackling climate change, the UNESCAP accumulated policy, planning, action, finance, and knowledge to ease the flow of implementation while the GIZ Manila insisted on human settlement and urban development to go hand in hand.

As the host city of the event, collaboration was the main keyword for Jakarta Smart City to approach development in general, especially during the current health and economic crises. Nevertheless, the problems that arose out of these crises brought opportunities of digital-life breakthrough and a greener environment.

The event succeeded to be the platform for numerous stakeholders to present cases and put consideration over cases from countries other than their own. Furthermore, it is important for other similar events to explore research-based interaction or peer-to-peer learning in addition to examples of best practices.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN TRAINING: DEVELOPING CLIMATE- PROOF POLICIES FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT CITIES



UCLG ASPAC, through the European Union-funded Climate Resilient and Inclusive Cities (CRIC) Programme, supports Indonesia's effort to build climate-resilient cities. In line with this, CRIC rolls out the Climate Action Plan (CAP) training to deliver climate change mitigation and adaptation training to ten pilot cities.

The CAP training aims to build local governments capacities in developing and implementing scientific based-climate policies. The main participants are the members of the CRIC Working Group, a group consisting of local government stakeholders (such as officials from Environmental Services, Regional Planning Agency and other related government authorities) that CRIC helped formulate in 2020. This group is central to the CRIC's policy influencing efforts at the city level.

The CAP training, starting from August 2021 to June 2022, consists of mitigation and adaptation training. In the mitigation training, the pilot cities will learn to develop GHG inventories and GHG emission baseline. With this data and analysis, cities can identify the most carbon-emitting sector, set reduction emissions targets and develop a plan to achieve the targets (Climate Mitigation Action Plan).

In the adaptation training, the pilot cities learn to understand their climate risks and vulnerabilities and develop climate scenarios to assess potential hazards to climate change. The availability of this data will be the basis for cities to formulate the Climate Adaptation Action Plan.

CRIC collaborates with Centre for Climate Risk and Opportunity Management (CCROM) Institut Pertanian Bogor to build learning modules and deliver the materials. The training is also supported by the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK), where CRIC utilises the KLHK-developed tools, SIGN SMART (National GHG Emission Inventory System) for mitigation and SIDIK (Vulnerability Index Data Information System) for adaptation.

By the end of the training, cities will develop Climate Action Plans detailing strategic and priority actions to tackle climate change. The pilot cities will also receive training to develop bankable proposals to finance their climate actions. On that account, concrete climate actions will manifest in the cities, contributing to Indonesia's climate commitment as stated in the Nationally Determined Contributions.

Climate change requires immediate and concrete responses. Improving climate resilience is integral to the cities, both for now and the future. "... Local leaders in the pilot cities have pledged their commitments towards climate-resilient cities," said the Secretary-General of UCLG ASPAC, Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, at the CAP kick-off event. "It is time to increase the capacity of the local governments to integrate their climate actions and strategies."

Learn about the ten pilot cities: <https://www.resilient-cities.com/en/pilot-cities>

CAP Training Schedule

September

- 6-7 September 2021 : Greenhouse Gas Inventory Mitigation Training for city of Kupang
- 7-10 September 2021 : Scientific-Based Adaptation Training, Vulnerability and Risk of Climate Change for City of Bandar Lampung
- 14-15 September 2021 : Greenhouse Gas Inventory Mitigation Training for city of Pekanbaru
- 20-21 September 2021 : Emission Baseline Determination Training for City of Kupang
- 27-28 September 2021 : Emission Baseline Determination Training for City of Pekanbaru

October

- 6-7 October 2021 : Emission Baseline Determination Training for City of Gorontalo
- 13-14 October 2021 : Emission Baseline Determination Training for City of Cirebon
- 13-15 October 2021 : Vulnerabilities and Risks & Preparation of Adaptation Action Plans for City of Mataram
- 20-22 October 2021 : Vulnerabilities and Risks & Preparation of Adaptation Action Plans for City of Pangkalpinang
- 22 & 25 October 2021 : Emission Baseline Determination Training for City of Samarinda
- 26-28 October 2021 : Vulnerabilities and Risks & Preparation of Adaptation Action Plans for City of Ternate

LEAD4SDGs: NETWORK, COLLABORATION, AND ENGAGEMENT FOR SDGs IMPLEMENTATION IN PAKISTAN

UCLG ASPAC programme for localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Pakistan, LEAD4SDGs, consistently ensured smooth implementation of the programme through inclusion and engagement of its various network. The programme recorded various collaboration programme and efforts with its relevant network.

Incorporation of Private Sector and other Relevant Stakeholders

UCLG ASPAC's LEAD for SDGs Programme mainly supports Local Council Association (LCA) Sindh (LCAS), Local Council Association Balochistan (LCAB), and Association for Development of Local Governance (ADLG) in the localisation of SDGs. The baseline study undertaken for LEAD programme identified coordination gap between different tiers of government and between various public, private, and civil society organisations. To bridge this coordination gap and develop institutional linkages, the LEAD Programme established provincial alliances comprising of public, private, and civil society organisations, line ministries and departments, academia, media, and donor-funded projects. These networks are aimed at raising awareness about SDGs, advocate and develop action plans for the judicious reforms in the current legal and policy frameworks, develop public-private partnership, and monitor and report on the localisation and implementation of SDGs at the provincial and local levels in a coordinated and cooperative manner. These networks work under the guidance and support of the provincial local council's associations and have established core committees to implement their annual action plans developed by the alliances. These alliances are functional in both the provincial capitals i.e. Quetta in Balochistan Province and Karachi in Sindh province.

Orientation for the Newly Elected Senators

LEAD4SDGs programme conducted an orientation session with 29 newly elected senators on "Government of Pakistan's Commitment to 2030 Agenda and Potential Role of Senate in Localisation of SDGs" at Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS). This took form in capacity building activity to equip them to effectively institutionalise the 2030 Agenda and mainstream the various goals into the legislative process. LEAD4SDGs programme plan also includes working closely with the PIPS who aims at improving the knowledge and information of Parliamentarians on SDGs to create awareness and support informed planning and implementation of SDGs.

The Senators were trained on different topics such as the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, rules of procedures and role of the Parliamentarians and different areas of parliamentary business and oversight including legislative business, rules and regulations of Senate, post-legislative scrutiny, parliamentary oversight tools, composition, functions, and powers of Senate's Standing Committees etc. During this six-day training workshop, one day was dedicated to the orientation of these newly elected senators on SDGs by LEAD for SDGs Programme Team in Pakistan. Pakistan has adopted SDGs as National Development Agenda through National Assembly Resolution in 2016. Afterwards, it mainstreamed SDGs in national policies and strategies, provincial growth strategies and national long-term development perspective. Pakistan approved National SDGs Framework in 2018 and established National and Provincial Parliamentary Taskforces on SDGs and SDG Support Units in collaboration with UNDP at national and provincial levels for vertical and horizontal coordination among stakeholders. The National Framework categorised 17 global goals into three categories based on seven criteria including level of urgency, low resource requirement, relevance etc.

NEW MEMBERS

As approved on the 2021 UCLG ASPAC Executive Bureau Meeting, 9 September 2021.



Balikpapan City

Mayor : Mr. Rahmad Masúd
Website : <http://web.balikpapan.go.id/>

Located in East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia, the city is the site of a major oil refinery that processes both imported and local crude oils.



Banjarmasin City

Mayor : Ibnu Sina, S.Pi, M.Si
Website : banjarmasinkota.go.id

Located in South Kalimantan Province, Indonesia, it is known as city of a Thousand Rivers. It is famous for its water tourism which is influenced by the natural state of the city.



Dhulikhel Municipality

Mayor : Mr. Ashok Kumar Byanju
Website : <https://dhulikhelmun.gov.np/en>

Dhulikhel is popular for its natural beauty and ancient traditions.

Musi Banyuasin Regency

Mayor : Dr. H. Dodi Reza Alex Noerdin
Website : mubakab.go.id

The Government of Musi Banyuasin Regency, South Sumatra, opens green investment opportunities in order to create new economic development. Utilisation of natural resources is optimised by considering the trend of liberalisation of the world economy and tight investment competition.

Sawahlunto City

Mayor : Deri Asta, SH
Website : www.sawahluntokota.go.id

As the provincial capital of West Sumatra province, Indonesia, Sawahlunto is known as the site for the oldest coal mining site in Southeast Asia. Sawahlunto is geographically located in a narrow valley along the Bukit Barisan mountains, and surrounded by several hills, namely Bukit Polan, Bukit Pari, and Bukit Mato.

Namyangju City

Mayor : Cho Kwang-Han
Website : nyj.go.kr

Located in Gyeonggi Province, South Korea, Namyangju City has been tirelessly working to lay the foundation for a self-sufficient green city centred on culture and economy.

Semarang City

Mayor : Hendrar Prihadi, S.E., M.M.
Website : www.semarangkota.go.id

Semarang is the capital city of Central Java Province. Under the Smart City concept, the city applies three main agendas to support in the social (security), economic (competitive), and environmental (comfort) dimensions.

North Minahasa Regency

Mayor : Joune J.E. Ganda, SE
Website : www.minut.go.id

North Minahasa Regency was originally part of the Minahasa Regency until it was established as a separate regency on 20 November 2003. The Regency includes the offshore islands of Bangka (Pulau Bangka) and Talisei (Pulau Talise) to the north of Sulawesi, and Mantenang (Pulau Mantehage) and Naeng Besar (Pulau Nain Besar) to the northwest.

National Association of Mayors of Korea (NAMK)

Mayor : Hwang, Myeong-Seon
Website : namk.or.kr

National Association of Mayors of Korea (N.A.M.K.) is an organisation that consists of the elected mayors who represent each local governments in lower level: city, county, and autonomous district in a metropolitan city in Republic of Korea.

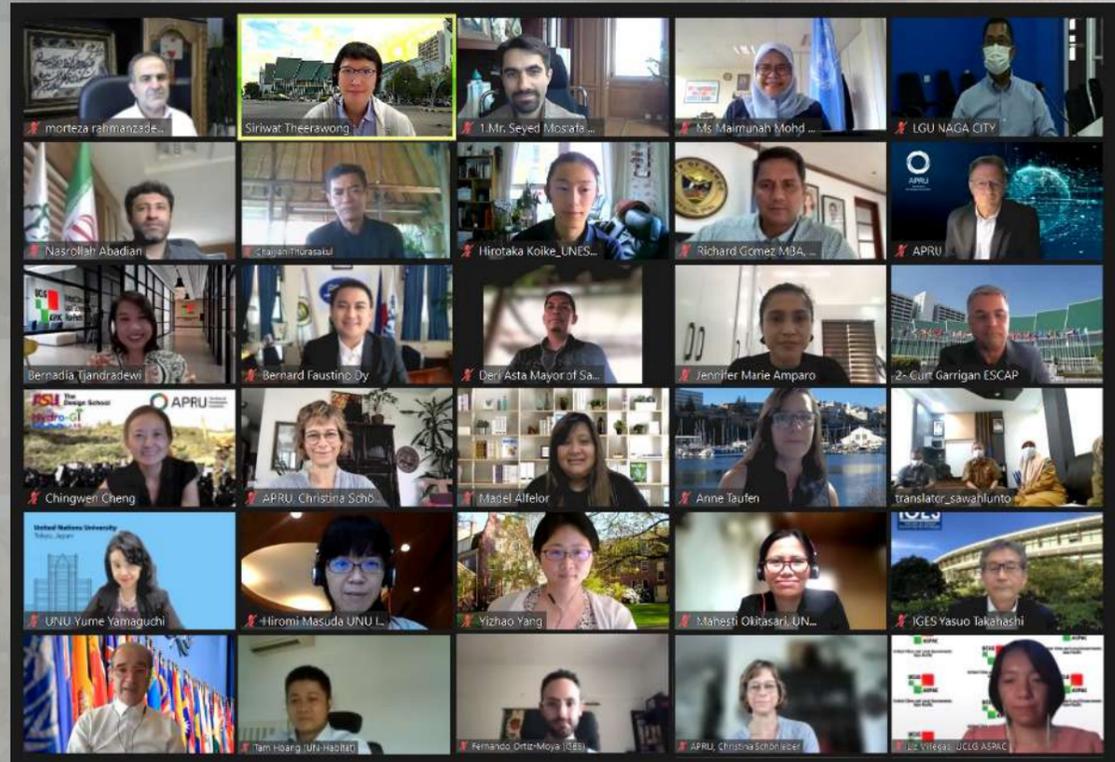
Maritime Local Government Network

Mayor : Mr. Hugua
Email : lgn.secretariat@gmail.com

LGN provides a platform for local governments to collectively discuss and collaboratively develop and strengthen projects, policies and action agendas that protects, manages, and improves the health of coastal and marine ecosystems, and strengthen the socio-economic conditions of coastal communities.

Sources: challengesabroad.com, okezone.com, banjarmasintourism.com

ASIA-PACIFIC MAYORS ACADEMY GRADUATION: MAYORS READY TO TAKE ACTION



UCLG ASPAC, together with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations University - Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), and Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU), inaugurated 10 local leaders completing the programme of the Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy on 22 June 2021.

The group of 10 Mayors came from five countries: Mr. Bernard Faustino Dy (Cauayan, Philippines), Mr. Nasrollah Abadiyan (Tehran District 11, Iran), Mr. Deri Asta (Sawahlunto, Indonesia), Ms. Madelaine Arlene Alfel (Iriga, Philippines), Mr. Morteza Rahmanzadeh (Tehran District 22, Iran), Mr. Richard Gomez (Ormoc, Philippines), Mr. Chaiyant Thurasakul (Koh Tao, Thailand), Mr. Neslson Legacion (Naga, Philippines), Mr. Seyed Mostafa Mousavi (Tehran District 9, Iran), and Mr. Kamardeen Abdul Baiz+ (Puttalam, Sri Lanka).

The Mayors underwent intensive virtual training from November 2020 to May 2021. The Academy included modules based on the framework in The Future of Asian and Pacific Cities 2019 Report: Module 1 – Cities 2030 - Leadership in Planning, Managing, and Financing Sustainable Urban Development; Module 2 – COVID-19 Response and Recovery: Roles and Actions of Local Governments; Module 3 – How to Plan Sustainable Development Pathways? Urban Territorial Planning; Module 4 – How to Build Urban Resilience; Module 5 – Towards Smart and Inclusive City; and Module 6 – How to Finance Sustainable Urban Development.

UNESCAP Executive Secretary Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana remarked that recovery from the pandemic will largely be driven by how cities respond and realise their dynamic potential as hubs of innovation. She added that the initiatives submitted by the Mayors will improve the quality of life in their respective communities and encouraged Mayors to undertake the VLR process.

UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif stated the need to start green, resilient, and just recovery. She invited the Mayors to join the Innovate4Cities Conference co-hosted by UN-Habitat and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCOM) scheduled in October 2021 and the World Urban Forum scheduled in June 2022. She also stressed the importance of the VLR as a way to accelerate the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the New Urban Agenda at the local and community level.



Mayors expressed their commitment to see through their initiatives. Mayors also conveyed their desire to remain connected and invited each other to their respective cities. Advisory Board members likewise indicated their commitment to continue supporting the Mayors and the Academy.

The Academy mourned the passing of Mayor Kamardeen Abdul Baiz who was involved in a road accident last 23 May 2021. The Mayor served as Chairman of the Puttalam Urban Council since 2018 and was a former parliamentarian and cabinet deputy minister. His commitment video was presented and a representative from Puttalam Urban Council received his certificate of completion.



UCLG ASPAC Secretary General Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi emphasised the need to address urban issues at their roots and urged Mayors to act now. “The Mayors Academy provided you with good seeds in the form of tools and best practices. We hope that these seeds of hope will take root in your cities and help us create a greener and more sustainable future for humanity.”

The Mayors Academy for Sustainable Urban Development in Asia-Pacific is an initiative of UNESCAP, UN-Habitat, UCLG ASPAC, UNU-IAS, APRU and IGES. UCLG ASPAC is also the permanent member of the Mayors Academy’s Advisory Board.

For more information about the Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy, please visit: <https://www.asiapacificmayorsacademy.org/>.

SUB-REGION UPDATES



SOUTHEAST ASIA

Surabaya becomes the first city in Indonesia that completes the establishment of the Eco-friendly Waste to Energy Plant (Pengolah Sampah menjadi Energi Listrik/PSEL) following the Presidential Decree Number 35/2018, a legal foundation for regional governments to accelerate the facility building. The facility was officially launched by the President of The Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo in Benowo District, Surabaya. President Joko Widodo gave his two thumbs up to Surabaya City Government, praising both former Mayor Tri Rismaharini (President of UCLG ASPAC, 2018-2020, and currently the Minister of Social Affairs of Indonesia) and current Mayor Eri Cahyadi, for becoming the first city to finish the project amidst obstacles such as tipping fee and regionally owned property management that hinder other cities in finishing the project. The President stated in his remarks that he will instruct other cities to look at Surabaya City Government's approaches as an example to accelerate PSEL establishment in their respective cities.



SOUTH ASIA

Local Councils Association of the Punjab (LCAP) organised a training session on Digital Literacy for Women on 28 June 2021. Conducted through a virtual zoom meeting, the objective of this workshop is to make councillors understand about how to communicate through various digital platforms and practically use them in their daily life. Workshop presentation was designed to practically involve women councillors by simulating certain digital platforms and apps. Many Digital Apps accessed by Government were shared with councillors so that they can download those apps and use them practically on their mobile devices. Those apps were related to Health, Education, Law and Order, Transport, Citizen Centre Services, Support Services, Punjab Services, and Pakistan Citizen Portal.



PACIFIC

Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) is working with universities and Non-Governmental Organisations to promote understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals in New Zealand by holding a series of events and regular conferences. LGNZ and the New Zealand Government have established PacificTA (Local Government Technical Assistance Facility for Pacific Countries) which teams New Zealand-based technical experts with their counterparts in Pacific Island countries to share skills and improve the way cities, towns, and villages are run. PacificTA helps local Pacific Island managers to run public services such as environmental management (water, air quality) infrastructure and asset management, town planning, transport planning, and public health and safety programmes such as dog control and disaster management.



See <https://www.lgnz.co.nz/pacificta/>

EAST ASIA

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of China-ASEAN dialogue relations, Yiwu Municipal People's Government launched series of activities themed "Run with Yiwu to ASEAN" lasting from 1-3 August 2021 to further strengthen exchanges and cooperation between Yiwu and ASEAN. Activities included talks with diplomatic delegation stressing that China and ASEAN have been the largest trading partner of each other but there still are great potential on further economic cooperation and cultural and people-to-people exchanges. There was also lecture on international trade, cross-border e-commerce, and business start-ups in Yiwu; exhibition on ASEAN selected goods displaying nearly 200 kinds of goods from 10 ASEAN countries; and Yiwu-ASEAN Import Trade Dialogue.



GANGWON: INVITATION TO FORESTRY EXHIBITION 2022



GANGWON Forestry Exhibition 2022 will be held in Gangwon province, Republic of Korea. Under the theme of 'Seeking the Future of the World and Mankind in the Forest', various programmes will be organised in four cities (Goseong, Sokcho, Inje and Yangyang) around Geumgang- Seorak mountain range for 33 days from 4 May to 5 June 2022.

It will be the first of the kind in the world that combines exhibition, academic seminar, and recreational public events. It will include the history, culture, lifestyle, ecology, and peace content of Gangwon forest that covers 82% of its total area. It is also approved and recognised as an international event supported by the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Korea.

It will provide a great opportunity to showcase and share Gangwon's expertise in afforestation, forest restoration, wildfire prevention, etc. In particular, it will serve as a momentum for forestry cooperation with North Korea such as sapling cultivation project, joint control of pine wilt disease, etc. Gangwon hopes that the scope of inter-Korea cooperation to be expanded through this Exhibition and to realise 'Forest and Peace' initiative.

Gangwon province announced that it sees forest as a new growth engine and resource and it will demonstrate all and every aspect of it in Gangwon Forestry Exhibition 2022.

Gangwon invites all UCLG ASPAC members to Gangwon Forestry Exhibition 2022!

About Gangwon Forestry Exhibition 2022

Theme: "Seeking the Future of the World and Mankind in the Forest"

Period: 4 May- 5 June 2022 (33 days)

Main Venue: Goseong county, Gangwon province

Event Area: 1,218,597m² (Main event: 491,983m², Side event: 726,614m²)

Participants: 1.32 million visitors (Domestic 1,254,000, Overseas 66,000)

Budget: KRW 29.7 billion (approx. USD 29.7 million)

Host: Gangwon province, Goseong county, Sokcho city, Inje county, Yangyang county

(* In support of Korea Forest Service)

Key Contents:

- Main exhibition: Forestry Future Hall (Themed Exhibition), Peace Hall, Recreation and Healing Hall, Industry Hall, Experience Hall, etc.
- Side events: In partnership with local communities, various programs will be organised in and around Geumgang and Seorak mountain range.
 - ※ DMZ Museum (Goseong), Seoraksan Botanical Garden (Sokcho), Manhae Village (Inje), Songi Valley Recreational Forest (Yangyang)
- Themed programmes: Forest & Peace (DMZ Peace Path Walk), Forest Environment (Biodiversity Reserve Visits), Forestry Culture Heritage (Temple Stay), Forest for Recreation and Relaxation (Forest Therapy), Forest Restoration (Tour of Post-Wildfire Restoration site), etc.

DAEJEON – UCLG VIRTUAL SIGNING CEREMONY: TOWARDS THE 7TH UCLG WORLD CONGRESS IN 2022



DAEJEON Metropolitan City and UCLG World Secretariat signed an agreement on 15 July 2021 for the 7th UCLG World Congress to be organised in 2022 through a virtual signing ceremony between Mayor Her Tae-jeong of Daejeon and Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of UCLG World Secretariat which was attended by UCLG ASPAC Secretary General. Both parties agreed to closely cooperate on areas related to theme development, programme conception, promotion, venue, and financial areas.

As of 1 July 2021, the UCLG Organising Committee of Daejeon has officially launched in a bid to thoroughly prepare the upcoming 2022 UCLG World Congress. With the secretariat, Daejeon will be responsible for the overall preparation of the event, including the provision of the venue, staff employment, domestic promotion, member invitation and registration. As the UCLG World Secretariat is expecting to launch its core team for Congress preparation, both parties will establish a foothold for joint cooperation between one another.

With the completion of a virtual signing ceremony, Mayor Her plans to make a friendly visit to Barcelona to hold a face-to-face ceremony. During this occasion, the World Secretariat and Daejeon will share their preparation progress and further discuss Congress matters with COVID-19 in close consideration.



Currently, Daejeon is exerting its full-fledged effort to turn the upcoming Congress into a success. Moreover, the city is planning to bring together inclusive programmes and spaces where members and participants will be able to join and enjoy. Daejeon is looking forward to positive feedback and active participation from UCLG ASPAC members! As approved at the Council Meeting of UCLG ASPAC held last February virtually, Daejeon will also be hosting the Council Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Regional Section of UCLG during the 2022 World Congress.

DHANKUTA: KNOWING MORE ABOUT THE BEAUTIFUL CITY

DHANKUTA is a very beautiful hilly city located at Mahabharat Hill Range of eastern Nepal. The municipality, declared as “Capital of Avocado” due to its farmers have been attracted towards Avocado’s commercial training, hides beautiful spots for tourists to enjoy. Below are some of them that the Municipality exposes to us:



○ **Bhedetar Bajar**

This is a two-lane blacktopped track with tourist facilities including hotels and lodges, facility to shop organic vegetables and fruits, and medical outlets.

Distance: 16 kilometres north from Dharan Bazar

○ **Namaste Falls**

Situated at Sangurigadhi Rural Municipality, this is an 80-metre-long falls where one can see a beautifully created rainbow after looking outside from inside falling waters. Tourists can also find medium level hotels and lodges, facility to shop local agro products, and organic food items.

Distance: 8 kilometres down from Bhedetar

○ **Mulghat**

This is the gateway to Dhankuta Municipality and important point from touristic and religious point of view. Tourists come to this place to visit Bishranti Temple, organise picnic, travel around, and it is a popular place for one-day rafting route to Chatara. This place also offers hotels and lodges, locally grown fruits and vegetables, and local fishes.

Distance: 35.3 kilometres away from Dharan

○ **Hile Bazar**

This is a famous destination for summer-season travellers to escape baking sun. Bakrakunda temple and tea garden are very famous visiting hubs. This place is also considered important transit point. From Hile, one can reach to Pakhribash Agricultural Research Centre, and Tinjure/Milke/Jaljale, ChhintangBhagwati temple. Hotels, lodges, and health facilities are adequately provided.

Distance: 13 kilometres away from Dhankuta Bazar

○ **Dhankuta Bazar**

This place carries religious, cultural, and historic significance of Nepal. It is a multi-ethnic settlement that has special area of Athpahariya Rai at ward number 8 of the municipality, that has their own typical tradition, culture, and region. Tourists can bring home avocado, coconut biscuit, bamboo-built decorative items, handmade Dhaka clothes, and Churpi (indigenous cheese) of Hile.

Distance: 52 kilometres away from Dharan

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

2021



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

Please send your feedbacks and suggestions to
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