

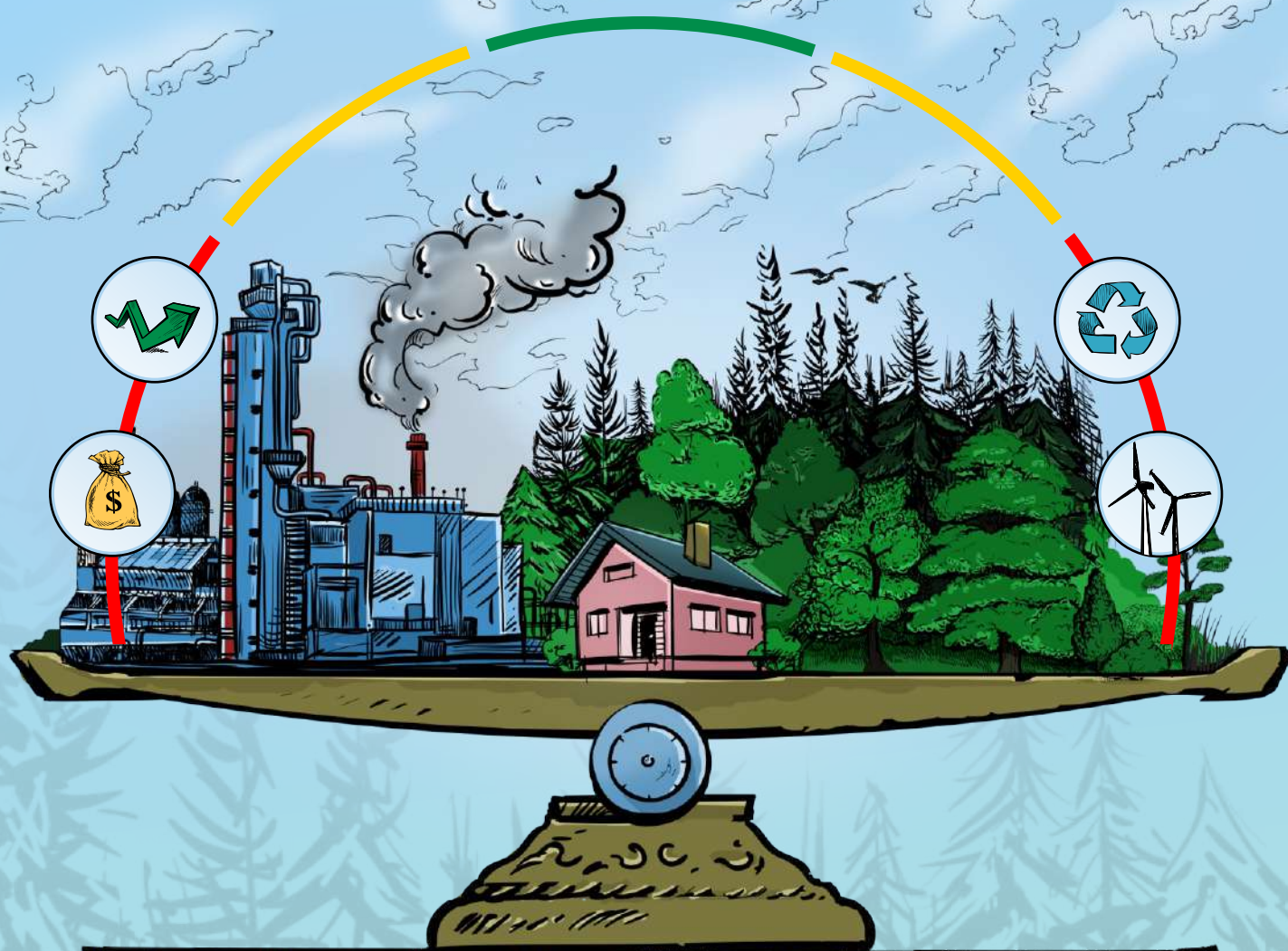
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United Cities and Local Governments
Asia-Pacific

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

NEWSLETTER



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CITIES OF THE 5TH
GUANGZHOU AWARDS



Dear Valued Members and Partners,

We are now amid 2022 with a fresh and new optimism to move towards the end of the pandemic. I am grateful and happy to see positive spirits among you, my fellow city leaders, in facing the challenge these three years. Meeting all of you, either virtually or in-person, and listening to initiatives for the cities have truly inspired me.

As we are transitioning to new normal days, it is very natural to seek ways to make our city more resilient than ever. When putting together all possible efforts, knowing our cities needs will always be the right step to take. Our priorities in ensuring cities moving to better future will determine our next actions.

It is imperative that recovery includes local economic acceleration. In the process, balancing it with environmental awareness will ensure that the efforts taken support the sustainability of the planet. Definition of balance in each city may differ. One may enhance the peri-urban area to keep the balance; while others allocate more environmentally friendly spaces for the people. Whatever efforts taken; we are moving to the same direction, and even more, we are inspiring others to do the same.

We are seeing great hope that the pandemic we have been facing will soon end and transform to endemic, but it does not mean we loosen up our efforts for our mother earth. Instead, we need to re-collect our strength, collaborate, and join hands to move to the direction we all want, a sustainable earth.

It takes every generation to do right and pass the goodness to the earth, and now it is our turn to do it. Join me to always commit on this every time we think about local development. Join me to not only act, but also to become advocate of this global goal.

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



Dear Readers,

I am glad to greet you again through our first Newsletter in 2022. I am also happy to update our achievements through our programmes and advocacy efforts.

Our collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs of Indonesia went so well that we managed to contribute to the welcoming of G20 through the U20 international seminar. For the first time, we also collaborated to contribute to the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

UCLG ASPAC has also played role as the Secretariat of the Global Covenant of Mayor (GCoM) Southeast Asia (SEA). We are glad to finally have the project kick-off in four ASEAN countries and formally seal the commitment of the local leaders. We also continue our commitment in Disaster Risk Reduction by promoting the MCR2030 campaign in collaboration with the Association of Indonesian Municipalities. In collaboration with the local government of Guangzhou, the Chair of Standing Committee of Women in Local Governance, we also organised a telemedicine webinar to exchange knowledge and experience relating to health services for the vulnerable groups during pandemic.

Our works in Climate Resilient and Inclusive Cities have also progressed through series of intensive capacity building sessions, focus group discussions, and annually scheduled working group discussions. It also applies to our Local Empowerment, Advocacy, and Development (LEAD) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Localisation Programme in Pakistan.

We, at the Secretariat, always feel grateful for every effort taken, every initiative realised, and every commitment turning to action. We see them as hopes for our future. It not only impacts locally but also contributes globally.

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi
Secretary General, UCLG ASPAC

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Submitted by Tito Joseph Bagani
for the photo competition welcoming the 8th UCLG ASPAC Congress

BALANCED CITIES

POST-COVID-19 pandemic, cities are seeking ways to become more resilient than ever. With many priorities on the list, cities are keen to improve their liveability. The goal is to ensure cities are stronger in facing disasters and keep local people happy. With cities having various conditions and local characteristics, there are also various approaches to opt and consider. Here, we present you some.

Cities' Actions in the New Normal

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), through its COVID-19 and Liveable Cities in Asia and the Pacific Guidance Note (December 2020) proposes how cities can adapt to new normal. The focus is actions on city level targeting at improving and strengthening cities to be more liveable.

| Vision | Cities in Asia and Pacific are More Liveable | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Operation Priorities (Major Outcomes) | Coverage, quality, efficiency, and reliability of services in urban areas improved | Urban planning and financial sustainability of cities strengthened | Urban environment, climate resilience, and disaster management of cities improved |
| Build Back Better: Post Pandemic Livable Cities | New Normal 1 Enhance inclusivity through greater social protection measures for the most vulnerable groups in cities | New Normal 3 Revisit urban planning system to strategically incorporate lessons from COVID-19 | New Normal 5 Focus on healthy and environmentally sustainable cities |
| | New Normal 2 Improve urban services and infrastructure and effectively use technologies and digital solutions | New Normal 4 Strengthen financial sustainability of local governments, and build capacities of urban institutions and other stakeholders | New Normal 6 Build resilient cities, enabling them to absorb shocks and stresses due to pandemics, disasters, and climate change |



Enhance inclusivity

Identify special needs of different groups of vulnerable people; provide adequate resources; conduct regular census of people in vulnerable groups; promote economic activities, jobs, and entrepreneurship; ensure adequate and affordable core urban services are available; reconsider the use of overcrowded public transport; conduct research and develop prototypes and techniques for cost-effective projects for the vulnerable people.



Revisit urban planning system

Coordinate with relevant authorities including national and provincial governments; analyse existing and planned population changes; reidentify the required open and natural areas; promote collaboration with governments and private sectors.



Strengthen the financial sustainability

Develop a strategy to strengthen financial sustainability of local governments; work closely with the national government in creating/strengthening institutions; review existing urban institutions in cities; learn and apply relevant lessons from other cities; provide adequate resources and design implementation; ensure transparent and consistent coordination; promote collaboration; establish partnerships; promote knowledge generation and innovation.



Focus on healthy and environmentally sustainable cities

Develop locally relevant principles for a healthy and environmentally sustainable city; practice systemic thinking; promote energy efficiency; review risk-sensitive land use management.



Build resilient cities

Promote climate-resilient delivery of core urban service standards; plan for disaster preparedness and emergency response; utilise publicly owned land or revitalise obsolete or abandoned activities.



Peri-Urban Development

One of the approaches to achieve the balanced city is suggestion to integrate peri-urban development in the urban planning. This is related to the population growth in urban area that is predicted so rapid in 10-15 years ahead (UN estimates, 2009: by 2050, two out of three people in the world will live in urban areas) and a big question whether cities, particularly in developing world, can accommodate and provide adequate services and amenities for their residents.

The Process of Balanced Urban Development

- Concerning with three key themes: place, people, planning
- The overall goal is to deliver liveable, sustainable, resilient, and affordable areas.
- Engaging community in the planning, design, and development of future growth areas is equally important.
- Collecting data to assess liveability, community health, wellbeing and the range of factors that contribute to a better quality of life in each urban area is important as liveability of a place can change due to range of factors over time (what is liveable now may not be so in the future).
- Ensuring the social infrastructure and community interactions and their impact on access to quality health, educational, social, cultural, business and recreational facilities in the area and overall, in promoting social interaction and a sense of community place and belonging.

Several key recommendations from the International Conference on Peri-Urban Landscapes: Water, Food and Environmental Security (July 8-10, 2014):

- Government of all levels need to work with the private sector and communities to develop integrated strategies and plans, based on local engagement and transparent decision making.
- Global and local investments in built and ecological infrastructure and services should be directed to ensure equity between people occupying urban and peri-urban landscapes.
- Regional planning strategies and processes should be based on trans-disciplinary research and integrate perspectives from natural and social sciences, economics, government, industry and community.



Support to Cities

Other approach is proposed by UN-Habitat through its publication the Cities and Pandemics: Towards a More Just, Green, and Healthy Future (May 2021). The focus is for rebuilding a new normal urban economy by incorporating support for cities in various areas:

Financial mechanisms and credit

- Provide adequate financial support to cities to aid their economic recovery
- Strengthen the ability of cities to access finance and credit independently
- Strengthen multilateral financing and cooperation
- Employ innovative financing mechanisms to fund progressive welfare systems
- Cushion at-risk urban productive sectors through targeted financial support

Sustainable economy

- Incentivise sustainable production and consumption patterns through subsidies and knowledge transfers, with a focus on rural as well as urban areas
- Address dysfunctional and exploitative development practices such as land speculation and unserviceable sprawl

Labour rights and protection

- Enhance labour rights and protections for urban workers
- Develop a range of targeted measures to reduce the underlying vulnerabilities of insecure urban workers

Digitalisation and logistics

- Invest in the rollout and application of digital technologies to enhance logistics and supply chains
- Ensure that digital expansion is equitable and inclusive

THE QUEST TOWARDS MORE BALANCED URBAN LIFE

COLLABORATION has been mentioned and emphasised again in the efforts to become balanced city. In embracing the spirit of partnership and collaboration, learning from each other (local governments, private sectors, community groups, etc.) is treasure in the journey to achieve the shared goal.

Here, we present you with the various initiation of good practices coming from local governments, donors, as well as non-profit organisations to show that initiatives may come from any parties walking in the same direction.

Improving Women Participation in Workforce and Entrepreneurship (Sri Lanka)



Women in Sri Lanka may now have better access to education. However, it is not the case in their economic participation. In 2018, female participation in workforce was at 33.6%, while men at 73%. ADB also recorded that women's ownership of formal small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is low in the country.

Facing this, government of Sri Lanka received support from ADB collaborating with the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) and Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi).

A line of credit worth \$100 million was provided for SMEs, targeting those owned or led by women. Penalties and incentives scheme applied, and the credit was disbursed to 10 local banks lending it to 1,754 SMEs; 484 (27.6%) of which owned or led by women. The project, initially targeted 5% of women proportion, recorded overwhelming response to 20%. The government requested additional \$75 million for 2018-2020. The programme also included specialised business development training in agri-business and awareness raising campaign for entrepreneurship in information and communication technology, with the support from the JFPR.

The \$12.6 million grant by We-Fi was introduced in 2018 to ensure that more women-owned or led SMEs have access to finance, training, mentorship, and to strengthen technical capacity of a wide range of stakeholders, including government, banks, and chambers of commerce and SMEs.



Progress update (August 2018-April 2019):

- **Access to Finance:** 323 women-owned or led SMEs employing 3,934 people have financially benefitted from the We-Fi grant
- **Capacity Enhancement:** The Wi-Fi grant incentivised women to complete a comprehensive tailored training programme to be eligible to receive an additional 10% to be blended with their future bank loans. 504 women entrepreneurs in the agri-business sector in 22 locations across the country have successfully completed the training.

Waste-Water Treatment in Lao PDR

The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) has been experiencing rapid economic development. With the commercial and industrial development taking place, pressures to the environment also increases. Water contamination is one of major concerns. Various non-governmental organisations had supported to improve wastewater management, but these were unsuccessful due to inadequate technical and financial resources to operate and maintain the facilities.



In relation to that, Lao PDR is also recommended to: (1) invest more in infrastructure and sanitation facilities; (2) promote good hygiene; (3) protect and restore water-related ecosystem in order that the country can achieve Goal 6 Clean Water and Sanitation (esp. safe and affordable drinking water target). Challenges faced include the high prevalence of open defecation (esp. in rural areas), disparities in sanitation services coverage between rural and urban areas, and standard water safety and water quality.

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) of the country has welcomed the support given by the ADB to apply Decentralised Wastewater Treatment Solutions (DEWATS) and build the facilities.

DEWATS is wastewater treatment system and facility that complements conventional treatment systems. It uses natural physical processes combined with aerobic and anaerobic activities of microorganisms, which grow naturally in the wastewater. DEWATS operates based on the principles of decentralisation, simplicity, and reuse of treatment products. Simplicity is reflected on the use of no chemicals or electrochemical equipment or energy input on its onsite treatment and low-maintenance requirements.



The key advantages of DEWATS include:

- Suitable for diverse local conditions and has versatile applications
- Can be built with local materials by the local workforce
- Provides reliable and efficient treatment of domestic and process wastewater
- Can be designed and built within a short period
- Reliable and long-lasting construction design
- Low operation and maintenance costs
- Limited requirements for operation and maintenance
- Can range from individual onsite systems serving one household to shared facilities serving up to about 2,500 households (1,000 cubic metres per day), or public or commercial activities

From 2010, DEWATS systems have been operating successfully in the villages of Thongkhankham in Vientiane; in 2015, it was installed in Navieng, Houaphan Province; and in 2021, inspired by the successful application and operation, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry have promoted DEWATS in several ADB-financed urban development projects on a larger scale.

City Brain Project in Hangzhou*



Hangzhou city was once known for its traffic congestions. To tackle the challenge, local government of the city has joined forces with the Alibaba Group and Foxconn (China Taipei company) to pilot a project namely City Brain.

Hangzhou City Brain is a smart city platform developed to improve urban management by optimising the use of big data, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence, among other cutting-edge technologies. It was firstly developed to ease traffic congestion in the city by using a network of surveillance cameras watching every vehicle on the streets and feeding the data to a computing system for analysis. The system also connects data from all circles of society and departments in Hangzhou, giving more intelligent and convenient services for companies and residents. The system is also planned to be used for urban management, housing, law enforcement, public security, health, market regulation, tourism, environmental protection, and fire prevention.

City Brain and Flood Prevention in Jiande



City Brain has also been used to help local government of Jiande, county level city under the administration of Hangzhou, to coordinate data and link departments to prevent flood.

Since 6 July 2020, Jiande has established a municipal flood control and emergency team with various departments, such as Publicity, Water Resources Bureau, Meteorological Bureau, Transportation Bureau, and Public Security Bureau. They have collected real-time information on water levels, meteorological roads, and disasters. More than 3.8 million pieces of data have been collected for flood discharge and prevention efforts. All reservoirs in Jiande, along Xinan River, and villages are under inspection of a high-altitude spherical surveillance camera that can rotate 360 degrees and zoom in 26 times. Reservoirs with water levels exceeding the flood limit will immediately get notification from the service centre to warn them of the danger. City Brain has helped the local government of Jiande that on 7 July, the Xin'anjiang reservoir opened its floodgates for the first time in nine years to control flooding.

City Brain and Traffic Management in Hangzhou



The Hangzhou City government announced the city brain plan in 2016. As of April 2020, the "city brain" system has covered 11 aspects of urban life, including law enforcement, traffic, tourism and health.

"The 'city brain' system will coordinate the data to facilitate services for companies and people," said Mr. Lyu Gangfeng, Deputy Director of the city's Data Management Bureau.

Result:

Hangzhou has shown improvement from 2nd place of traffic jam rate to 35th place among Chinese cities (ehangzhou.gov.cn, Oct. 2020)

Smart City Approach in Whanganui District Council**



Whanganui District Council (New Zealand) has declared that the district will include digital strategy in the council's approach to sustainability, putting emphasis on leading by example, working collaboratively, increasing resilience, and encouraging everyone in the community to play their part. The use of the digital strategy is rooted from the vision to "harness digital opportunities to empower and enrich the community".

The innovation has made the district named a Smart21City by US-based think tank, an intelligent community forum and the only town in New Zealand making this year's list.

Whanganui was firstly enlisted as a smart city in 2013. The city made the list annually until 2017, and again in 2020. In 2016, the city was a top-seven finalist. The 2022 selection is the beginning of an eight-month process which will end with the naming of the 2022 Intelligent Community of the Year in October.

Sources: *) www.ehangzhou.gov.cn, edition.cnn.com
**) www.rnz.co.nz



URBAN 20: ACCELERATING SOLUTION TOWARDS CLIMATE CHANGE, THE PANDEMIC, AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY AT THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ROAD TO G20

UCLG ASPAC is proud to contribute to the welcoming of upcoming G20 U20 event in November 2022. In close collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) of Indonesia, UCLG ASPAC held an International Seminar Road to Indonesia's G20 Presidency under the theme "Fostering Collaboration between Cities to Accelerate Solution towards Climate Change, the Pandemic, and Economic Recovery" on 24 February 2022. Organised on a hybrid mode in Bandung, West Java, this event aimed at showcasing the exemplary and good practices and the success of cities and local governments in achieving areas in accordance with the U20 priority issues; and providing valuable contribution to the upcoming G20 event "Recovering Together, Recovering Stronger".



The event kicked off with important and positive messages from Dr. Heriyandi Roni, M.Si, as Head of Centre for Facilitation of Cooperation, Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Indonesia. He hoped that this international seminar could not only publicise the Indonesia's G20 Presidency, but also disseminate suggestions from the U20 Engagement Group and to obtain good practices for overcoming problems occurring in urban areas, whose solutions are at the strategic hands of cities and local governments.

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC, addressed how inclusive solutions are of utmost important, with resiliency as the final destination. "We are looking for collaborations to ensure that no one is left behind in the process of recovery from the pandemic and address the climate emergency and the U20 platform for the joint partnership for cities and local governments as part of the solution," she said.

Inclusivity must also be reflected in economic policies as highlighted by Dr. Eko Prasentyo Purnomo Putro, representing the Secretary General of Ministry of MoHA, which can be strengthened by cities. "Collaboration is important and not to be missed as U20 focuses on green and equitable recovery in cities," he said.

During his keynote speech, Mr. Bambang Susantono, Vice President of Asian Development Bank (ADB) echoed Dr. Eko's emphasis on how urbanisation, particularly in Asian and Pacific cities must be properly planned to mitigate the pacts of climate change and narrow the gaps in urban infrastructure.

To tackle those issues, Mr. Bambang continued how ADB has created the 5E Approach to create liveable cities which are 1) Economic Competitiveness; 2) Environmental, Sustainability and Resilience; 3) Equity and Inclusiveness; 4) Enablers; and 5) Engagement.

Upon those messages, Mr. Ali Moehtar, Social Policy Specialist (UNICEF Indonesia) took the floor in moderating the first session; focusing on four speakers to introduce the G20 Presidency of Indonesia and what it means for Indonesian cities and others.

Ms. Emilia Saiz, UCLG World Secretary General, emphasised how key crucial points of U20 means nothing without the voices of city and local governments, particularly in ensuring that all development is equally felt by all. "Equality is no longer optional," she said.

“ Climate action is rooted in equity and a green and just future for all as tackling climate change is not independent of socio-economic impacts.

Ms. Millag San Jose-Ballesteros
Global South Diversity Lead of C40 Cities



“Climate change could occur at an even higher rate, and therefore low carbon development must still become one of the main priorities to keep 1.5 degrees in check,” said Mrs. Ida Suriany, Acting Head Low Carbon Policy and Finance of the British Embassy. At that, she shared how the UK Embassy is collaborating with Bappenas (National Development Planning of Indonesia) to review the impact of COVID-19 on strategic plans and its impact on Indonesia’s commitment to net zero 2060 challenges, with specific focus on investment, existence of risk of stranded asset, technology transfer and innovation, and migration to green jobs.

Jambi Mayor, in his presentation, mainly focused on energy transition with optimisation of waste management systems. Similar initiatives were also found in Mumbai city, as presented by Municipal Commissioner, with the city’s aim to shift transportation preferences from private to public such as with the Urban Transportation Project.

This event concluded with several recommendations to be proposed to the upcoming G20 event in November, including:

- G20 Presidency of Indonesia is important to increase engagement of cities of G20, accommodate cities and local governments in facing global issues, such as climate change and COVID-19 pandemic.
- Cities are the frontliners in promoting sustainable development and supporting resilient recovery from humanitarian crisis caused by COVID-19. Local actions will determine the success of national and international policy. Thus, U20 is an important forum to synchronise national priority and global commitment and to bring perspectives of cities into the priority agenda of G20.
- Extreme poverty is oftentimes centred in urban areas; and government, both central and local, are thriving to accommodate population increase. Creating safe and sustainable city means ensuring access to safe and affordable housings, investment on public transport, creating green space for public, improvement of planning and inclusive management of urban areas, and involvement of various stakeholders.
- Collaboration of various stakeholders is imperative. Role of society, particularly youth in urban areas, are essential in encouraging innovations to promote sustainable development, tackle COVID-19 challenge, and recover the economy.
- Collaboration requires dedication and commitment from all parties.
- MoHA will provide guidelines and supervision for local governments to ensure the effective and efficient administration.



UCLG ASPAC thanks Ministry of Home Affairs of Indonesia for the great collaboration and all speakers and facilitators for good sharing. We are looking forward to continuing the support in the future.

COLLABORATION ENHANCED, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS STRENGTHENED

UCLG ASPAC and the Ministry of Home Affairs of Indonesia (MoHA) enhanced its collaboration following the three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two parties signed in 2020. Both parties evaluated the cooperation conducted during 2020-2021 and discuss the 2022 UCLG ASPAC programmes that are related to the Ministry and UCLG ASPAC members in Indonesia on 17 February 2022. In the coordination meeting, UCLG ASPAC provided a space for dialogue on how cities and local governments in Indonesia could best obtain membership advantages from the organisation. The meeting was attended by approximately 80 participants and conducted on a hybrid format in Semarang.

Key messages of the meeting included:

- Indonesian local governments look forward to getting their capacity enhanced in terms of international internship programmes,
- The active participation of Indonesian local governments is expected to ensure the set programme run optimally,
- UCLG ASPAC is to share the Work Plan draft to Indonesian members for comments and inputs,
- MoHA will coordinate with relevant institutions relating to the monitoring of MoHA-UCLG ASPAC cooperation.



Under the framework of collaboration with the MoHA, UCLG ASPAC is also proud to contribute to the improvement of Ministry Regulation (No.100/2018) regarding basic service delivery by local governments in Indonesia. After various discussions, round table discussions, the new regulation was finalised in 2021. The launch of new regulation (Minister Regulation No.59 Year 2021) was conducted on 10 March 2022 in hybrid format. UCLG ASPAC welcomes the new MoHA regulation on minimum service standards and is committed to supporting the follow up of the launching for further dissemination to regional governments. UCLG ASPAC and MoHA will continue the partnership in ensuring the effective implementation of the new regulation to also promote the achievement of sustainable development goals at the sub-national level by consistently implementing the regulation. This support is also conducted in conjunction with the efforts to strengthen the partnership between UCLG ASPAC and MoHA to enhance the capacity of local governments in delivering the public services.



KICK OFF: THE GLOBAL COVENANT OF MAYORS ASIA PROGRAMME

UCLG ASPAC, the host of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Southeast Asia (GCoM SEA) Secretariat, kicked off the GCoM Asia Project Phase 2 (funded by the European Union (EU)) on 17 January 2022. Welcoming the event, UCLG ASPAC also hosted a series of webinars for cities in four Southeast Asian countries, namely Malaysia, Viet Nam, Indonesia, and Thailand.

This event concluded with the signing ceremony of GCoM SEA pilot cities officially marking the beginning of programme. It was attended by around 200 participants with speakers from the EU Delegations of respective countries, Mayors of the GCoM Phase I pilot cities, technical partners, and local authority associations.



SESSION 1 Malaysia

GCoM National Webinar in Malaysia discussed how Malaysian cities, through collaborative actions, could build climate resilience and pave their ways to net-zero carbon emission.

Mr. Rozaidi bin Mahat (Hang Tuah Jaya Municipal Council) presented practice on Sustainable Public Transportation. Mr. Muhammad Ikhsan Wahap (Tawau Municipal Council) shared the implementation of a Pedestrian and Cyclist-Friendly principle in the city. Presentation on the Renewable Energy Park initiative came from Mr. Muhammad Ali Tukiman (Muar Municipal Council).

Prof. Dr. Ho Chin Siong of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) mentioned that mitigation and adaptation of climate change will continue to be the most pressing issue. Thus, urgent actions are needed to limit the rate of current climate change. On top of that, cooperation amongst actors remains key in combating this issue.

This session was graced with the attendance of Mr. Fransesco Floris (EU Delegation to Malaysia) and Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi (Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC/GCoM SEA Secretariat).



SESSION 2 Viet Nam

Webinar for cities in Viet Nam discussed “Mainstreaming Climate Action Plan into Local Development Agenda”. The event saw the participation of Mr. Ngô Trung Hải (General Secretary of the Association of Cities of Viet Nam or ACVN), Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Ms. Nguyen Thi Phuong Thao (Local Project Coordinator in Viet Nam), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Institute for Strategies Policies of Natural Resources and Environment (ISPONRE), pilot cities of GCoM Phase I, and CDP.

Mr. Aha Quang Anh, PhD. (MONRE) mentioned that many laws and policies on climate change do not consider a uniform approach and are not implemented properly. Mr. Nguyen Sy Link, PhD. (ISPONRE) said that mainstreaming both mitigation and adaptation efforts is essential and requires three principles: proactive, prevention, and coordination. The participation from MONRE and ISPONRE in this webinar shows that the GCoM Asia Project receives support from the national-level government.



SESSION 3 Indonesia

This session was attended by five pilot cities of the GCoM Phase I (Malang, Denpasar, Palembang, Makassar, and Depok). Representing Malang City, Mayor Sutiaji shared the city’s initiatives in mitigating climate change. Denpasar City, represented by Mr. I Putu Wijaya Kusuma (Head of Development Planning Agency), presented the electricity efficiency practice in the city.

From Palembang City, Ms. Nyimas Ida Apriani shared that the city is focusing on energy efficiency on public settlement as the second major emission contributor. Palembang is the first city in Indonesia that receive City Climate Gap Fund. Dr. Aryati Puspasari Abady of Makassar City Government shared the experience in addressing the waste issue. Makassar is planning to build a processing centre to convert waste to electricity. “Building Waste-to-Energy is expected to bring great benefit in environmental and economic aspects,” she added.



SESSION 4 Thailand

In the webinar for cities in Thailand, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wichai Kanchanasuwan (Deputy Mayor of Hat Yai City) outlined four planned climate actions: energy, transportation, waste, and green space. Nakhon Si Thammarat City Municipality, represented by Dr. Vongvachira Ovararin, shared that the city aims to maximise Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (3R) principle, plans to collect garbage from all canals, save energy and gas, and reduce waste in the city.

Mr. Anuk Pitukthanin of National Municipality of Thailand (NMLT) mentioned that his organisation has been assisting Thai cities in network development, raising awareness, and engendering and promoting best practices. While Mr. Thawatchai Saengkhamasuk of Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organisation (TGO) said that his organisation has currently built the low carbon city programme and provides incentives for participating local governments. He also highlighted the main challenge for cities is data collection, thus relevant capacity building is needed.

Mr. Michel Mouchiroud (EU Delegation to Thailand) thanked everyone involved in the GCoM Asia Project implementation. He specifically thanked NMLT for promoting GCoM initiatives to Thailand cities.



SUPPORTING MCR2030: FOR CITIES TO BECOME MORE RESILIENT

UCLG ASPAC, the largest local government network in Asia-Pacific, has continuously encouraged cities to become more resilient. To realise this, UCLG ASPAC supported the Making Cities Resilient 2030, initiated by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UN DRR). The goal is to enhance the awareness and role of local governments on disaster risk reduction through multi-stakeholder collaboration and optimisation of the “MCR2030 Dashboard”.

In 2022, UCLG ASPAC collaborated with the Association of Indonesia Municipalities (APEKSI) and National Disaster Management Agency (BNPb) of Indonesia in conducting a total of six webinars covering six regions of APEKSI. Cities were invited to make resilience as priority and join the MCR2030 platform to help them monitor the progress.

» 10 February » 24 February » 24 March
» 17 February » 9 March » 7 April 2022

The virtual roadshows encouraged local governments in Indonesia to make commitment, join the MCR2030 platform, and together demonstrate Sendai Framework Indonesia’s global commitment to Disaster Risk Reduction, including at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) event in Bali in May 2022.

What They Say



MCR 2030 platform will help cities in the development of the resiliency in general.

Mr. Alwis Rustam
Executive Director,
APEKSI



The platform will help city to share their experience and learn from stakeholders to become more resilient.

Dr. Agus Wibowo
Director of Strategy
Development and
Preparedness, BNPB



Benefits of joining the MCR2030 virtual event include understanding our area better, having benchmark with other cities, and getting exposure to information related to disaster.

Ms. Diannitta Agustinawati
Regional Disaster Management
Agency, Pacitan Regency



THE COMMITMENT CONTINUED: VLR JAKARTA, VSR, SDGs SNAPSHOT PROGRESS UPDATE

UCLG ASPAC, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), has been supporting Jakarta City Government in developing its Voluntary Local Review (VLR). Jakarta’s VLR development process has started since August 2021 and is planned to complete in June 2022.

Referring to the Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines on Voluntary Local Reviews 2020 from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), and the Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews 2020 by UCLG and UN Habitat as well as Indonesia’s Voluntary National Report (VNR) 2021, DKI Jakarta’s first VLR is developed to map out and analyse various SDG related issues, from the general snapshot of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) achievement, policy, and financing from multiple sources, to monitoring and evaluation. The alignment between SDGs and policies at national and DKI Jakarta provincial level is also captured. Jakarta’s VLR reveals that, before the COVID-19 pandemic, DKI Jakarta Province demonstrated positive trends in implementing major developmental plans and achieving SDGs.

It is also recorded that, in 2020, DKI Jakarta achieved 94 indicators (37.2%) out of the 253 SDGs indicators developed by Indonesian National Development Planning Agency. The VLR also records Jakarta’s progress in 33 indicators (13%) compared to 2019. In addition, the report shows 63 indicators (24.9%) that require special attention due to underwhelming progress, as well as unidentified data for another 63 indicators (24.9%).

Considering the conditions and the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration in handling the COVID-19 pandemic and SDGs achievement, DKI Jakarta Provincial Government has decided to choose the theme of “Jakarta Collaboration in Handling the COVID-19 Pandemic: Rise towards a Resilient Jakarta” in the 2021 DKI Jakarta VLR, focusing on four Goals highly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, namely SDG 1 No Poverty, SDG 3 Good Health and Well-Being, SDG 4 Quality Education, and SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals. which are cross-issue/sector in nature.

In the process, UCLG ASPAC has also involved Jakarta’s Regional Planning Agency (Bappeda) and local stakeholders (namely Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and private sectors) in online coordination meeting, data collection, and validation meeting from October 2021 to February 2022. The draft is currently under review of Jakarta City government and is planned for a launch in June 2022. It has also been presented in the side event of Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) on 28 March 2022.

Besides Jakarta, UCLG ASPAC supported Surabaya in VLR development; the process completed in 2021. UCLG ASPAC has also continued the support to Pakistan, Philippines, and Sri Lanka in drafting their Voluntary Sub-National Review (VSR); and to Indonesia currently finalising its SDGs Snapshot.

APFSD 2022: COMMITMENT TO THE CLIMATE AND SDGs AMBITION



UCLG ASPAC joined forces with the Ministry of National Development Planning of Indonesia and global partners (ADB and UN ESCAP) to contribute to the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development on 28 March 2022. UCLG ASPAC facilitated the preparation of the joint statement and participation of local governments, showcase of good practices, and knowledge sharing. The Report of the 9th APFSD will serve as the region's input to the High-Level Political Forum to be held in July 2022.

UCLG ASPAC with Ministry of National Development Planning of Indonesia

In close collaboration with the Ministry, UCLG ASPAC, under its major climate programmes, the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) Asia and Climate Resilient and Inclusive Cities (CRIC), shared the knowledge and presented showcase of cities in a side event discussing “Means to Reach the Climate and SDGs Ambition: Financing Options, Research, and Technologies to Advancing Local Governments in Turning Commitments into Reality.”

Dr. Arifin Rudiyanto, the Acting Deputy Minister for Maritime and Natural Resources of Indonesia, National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas), said, “Indonesian government commits to strengthening the low carbon development and climate resilience as a national priority programme.”

At the event, the GCoM SEA Secretariat shared more details of two Project Preparation Facilities (PPFs) brought by GCoM partners namely City Climate Finance Gap Fund (or Gap Fund) and Transformative Action Programme (TAP) and provided information on successful cities and local governments getting financed by Gap Fund and cities and local governments applying TAP. UCLG ASPAC also used the event to promote the GCoM as the global alliance of cities and local governments working to achieve a climate-resilient future.

Mayor Ibnu Sina of Banjarmasin, representing the UCLG ASPAC CRIC Programme, shared the city's strategies: integrating GHG Reduction action plan, improvement of waste management, as well as water and sanitation. Mayor Ibnu Sina shared that Banjarmasin has been partnering with non-governmental institutions for funding and aims to become a city of collaboration.

Prof. Wiwandari Handayani (University of Diponegoro) shared Semarang City's experience in financing urban climate resilience: from business as usual to transformative adaptation.

In panel discussion “Local Governments as Climate Champions: Best Practices from Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia.” Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wichai Kanchanasuwan (on behalf of Hat Yai, Thailand), mentioned that Hat Yai is moving towards a green city, low-carbon city, disaster-resilient city, and smart city by 2030. In the session, Indonesia was represented by its two cities: Jakarta and Samarinda, sharing their good practices.



Representing Kuala Lumpur was the city Mayor, Datuk Seri Mahadi bin Che Ngah. Mayor Mahadi stated that, as the capital city, Kuala Lumpur fully supports Malaysia's commitment to be a carbon-neutral country by 2050. Through its vision, “Creating a sustainable, liveable, resilient, safe, inclusive, and a happy city for all,” Kuala Lumpur has incorporated and aligned action plans with the SDGs. While some challenges remain, the city has actively taken some meaningful approaches, like community buy-in programmes and amendments to local by-laws. He concluded his presentation with a powerful tone, “I would like to emphasise that we are firm in our commitment to mitigate climate change for the sustainability of Kuala Lumpur.”

UCLG ASPAC with ADB and UN ESCAP

UCLG ASPAC also collaborated with UN ESCAP and ADB in organising a side event “Bridging the Gap: Experience of Subnational Governments in Reporting and Monitoring SDGs Achievement”. Mr. Hiranya Mukhopadhyay, Chief of Governance Thematic Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB, in his remarks highlighted the need for having conducive environment in SDGs localisation.

The overall event concluded with a summary and closing message from the Chief of Sustainable Urban Development Section, Environment and Development Division of UN ESCAP, Mr. Curt Garrigan, highlighting the integration of VLR and VSR in localising SDGs would help to create more robust reporting toward the 2030 agenda.



Renewal of Local Governments' Commitment

UCLG ASPAC serves as coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Local Government Coordinating Body (APLG) which facilitated the preparation of the joint statement and participation of local governments at the APFSD. During the Forum's agenda on the review of regional progress on SDGs, UCLG ASPAC Secretary General Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi delivered the joint statement of local governments. “Local governments are not just arms that implement Agenda 2030. Local governments are at the very heart of its implementation and the recovery from COVID-19.” She underscored the pivotal role of local governments and called for support by providing access to financing mechanisms and capacity development and exploring mechanisms to institutionalise synergies between the VNR, VSR, and VLR.

The Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership Report 2022 “Building Forward Together: Towards an Inclusive and Resilient Asia and the Pacific” was launched during the APFSD. Prior to this, UN ESCAP virtually launched the Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2022 which indicates that progress on the achievement has been insufficient and has slowed down, moving the expected year of achievement to 2065.

LEAD4SDGS: MOVING FORWARD FOR SDGs LOCALISATION IN PAKISTAN

UCLG ASPAC Programme Local Empowerment, Advocacy, and Development (LEAD) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Localisation in Pakistan continued the programme implementation. More district alliance formed and launched and involvement in national dialogue in addition to the various capacity building and training activities for local governments as well as various stakeholders. LEAD is jointly funded by UCLG ASPAC and the European Union (EU).



5 February 2022

Formation and launch of District Alliance on SDGs in Nausharo Feroze District



22 February 2022

Capacity building workshop for Parliamentary Taskforces on SDGs

“ **The workshop created an interface for local authorities with the relevant parliamentary taskforces and representatives of the Federal Government to discuss common challenges and constraints.**

Mr. Ovidiu Mic
The Head of Cooperation
The European Union Delegation to Pakistan

4 March 2022

Formation and Launch of District Alliance on SDGs in District Kech, Balochistan

Involved: Civil society organisations, private sector, academia, research institutions, bar associations, media, local council association, community elders, representatives from the district administration and relevant stakeholders from line departments



“ **Establishing provincial and district-level alliances are essential, primarily to educate citizens about the concept of localisation of SDGs, allowing them to participate in the process of developing SDG-aligned local development plans.**

Mr. Abid Hussain Lehri
President, Local Council Association Baluchistan (LCAB)

7 March 2022

Quarterly Meeting of Provincial Alliance Sindh



“ **These forums develop effective leadership of local governments to work on a material basis for localisation of SDGs.**

Mr. Azeem Channa
Deputy Director, Local Government Department



“ **The institutional capacity building is necessary to train the staff of government and other stakeholders, so they can understand the mechanism of reporting, drafting of policy frameworks for implementing SDGs at the local level.**

Mr. Salem Jalbani
Chief Development and Environment, Planning and Development Department of Sindh



16-17 March 2022

Master Trainers to Mainstream SDGs at the District Level in Sindh and Balochistan



17 March 2022

Involved in Pakistan's First Ever National Dialogues on SDGs

30-31 March 2022

Training for Government Officials to Mainstream SDGs in Sindh

Participants: Government officials from seven districts of Karachi, Thatta, Tando Mohammad Khan, and Jamshoro, from the Departments of Local Government, Education, Health, Finance, and Planning and Development



7 April 2022


Quarterly Meeting of Provincial Alliance Balochistan

CRIC: ENTERING THIRD YEAR COMMITMENT IN IMPROVING CITIES' CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND INCLUSIVITY


UCLG ASPAC Climate Resilient and Inclusive Cities (CRIC) programme is entering its third-year implementation in 2022. Aiming to help local governments in Indonesia improve climate resilience, climate mitigation and adaptation, good governance, and inclusivity, CRIC continued the training and capacity building programme to its 10 pilot cities as well as other cities and local governments in Indonesia with the same vision.

CRIC has been implementing the plan to organise five trainings (three trainings on climate change mitigation and two trainings on climate change adaptation) and a total of eight technical assistance sessions for each pilot city's Climate Change Working Group to help them completing the City Climate Action Plan as local action plan for climate resilient and inclusive cities.


From its CAP Training Kick-off on June 31, 2021, up to the end of March 2022, CRIC has conducted a total of 13 trainings out of 50 trainings (26%) and a total of 15 out of 80 technical assistances (19%). Below are some of the trainings, technical assistances, and discussions carried out:




Ternate




Pangkalpinang




Mataram



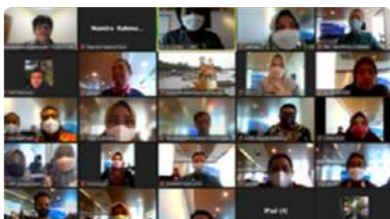
Bandar Lampung



Pekanbaru



Samarinda



Banjarmasin

What They Say

“The development and economic growth of Samarinda City would be non-existent if we have not solved negative impacts on the environment.

Mr. Rusmadi
Vice Mayor, Samarinda

“Although the city has succeeded in reducing slum areas, it doesn't mean that the slums are gone since it is part of the people's mindset.


Ms. Fitri Yanti
Member of Bandar Lampung City's Local Development Planning Board

Beyond the 10 Pilot Cities



UCLG ASPAC CRIC programme also took part in the collaboration with Ministry of National Development Planning of Indonesia for the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2022 (organised on 28 March 2022) through side event “Means to Reach the Climate and SDGs Ambition: Financing Options, Research, and Technologies to Advancing Local Governments in Turning Commitments into Reality”. The Report of the 9th APFSD will serve as the region's input to the High-Level Political Forum to be held in July 2022.

Mayor Ibnu Sina of Banjarmasin representing the UCLG ASPAC CRIC Programme shared the city's strategy to become climate resilient. Efforts taken included integrating GHG Reduction action plan, improvement of waste management, as well as water and sanitation. Car-free day, plastic reduction, river revitalisation, and organising community movement and competition have also been applied. Mayor Ibnu Sina shared that Banjarmasin has been partnering with non-governmental institutions for funding and aims to become a city of collaboration. On this occasion, he invited all parties with the same vision to collaborate and make Banjarmasin a resilient and adaptive city. Further detail about the event is accessible at [UCLG ASPAC Website](#).



The Climate Resilient and Inclusive Cities (CRIC) is a five-year project of UCLG ASPAC funded by the EU and runs from 2020 to 2024. The Project promotes triangular cooperation between cities in Europe, Southeast Asia and South Asia through knowledge transfer, tools testing and capacity building. The Project is implemented in 10 Indonesian cities to help them improve climate resilience, climate mitigation and adaptation, good governance, and inclusivity. UCLG ASPAC leads the implementation of the CRIC Project in close collaboration with Pilot4Dev, ACR+, Ecolise, Gustave Eiffel University and All India Institute of Local Self-Government.

GUANGZHOU TELEMEDICINE WEBINAR: MATERNAL, NEONATAL, AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



UCLG ASPAC's active member, Guangzhou has shown its commitment to supporting women. Since 2019, it has expressed its willingness to become the Chair of the UCLG ASPAC Standing Committee of Women in Local Governments. Its support has been varied, from building the capacity of women in local governance (through women leadership training in India, 2020) and connecting cities with Guangzhou's medical consultancy services through the Telemedicine Programme. This commitment was further strengthened in 2020 through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UCLG ASPAC and the city of Guangzhou as the Chair of the Standing Committee of Women in Local Governments (SCWLG).

Both parties have committed to supporting UCLG ASPAC members to address challenges, particularly related to the SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being. This commitment has become much more relevant with the COVID-19 pandemic striking the global community, exposing the fragile healthcare system and eventually leaving vulnerable groups (women and children) behind. A webinar on "Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic" (held on 22 April 2022) was one of the three webinars to be conducted as a response to the situation and part of the realisation of the shared commitment.

Attended by approximately 87 participants, this webinar aimed to share knowledge and practices from Guangzhou Women and Children Medical Center (GWCMC) in managing maternal, neonatal, and child health during the COVID-19 pandemic and to increase the capacity of health workers as the front line in implementing adaptive and effective planning strategies on managing maternal, neonatal, and child health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Zhang Yajie, Chair of Standing Committee of Women in Local Governments, UCLG ASPAC; Vice-Chair of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Guangzhou Committee emphasised that during the COVID-19 pandemic, local governments need to pay attention to vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities and women, become responsive, and improve health service capacity. Guangzhou City provides special health services on each street that provide information for a vulnerable group facing the COVID-19 omicron variant. More than 2000s patients have been successfully treated on the health service. **Ms. Zhang** also expressed the intention of Guangzhou City to have a pilot project cooperation for the development of this remote health service with UCLG ASPAC members.



In her welcoming message, UCLG ASPAC Secretary General Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi highly appreciated Guangzhou City as the first city to share experiences, resources, and information related to women and children. Guangzhou and UCLG ASPAC's cooperation aims to implement an international health pilot project for women and children, which has resulted in city-to-city cooperation between Guangzhou and Jambi City, which began with the signing of a Letter of Intent (LoI) in 2020. UCLG ASPAC has committed to enhancing and encouraging the important role of women, as well as the empowerment of women together with members through the Standing Committee. UCLG ASPAC has also implemented gender participatory planning and gender participatory budgeting to mainstream gender equality in urban planning and management. This webinar is the realisation of Guangzhou and UCLG ASPAC's cooperation to support UCLG ASPAC members in overcoming challenges, especially related to SDG 3.

Dr. Makhyar Jibril Al, MSc M.Biomed, Buaian Team, Maternal and Children Improvement Programme, Department of Health, East Java Government, moderated discussions with two distinguished speakers from GWCMC. Dr. Xiu Qiu, Director of the Department of Women Health presented practices in delivering maternal services during COVID-19 pandemic; and Dr. Yan Hu, Director of the Department of Children Healthcare, presented practices in delivering neonatal and children services during pandemic COVID-19. Both speakers shared how the GWCMC used AI (Artificial Intelligence) to help in providing health services during the pandemic. They also explained the medical service plans and risk management strategies that have been implemented during the pandemic. To prevent a decline in health services, Guangzhou implemented three things: 1) routine community-based inspection by a three-people group; 2) providing transportation access such as ambulances; 3) providing medical teams that stand guard in the field as well as health facilities that have been prepared.

The presentations were followed by discussions. Ms. Harnita, SKep, Mkep, Head of Public Health Division of Department of Health of Jambi City raised questions on the strategies implemented and obstacles faced when providing maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Plan and good preparation even for emergency cases were keys. Dr. Rudi Maruli H Pardede, Director of Abdul Manap Hospital also raised issues on the protection of health workers during the pandemic, the immunisation coverage, and the strategies implemented to improve the quality of health care. From the response, the use of Artificial Intelligent turns out helping the hospital in communicating with parents, especially in the lockdown zone, to find out the type of vaccination for children and fulfill the vaccination schedule. Regarding the quality of service, the doctors at the hospital are certified and there is a quality control team that ensures health workers are well protected.

In concluding remarks, Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi appreciated speakers who shared experiences and knowledge, especially GWCMC in terms of maternal and child health during the pandemic, and thanked the moderator, representatives of Abdul Manap Hospital and Jambi City Health Office and participants from UCLG ASPAC members. She believed the webinar enlightened us about what we can do together to achieve this important agenda, even from the small things.

SUB-REGIONAL UPDATE



PACIFIC

In 2022, Victoria has announced its election-year budget, which is allocated to eight sectors in total. They are health, education, police, commonwealth games, cost of living, transport, social housing, and environment. In the health section, the government has hired healthcare workers, bolstered the paramedic service, improved infrastructure and ambulance service, and provided free rapid antigen testing for schools and people with disabilities. In the field of education, the government plans to upgrade 35 schools for students with special needs, focus on school infrastructure, recruit teachers and focus on lesson planning. In police section, the state is planning to hire police officers within four years. As Victoria is to host the commonwealth games, there is also a portion of budget for that. To ease the cost of living, every Victorian household will be given a one-off \$250 payment. In transport section, budget will be used to deliver the road maintenance works and make trains stations more accessible.



SOUTH ASIA

Minister of Environment (Delhi), Mr. Gopal Rai informed the plan to minimise air pollution from April to September. Minister Rai said that they will take immediate and long-term steps by dealing with sources like open burning of waste and dust. A meeting was held with agencies and departments including the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, Fire Service, Delhi Urban Shelter, and many more to explain the detailed action. After that, the final summer action plan will be officially launched.



EAST ASIA

Taipei City Government hosted the Smart City Summit and Expo (SCSE) in March 2022 conducted on hybrid mode. It is the largest smart city event in Asia and the second largest in the world. The summit and expo provided both domestic and abroad city mayors and decision-makers a platform to exchange information and experiences about policies, resources, problems, and solutions in terms of the smart city. This event has also provided participants with practical solutions at the exhibition and applications in cities. This year, there were 188 city representatives from 76 cities across 34 countries. The online broadcast had over 1,600 views. Among them, from a special project "Bubble", 30 city leaders and delegates from 10 countries attended the SCSE in person.



SOUTHEAST ASIA

The Ministry of National Development Planning of the Republic of Indonesia / National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) announced Malang as the third best city for the regional development category. This announcement was made at the Opening of the 2022 National Development Planning Deliberation (Musrenbangnas) which was held virtually on Thursday, 28 April 2022. The award was given to the Regional Government for the best development planning, achievements, and innovations. Mayor Sutiaji of Malang said that this achievement is the result of hard work and a shared commitment to further strengthen development in Malang City.

NAMYANGJU CITY: ICE PACK RECYCLING PRACTICE



NAMYANGJU City is located in the Northeast Gyeonggi-do, the Republic of Korea (about 18 km northeast of Seoul). Its area is approximately 3/4 of Seoul and home to 730,000 residents. For Namyangju, environment has a lot to do with the city’s future survival. Namyangju City has implemented projects to encourage citizens to take part on solving environmental issues and come together to identify and act on related policies before it is too late.

One of the projects is called the ice pack collection. This initiative is a response to the dramatic increase of ice packs uses to maintain the freshness of delivered foods because of the increasing number of online shopping and delivery service due to the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic. The microplastics inside the ice packs are the main culprit of environmental pollution and take 500 years to degrade naturally. There are ice packs made of only water in South Korea; however, most of them are produced with super absorbent polymers, which is also a serious matter. The Namyangju City’s ice pack collection project has collected the used products and recycled them.

Namyangju City has engaged more citizens through an incentive programme. Citizens can exchange used ice packs for garbage bags and money gift cards. This practice has received positive feedbacks from local people as many citizens in Namyangju call it, “a nice pack,” instead of “an ice pack,” because it is an environmentally friendly policy that benefits everyone. Since the start of this project in September 2020, more than 120,000 citizens have participated. The city has collected around 2,086 tons of ice packs in approximately one and a half year.

The system unites citizens in a common cause. South Korea’s first ice pack reproduction automation facilities have been developed and operated. When ice packs are inserted in reproduction automation facilities, they are washed, dried, and separated for packing, and eventually repackaged with filler materials previously separated. To date, more than 270 tons of ice packs have been reproduced and 223 tons of ice packs have been washed, selected, and redistributed.

With this initiative, Namyangju City has become the centre of the ice pack collection movement as the practice spreads across the country. It is an environmentally friendly policy initiated by local government and becomes role model for other local governments.

UCLG VISIT TO DAEJEON: TOWARDS THE 2022 WORLD CONGRESS



UCLG World Team visited Daejeon from 3 to 7 April 2022 in relation to the preparation of the 2022 UCLG World Congress in the city. This visit was geared toward working-level coordination meetings on the overall Congress structure of the agreement, site inspection of the Congress venue and nearby hotels, along with a preliminary visit to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in Panmunjom for a peace tour.

Secretary General Emilia Saiz and six representatives of UCLG World attended the technical meeting taking place in one of the Congress venues, Daejeon Convention Centre (DCC) 1, where bilateral sides discussed the general Congress structures, along with logistics and accommodation. The UCLG representatives also visited each Congress venue.

On 5 April 2022, the Team held talks with the Mayor of Daejeon, Her Tae-jeong, to discuss ways to cooperate to successfully host the 2022 Daejeon UCLG World Congress. During the same day, the representatives also visited the city centre of Daejeon, including the Hanbat Arboretum, which allowed them to feel what Daejeon life is like.

They visited the DMZ in Panmunjom the next day. UCLG World Team met with the Commander of the Joint Security Area (JSA) and held a peace event in hope of world peace, as this theme is one of the key agendas of UCLG. With this tour, Daejeon plans to formalise the DMZ Peace Tour as an official programme of the upcoming Congress, so that many city leaders around the world can visit the DMZ during their stay in Korea.



October 10 to 14

In addition, various programmes will be held during the Congress, such as K-POP concerts and smart city exhibitions, for participants to enjoy. Daejeon hopes that all member city and local governments officials and partners will visit Daejeon and have a pleasant experience.

AWARDED ASPAC CITIES OF THE 5TH GUANGZHOU AWARD

GUANGZHOU Award entered its fifth cycle in 2021. The 5th Guangzhou Award received 273 project submissions from 175 cities of 60 countries and regions. Among all the submissions received in the fifth cycle, 59 initiatives are from the Asia-Pacific region, and four of them were awarded for their outstanding contributions to urban

Chongqing (China) **Emergency Solutions to the Pandemic Challenge for Urban Medical Wastes Disposal**



The Chongqing Municipal Ecological Environmental Bureau used an innovative 'Three-Level Emergency Mechanism' to urban medical waste disposal in response to growing urban medical wastes because of the COVID-19 pandemic. These solutions, combining novel technology to deal with urban medical waste disposal and strict supervision for hospitals, were implemented to ensure effective regulation of medical wastes, thus preventing secondary infection and virus spread. Chongqing also helped Wuhan constructing and operating an emergency disposal centre for medical wastes of COVID-19 to process medical wastes from Lei-Shen-Shan and Huo-Shen-Shan's makeshift hospitals and other hospitals in 16 districts. This initiative directly benefits the citizens of Chongqing and Wuhan during the most challenging period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The initiative provides an innovative collaboration model based on a clear division of responsibilities, thus enabling quick emergency responses. It provides innovative emergency solutions to the disposal of urban medical waste, improves urban safety resilience under the pandemic, and alerts other cities in the world about the importance of medical waste disposal in controlling the spread of disease.

Odisha (India) **The Urban Wage Employment Initiative**



National lockdown in India highlighted the economic and housing vulnerabilities of the urban labour force, which is largely composed of migrants from lagging parts of the country working in the informal sector in the primary cities. The lockdown stress led to the reverse migration of the labour force in large numbers.

Migrants from Odisha, a lagging province in India, also returned to their home state. In response, the provincial government launched the Urban Wage Employment Initiative (UWEI), whereby the urban workforce has been guaranteed a minimum number of workdays annually at a specified daily wage.

The initiative engages workers in public works, and the resources are from ongoing welfare schemes of the national and provincial governments. In addition to mitigating the impoverished urban labour force's economic stress due to the pandemic, the local government has adopted the initiative as a long-term measure for poverty alleviation.

Bandung (Indonesia) **OMABA Cooking Centre for Managing Malnourished and Stunting Children**



Bandung is one of the largest cities in Indonesia, with a population of nearly 1,700,000 people. The Riung Bandung Public Health Service proposed an initiative to help malnourished and stunting children and reduce stunting rate and mortality. The initiative adopts strategies to ensure that the supplementary food is conveyed to the targeted children and consumed without compulsion by improving the taste and nutrition of the processed food. The food is delivered to target children with motorcycle taxis by women organisation.

The initiative has directly improved the nutritional status of children under five in the pilot district. Malnourished children's cases number decreased from 29 in 2013 to 0 in 2019. The initiative has also facilitated its members, most of whom are females, with food-producing skills and entrepreneurship passion. The initiative is innovative because it goes beyond the conventional programmes of supplementary food distribution, avoiding the mismatch between supply and demand due to government limitations and agency loss in bureaucracy. By developing a community-based cooking centre that empowered local communities in handling malnutrition, processing healthy food, and conveying the food to children, the initiative succeeded in reducing the prevalence rate of malnourished and stunted children.

Berhampur (India) **Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) Regulations**



Berhampur is a secondary city in Odisha Province in India, with a nearly 400,000 population (2011). Historically, the city does not have an underground sewer system, and the toilets are directly connected to septic tanks. Disposal of faecal sludge creates health and environmental challenges to the city. In response, Berhampur Municipal Corporation passed a resolution to adopt the Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) Regulations 2018, making it mandatory for all cesspool emptier vehicles to dispose faecal waste at the treatment plant. In addition, it also passed resolutions to partner with local women's collectives, in each component of the FSSM value chain, for promotion of mechanised desludging and operation and management of the septage treatment plant in the city through a service contract.

Women Self-Help Groups have been engaged in building sanitary toilets to safely contain faecal waste, promoting mechanised emptying of septic tanks, operation and management of septage treatment plants, and reusing treated sludge.

NEW MEMBERS

(as approved on the 2022 UCLG ASPAC Executive Bureau Meeting, 10 June 2022)

1



Association of Districts of Daejeon Metropolitan City

Mayor : Hwang In-Ho
Website : www.donggu.go.kr

2



City of Makassar

Mayor : Mohammad Ramdhan Pomanto
Website : <https://makassarkota.go.id/>

3



Dhunibeshi Municipality

Mayor : Balkrishna Acharya
Website : <https://dhunibeshimun.gov.np/>

4



Gimhae City

Mayor : Heo, Seong-gon
Website : <https://www.gimhae.go.kr>

5



Godawari Municipality

Mayor : Gajendra Maharjan
Website : <http://www.godawarimun.gov.np/en>

6



Harion Municipality

Mayor : Ganesh Prasad Prasai
Website : <https://harionmun.gov.np/en>

7



Namgu City

Mayor : Jae-beom Park
Website : www.bsnamgu.go.kr

8



Ogan Komering Ilir Regency

Mayor : Iskandar, S.E.
Website : <http://www.oganilirkab.go.id/>

9



Tarakeshwor Municipality

Mayor : Rameshwar Bohara
Website : tarakeshwormunkathmandu.gov.np/en

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

2022



9-10 June 2022
2022 UCLG ASPAC Executive Bureau Meeting | virtual



26-30 June 2022
World Urban Forum (WUF) 11
Katowice, Poland



June 2022
2022 UCLG World Executive Bureau Meeting
Seville, Spain



12 July 2022
Mayor's Dialogue on Gender Responsive and Participatory Budgeting | virtual



July 2022
High Level Political Forum



23-24 August 2022
Gender Responsive and Participatory Budgeting for Practitioners | hybrid
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



August 2022
21st Century Maritime Cooperation Committee Workshop on the Ocean and Climate Change | virtual



19-22 September 2022
Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR)
Brisbane, Australia



5-7 October 2022
EAROPH World Congress | hybrid
Surabaya, Indonesia



5-7 October 2022
2022 Pre-ASEAN Mayors Forum
Surabaya, Indonesia



10-14 October 2022
2022 UCLG ASPAC Council Meeting in conjunction with 2022 UCLG World Congress
Daejeon, South Korea



October 2022
The 8th Meeting of 21st Century Maritime Cooperation Committee | virtual



7-18 November 2022
UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP) 27
Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt



November 2022
ASEAN Mayors Forum
Cambodia



December 2022
Gender Responsive and Participatory Budgeting Test Project Experience Sharing Workshop | virtual

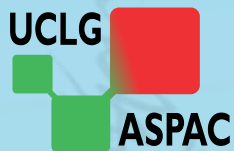
We would like to thank our members and partners for contributing photos and materials for this newsletter.

Please send your feedbacks and suggestions to
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