


10 YEARS



United Cities and Local Governments
Asia-Pacific



BEYOND BOUNDARIES

UCLG ASPAC'S DECADE OF
UNLEASHING CHANGE

2013-2023

Beyond Boundaries: UCLG ASPAC's Decade of Unleashing Change





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In one decade, from 2013 to 2023, the United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC) has witnessed significant progress, which underscored the dedication, consistency, and extraordinary contributions of the Organisation's Presidency, Executive Bureau and Council members. We extend our profound gratitude to all those who have played a pivotal role in this monumental endeavour.

This publication stands as a testament to ten years of progress, innovation, and collaboration, exemplifying the concerted efforts of individuals and organisations deeply committed to shaping a sustainable future for our cities and local communities. We convey our gratitude to our distinguished members, partner organisations, and supporters who have generously provided invaluable resources, expertise, and encouragement throughout this transformative journey. Your collaborative spirit and generosity have empowered us to translate ideas into tangible actions, effecting meaningful change to the lives of millions.

Lastly, we would not reach this far without the dedication of the Secretariat team members under the leadership of the Secretary General, Dr. Bernadia I. Tjandradewi. Tireless dedication, creativity, and passion have culminated in the realisation of this publication. The relentless efforts and untiring commitment to excellence have ensured the accuracy and relevance of the content, shaping this work into a comprehensive and insightful resource. To all those mentioned and the countless others who have contributed in various capacities, your collective endeavors have rendered this publication possible. May the legacy of UCLG ASPAC's remarkable journey continue to inspire us as we embark on new paths to create a sustainable, prosperous, and harmonious future for all.

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A Few Words From The PRESIDENT

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This publication vividly captures the spirited collaboration and enduring dedication of our members, partners, and stakeholders who have been at the forefront of promoting sustainable urban development, and regional cooperation throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

As we reminisce about our journey, we recognise the invaluable lessons learned, the challenges surmounted, and the substantial strides made in advancing democracy, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

With determination and perseverance, we will continue to shape a future of inclusivity, equity, and sustainability for our cities and communities, building upon the exciting successes of the past.

Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha
Mayor of Dhulikhel Municipality, Nepal

President, Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN)
(30 Aug 2018 - 21 Dec 2022)



A Few Words From The SECRETARY GENERAL

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A decade journey is not merely a commemoration of time passed. It is a celebration of our shared vision, resolute commitment, and the enduring impact of our work. From fostering innovative urban solutions to promoting social cohesion, UCLG ASPAC has been at the forefront of shaping policies, sharing knowledge, and empowering local governments and communities across the Asia-Pacific region. The next decade tells us to be even more ambitious, resilient, and innovative so that our dreams for prosperous, peaceful, and liveable Asia and the Pacific can be realised sooner than later. Together, we must continue to advocate for the vital role of local governments, and ensure that their voices are heard, their efforts recognised, and their challenges addressed.

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi



Executive Summary:

Our Decade of Journey

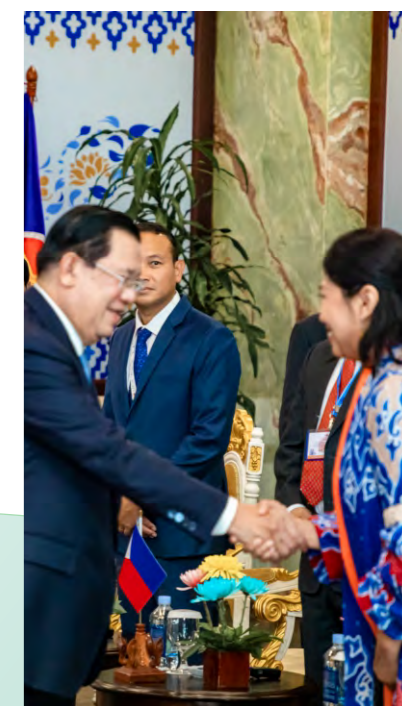
Over the past transformative decade, UCLG ASPAC has been a steadfast force in shaping the narrative of effective decentralisation and local empowerment. From groundbreaking initiatives in localising SDGs to advocating for climate resilience, the Organisation has consistently championed inclusive governance. Notable milestones include the historic appointment of Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi as the first female Secretary General in July 2013 and the establishment of Committees addressing 21st-century challenges. The election of the first woman President, Mayor Tri Rismaharini of Surabaya in 2018, is symbolic to our cause for increased women leaders' participation. UCLG ASPAC's advocacy for empowered local governments has echoed across regional forums, placing it at the forefront of influencing governance that is truly inclusive.

With strategic partnerships, a growing membership base, and a commitment to local voices, UCLG ASPAC stands as an inspiration for effective decentralisation, reflecting its belief that policy advocacy is the collective work of an entire community. **The UCLG ASPAC Manifesto of 2015-2020 and 2021-2025 are an integral part of its transformative journey.** They serve as the guiding framework that has positioned policy advocacy at the core of its mission. With an internal policy team established in 2022, the Organisation orchestrates internal and external advocacy efforts. The impact of UCLG ASPAC's advocacy is evident in its active involvement in regional mechanisms such as APLG, APFSD, APMCDRR, AMF, APUF, and the GCM, magnifying the voices of local governments and influencing policy at national, regional, and global levels. UCLG ASPAC's commitment to continuous learning and collaboration is evident in transformative initiatives and strategic partnerships.

UCLG ASPAC's journey continues with the formation of new partnerships and affiliations, amplifying its impact across geographies and **programmatic domains. In the vibrant landscape of collaborations, UCLG ASPAC has celebrated 120 agreements, with 112 forged in the last 10 years. Among the 79 partners, 72 have joined in this decade, showcasing a remarkable expansion of the Organisation's network.** The depth of engagement is evident in 15 strategic alliances, with 63 agreements exploring new horizons, poised to blossom into transformative endeavours. This expansion not only strengthens UCLG ASPAC's position as the regional division of UCLG World but also underscores its commitment to forging connections that drive sustainable development and inclusive governance. It is also equally important to work together to realise the UCLG ASPAC's Pact for the Future to Humanity adopted in Daejeon in October 2022.

As we celebrate this network's rapid growth, we recognise that **UCLG ASPAC's impact extends beyond national boundaries, influencing positive change within the region.** In a vibrant decade of growth and impact, UCLG ASPAC has increased the number of its new members by approximately 100%, expanding its reach and influence across its sub-regions. The dynamic Secretariat team led by the Secretary General orchestrates the realisation of visions and advocates for members with firm dedication. Global recognitions received are proof of UCLG ASPAC's contribution to building inclusive and prosperous cities.

The past decade has been a revolutionary journey for UCLG ASPAC marked by achievements, collaborations, and impactful initiatives. From shaping the narrative of effective decentralisation to advocating for inclusive governance, **UCLG ASPAC has left an indelible mark on the landscape of local governance and sustainable development.** The recognition garnered in the Asia-Pacific region is a testament to UCLG ASPAC's influence and impact. As we celebrate the expansion of partnerships, the growth in membership, and the progress made in line with the Manifesto, we look towards the future with a roadmap that guides us toward continued success. The next decade will be as transformative and impactful as the last, with each achievement echoing the collective dedication to excellence, innovation, and positive





Dr Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC together with Representative from Cities Unies France (CUF) and Palu City Government launched the Public Space and Memorial Wall in Balaroa, Palu on 27 May 2022.



Outdoor informal learning during the pandemic in Cikoneng Village, Bandung Regency, Indonesia (Photo by Bastian AS & Team for LOCALISE SDGs)

CHAPTER 1

Introduction: Decade of Transformation

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Vision :

“ UCLG ASPAC is the united voice and advocate of democratic local self-government, which promotes cooperation between governments and within the wider international communities in the Asia-Pacific Region. ”

Mission :

To promote strong and effective democratic local self-government throughout the region/world by fostering unity and cooperation among members.

To ensure the effective political representation of local government to the UN and other international communities.

To be the worldwide source of key information on local government, learning, exchange, and capacity building to support democratic local governments and their associations.

To promote economic, social, cultural, vocational and environmental development by enhancing the services to the citizens based on good governance.

To promote economic, social, cultural, vocational and environmental development by enhancing the services to the citizens based on good governance.

To promote twinning and partnership between local governments and peoples





Decade of Transformation

Embark on a journey through a decade of transformative growth and impactful endeavours with UCLG ASPAC—an Organisation at the forefront of advocating for local voices, sustainable development, and inclusive governance. From pioneering milestones in localising the SDGs and advocating for climate and disaster resilience to fostering partnerships and expanding its global and regional reach, UCLG ASPAC has consistently championed the cause of effective decentralisation and local empowerment. As we delve into the achievements of each year, witness the emergence of ground-breaking initiatives, collaborative partnerships, and the unwavering commitment of UCLG ASPAC in shaping a future where local governments play a pivotal role in regional and global conversations.

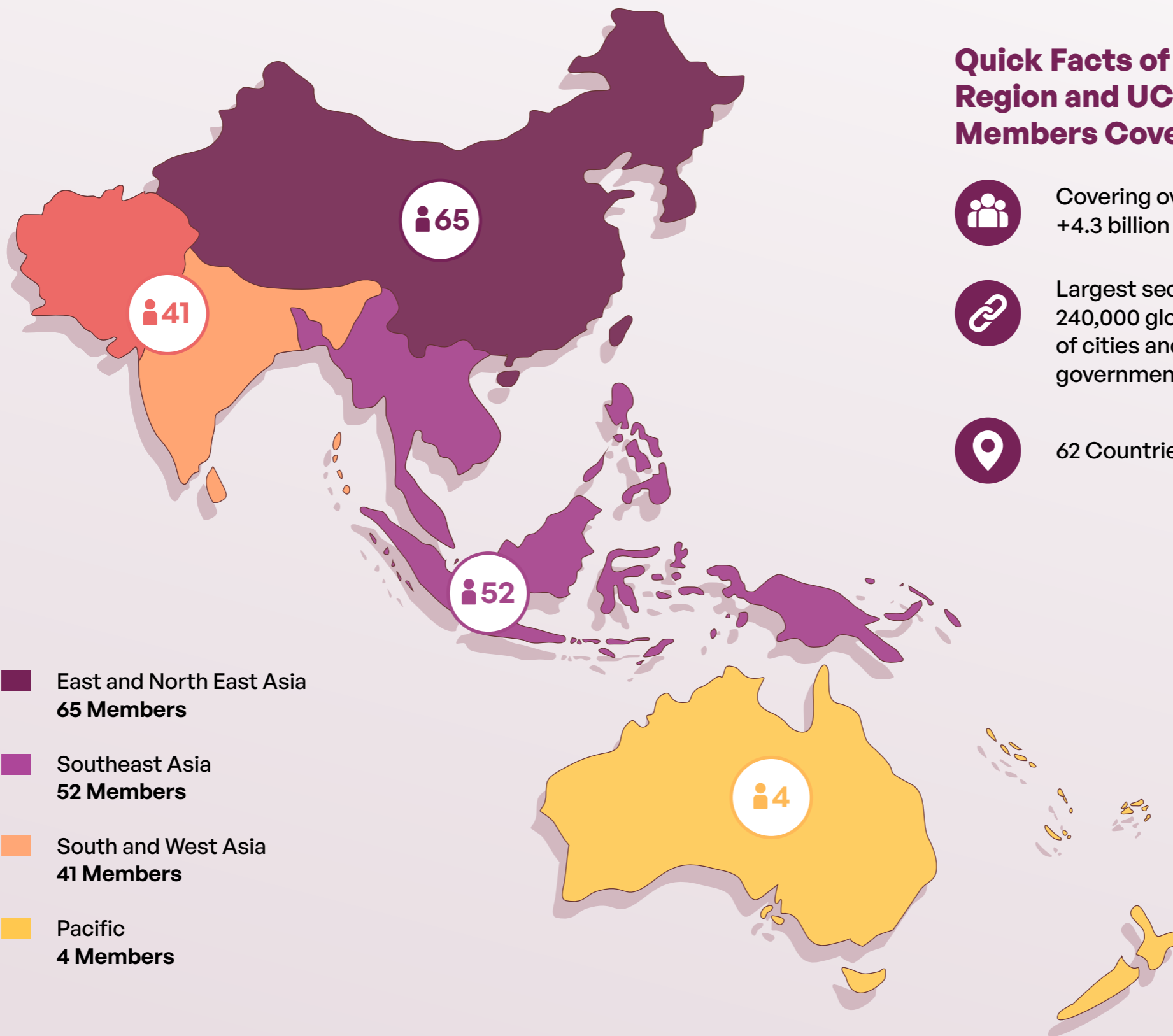


UCLG ASPAC, the vibrant, dynamic, and the largest regional section of UCLG, has consistently demonstrated a remarkable commitment to promoting sustainable urban development and fostering collaboration among cities and local governments in the Asia-Pacific region. Through its tireless efforts, UCLG ASPAC has achieved significant milestones in advancing the cause of local governance and community welfare. One of UCLG ASPAC's outstanding achievements lies in its ability to facilitate meaningful dialogue and cooperation among diverse local governments and partners across the Asia-Pacific region. By creating a platform where innovative ideas and best practices are shared, UCLG ASPAC has played a pivotal role in nurturing a sense of unity and common purpose among its members.


UCLG ASPAC has been instrumental in advocating for policies that prioritise the well-being of communities, environmental sustainability, and social inclusivity. Through impactful initiatives and advocacy campaigns, UCLG ASPAC has successfully influenced regional policies, inspiring positive change at the local level and contributing to the overall advancement of the SDGs. UCLG ASPAC's dedication to capacity-building and knowledge-sharing initiatives has empowered local leaders with the necessary skills and resources to address complex challenges in their respective communities. By organising training programs, workshops, and seminars, UCLG ASPAC has equipped its members with the tools needed to implement innovative solutions and enhance the quality of life of the people.


UCLG ASPAC's active engagement and contribution through the work of the Committees led by its members made our one-decade journey meaningful. The eagerness to ensure the attainment of the Committee's objectives contribute to UCLG ASPAC's accomplishments.

Today, UCLG ASPAC continues to foster collaboration, advocate for positive change, and empower local leaders across the Asia Pacific region. Its achievements underscore the Organisation's strong commitment to building sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous cities and communities, making a significant impact on the lives of millions and shaping a brighter future for generations to come.





Quick Facts of Asia-Pacific Region and UCLG ASPAC Members Coverage.


 Covering over +4.3 billion people*


 Largest section of the 240,000 global connection of cities and local governments

 62 Countries*

 East and North East Asia
65 Members

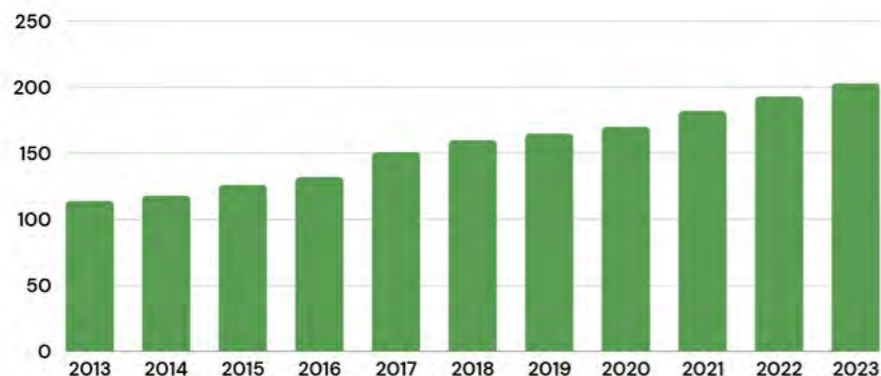
 Southeast Asia
52 Members

 South and West Asia
41 Members

 Pacific
4 Members

Members Growth

As a membership-based organisation, the core strength of UCLGASPAC is its membership, which is one of the main resources for the Organisation. The UCLG ASPAC divides its membership coverage into 4 (four) sub-regions, namely East and Northeast Asia, Pacific, Southeast Asia, and South & Southwest Asia.



UCLG ASPAC Membership per Sub-region



Our reach extends far beyond these impressive statistics. UCLG ASPAC now stands as the nexus connecting over 7000 cities and local governments across Asia and the Pacific. These cities and local government associations, integral parts of our ever expanding family, embody the diverse tapestry of innovation and progress. As we continue to grow, our network thrives, fostering collaboration and empowering communities to create a brighter, more interconnected future.



CHAPTER 2

Explore Our Story: Journey in Milestones

ASPAC CONGRESS SURABAYA

*Journey to
Surabaya*

UCLG
United City and Local Government
Asia Pacific



ASPAC CONGRESS
DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES

12-15 September 2018 Surabaya, Indonesia

A PLATFORM FOR TRANSFORMATION & INNOVATION

Smart Cities | Local Economy | Climate Change



Journey in Milestones



2013

- UCLG ASPAC was appointed as the coordinator for the Stakeholder Group of Mayors and Local Governments for DRR in the Asia-Pacific region under the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2 (2016-2020).
- Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi became **the first female Secretary General** of UCLG ASPAC and the first-ever at all regional sections.
- Establishment of the Standing Committee on Women in Local Governments, and **the decision made that the Chair of the Committee becomes the Co-President.**
- Adoption of the first developed UCLG ASPAC Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Secretariat in various domains.
- 12 new members added: Bangladesh (Barisal City), India (Amalner, Gandhinagar, Himatnagar, Panchgani Hill Station, Vadodara City, Mahabaleshwar City, Satana City, Palanpur City, Ahmedabad City, Chikhli City), and New Taipei.
- UCLG ASPAC office relocated from Sunter (North Jakarta) to Jakarta City Hall complex (Central Jakarta).



2014

- Formulation of the first Manifesto: UCLG ASPAC Strategic Plan 2015-2020.
- Organised a pre-conference of mayors and local governments contributing inputs for the post-2015 framework for DRR, resulting in the Bangkok Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific 2014 and the Asia-Pacific input for the 2nd Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA2).
- 6 new partnerships: 1) Changwon City, 2) Seoul Metropolitan Government, 3) Taipei City Government, 4) United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), 5) OXFAM, 6) UNITAR CIFAL Jeju.
- 4 new members: Indonesia (Banda Aceh City), India (Bhopal), Cambodia (National Association of Capital and Provincial Kingdom of Cambodia), Pakistan (Faisalabad).
- **The 5th UCLG ASPAC Congress entitled “The Adaptive City,” was hosted by Taipei City. Governor Won Hee-Ryong was elected as the President of UCLG ASPAC.**
- UCLG ASPAC celebrated its 10th Anniversary.
- In cooperation with UN ESCAP, the first physical construction project, Waste to Energy - the Integrated Resource Recovery Center (IRRC), was executed in Jambi City and Malang Regency.



2015

- Formation of the UCLG ASPAC Committee on Culture by Jeju Special Self-Governing Province **under the leadership of Governor Won Hee-Ryong** and **establishment of the UCLG ASPAC Standing Committee for Southeast Asia.**
- UCLG ASPAC Secretary General appointed as Advisory Group member on Gender Issues (AGGI) of UN-HABITAT.
- Published “South-South Cooperation: Best Practices and Replications.”
- **Establishment of the UCLG ASPAC Internship Programme for University Students.**
- 5 new partnerships: 1) UCLG Eurasia, 2) World e-Governments Organisation of Cities and Local Governments (WeGo), 3) CityNet and Seoul Human Resource Development Center (SHRDC), 4) KAS, 5) Wakatobi Regency Government.
- Held the first training on Sustainable Mobility with SHRDC. Created the Local Government Transport Officer Forum (LGTOF).
- UCLG ASPAC collaborated with the Committee of Permanent Representative of ASEAN, and the City of Makassar in convening the 2nd ASEAN Mayors Forum in Indonesia with the participation of more than 1,000 people.
- Conducted Regional Study with PLATFORMA on the Local Government Associations' capacity in 10 countries.
- 8 new members added: Philippines (Catbalogan City, Surigao City), Indonesia (Salatiga City, Jambi City, Pangkalpinang City, East Kalimantan Province), Kiribati (Kiribati Local Governments Association – KiLGA), South Korea (Gyeongsangnam Province).

2016

- Formation of UCLG ASPAC Standing Committee of South and South-West Asia.
- Published “Public Spaces in Asia and the Pacific: Why Local Governments Need to Act.”
- UCLG ASPAC and UNISDR organised the pre-conference stakeholder session “Boosting Local Authorities Actions to Implement the Sendai Framework.”
- 4 new partnerships: 1) Directorate General of Human Settlement Ministry of Public Works and Housing and Surabaya City, 2) EU, 3) Jeollabuk Province, 4) UNESCAP and Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia.
- 7 new members added: China (Changsha City), Indonesia (Singkawang City, South Tangerang City Indonesia), Maldives (Local Government Authority of Maldives), Pakistan (Association for Development of Local Governance - ADLG), Sri Lanka (Galle), Vanuatu (Local Authorities Association of Vanuatu - LAAV).
- Organised Capacity Building for Sustainable Mobility in collaboration with SHRDC.
- The 6th UCLG ASPAC Congress “Region, Life, and Culture in the New Urban Agenda,” hosted by Jeollabuk Province. **Governor Won was re-elected as the President.**



2017

- Formation of the UCLG ASPAC Committee on **21st-Century Maritime Cooperation by Fuzhou and the UCLG ASPAC Committee on the Belt and Road Local Cooperation** by Hangzhou with support of CPAFFC.
- Published “Road Map for Local Government Associations in Localising SDGs,” and best practices compilation on “Borderless Mobility and Connectivity in ASEAN Cities.”
- 6 new partnerships: 1) APEKSI, 2) Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, 3) Bogor City Government, 4) Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), 5) Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors Inc, 6) Taguig City and League of Cities of the Philippines.
- 19 new members added: Philippines (Iriga City, Vigan City, Baguio City, Philippine Councilors League), Indonesia (Bogor City, Lubuklinggau City, Bengkulu City), Nepal (Kirtipur Municipality, Dharan Municipality, Vyas Municipality), Malaysia (Malaysia Association of Local Authorities - MALA), Maldives (Male City, Addu City, Huvadho), Bangladesh (Narayanganj City Corporation), Pakistan (Local Councils Association of Baluchistan - LCAB), China (Jinan City, Xiamen Municipal People's Government, Yiwu).
- UCLG ASPAC collaborated with **the City Government of Taguig, League of Cities of the Philippines**, in convening the 3rd ASEAN Mayors Forum in the Philippines.



2018

- The 7th UCLG ASPAC Congress “Innovation Driven Development for Sustainable Cities,” hosted by Surabaya. This was the largest Congress to date, with more than 1,000 participants. **Mayor Tri Rismaharini of Surabaya was elected as the first woman President of UCLG ASPAC for 2018-2020.**
- Published “City Enabling Environment (CEE) Rating Assessment of the Countries in Asia and the Pacific.”
- Formation of Asia-Pacific Local Government Coordinating Body (APLG).
- 3 new partnerships: League of Cities of the Philippines, Municipal Association of Bangladesh (MAB), and Municipal Association of Nepal (MUAN).
- 10 new members added: Bangladesh (Faridpur Municipality), Indonesia (Padang City), South Korea (Goyang City, Jeonju City), Pakistan (Toba Tek Singh, Islamabad Municipal Corporation, LCA Sindh, LCA Balochistan), Sri Lanka (Anuradhapura Municipal Council), China (Nanjing Municipal Government).
- The 4th ASEAN Mayors Forum held jointly with the Centre for Liveable Cities of Singapore Government, aligned with Singapore as the 2018 ASEAN Chairmanship.
- **Accreditation of ASEAN Mayors Forum as the first Entity of Local Governments Associated with ASEAN.**
- UCLG ASPAC led the stakeholder consultation of local authorities with UNISDR on AMCDRR.

2019

- On behalf of APLG, delivered the Local Government statement at the 6th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development held in Penang. UCLG ASPAC also held the Local Government Assembly as a pre-forum event of APUF-7 and presented its Voluntary Commitment.
- UCLG ASPAC engaged 16 new partners, the highest number for partnerships in a year, with the Association for Development of Local Governance in Pakistan (ADLG), Cassandras a Media and Consultancy Hub LLP, Cités Unies France (CUF), Daegu Metropolitan City, Jeju City, Jeonju City, Local Council Association of Balochistan (LCAB), Local Council Association of Sindh (LCAS), Majlis Bandaraya Seberang Perai, Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs, Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI), RWI and Gwangju, Surakarta City Government, The World Association of the Major Metropolises, UNESCAP, UN-HABITAT.
- 6 new members added: Indonesia (Bontang City, Gorontalo City, Jayapura City, Jember Regency), South Korea (Korean Research Institute for Local Administration - KRILA), China (Siping City).
- The Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy was launched by UNESCAP and UN-Habitat, in collaboration with UCLG ASPAC, UNU-IAS, and APRU. UCLG ASPAC acts as the permanent member of the Academy's advisory board.
- UCLG ASPAC collaborated with UNESCAP and the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration in convening the 5th ASEAN Mayors Forum at UNCC in Bangkok, Thailand.
- UCLG World Secretariat Congress in Durban, South Africa elected Mayor of Iriga, Ms. Madeleine Afelor as UCLG World Treasurer, and Mayor of Xi'an City, Mr. Li Mingyuan as UCLG Co-President. This is the first time that the Treasurer is from the Asia-Pacific region.
- Supported the **development of the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) of Hamamatsu.**

2020

2021

- UCLG ASPAC's contribution to the Asia-Pacific Chapter is included in the "GOLD V 2019 Report."
- Delivered Local Government intervention supporting policy recommendations in accelerating decentralisation and providing financing frameworks for cities at the 7th APFSD.
- Published The Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines on Voluntary Local Reviews in partnership with Penang Platform for Sustainable Urbanisation (PPSU).
- 7 new members added: Indonesia (Bandar Lampung City), Nepal (Birgunj Metropolitan City, Dhankuta Municipality, Tulsipur Sub Metropolitan City), China (Guiyang Municipal People's Government, Wuxi Municipal People's Government), and South Korea (Sejong City).
- **After more than 118,000 cases in 114 countries and 4,291 deaths, the WHO declares COVID-19 a pandemic.**
- Tri Rismaharani, Mayor of Surabaya, President of UCLG ASPAC for 2018-2020, was inaugurated as Indonesia's Minister of Social Affairs. Mayor Ashok, President of MuAN and **Mayor of Dhulikhel, became the new President of UCLG ASPAC.**

- Supporting **the completion of the 1st Voluntary Subnational Review (VSR) Indonesia and Voluntary Local Review (VLR) Surabaya as the first city in Indonesia to have VLR.** Both were included in VNR Indonesia submitted to the UN.
- Formation of 1) UCLG ASPAC Committee on Tourism led by Xi'an, 2) UCLG ASPAC Committee on Humanitarian Development Peace (HDP) by Gyeonggi Province, 3) UCLG ASPAC Committee on Circular Economy by AILSG.
- **Reactivation of UCLG ASPAC Standing Committee on Financial Management Committee.**
- Adopted the UCLG ASPAC Manifesto 2021-2025.
- Published "Human Rights Localisation Handbook" in collaboration with RWI.
- Organised the blended Learning Course (BLC) on Human Rights Localisation in the Context of the SDGs Human Rights Festival in Semarang
- On behalf of APLG, delivered a Local Government statement on three key actions that support the implementation of SDGs at the local level at the 8th APFSD.
- 11 new members added: Indonesia (Balikpapan City, Banjarmasin City, Maritime Local Government Network - LGN, Musi Banyuasin Regency, North Minahasa Regency, Palembang City, Sawahlunto City, Semarang City), Nepal (Dhulikhel Municipality, South Korea (Namyangju City, National Association of Mayors of Korea - NAMK).
- The 8th UCLG ASPAC Congress "From Steady Recovery to Sustained Prosperity in Post COVID Asia Pacific" was hosted by Zhengzhou in a hybrid format.



2022

- Completion of VLR Jakarta, VSR Philippines, VSR Sri Lanka, and VSR Pakistan.
- On behalf of APLG, underscored the pivotal role of local governments and called for support by providing access to financing mechanisms, and institutionalisation of synergies between VNR, VSR, and VLR at the 9th APFSD.
- Capacity Building Session for National and Provincial Parliamentary Taskforces on SDGs was organised in Pakistan, resulting in the development of an Action Plan for Strengthening and Optimal Functionality of the Parliamentary Taskforces on SDGs in Pakistan.
- 4 new partnerships: Kuala Lumpur City Hall, UCLG Africa, UCLG MEWA, FCM.
- 12 new members added: Indonesia (Makassar City, Ogan Komiring Ilir Regency, Samarinda City, Tanjung Jabung Barat Regency, West Kalimantan Province), Nepal (Dhunibeshi Municipality, Godawari Municipality, Harion Municipality, Tarakeshwor Municipality), Philippines (Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines) and South Korea (Association of Districts of Daejeon Metropolitan City, Gimhae City).
- Convened the 7th ASEAN Mayors Forum "ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together," in conjunction with the Meeting of Governors/Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Prime Minister of Cambodia delivered his Opening Remarks.
- Celebrated the launch of the public space and memorial wall construction in Palu City.
- The 7th UCLG World Congress in Daejeon adopted **the Pact for the Future of Humanity.**

- Supported the organisation of Urban 20 Mayors Summit in Jakarta, and co-hosted "Digital Governance in Accelerating Sustainable Development and Climate Resiliency." In collaboration with Indonesia's Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), held an International Seminar, "Road to Indonesia's G20 Presidency," to foster collaboration among cities to accelerate solutions for climate change, the pandemic, and economic recovery.
- Led the coordination of local authorities for the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) in Brisbane, Australia, with the release of a Statement of Actions from the Local Authorities Stakeholders Group.
- The Committees on Tourism (UATC) held various activities, including its first Committee Congress, cultural heritage exhibitions, and a Chinese language course.
- The 21st-Century Maritime Cooperation Committee (21CMCC) held the 2nd General Assembly and launched the Online Workshop on Ocean and Climate Change.
- Convened the World Human Rights City Forum (WHRCF) in Gwangju.

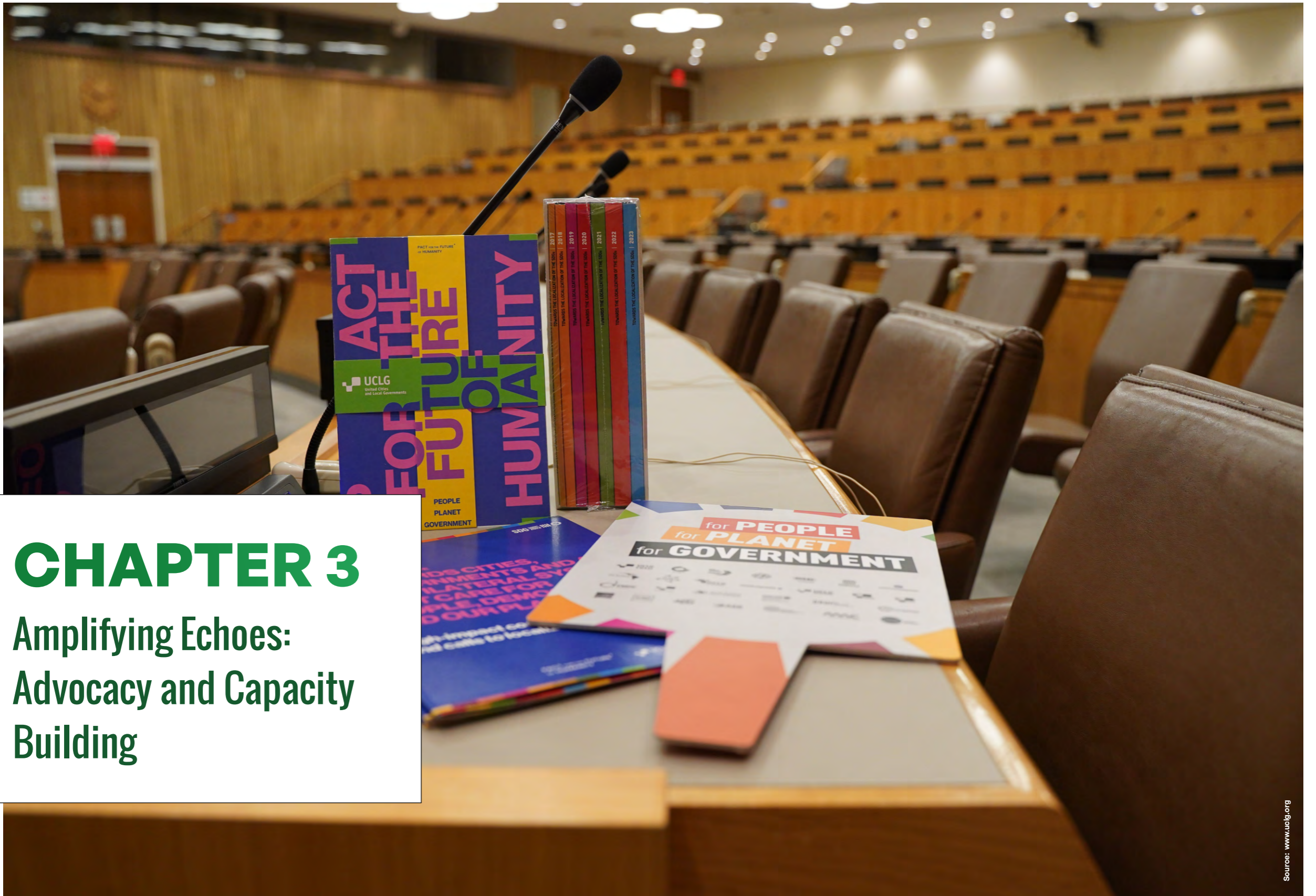


2023

- WHO chief declares the end of COVID-19 as a global health emergency.
- Secretary General Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, **received a Special Citation**, as a form of achievement and recognition from the UN-HABITAT.
- Completion of VSR Cambodia.
- Inauguration of the Asia Pacific Sanitation Excellence Award Winners in Kathmandu.
- The Joint Local Government statement highlighted the need for local-level SDG indicators in line with the national frameworks, capacity building for local governments in Least Developed Countries, especially the Pacific on the VLR, and innovative financing and investment to localise the SDGs at the 10th APFSD.
- 2 new partnerships: Metropolis and Yiwu (China).
- 10 new members added: Bangladesh (Lalmonirhat Municipality), China (Qingdao Municipal People's Government), India (Dharamshala Municipal Corporation), Indonesia (Pariaman City), Nepal (Bheemdatt Municipality, Biratnagar Metropolitan City, Birendranagar Municipality, Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City), Pakistan (City Local Council Mardan), South Korea (Gyeongju City).
- Held the 9th UCLG ASPAC Congress "Advancing Balanced Economic Development for Asia and the Pacific" in Yiwu, China.
- Presented local governments' challenges and best practices in mainstreaming human rights in local governance processes in the Regional Dialogue on Human Rights and Local Governance in Asia Pacific.
- The plan to create **the Committee of Logistics** under UCLG ASPAC as raised by Yiwu City.







CHAPTER 3

Amplifying Echoes: Advocacy and Capacity Building

Advocacy and Capacity Building

The UCLG ASPAC Manifesto 2015-2020 identified the ability to leverage policy through active advocacy efforts as one of UCLG ASPAC's strengths. In the Manifesto, advocacy became one of the strategic goals, particularly Strategic Goal 4 – Aggregate, Elevate, and Advocate Local Voices and Issues at National, Regional, and Global Levels. Under the leadership of UCLG ASPAC Secretary General Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, an internal policy team was created at the Secretariat in 2022 to support the implementation of the advocacy plan. This team facilitates internal consolidation of advocacy efforts within UCLG ASPAC and external consolidation with the advocacy efforts at the global level through UCLGWorld.

To date, there have been a total of 19 statements of local governments/authorities produced for regional and sub-regional events in Asia-Pacific.

- Seven (7) were on sustainable development presented at APFSD and APUF,
- Three (3) on disaster risk reduction presented at APMCDRR,
- Six (6) were on ASEAN urban issues presented at AMF, and
- Three (3) were on migration presented at the Abu Dhabi Dialogue and Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the GCM.

“Policy advocacy is not the work of a single person but the whole organisation.”

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi

Advocacy Frameworks and Principles

Policy advocacy is woven into every UCLG ASPAC project, programme, coalition, and committee, employing and combining the principles of at least two advocacy frameworks. The advocacy planning framework identifies the challenge, UCLG ASPAC leverage, way into the process, messenger or "Champion Mayors," and the corresponding message and activities. The advocacy coalition framework indicates how policy participants coordinate their behaviour with allies in advocacy coalitions to influence policy.

UCLG ASPAC encourages its members to:

- 1 Advocate for effective decentralisation with vertical and horizontal integration across all levels of government.**
- 2 Emphasise the need for local-level SDG indicators.**
- 3 Recognise and support Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR) and Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSR) as bottom-up approaches that provide reality-grounded information to the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).**
- 4 Promote the integration and contextualisation of SDGs in planning through localisation.**
- 5 Support capacity building for local governments in Least Developed Countries.**
- 6 Advocate for innovative financing and investment to localise the SDGs.**

Role and Impact of UCLG ASPAC's Advocacy:

Below are several platforms where UCLG ASPAC has been active in amplifying the echo and bringing the voices of local governments and shaping the regional's perspectives.

Asia-Pacific Local Government Coordinating Body (APLG)

The APLG, established in 2018, serves as a regional coordination mechanism to better coordinate regional advocacy for local authorities. It extends its active involvement from the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) to other regional forums and processes, amplifying the voices of local governments on various issues. UCLG ASPAC serves as the coordinator of APLG.



Since 2019, UCLG ASPAC facilitated the participation of local governments at the APFSD, delivering statements and organising the Local and Regional Assembly and other relevant topics as side events. The chair's summary of discussions consistently cited local governments, showcasing the significant outcomes of UCLG ASPAC's advocacy work at the APFSD.



As the host for AMF, UCLG ASPAC plays a crucial role in facilitating networking, policy debates, and knowledge exchange among cities and local governments in ASEAN. The forum's evolution, from adopting declarations to addressing critical issues like circular economy and migration, underscores UCLG ASPAC's commitment to advocating for accountable local governance. AMF received an accreditation from ASEAN as an affiliated ent



UCLG ASPAC's engagement in the APMCDRR, from 2013 onwards, highlights its commitment to promoting coordination and cooperation on disaster risk reduction. The Organisation has consistently led stakeholder consultations, delivered statements, and contributed to the regional platform's objectives. APMCDRR is

Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)



UCLG ASPAC's coordination of local government's participation in the regional review process emphasises the importance of local governments in migration policy processes, showcasing the Organisation's advocacy for an enabling environment for local governments.

Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF)



UCLG ASPAC's involvement in APUF, including organising side events, signing memoranda of understanding, and supporting the establishment of the Penang Platform for Sustainable Urbanisation, demonstrates its dedication to addressing emerging urban development issues through advocacy.

UCLG ASPAC's advocacy journey, rooted in collective effort, strategic frameworks, and strong commitment, echoes the Organisation's belief that policy advocacy is the work of the entire community. As the Organisation continues to amplify local voices, it stands as an agent of change and transformation in uniting the voices of cities and local governments in.





The 10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) in Bangkok, Thailand, March 27 to 30, 2023.



UCLG ASPAC Secretary General, Dr Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Executive Secretary of the UNESCAP, Professor Dr. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, and Minister of Village, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Abdul Halim Iskandar at the 10th APFSD.



UCLG ASPAC Secretary General, Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi and Mayor of Caoyan/ the Executive Vice President for Operations of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), Mrs. Germelina Singson-Goulart delivered joint statement on behalf of Local Authorities at the 10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) held Bangkok, Thailand from March 27 to 30, 2023.



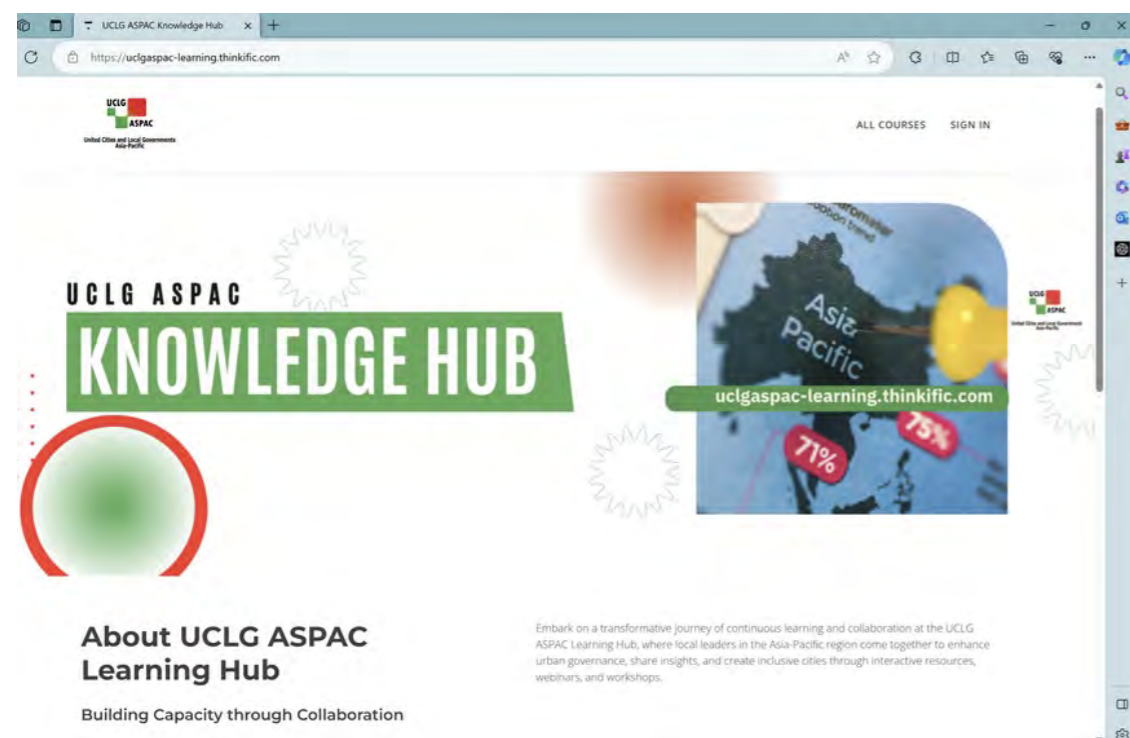
UCLG ASPAC members had the opportunity to share their work on SDGs localisation at the Urban Engagement Space, a dedicated area for interactions on SDG 11, on 29 March 2023

Empowering Local Governments

Capacity building and learning is the essential modality of the Organisation. In response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, UCLG ASPAC introduced the e-learning tool—a transformative initiative since 2021. With an initial cohort of 96 participants, spanning local government offices, universities, and SDGs practitioners, this digital hub serves as a UCLG ASPAC learning platform for online learning excellence, anticipating a growing community of learners in the future.

Beyond external engagement, the platform has played a vital role internally within UCLG ASPAC. As UCLG ASPAC embraces the evolving landscape of hybrid work methods as the new normal, this Learning platform will not only persist but also evolve, attuned to the dynamic needs of the digital age. It stands as a testament to UCLG ASPAC's commitment to fostering education, bridging knowledge gaps, and empowering local governments for a sustainable future.

The learning platform is accessible at:
<https://uclgaspac-learning.thinkific.com/>



Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy: Nurturing Leadership for Sustainable Urban Development

“
There is no small or big town but we need to have big dreams.

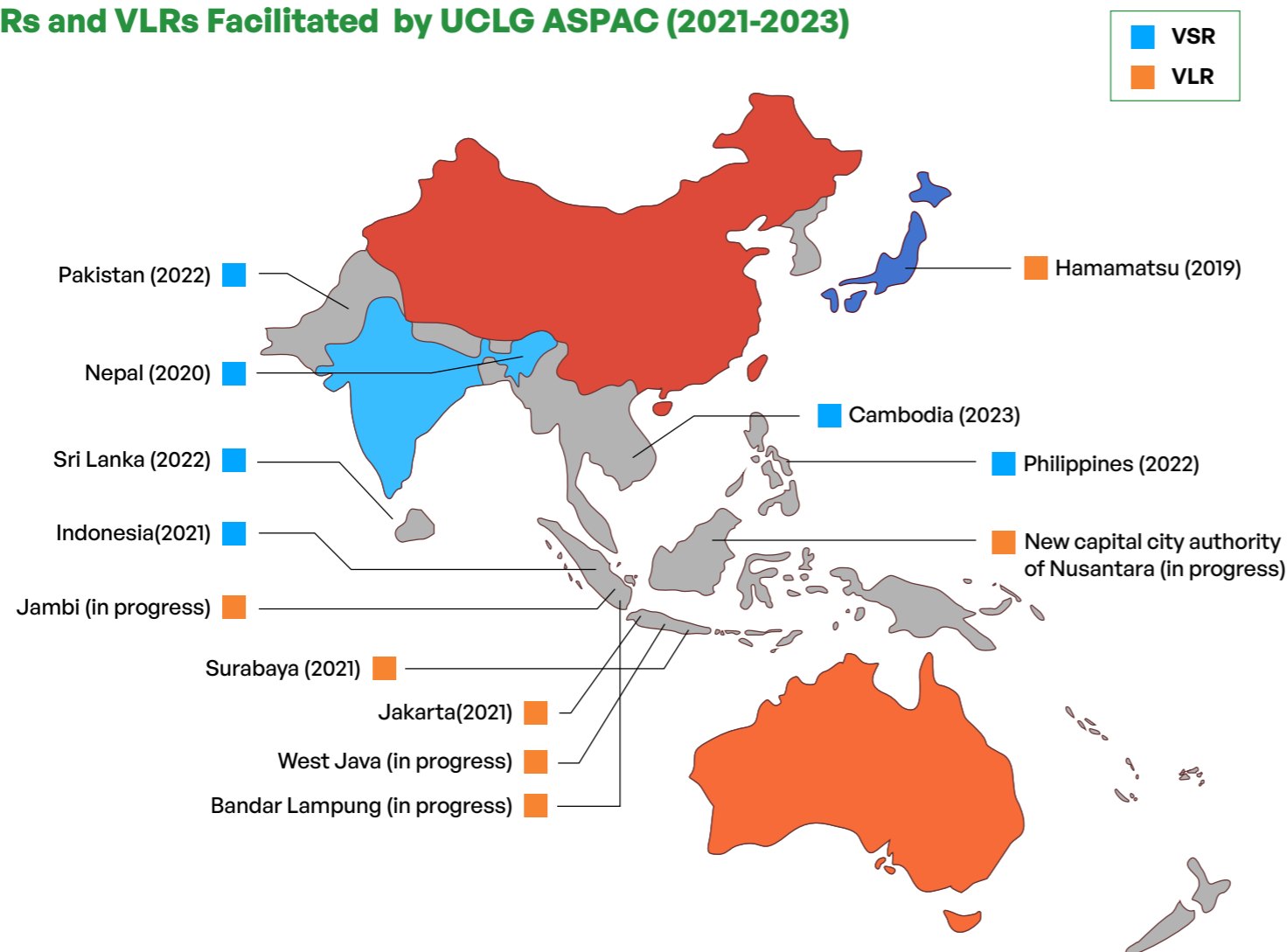
Ms. Suzette A. Mamon,
 Mayor of Badiangan.

In fostering empowerment for newly-elected or appointed mayors/governors in the Asia-Pacific region, the Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy, inaugurated in 2019, stands as a beacon of positive impact through robust capacity-building programmes. Developed in collaboration with influential organisations such as UN ESCAP, UN-Habitat, and UCLG ASPAC, the Academy's curriculum not only delves into crucial urban development aspects but also adapts to evolving challenges. A noteworthy addition in 2020 addressed the pressing issues of COVID-19 response and recovery, showcasing the Academy's agility in responding to real-world challenges. With UCLG ASPAC playing a pivotal role as a permanent Advisory Board member, the Academy has become a dynamic force for sustainable urban development. Despite gender balance challenges, the programme's completion rate of 63.83% is a testament to the commitment of 30 out of 47 mayors, receiving well-deserved certificates for their dedication to advancing positive change in their communities. The Academy's ripple effect extends across the Asia-Pacific region, with prominent representation from nations like the Philippines, Malaysia, and Nepal.

Empowering Local Governments by Bridging Knowledge to Actions

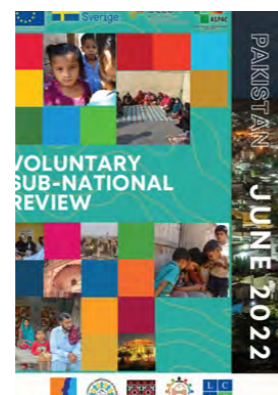
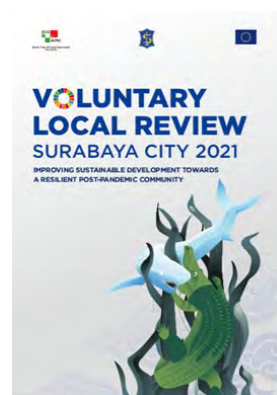
UCLG ASPAC plays a crucial role in capacity development through its appointment as a Service Provider by the International Development Cooperation Directorate of the National Development Planning Agency (IDC-Bappenas) in Indonesia. The collaboration with Research Triangle Institute (RTI International) under the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Pro-Poor Policy – The Knowledge Sector Initiative (KSI) focuses on capturing and translating knowledge into actionable materials. The overarching objective is to facilitate the successful replication of smart practices in targeted regions, emphasising the development of knowledge products and enhancing the capacities of local governments through tools and methodologies. This initiative underscores UCLG ASPAC's commitment to empowering local authorities with the insights and resources needed for impactful development.

VSRs and VLRs Facilitated by UCLG ASPAC (2021-2023)



Strengthening Local Governments' Capacity for SDGs Reporting

UCLG ASPAC actively engages in facilitating SDGs voluntary reporting documents to enhance the monitoring and reporting mechanisms for local governments and their associations. Since 2019, UCLG ASPAC has supported the development of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) for several members. The initiative began with the first VLR and VSR, for Hamamatsu and Indonesia, respectively, representing the perspective of SDGs attainment progress from the subnational governments. It was then continued with the first VLR at the city level in Indonesia, which is the VLR for Surabaya City, and the first VLR at the provincial level, VLR for Jakarta. In 2022, the support expanded to include the development of VSRs for the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan, and in 2023 for Cambodia. Ongoing assistance for VLRs is also in progress for UCLG ASPAC members. These reports not only provide a comprehensive overview of SDGs attainment by 2030 but also offer valuable insights for enhancing SDGs localization through legal and institutional reforms at the local level.



UCLG ASPAC Committees

UCLG ASPAC Committees aim to strengthen collaboration and cooperation among UCLG ASPAC members, promote good and exemplary practices of ASPAC cities and local governments, gather experts and stakeholders interested in local governments issues, and share knowledge and experience among UCLG ASPAC members. Furthermore, they are instrumental to the implementation of the UCLG ASPAC strategic plan, the latest of which is referred to as the UCLG ASPAC Manifesto 2021-2025.

<p>2013</p>  <p>STANDING COMMITTEE WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS</p>	<p>2015</p>  <p>CULTURE COMMITTEE</p>	<p>2015</p>  <p>STANDING COMMITTEE FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA</p>	<p>2016</p>  <p>STANDING COMMITTEE OF SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST ASIA</p>
<p>2017</p>  <p>BELT AND ROAD LOCAL COOPERATION (BRLC) COMMITTEE</p>	<p>2017</p>  <p>21ST CENTURY MARITIME COOPERATION COMMITTEE (21CMCC)</p>	<p>2021</p>  <p>HDP NEXUS COMMITTEE</p>	<p>2021</p>  <p>UCLG ASPAC TOURISM COMMITTEE</p>
<p>2021</p>  <p>CIRCULAR ECONOMY</p>	<p>2021</p>  <p>FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</p>		

Note:
*Year of establishment

Advancing Gender Responsive and Participatory Budgeting

In a recent positive stride towards gender inclusivity, UCLG ASPAC held a two-day Learning Workshop on Gender Responsive and Participatory Budgeting (GRP) in February 2023, at the Institute Dewan Latihan Bandaraya (IDB) or Kuala Lumpur Training Centre in Kuala Lumpur. The activity was part of our commitment as reflected in the MoU signed with Penang Women’s Development Corporation (PWDC) and UN-HABITAT. This initiative aimed to enhance the capacity of local governments to understand GRPB content and mechanisms, providing tools to translate learning into impactful GRPB test projects in their respective localities. This workshop marks a positive step forward in our efforts to promote gender responsiveness, with future monitoring and advancements in the pipeline. The workshop concluded with four cities/local governments submitting GRPB test projects in Malaysia, serving as pilot initiatives for further positive transformations.

Gender mainstreaming has been an integral fragment of the Standing Committee on Women in Local Governments currently led by Guangzhou, which also includes UCLG ASPAC’s efforts to have more women leaders participate in its Governing Body.

Caring City for Inclusive Urban Development

In a collaborative effort, SHRDC, Metropolis, UCLG, and UCLG ASPAC orchestrated the Online Training Programme on Caring Cities in July 2023. This initiative aimed to heighten awareness and knowledge among cities and local governments on inclusive urban development management, with a specific focus on benefiting vulnerable groups through local development initiatives. Fifteen cities from diverse regions actively participated in the live sessions, fostering cross-regional learning and exchange. The Asia Pacific region, with cities such as Alaminos, Antipolo, Baguio, Makati, Olongapo, Puerto Princesa from the Philippines, Palembang, Yogyakarta, Jakarta, Minahasa Utara from Indonesia, Kathmandu, Shivasatakshi, Vyas from Nepal, and Male from Maldives, contributed significantly to the programme’s success.

100 Human Rights Cities at the World Level

UCLG ASPAC supports the global target of having 100 human rights cities. In a strategic collaboration initiated in 2019, UCLG ASPAC partnered with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) and Gwangju City to promote the institutionalisation of human rights within local government policies and planning processes. In 2021, the partnerships included key activities such as the Blended Learning Course on Human Rights Localisation, the development of the Human Rights Localisation Handbook, participation in the World Human Rights City Forum (WHRCF) in Gwangju, and co-organisation of the Human Rights Festival in Semarang. These various activities showcased UCLG ASPAC's dedication to enhancing local governments' capacities in mainstreaming human rights and reflecting its commitment to regional dialogues, such as the Regional Dialogue on Human Rights and Local Governance in Asia and the Pacific in September 2023.



Sustainable Mobility, the Key to Build Care Cities

UCLG ASPAC's unwavering commitment to sustainable mobility is exemplified through capacity-building initiatives, fostering success stories, and encouraging peer cooperation amongst cities and local governments in the Asia-Pacific region. Recognising the transformative potential of urban public transport services, UCLG ASPAC has conducted various activities over the decade. The regular training programmes with the Seoul Human Resources Development Center (SHRDC) in Seoul, the development of action plans, the workshop in Salatiga and South Tangerang in Indonesia, facilitation of city-to-city cooperation on mobility, are a few activities to mention.

Facilitated by UCLG ASPAC, 14 representatives from Indonesian cities established the Local Government Transport Office Forum (LGTOF) in 2015 as a follow-up action to the Sustainable Mobility Workshop organised in cooperation with SHRDC. Action plans developed by participating cities as part of the Workshop have been carried out including the reorganisation of the public transport feeders in Surakarta.



International Talent Education Programme for Cities And Local Governments

Xi'an – Education for Cultural Understanding. In 2021, as the leading City of the Tourism Committee, the Xi'an Municipal People's Government, in partnership with UCLG ASPAC and Xi'an Jiaotong University, established a scholarship programme to enable members to pursue Master's and Doctoral Degrees at Xi'an Jiaotong University. The Xi'an Municipal People's Government has also extended its support by offering Chinese Learning Classes (online) to UCLG ASPAC members. This initiative is an integral component of the UCLG ASPAC Tourism Committee's capacity-building programme, emphasising the commitment to fostering educational opportunities and cultural understanding among its esteemed members.



Source: Unsplash.com/joyous_chan



CHAPTER 4

Ground Breaker: Impactful Action Towards Sustainability

Impactful Action Towards Sustainability

Dynamic Partnerships for SDGs Acceleration

Celebrating a decade of dynamic collaboration (2013-2023), UCLG ASPAC has etched a remarkable journey of impact and influence, primarily driven by strategic partnerships. Here's a snapshot of the milestones:

1

120 Partnerships, 112 in a Decade: An impressive feat—120 partnership agreements, with 112 established in the last 10 years, attesting to UCLG ASPAC's commitment to collaborative growth.

2

79 Vibrant Partners: The present boasts 79 active partners, with a remarkable 72 joining the league during this transformative decade, fostering a diverse and impactful network.

3

A Keystone Bond with UCLG World: UCLG ASPAC stands proudly as the regional division of UCLG World, embodying a key partnership that forms the foundation of this collaborative narrative.

4

15 Strategic Alliances: Delving deeper, 15 strategic partners have crafted a moderate yet impactful collaboration, weaving between two agreements and beyond, illustrating the depth of their engagement.

5

63 Agreements: Exploring New Horizons: An exciting prospect unfolds with 63 agreements at the exploratory phase, symbolizing a canvas where collaboration is in its early stages, awaiting to blossom into impactful endeavours.

“ Let's Raise a Collective Cheer for These Partnerships—a Testament to The Transformative Power of Collaborative Efforts! ”

Strategic Partners 2013-2023:



+72 Partners



+112 Partnership Documents (MoU)



Localising SDGs: Our Journey from Indonesia to Pakistan and Contribution to the Global Agenda

The **LOCALISE SDGs programme in Indonesia**, initiated in 2018, is the first programme of UCLG ASPAC funded by the EU that was spearheaded to mainstream SDGs in local planning across Indonesia. Tackling challenges such as low awareness, a lack of enabling environment, and weak capacities among local governments (LGs). The programme empowered 30 LGs and five LGAs (local government associations), integrating SDGs governance significantly into their development plans.

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, **LOCALISE SDGs demonstrated remarkable achievements**. All targeted LGs have incorporated SDGs into their mid-term development plans, completed Local Action Plans, and showcased best practices on international platforms.

The capacity-building efforts, including online training and research on COVID-19 responses, highlighted its success. The LOCALISE SDGs project managed to reach a total of 6,275 participants: 68% were virtual event participants, 26% were local training participants, 4% were national training participants, and 3% were city diplomacy training participants. The activities also strived to achieve gender balance with the participation of 55% male participants (3,451) and 45% female participants (2,824), reflecting the active involvement and commitment of LGs to not leaving anyone behind. Noteworthy publications include pocketbooks for decision makers and a compilation of LAs' good practices, and five thematic cross-sectoral research contributing to SDGs attainment within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

LOCALISE SDGs Programme in Indonesia (2018-2021):

- **30 Cities and Local Governments incorporated SDGs in mid-term plans.**
- **6,275 local governments and stakeholders obtained training on SDGs localisation.**
- **Engaged over 15,000 website users and reached over 125 million people through media.**



SDGs Localisation in Pakistan-inspired by Indonesia. Building on the successful LOCALISE SDGs in Indonesia, UCLG ASPAC extended the efforts to localise the SDGs in Pakistan through the 'Local Empowerment, Advocacy, and Development (LEAD) for SDGs Localisation' project. Launched in 2020 and co-funded by the European Union, the primary focus is enhancing institutional capacity and strengthening local governments in Pakistan to localise the SDGs and to achieve the 2030 Agenda. In 2021, the project conducted analyses on budgetary allocations for SDGs, considering the impact of COVID-19 on government priorities. A rapid assessment of parliamentary SDGs Task Forces identified challenges, leading LEAD for SDGs to sign memorandums of understanding for technical and financial support. LEAD for SDGs focuses on capacity building through training for Provincial and Local Government.

The project also involves the development of SDGs-aligned District and Local Plans in collaboration with communities. The training initiative, titled 'SDGs Mainstreamed Planning, Monitoring and Reporting,' started with the training of trainers that aimed to set up a capacity-building plan for stakeholders, particularly local governments in Balochistan and Sindh Provinces. The LEAD for SDGs targeted 64 districts with the support of LCAs in both provinces. A total of 606 participants attended the knowledge and capacity-building trainings, with a focus on mainstreaming SDGs in local development planning, monitoring, and reporting. Out of these participants, 420 were local government officials, including 40 women.



Climate and Disaster Resilience Planning and Actions



In the dynamic landscape of the Asia-Pacific region where over 50% of the population resides in cities, the challenges of urbanisation are compounded by the fact that 40% of global disasters occur in this region. Climate change further amplifies these vulnerabilities, making resilience a pressing concern. UCLG ASPAC plays a crucial role in fortifying resilience by championing policies, facilitating knowledge exchange, and fostering collaborative partnerships. This commitment not only aligns with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) initiatives but also positions UCLG ASPAC as a key player in steering the Asia-Pacific region toward a more resilient and sustainable future.



BALAROA MEMORIAL WALL

“Kamai kita singgani marisi, maroso mombangu Ngata'a panjili (Ngata Balaroa), Ngata ni pot'eveta majadi Ngata katuvuta sampai mate mompoholiaka kita ha'u ria Ala Taala/ Allah SWT.

"Meneatatkan nama-nama warga Kelurahan Balaroa sebagai korban jiwa dan hilang pada peristiwa Bencana Padangino Sulteng 28 September 2018".

"Mumpapatora sampesivuta namate rilajadia Abalaa Mbaso (Lingu, Bombatalu ante Tana Naambo/Nalodo) Rangata Balaroa

Memorial wall containing names of victims of the 2018 Padangino disaster in Balaroa, Palu.



Launching the Public Space and Memorial Wall in Balaroa, UCLG ASPAC in collaboration with Cities Unies France (CUF) and Palu City Government, Palu, 27 May 2022.

UCLG ASPAC in the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) for Climate and Energy

Assigned as the GCoM Southeast Asia (GCoM SEA) Secretariat since 2018, UCLG ASPAC supports cities and local governments committed to climate and energy to achieve low-carbon and climate-resilient developments, and engages in coordination and partnership with GCoM SEA partners. With 109 GCoM signatories from countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, the GCoM SEA Secretariat facilitated 28 pilot cities in developing Climate Action Plans (CAP). This inclusive initiative signifies a proactive approach to mainstreaming climate resilience in urban development. The success stories include Palembang receiving the City Climate Gap Fund in 2021 and Malang and Tam Ky being included in the Transformative Action Program (TAP) pipeline in 2022.



The Climate Resilient and Inclusive Cities (CRIC)

Co-funded by the EU, UCLG ASPAC is making significant contributions to climate resilience planning and implementation. Training series on climate action plans and GHG emissions mapping are some of the many activities under the CRIC project. From 2020 to 2022, CRIC has trained 1,242 individuals, impacting 3,404 directly and 167,222 indirectly. The project strengthened institutional capacities with the formation of Climate Change Working Groups in its 10 pilot cities. Looking ahead, CRIC aims to finalise climate action plans, develop tools, continue knowledge dissemination, and continually collaborate with national entities in Indonesia. This signifies integration into broader climate action frameworks in Indonesia, underlining CRIC's pivotal role in shaping climate actions and fostering sustainable cities.



Transforming Solid Waste for Sustainable Cities and Territories

The Integrated Resource Recovery Centers (IRRCs) is the first project that UCLG ASPAC carried out in collaboration with UN ESCAP in 2014. Aiming to reduce and regulate waste while utilising it as a new energy source, the IRRC can reduce 80-90% of waste to be efficiently processed in a decentralised manner by converting organic fractions of waste into biogas through anaerobic digestion. The IRRC system, exemplified in pilot projects like Jambi City and Malang Regency, processes organic waste into compost and generates electricity through a biodigester.

This approach not only efficiently produces compost, comprising 80% of total waste weight, but also addresses landfill site congestion by utilising market waste and cow manure. The compost serves as nutrient-rich material for soil and plants, offering environmental benefits and saving costs associated with waste transportation. The successful pilot projects showcase the potential of waste-to-energy solutions, emphasising a commitment to sustainable waste management practices.



Pioneering Inclusive Urban Sanitation in South Asia

UCLG ASPAC mainstreams SDGs 6.2, Sanitation for All, in Bangladesh and Nepal. In partnership with the BMGF, the Organisation has spearheaded the Municipalities Network Policy Advocacy on Sanitation in South Asia (MuNASS) project since 2017. The initiative enhances the capacity of LGAs, with a specific focus on Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) and Non-Sewered Sanitation (NSS). Having completed its first phase in December 2020 and launched the second phase in March 2022, MuNASS garnered acclaim for fostering enabling policies aligned with SDG 6.2.

In South Asia, MuNASS Phase II mobilises cities to innovate in safely managed sanitation, prioritising women and vulnerable populations. It documents municipal-led investments for City Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) and FSM, mainstreams Goal 6.2 into the regional agenda, and engages LGAs across Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and expanded to Cambodia, Vietnam, and Indonesia. UCLG ASPAC's efforts, exemplified by MuNASS, have been instrumental in advancing sanitation policies, fostering regional collaboration, and advocating for inclusive urban sanitation, particularly addressing SDG 6.2 with a focus on marginalised communities.

National and local implementing partners:

- MuAN
- MAB
- ENPHO

MuNASS in Bangladesh

- Developed sub-national FSM policies and Institutional and Technical Capacity
- MAB facilitated the development of the IRF, National Action Plan, National Strategy for Water Supply and Sanitation, and Pro-Poor Strategy.

MuNASS in Nepal

- MuAN established a Policy Advocacy Unit and 7 Provincial Learning Centres.
- Delivered CWIS and FSM orientation.

24 to 26 July, 2023 | Tangerang Regency, Indonesia



Public Space for All

UCLG ASPAC's work in enhancing public spaces and urban development have left lasting imprints across the Asia-Pacific region. Recognising the critical role of cities in the global landscape and the challenges faced by urban populations, UCLG ASPAC employs a bottom-up and participatory approach to empower local governments. Through collaborative projects, the Organisation has successfully developed and/or revitalised key public spaces, fostering community engagement and inclusivity.

In Surakarta, Indonesia, UCLG ASPAC facilitated the revitalisation of the "Wayang Orang Sriwedari," a theater building dedicated to art and culture. The participatory design approach ensured the preservation of cultural heritage, with the redesigned space accommodating diverse community activities. In cooperation with Jeju Province, UCLG ASPAC extended the work beyond physical spaces to cultural initiatives. The "Jeju Province – Surakarta City Cooperation on Culture and Arts for Youth Development" project in 2019 facilitated knowledge exchange among young artists, emphasising the role of culture in sustainable urban development. This added the beautiful public space constructed at the children's playing ground.

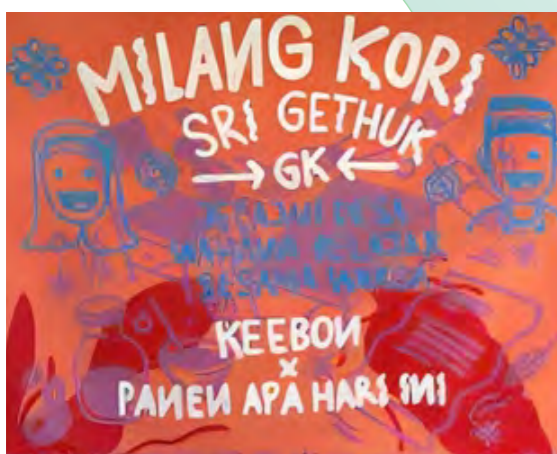
Similarly, in cooperation with UN Habitat, the Creative Public Space projects in Tanah Kali Keputih, Surabaya and Ketandan Cultural Hall revitalisation showcased UCLG ASPAC's commitment to addressing the needs of low-income communities, providing essential facilities, and promoting inclusivity.



In Seberang Perai, Malaysia, the Bandar Perda Eco-corridor project in 2019 demonstrated UCLG ASPAC's dedication to enhancing accessibility, connectivity, and environmental awareness. The public space development aligns with the community's needs and contributes to the unique identity of Bandar Perda. The success of these projects underscores the Organisation's ability to catalyse positive change and promote sustainable urban development.



Amid the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, UCLG ASPAC demonstrated resilience and adaptability. The "Tackling COVID-19 through Re-thinking Public Space: Digital Public Realm" project in Yogyakarta responded to new realities by developing a web-based platform, ensuring the continued provision of daily needs, supporting local farmers, and improving local supply change.



These diverse projects collectively showcase UCLG ASPAC's commitment to creating liveable, equitable, and resilient cities across the Asia-Pacific region. Through collaborative and participatory approaches, the Organisation continues to contribute significantly to urban development and the well-being of local communities.

Facilitating Decentralised Cooperation for Sustainable Development

From 2013 to 2023, the Organisation has evolved into a pivotal knowledge management hub, championing democratic local governance, fostering collaboration among cities, local governments, and associations, and spearheading programmes that enhance the capacity of these entities. This transformative journey aligns with the principles of good governance, accelerating the attainment of sustainable development.

UCLG ASPAC witnessed a notable surge in interest and intention among member cities to collaborate within and beyond the Asia-Pacific region. The lifting of physical mobility restrictions post-COVID-19 further catalysed these initiatives. Some of the recent agreements for cooperation established in 2021-2022 include:

Supported friendly exchange agreements between Zhengzhou Municipal People's Government and Balykchy City, Federation Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities, and Kathmandu Metropolitan City (Sept. 2021)

Facilitated collaboration between Guangzhou Municipal People's Government and Jambi City, focusing on education, tourism, culture, youth engagement, and health (July 2021)

Facilitated cooperation between Xi'an Municipal People's Government and Daejeon Metropolitan City, Xi'an Municipal People's Government and Dhulikhel Municipality, and Xi'an Municipal People's Government and Kuala Lumpur (October 2022)

UCLG ASPAC will continue to assist the following intention from local government members towards mutual decentralised cooperation:

Wakatobi Regency Government and Jeju Special Self-Governing Province

Fuzhou Municipal People's Government and Makassar City

Surakarta City and Jeju Special Self-Governing Province

Guiyang Municipal People's Government and Samarinda City

Zhengzhou Municipal People's Government and Palembang City

Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and Samarinda City

Kirtipur Municipality and Yogyakarta City



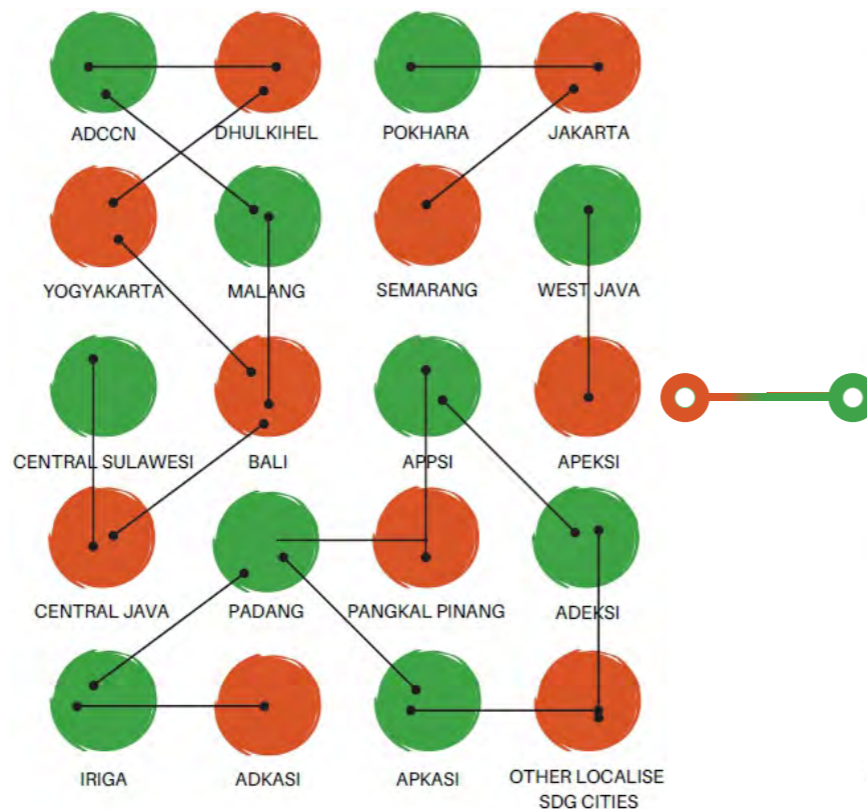
Solidarity Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted people all over the world. In the spirit of humanity, UCLG ASPAC played a crucial role in fortifying solidarity among its members during this challenging time. Initiatives included generous donations from UCLG ASPAC members in China and South Korea, aimed at supporting cities and local governments in Indonesia and Nepal. Examples of donated goods included essential medical supplies such as surgical masks, face shields, gloves, protective clothing, oxygen concentrators, nasal high-flow oxygen therapy devices, infusion pumps, and oximeters. Furthermore, UCLG ASPAC's proactive efforts extended to post disaster rehabilitation programmes in Palu City, initiated in October 2019. Conducted under the auspices of the UCLG Taskforce for Territorial Prevention and Management of Crisis, with support from Cities Unies France (CUF), the programme was implemented during the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Focusing on capacity-building, SME support, and local economic recovery, it engaged stakeholders through activities like stakeholder mapping and needs assessment, revealing crucial findings and informing rehabilitation projects.

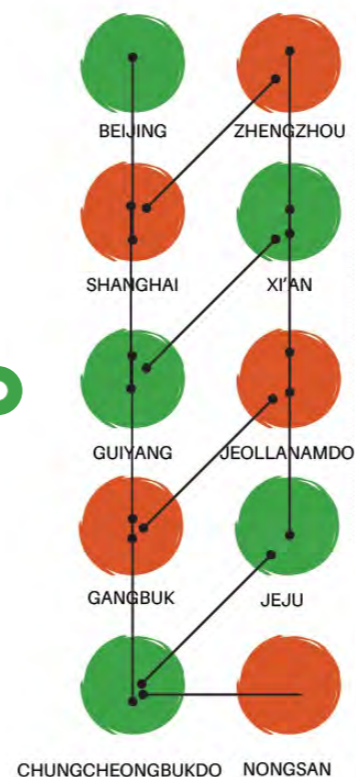
Prioritising a Disaster Risk Study in Balaroa, the programme contributed to benchmarking disaster-resilient local strategies. The construction of a Public Facility and Memorial Wall in May 2022, which now serve as a community centre, highlights the community's resilience and commitment to rebuilding Palu City.

UCLG ASPAC expresses sincere gratitude for proactive and invaluable support received solidarity from the following entities:

Beneficiaries:



Solidarity Support From:



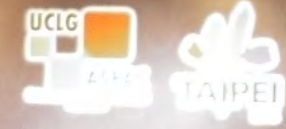


Mayor Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha, Mayor of Dhulikhel/ President of UCLG ASPAC has received emergency assistance of medical supplies from Fuzhou Municipal People's Government/ 21st Century Maritime Cooperation Committee during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CHAPTER 5

Behind The Scenes: Dynamic Leadership and Strong Secretariat

2014 城市與地方政府聯盟亞太分會第五屆臺北大會
5th United Cities and Local Governments
Asia-Pacific Congress 2014, Taipei
2014 城市與地方政府聯盟亞太分會第五屆臺北大會



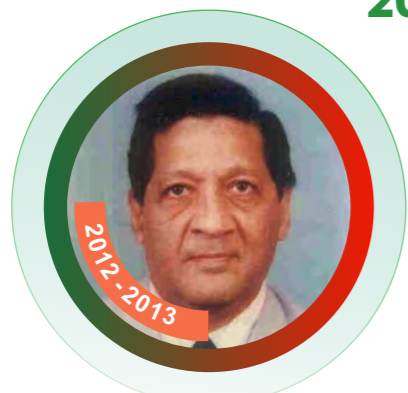
Dynamic Leadership

Welcome to the heart of UCLG ASPAC, where dynamic Presidents' vision and strong Secretariat serve as the backbone of the Organisation's steady progress and expansion. The energetic Secretariat team led by Secretary General plays a pivotal role in transforming visions into reality, ensuring members' active engagement, and fostering a culture of collaboration and innovation. Join us as we delve into the crucial functions that make UCLG ASPAC tick.

UCLG ASPAC Presidents – Guiding the Vision

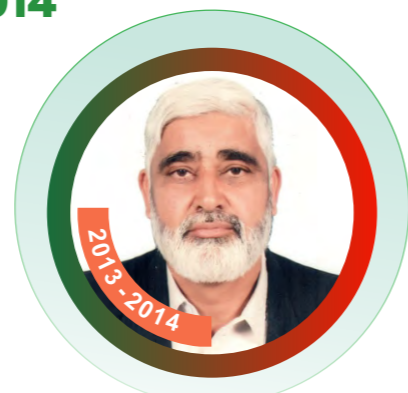
The UCLG ASPAC President serves as the Organisation's primary representative, shouldering substantial political responsibility. Their role spans shaping the Organisational agenda and ensuring the policies are executed. Here is a retrospective journey of the Presidents from 2012 to 2023:

2012-2014



Dr. Jatin V. Modi
President of All India Institute for Local Self Government (AIILSG)

4 October 2012 – 28 November 2013
Dr. Modi, President of AIILSG, Mayor Vadodara (16 May 1981-10 Jan 1983), laid the foundation for UCLG ASPAC's growth, emphasising the importance of shared experiences, learning and knowledge building amongst members.

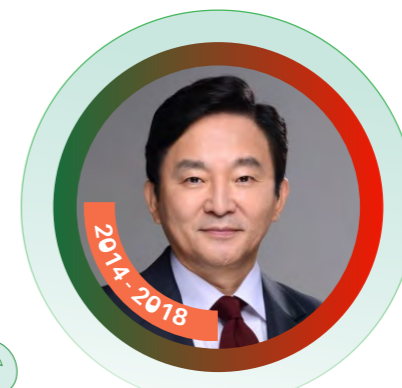


Syed Muhammad Asghar Shah Gillani
President of LCAP

28 November 2013 – October 2014
Mr. Gillani, Councillor and the President of the Local Councils Association of the Punjab, Pakistan, contributed to UCLG ASPAC during his mandate, focusing his work on strengthening local government associations.

2014-2018

“
Being a good leader, it is important to be honest and listened to people with your heart.”



Won Hee-Ryong
Governor of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province

2014 - 2016
Governor Won Hee-Ryong of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, South Korea, emphasised the strength derived from unity, advocating for a collective voice and unified actions. He initiated the Culture Committee in 2015.

2016-2018
Governor Won Hee-Ryong, re-elected for a second term, celebrated accomplishments in 2017, urging the Organization to use the achievements as a stepping stone for future opportunities.

2018-2020:



Tri Rismaharani
Mayor of Surabaya City Government

Mayor Risma of Surabaya, the first female President of UCLG ASPAC, highlighted the increasing reliance on cities for global and national progress, expressing confidence in UCLG ASPAC's collaborative culture, especially during the challenging times of COVID-19.

2020-2023:



Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha
President of Municipal Association of Nepal
Mayor of Dhulikhel Municipality

Mayor Ashok Byanju Shrestha underscored the significance of SDGs localisation and role of cities and municipalities as a shared responsibility, acknowledging the interconnected impact of urban challenges.



Secretary General: Legacy of Leadership

The Secretary General is the Executive Officer of UCLG ASPAC, steering daily operations and implementing decisions made by the Executive Bureau and Council members. Here is a tribute to the Secretary Generals who helped shape the Section.



Datuk Khalid Bin Hj. Husin

2004 - 2006

Datuk Khalid successfully led the transition of IULA ASPAC to UCLG ASPAC in 2004, marking a pivotal moment in the Organisation's history.



Emeritus Mayor Peter Woods OAM

2006 - 2010

Emeritus Mayor Peter Woods contributed greatly to IULA ASPAC as President, and later as the Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC. He focused on decentralisation and strengthening the local government associations.



Rudolf Hauter

2010 - 2013

Hauter helped to explore the cooperation with possible partners and to enhance UCLG ASPAC presence especially in Southeast Asia.

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi

(2013-Now)

The first female Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC and all regional sections, she has led UCLG ASPAC with distinction since her term began on 2023. **Starting with 5 staff only in 1 July 2013, the Secretariat has now expanded to reach about 40 staff members** and consultants. The project revenue **has increased from USD 120,333 in 2013 to nearly 2 million in 2023** (as of September 2023). Over her tenure, UCLG ASPAC has more than 120 partnership agreements, has increased 100 % of newmembers, and received recognition from more than 70 partners.

As we reflect on this legacy, we honour the Presidents and Secretary Generals who have guided UCLG ASPAC. They contributed to the Organisational growth and strengths, resilience, and commitment for inclusive governance.

- **UN-HABITAT Special Citation 2023**
- **Honorary Citizenship from Jeonju City**
- **Honorary Citizenship from Jeollabuk-do Province**
- **Honorary Citizenship from Fuzhou City**
- **Member of Advisory Group on Gender Committee of UNHABITAT for 2015-2017**



Streamlining Operations: Behind-the-Scenes

UCLG ASPAC Secretariat actively collaborates with partners to transform visions into tangible outcomes. Through advocacy, knowledge sharing, and capacity enhancement for members, the Secretariat plays a crucial role in advancing the interests of our members.



People-Centric Approach:

Valuing employees as the driving force, the Secretariat empowers individuals to make a meaningful impact. Continuous improvement, professional development, and healthy working relationships contribute to achieving higher performance standards. The Secretariat has made significant advancements in various areas, such as the implementation of a learning organisation structure by utilising the e-Learning platform to support the staff onboarding process. Others are learning opportunities for staff, i.e. Training for Business English and Project Management as well as other Professional Certifications.



Project Management, Administrative and HR Procedures Advancements:

Over the past decade, the Secretariat has undergone notable advancements in administrative and human resources functions. This includes transitioning from limited resources to a slightly increased workforce. The first Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was created in 2013 and in 2020, its enhancement was made for Project Management.



Positive Workplace Culture:

The Secretariat's initiatives have fostered a positive workplace culture, evident in regular team-building retreats, open communication, and mutual respect among employees.



Streamlined Operations:

The Secretariat has invested in tools like the HR Integrated System Platform, implemented in July 2020. This online-based tool significantly improved the quality of HR Database and Reports. The deployment of an Enterprise Resources Planning (ERP) System has just started to enhance the integration of finance and administration procedures.



Employee Engagement Strategies:

Over a 10-year period, the Secretariat has implemented much diverse strategies, including empowerment, flexibility, and well-being programmes. As post-COVID-19 policy, employees are able to work from home once a week. Staff members have also an increase annual leave entitlement to 18 days. These demonstrate a commitment to work-life balance and employee well-being.

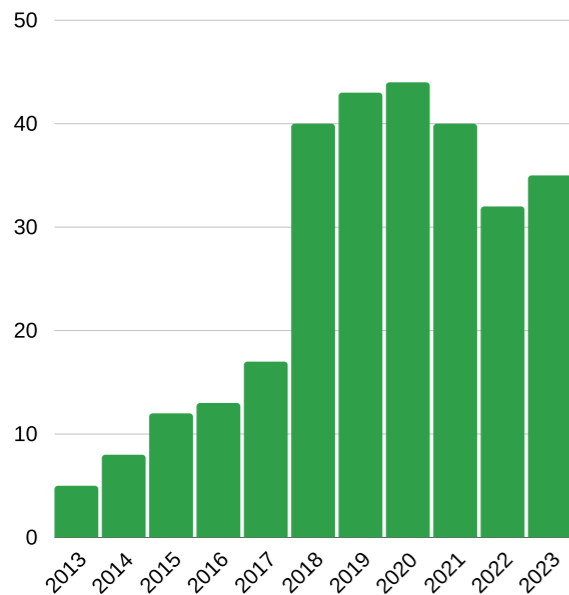


Commitment to Gender Equality:

The Secretariat is committed to gender balance, aiming for 50% female representation by 2023. This commitment is reflected in the Gender Equity Policy and sends a positive message about the organization's values and goals. Currently, as of 2023, the Secretariat has achieved 51% female representation (18 out of 35 people).

UCLG ASPAC'S Human Resources

UCLG ASPAC Secretariat is committed to engaging existing employees and future talent. The Secretariat headcount grew from 5 people in 2013 to the highest of 44 people in 2020, with 35 people by the end of 2023. This growth signifies the Secretariat's continuous efforts to enhance its operations and support UCLG ASPAC's mission.



Total Employees

2013	5
2014	8
2015	12
2016	13
2017	17
2018	40
2019	43
2020	44
2021	40
2022	32
2023	35

Note: As a result of COVID-19 pandemic, in 2022, several staff members started to work on consultancy basis.

Chart 1. Human Resource at the Secretariat from 2013-2023

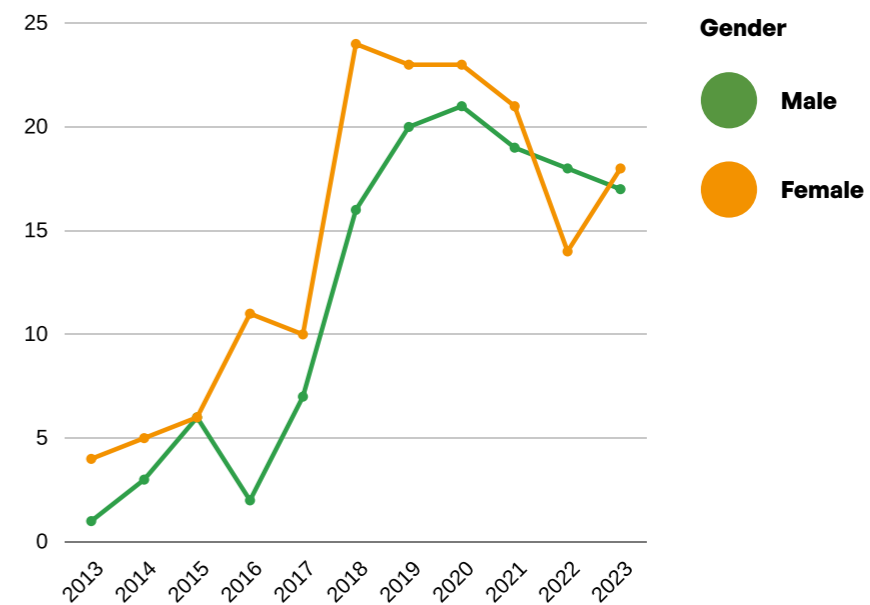
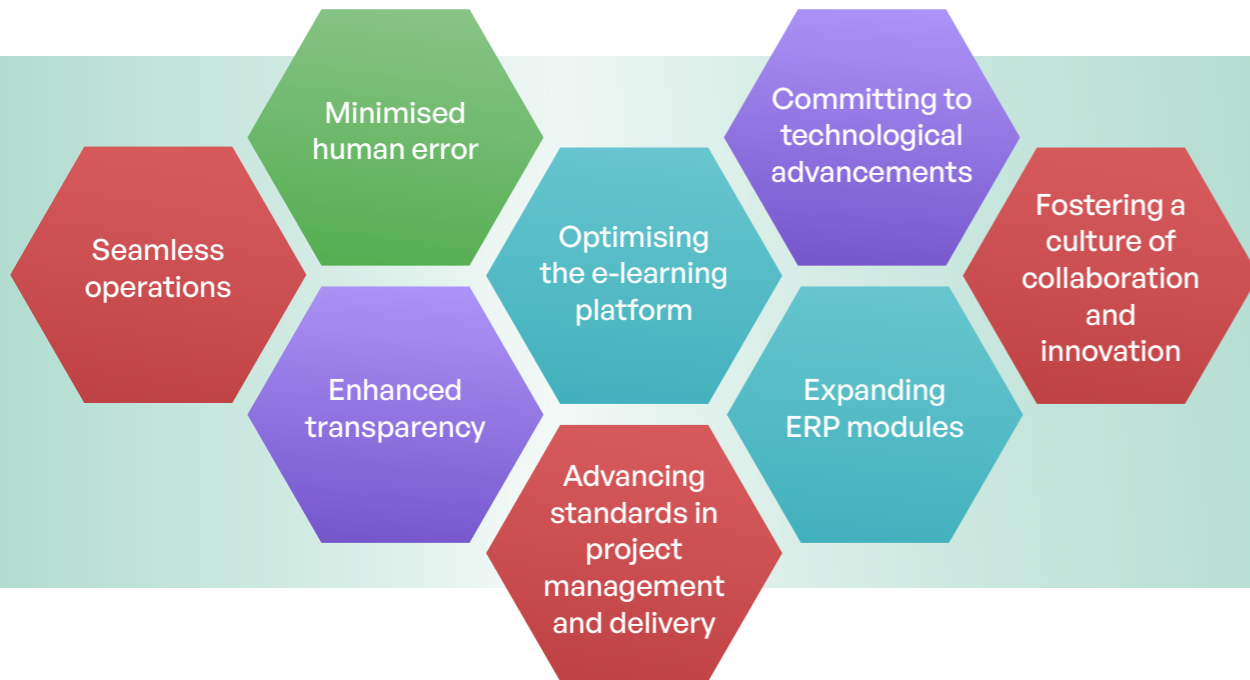


Chart 2. Human Resource at the Secretariat based on Gender from 2013-2023

The Secretariat team stands as the driving force behind UCLG ASPAC's achievement journey, exemplifying the power of collaboration. Their collective efforts, seen in initiatives like the HR Integrated System Platform and ongoing ERP System development, highlight dedication and competence. These efforts not only showcase individual expertise but also illuminate the team's synergy. Through this collaborative spirit, UCLG ASPAC turns visions into reality, with each member contributing to overarching success.

Looking ahead, UCLG ASPAC Secretariat envisions sustaining and elevating its success. The ongoing ERP development reflects a forward-thinking approach, aiming for:



“ Our heartfelt appreciation goes to the Secretariat team, the cornerstone of UCLG ASPAC's success. Their commitment to excellence, reflected in initiatives, financial management transformation, and project delivery improvement, propels us forward. With gratitude for their resilience, we look to the future with optimism. The team's collaborative and innovative approach assures us that UCLG ASPAC will continue making a profound impact on the local government sphere. Here's to the remarkable journey and the brighter path ahead. ”

UCLG ASPAC'S Team



Members and Youth Engagement at the Secretariat



Internship Programme:

Initiated in 2014, the programme aimed at engaging youth in international activities as a form of our commitment to nurturing the next generation. This programme attracts interns from Indonesia and countries like South Korea, China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Italy, and New Zealand. The number of interns has steadily increased, reaching 17 students in 2022. Interns actively participate in various tasks, concluding their period with presentations and final reports and providing them with the certificate.



Secondment Programme:

Launched in 2019, the programme aims to promote public service exchange among UCLG ASPAC members. Supported by an MOU, this initiative has seen active participation from China (Guangzhou) and South Korea (Seoul, Changwon and Daegu), with secondees experiencing organisational management and diverse cultural contexts. South Korea sent secondees in 2019, 2020, and 2021, while China participated in 2019.



Balancing the Books: Achievements in Financial Management

UCLG ASPAC's financial journey from 2013 to 2023 has been transformative, evolving from a membership-fees-only major revenue to strong donor-funded programmes for the Organisation. Its financial landscape has turned out to be more intricate, with a growing portfolio from collaborations with major donors, such as the EU, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, UN Agencies, and contributions from members mainly for Committees' activities.

Assets

UCLG ASPAC assets or 'cash and equivalent' has grown higher from time to time. It has more than 5 (five) times increments from 2013 to 2023 (as of 30 September 2023). This was contributed by the membership growth and programme fundings over the decade. There were assets declines in 2020 and 2022 when UCLG ASPAC has not received funding payment from the donors, meanwhile the programmes kept spending the existing budget and donors funding were received only following year.



Chart 3. UCLG ASPAC assets increased significantly in 2023 more than USD 3 million

Membership Fees Revenue

UCLG ASPAC's membership revenue is relatively steady. It tends to rise in tandem with its growing memberships. The Organisation faced a temporary decline during the COVID-19 pandemic (late 2019 to 2021), however, a rebound was observed in 2022, demonstrating resilience and adaptability in membership revenue generation.



Chart 4. Membership fee in 2023 as of 30 September 2023 and still may increase up to December 2023

Projects and Programmes Revenue

Engaging in projects and programmes with diverse donors has significantly boosted UCLG ASPAC's revenue, surging from a few USD in 2013 to nearly USD 2 million by 2023. Major donors have played a pivotal role in supporting projects programmes across the region. It was extended beyond Indonesia to countries like Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh. Fundings were used for advocacy, training and learning, and physical constructions as well.



Chart 5. Revenue from programme funding increased significantly in 2023

Substantial Financial Management Transformation

UCLG ASPAC has undergone a substantial financial management transformation through the implementation of the SAGE accounting software. This robust system, fully operational since 2015, ensures accountability and transparency, meeting the stringent financial standards set by international donors.

To further enhance efficiency and integration, UCLG ASPAC embarked on developing a custom Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system using Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central. This system, implemented in January 2023, seamlessly integrates human resources, procurement, operations, project management, and accounting. The ERP not only automates bookkeeping but also facilitates day-to-day activities for staff, such as attendance records, travel requests, and procurement processes. Future modules are in the pipeline, including Membership Database and Salary-Payroll modules, showcasing UCLG ASPAC's commitment to continuous improvement and innovation in financial management.

Developed Modules in ERP using Microsoft Dynamic 365 Business Central are as follow:

1. Human Resource
2. Key Performance Indicator (KPI)
3. Procurement
4. Finance & Accounting
5. Grant Management

For future development, UCLG ASPAC plans to develop the following modules:

1. Membership Database module
2. Salary – Payroll module





CHAPTER 6

Championing Excellence: Celebrating Our Members' Remarkable Achievements

Celebrating Remarkable Achievements

UCLG ASPAC embarks on a journey of inspiration as we celebrate and delve into the collective efforts and outstanding practices of our valued members. Member spotlights illuminate the diverse landscape of accomplishments within our network, demonstrating the innovative approaches and impactful initiatives that contribute to the broader goals and vision of the Organisation.

From pioneering progress to championing excellence, our members stand as inspirations for success. These offer valuable insights and set benchmarks for others to aspire to. There are thousands of successful examples from UCLG ASPAC members and many of them as shown below were captured by the Guangzhou Innovation Award – a flagship of Asia for the world.

Join us in recognising and applauding the exceptional contributions of members who make a lasting impact on the local and global stages.

Seoul

A powerhouse capital of South Korea, Seoul has been honoured with the prestigious United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA). In 2015, Seoul was recognised in the "Promoting Gender-Responsive Delivery of Public Services" category for its "Making Seoul a Safer City for Women" project. The initiative, driven by the Women Policy Division, encompassed educational programmes, the creation of supportive networks, and the establishment of a comprehensive reporting protection system.

Noteworthy impacts include the mobilisation of over 1,000 citizens as volunteers, the designation of 656 convenience stores to assist women in danger, and the assistance of 4,561 women through the reporting system. In 2019, Seoul received another UNPSA, this time in the "Promoting Gender-responsive Public Services to Achieve the SDGs" category, for its "Public Sanitary Pads Support Policy." This initiative, aligned with several SDGs, began in 2016 and evolved into a national project, providing sanitary pads to low-income teens that have created a positive social impact.



Source: Unsplash.com, Jet Deia Cruz

Chongqing



The City was honoured in 2020, showcasing innovative emergency solutions during the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasising SDGs 6, 9, and 11.

Gwangju



With dual recognition in 2014 and 2023 in the Guangzhou Award, Gwangju of South Korea, highlighted its GHGs Emission Programme and GwangJuness Community Care initiatives, aligning it with SDGs 3 and 11.

Jakarta



The host Secretariat of UCLG ASPAC, Jakarta has been shortlisted three times for Guangzhou Award in 2014, 2016, and 2023. This Metropolitan City exhibited excellence in initiatives such as Pluit Reservoir Revitalisation, participatory planning, and the Navi Station project, contributing to SDGs 4 and 11.

Yiwu



It was recognised with a "Special Mention Initiative" in 2018 and shortlisted in the same year for foreign service initiatives, showcasing innovative approaches to foreign-related disputes and services, contributing to SDGs 11, 10 and 16.

Semarang

The fifth-largest metropolitan city of Indonesia, Semarang City was recognised as the cleanest tourist city in Southeast Asia. Its attributes of the Semarang Wegah Nyampah (no waste) movement, the ban on plastic straws and bags, and a dual focus on quantity and quality of visits for economic growth and community well-being are the reasons behind its success. Semarang's commitment to low emissions and substantial green open spaces earned them the prestigious ASEAN Clean Tourist City Standard 2020-2022 Award.

Wuhan



The 2018 winner, transformed an abandoned landfill into a recreational park, aligning with SDGs 6, 9, 10, and 11.

Surabaya



Its 2018 victory in the "Online Popular City" category of Guangzhou Innovation Award acknowledged its innovative 3R Waste Management programme which addressed SDGs 3, 5, 6, 7, 11, and 13.

Hangzhou

The capital and most populous city of Zhejiang Province, a 2014 laureate of the Guangzhou Award, introduced the first public bicycle project in China, significantly addressing urban traffic challenges. Hangzhou initiated the Belt and Road Local Cooperation (BRLC) under the framework of UCLG ASPAC.



The Popular City

Guangzhou Innovation Award for Urban Innovation has a treasure trove of over 1,300 initiative submissions since its release in 2012, which cover a wide range of areas, including infrastructure and public services, participatory planning and good governance, partnerships, technology, resilience, social inclusion, and gender equality. It has become one of the biggest banks of data on urban innovation in the world.

More info: <http://www.guangzhouaward.org/>



Mayors Champion In Sanitation

UCLG ASPAC recognises outstanding contributions in the realm of sanitation through the first Asia-Pacific Sanitation Excellence Award. This initiative applauds local governments making significant strides in fulfilling SDG 6.2 by employing the City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) approach.

The award evaluates various criteria, safe sanitation action plans, social inclusion, sustainable sanitation business plans, and environmental impact, spotlighting innovative strategies and contributions to the sanitation value chain.

The recipients, Kushtia Municipality in Bangladesh and Ratnagar Municipality in Nepal, not only gain well-deserved recognition but also become champion leaders in the field. The next set of awards is scheduled on November 2023 at the UCLG ASPAC Congress in Yiwu.



Global Recognition

This dedication to excellence resonates across all facets of our network, including the prestigious UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award. This award recognises outstanding contributions to sustainable human settlements, housing provision, and urban life.

Open to individuals and organisations from various sectors, it places emphasis on achievements aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.

Mayor Tri Rismaharini, who served as President of UCLG ASPAC from 2018 to 2020, received the Scroll of Honour from UN-Habitat in 2018 for her excellent work in implementing people-centred and inclusive city regeneration initiatives in Surabaya. Her impactful projects in solid management, community mobilisation, and environmental improvement showcased a commitment to inclusive urban development.

On World Habitat Day, 2 October 2023, UCLG ASPAC Secretary General, Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, received a Special Citation from UN-Habitat, recognising her exceptional efforts in mainstreaming sustainable urbanisation at the local level in the Asia-Pacific Region.



Commitment to Excellence

Our commitment to excellence is extended to promoting peace, dialogues, and reconstruction globally, as exemplified by the UCLG Peace Prize. Recognising the vital role of local governments in conflict prevention and post conflict initiatives, this prize, rooted in the Hague Agenda on City Diplomacy, offers international acclaim and financial support for impactful peace projects. Past winners, Kauswagan (Philippines), Palmira (Colombia), Aarsal (Lebanon), showcase innovative approaches to peacebuilding.

UCLG ASPAC's first Awards on Sanitation Excellence given to two municipalities in Bangladesh in Nepal last April is another example of our commitment to bring city's leaders as the agent of transformation and change.

UCLG ASPAC members are urged to elevate their contributions to sustainable and peaceful development on a global stage. As we celebrate these remarkable achievements, let the spirit of collaboration and commitment to positive change continue to guide our collective journey toward a more sustainable, inclusive, and peaceful world.





“

As we celebrate these milestones, let us remember that the journey doesn't end here. Each achievement is a stepping stone, and together, as a community, we forge ahead toward even greater heights. Our collective dedication to excellence and innovation is the driving force that propels us toward a future where our cities, regencies, and provinces are not just sustainable but thriving symbols of progress.

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi



CHAPTER 7

Charting Tomorrow:
UCLG ASPAC's Path
to Progress

UCLG ASPAC's Path to Progress

As UCLG ASPAC embarks on the next phase of its journey, strategic priorities and a clear vision will guide its path. The Organisation envisions a future where local governance is not just effective but transformative. The strategic priorities are designed to align with the evolving landscape of challenges and opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region.

The recognitions are just a few of many acknowledgements and honours that members of UCLG ASPAC, cities and local governments, have received. These should be good encouragement and motivation for the Organisation to work towards building better and prosperous cities and territories.



1

ADAPTING TO EMERGING CHALLENGES

In a world marked by constant change, UCLG ASPAC recognises the importance of adaptability. The Organisation is committed to staying ahead of emerging challenges, be it in the realms of technology, environmental sustainability, or governance dynamics. This involves continuous assessment, proactive planning, and the integration of innovative solutions into its initiatives.

3

MEMBERS AS ARCHITECTS OF CHANGE

UCLG ASPAC recognises the invaluable role its members play in shaping the organisation's future. The vision involves empowering members to be architects of change, contributing actively to the decision-making processes, and sharing insights that reflect the diverse needs and aspirations of local communities.

FOSTERING NEW COLLABORATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration is at the heart of UCLG ASPAC's success. The Organisation will actively seek out new collaborations to broaden its impact and strengthen existing partnerships to ensure sustained growth. By fostering a network of like-minded entities, UCLG ASPAC aims to create a collaborative ecosystem that amplifies the collective voice of local governments in the region.

2

4

ENSURING INCLUSIVITY IN FUTURE INITIATIVES

Inclusivity is not just a goal but a guiding principle for UCLG ASPAC. The Organisation will implement strategies to ensure that its future initiatives are inclusive, considering the unique perspectives and challenges faced by different communities. This involves actively seeking input from marginalised groups, promoting gender equality, and addressing the specific needs of diverse regions.

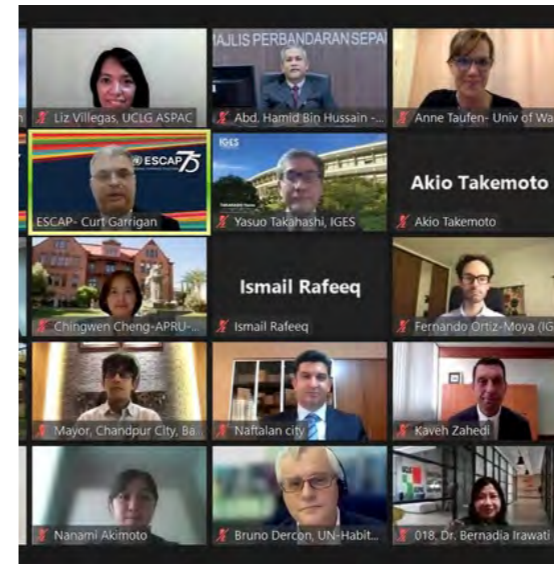
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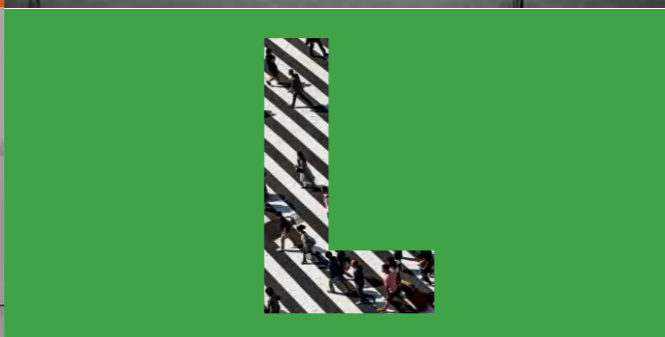
CONTINUED ADVOCACY AND POLICY INFLUENCE

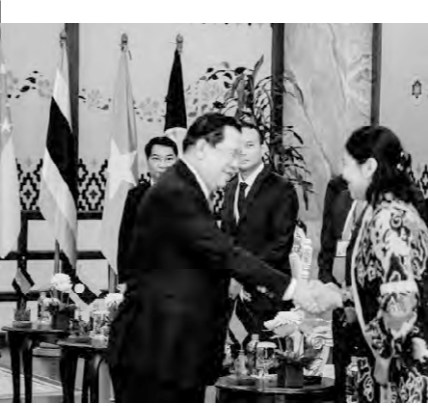
Advocacy remains a cornerstone of UCLG ASPAC's mission. The Organisation will continue to actively engage in regional mechanisms and global platforms, amplifying the voices of local governments. By influencing policy at local and international levels, UCLG ASPAC aims to drive systemic change that reflects the principles of inclusivity, sustainability, and effective governance.

CONCLUSION

The future of UCLG ASPAC is a collective endeavour, shaped by the dedication of its members, the strength of its partnerships, and a forward-thinking approach to challenges. As the Organisation moves forward, it does so with a clear vision, strategic priorities, and an unwavering commitment to building a future where local governance is not just a function but a force for positive transformation.









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