

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

NEWSLETTER

CREATIVE ECONOMY & TOURISM

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INITIATIVE

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SANITATION CONCLAVE





Governor Dakila Carlo Cua

**Governor, Quirino Province
President, Union of
Local Authorities of the
Philippines (ULAP)
President, UCLG ASPAC**

Dear Governors, Mayors, and Fellow Local Government Leaders,

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for your unwavering support, culminating in my election as President during the 9th UCLG ASPAC Congress in Yiwu, China in November 2023. The trust bestowed upon me fills me with humility and a profound sense of duty as we embark on this collective journey to build upon the remarkable achievements of the UCLG ASPAC under President Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha and Secretary General Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all of you to the First Session of the Executive Bureau Meeting with the theme "Enhancing Sustainable Tourism and Creative Economy through Asia-Pacific Collaboration". This theme underscores the critical importance of sustainable tourism and the creative economy in driving inclusive growth, fostering cultural exchange, and preserving our natural and cultural heritage. In the Asia-Pacific region characterised by its rich diversity and dynamic landscapes, these sectors hold immense potential to empower local communities, generate economic opportunities, and promote environmental stewardship.

As representatives of local governments across the Asia-Pacific region, we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to harness the power of collaboration and innovation in advancing these goals. By sharing best practices, leveraging resources, and fostering decentralised cooperation and partnerships across borders, we can amplify our collective impact and create a more resilient and equitable future for our communities.

I have full confidence in our combined ability to overcome challenges, seize opportunities, and realise our shared vision of a more prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable Asia-Pacific region.

As we navigate the future, I eagerly anticipate our continued collaboration at upcoming events including the ASEAN Mayors Forum in Lao, PDR, the UCLG ASPAC Council Meeting in Zhengzhou, China, and the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Philippines, among other crucial engagements. I remain wholeheartedly committed to serving alongside each of you toward a more sustainable and inclusive future.

Mabuhay!



Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi

**Secretary General,
UCLG ASPAC**

Dear valued readers,

I am excited to greet you all in the First Session of the Executive Bureau Meeting 2024, taking the theme "Enhancing Sustainable Tourism and Creative Economy through Asia-Pacific Collaboration," in North Minahasa, specifically in Likupang which is one of the top five super priority of tourism destinations in Indonesia. I believe we can bring back home fresh insights for better tourism and economic development. In this newsletter, we present good practices from our four sub-regions on sustainable tourism.

I would like to update you on the progress that our Organisation has made. We are proud that we have succeeded in organising the First Mekong Corridor Dialogue, the Mekong Corridor Initiative, in addressing urban challenges in the area of nearly 65 million inhabitants. UCLG ASPAC has also supported Jakarta City in implementing the Kalibaru Hub Project, funded by the Global Resilience Cities Network. As the Secretariat of The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) Southeast Asia, we had an insight-sharing session for cities on key outcomes of COP28. In the sanitation sector, we made a significant contribution to sanitation exposure in Nepal shown by the National City-Wide Inclusive (CWIS) Sanitation conclave in Kathmandu. We have ensured local and regional government advocacy in the 11th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) through the Local and Regional Government Assembly and capacity development under the framework of the Urban-Act project. Our Climate Resilient and Inclusive Cities (CRIC) Project, in its Expert Panel, brought the importance of urban resilience and early warning systems.

On this occasion, I would like to thank the local government of North Minahasa, especially Mayor Joune Ganda, for hosting the meeting. We want to leave a tangible impact by having the small-scale project supported by Guangzhou on the hygiene food programme and water resources benefiting five schools in North Minahasa. I hope that our support for North Minahasa can positively impact the people. Let us continue our strong collaboration and commitment towards more resilient, prosperous, and sustainable cities and regions in Asia-Pacific.

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Experience North Minahasa Like a Local!

Touch down and be ready to enjoy **immersive beauty** and **delectable local cuisines**



LIKUPANG

A hidden gem in North Minahasa Regency located only 48 km from Manado.



WARUGA

A sarcophagus or above ground tomb made of stone. The Waruga Burial Complex has become a tourist destination to see the traditional burial of Minahasa.



LIHAGA ISLAND

Uninhabited, the island is blessed with natural beauty, white sands, and greeneries.



Bubur Tinutan

Tinutan Porridge



Pisang GoroHo and Sambal Roa

GoroHo Banana and Roa Chili



Panada

Fried bread with cakalang fish as filling



Lalampa

Roasted glutinous rice with cakalang fish filling



Nasi Kuning

Yellow rice



Cakalang Fufu

Cakalang fish smoked with herbs and spices



• sources: from various sources

Creative Economy



What It Is

- Known as Orange Economy
- An evolving concept that embraces economic, cultural, and social aspects interacting with technology, intellectual property, and tourism objectives: it is a set of knowledge-based, and thus more localised, economic activities with a development dimension and cross-cutting linkages at macro and micro levels to the overall economy.
- It also has a multitude of dimensions, making contributions to economic, social, cultural development, and has a potential for contributing to achieving the sustainable development goals.

Source: [New Economics for Sustainable Development: Creative Economy](#)

Role of Local Governments in Promoting Creative Economy



How It Complements With Other New Economics for Sustainable Development Concepts

Green and Circular Economy

It offers creative approach in addressing sustainable consumption and production patterns of a circular economy. It goes beyond recycling and waste management, and focuses on designing products, processes, and services to optimise their use and impact.

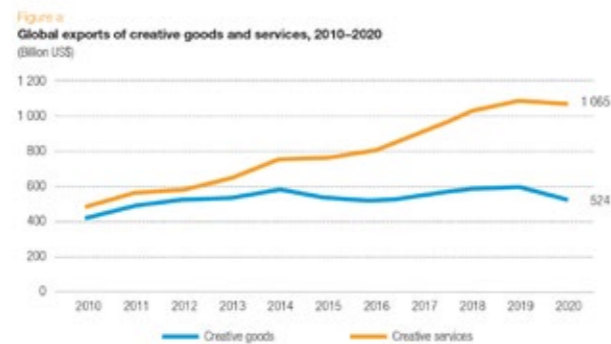
Digital Economy

The COVID-19 pandemic showed how the digital aspects of creative economy can provide great opportunities.

Blue Economy

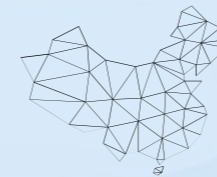
Linked through tourism, esp. coastal and eco-tourism, which can include domains such as cultural services (museums, theatres, gastronomy), and production of tourism goods (crafts).

Facts and Insights about Creative Economy



- Aligned with SDGs, especially Goal 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17.
- Women hold 45% of creative occupations worldwide.
- Creative services were more resilient during the COVID-19 pandemic than other services sectors.
- In 2020, exports of creative services were down by only 1.8 per cent (exports of all services fell by 20% (mainly driven by travel and transport services, which contracted by 62.5% and 20.3% in 2020, respectively)).
- During the COVID-19, software services registered an annual growth of 5.6%.
- Provided not just employment but also technology-resilient employment (require individuals' cultural sensitivity, social skills, and personal vision).

HOW FAR CAN CITIES CONTRIBUTE TO GDP



Wuhan contributes **12.2%** to China (2021) (statista.com)



Jakarta contributes **16.96%** to Indonesia (2023) (knoema.com)



New Delhi contributes **4.20%** to India (2019-2020) (hindustantimes.com)



Sydney contributes **24.1%** to Australia (2018-2019) (sgsep.com.au)

Recommendations

- Build definitions and classifications.
- Work with international organisations.
- Set clear objectives, bring together relevant stakeholders, conceptualise and define the scope of creative industries, identify parameters to measure and available data sources, and collect and analyse data.
- Involve authorities and institutions working in the cultural and creative sector, national statistical offices, and central banks to identify already existing data sources;
- Collect and analyse data on women, youth, informal workers, and other marginalised groups working in the creative sector for inclusive and evidence-informed policy making.

We keep **good practices** on creative economy sector from Southeast Asia, South Asia, East Asia, and Pacific sub-regions for cities and local governments to **learn and get insights**.



Cambodian Living Arts

Mr. Arn Chorn-Pond, a musician, genocide survivor and human rights activist, initially set up in 1998 a Cambodian Master Performers Programme. He believed that music, love, and creativity could heal Cambodia and Cambodian people from the effects of war.

The first ten years of the work was primarily focused on preserving endangered performing art forms and rituals. In 2009, it was renamed Cambodian Living Arts (CLA), aiming at developing talent and skills and to enable its sustainability. CLA has also focused on helping talented people to build and develop careers in the arts. Since 2017, CLA has also focused on creative expression, stimulating creativity among a new generation of artists by providing small grants, running creative skills workshops, and supporting the creation of new work.

After two decades, CLA has fully evolved as a grant maker and catalyst in strengthening creativity and expression by providing different types of grants and commissioning new works to develop a healthy arts ecosystem.



Works

Since 1998, CLA has set up 28 classes of traditional performing arts in nine provinces, reaching over 500 students between the ages of 10 and 35 years.

CLA provides scholarships, mentoring, advanced art training and networking opportunities, creative leadership and management courses, and field visits.

Results

More than 100 students were awarded scholarships (2010-2021), including persons with disabilities (PWDs) and indigenous peoples.

Scholarships included personal development and leadership, knowledge about arts sector and networking, and foundations of project management.

79% of scholarship students became professional artists or leaders in arts related institutions. **21%** became staff or leaders in non-arts institutions, including government, civil society organisations, and private companies.



“Whereas our arts, culture and traditions were destroyed so suddenly and so quickly, the work of healing and rebuilding is a process that takes generations. Today, the Scholarship Programme makes it possible for young people to further their studies, to learn new skills and to stick with their dreams of building a career in the arts. That hope is what I wanted to pass to a new generation.”

Mr. Arn Chorn-Pond

Founder of Cambodian Living Arts



● sources: from various sources



Republic of Korea: Technology-based Lending

In 2014, the Republic of Korea (ROK) adopted a policy system and related measures to develop a technology-based lending framework to promote access to financing of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The country conducted a year of policy research and design before it finally launched technology-based lending for SMEs in the banking sector.

How?

ROK introduced five building blocks

Technology credit bureaus

It will become technology credit rating producers for financial institutions.



Technology database

To provide the bureaus with information on most updated technology, gather data on technology credit ratings, and share them with banks and technology credit bureaus.



Policy incentives

To promote technology-based lending.



Technology credit ratings

A company rated B in the traditional credit rating system can receive an A+ in the technology credit rating system because of its outstanding technology.

Technology-based lending performance review

To review all banks semi-annually, including bank's capability in terms of personnel and expertise, as well as proportion out of the total SME loans.

Key Features

Technology-based lending offers:



Larger
loan amounts



Lower
interest rates

Result

How effective is it?

After more than eight years since its inception, the outstanding amount of technology-based lending has reached 341.7 trillion Korean won (KRW) or \$283.5 billion, reflecting about 35% of total SME loans as of October 2022.

Good Practice

STAR's TECH, a start-up founded in 2017 by an undergraduate student of biochemical engineering at Seoul National University, developed a deicer called ECO-ST using starfish extracts to mitigate environmental damage during artificial snow removal and reduce the harmful effects of starfish to fishery industries. Initially, it received informal financing from family and friends. STAR's TECH benefited from technology-based loan system. After four years, it penetrated 16% of local deicer market, ramped up sales six times to KRW17.4 billion in 2021, and expanded to the Canadian market in 2022.





Ethical Business

Aarong has given rise to a greater demand for locally manufactured fabrics, which in turn has played a vital role in reviving the almost extinct traditional fabric and cloth. It is committed to being environmentally friendly and has also introduced dyes free from AZO (restricted aromatic which may be harmful to skin) and PCP (used for chlorination, also deemed harmful) in its cotton fabric production.

Benefits for People

AAF's services to the artisans include free skill-building, supply of raw materials for production, transportation of goods, quality control, storage, management, finance, marketing, and microfinance loan options through Aarong. AAF employees in rural communities also receive various support from BRAC: micro-credit services; seeds, agriculture, poultry, livestock, and fisheries inputs; free schooling for their children; subsidised tube-wells and sanitary latrines; health care including free eye check-ups and glasses, free treatment of tuberculosis and severe illnesses and health education; as well as legal awareness and support. Women recruited by AAF benefit from a living wage and job security. The workspaces are often right at the doorsteps of the artisans, to enable them to mainly work from home while being able to look after their families.

● sources: from various sources



Aarong: Social Enterprise in Bangladesh

Aarong, “village fair” in Bengali, is a platform that links rural artisans producing silk and crafts with urban retailers, through online and offline stores. Starting from a humble initiative, Aarong has now become one of Bangladesh’s largest fashion retail chains and the largest retail space in the country.

Set up in 1978 under the umbrella of Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee (BRAC), Aarong was born out of BRAC’s extended commitment to empower the poor, particularly women, and to create a long-term approach for community development. BRAC saw the potential women producing craft works did not have sufficient buyers for their products and, thus, connected them with the urban retailers through Aarong.

The Ayesha Abed Foundation (AAF)

Founded by the family of the late Ayesha Abed, a former leader of BRAC, AAF supports the sustainability of Aarong by gathering and organising both skilled and previously untrained artisans from various village organisations across the country and giving them training and employment. Brac.net website mentions that AAF has 13 centres and 541 sub-centres spread across Bangladesh and serves as Aarong’s production hubs.



Akina: “Bold Action” in New Zealand

Akina Foundation, initially named Hikurangi Foundation, was a social enterprise incubator established in 2008 to support practical action on climate change and the environment. Years later, the foundation financed and supported a variety of grassroots and community-led innovation projects, such as in transport, housing, consumption and waste, land and ecosystems, and energy.

In 2014, Hikurangi was renamed into Akina, meaning Bold Action, following the New Zealand government’s Position Statement on Social Enterprise, which expressed a commitment to ‘identify any policy

barriers to social enterprise growth and to work collaboratively to create an enabling, supportive environment where more social enterprises can grow and attract investment.’

It continues offering development support to people with ideas for social or environmental change, either within early stage or established social enterprises, or organisations which are interested. Akina provides a range of services and activities including training workshops, clinics in different locations, advisory services, a ‘launchpad’ to coach and test business ideas, and an incubator, from 12 to 36 months.



Case Studies

- Akina supported Bloom Pukekohe, a **transformative horticultural and craft-based programme** for adults with intellectual disabilities. For Bloom, Akina helped define job roles, reviewed Bloom’s internal structure, and educated the board on the principles of the Good Governance Code, instilling a sense of direction.
- Akina supported Beca, an independent advisory, design and engineering consultancy employing more than 3,800 people in 25 offices around the world. Akina designed internal capability-building sessions and brainstorming on how the organisation could implement practical actions to increase their impact. With support from Akina, Beca took an **action learning approach**, focusing on engaging with diverse suppliers through regional pilots and centres of excellence.
- Akina supported Leaft Foods, striving to **reduce the environmental impact of agriculture** by creating a new economy that taps into the global shift to plant-based eating, having developed a model that extracts a highly nutritional plant protein called Rubisco from green leafy crops. Akina’s Impact Investment Readiness Programme (IIRP) funding supported them to scale their research and development production and maximise their environmental outcomes and supply chain efficiencies.



Results

(various support by Akina)

Procurement Area

- 81** certified organisations
- 21** buyer members
- 136** certified products and services
- 13** buyer events supporting their capability to use social procurement to create positive impact

Capacity Building

- 130** impact tools developed for clients
- Supported **+100** impact-led enterprises with capacity building services

Investment

- 172** expressions of interest for the impact investment readiness programme
- Average **161% growth** in full time equivalent employees of impact enterprises six months after receiving impact investment.

sources: from various sources



Strengthening Collaboration among Towns and Cities of the Mekong River Basin to Shape a Sustainable Future

UCLG ASPAC collaborated with Cities Alliance in the Mekong Corridor Initiative. The initiative addresses urban challenges in the Mekong Subregion, an area that naturally interconnects five member countries of ASEAN: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The area plays an even more crucial role as it is home to nearly 65 million inhabitants (mcrmekong.org) and is projected to soar. The Mekong Corridor Initiative addresses challenges arising in the area such as climate change, declining agricultural yields, water scarcity, biodiversity loss, and waste management through dialogues, collaborations, and project implementation. Under the Mekong Corridor Initiative, UCLG ASPAC organised the Mekong Corridor Dialogues on February 27-28, 2024 in Vientiane.



The Urban Mekong Corridor Dialogue #1

Funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the First Urban Mekong Dialogue hosted by the Vientiane City Government, successfully gathered around 100 cities and local government leaders and officials from Cambodia (Phnom Penh, Kampong Cham, National League of Commune/NLC), Lao PDR (Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Pakse, Thakek, Kaysone), Thailand (Mukhdahan, Nong Khai), and Viet Nam (The Association of Cities of Viet Nam/ACVN) who shared a common vision of inclusive and green urban development. The delegates fostered collaborative approaches to developing economic clusters, creating a competitive, interconnected, and sustainable network of cities and local governments to ensure inclusive and equitable development.

In the event, delegates discussed their sustainable growth practices, especially on plastic and solid waste management as lessons learned and further action plan development. The event also provided mentorship with ASEAN cities of Mekong Corridor to accelerate urban development strategies. The dialogue resulted in a comprehensive planning approach that balances economic and social equity with environmentally sustainable development in

the Greater Mekong Subregion. The dialogue also produced an Urban Mekong Corridor Initiative (UMCI) Commitment, involving high-level dignitaries from Mekong countries, demonstrating a strong regional commitment to promote sustainable urban development and collaboration among cities along the Mekong Corridor. Delegates also joined a study visit to That Luang and Solid Waste Transfer Station Nahai Village, Saysettha District. Delegates were also informed with practical information on how Vientiane Capital achieves sustainability through solid and organic waste management.

Continuing the success of the first dialogue, a second dialogue will be organised and hosted by Phnom Penh Capital Administration, Cambodia, in June 2024, focusing on the technical matters for the realisation of long-term project implementation. The second dialogue will target the first dialogue participants, and other ASEAN cities (and beyond) to strengthen project proposals on solid waste plastic management and nature-based solutions.

Click for UMCI Commitment:
<https://tinyurl.com/5n8umajv>



Urban-Act: Supporting Vertical Integration of Climate Actions in Asia-Pacific

UCLG ASPAC, under the framework of the Urban-Act project, ensured the involvement of city governments in a dialogue on local action financing organised as the side event on the 11th APFSD with the theme of ‘Financing Local Actions for SDG13: Enabling Frameworks to Accelerate City Climate Finance in Asia-Pacific’ on February 21, 2024 in Bangkok.

Side Event Urban-Act at the 11th APFSD: Financing Local Actions for SDG13: Enabling Frameworks to Accelerate City Climate Finance in Asia-Pacific

This side event was organised by UCLG ASPAC, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationalen Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA) as well as other participating Urban-Act partners.

The event commenced with opening remarks from Mr. Mohamed Faiz - State Minister, Ministry of Housing, Land and Urban Development Maldives, delivered by Ms. Aishath Shahula, First Secretary of Embassy of Maldives in Thailand. The remarks underscored the pivotal role of finance in the Asia-Pacific region, acknowledging its contribution to economic growth and prosperity. He stressed the importance of collaboration between governments, financing institutions, and other stakeholders to align efforts with the Agenda 2030, particularly in the context of climate finance.

The urban regional assessment framework methodology was presented by CCFLA, highlighting the standardised approach for analysis of enabling framework conditions related to cities’ ability to access climate finance. This methodology seeks to support subnational governments throughout the Asia-Pacific region in accessing and financing low-carbon, climate-resilient development. The assessment tool is focusing on four aspects of evaluation, including 1) climate policy, 2) public finance and budget, 3) climate data, and 4) vertical and horizontal coordination.

The discussion panel explored strategies for improving access to climate finance for cities in Asia Pacific. Ms. Anna Amalia from the Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas Indonesia, highlighted various finance bottlenecks faced by cities, including issues related to leadership, capacity, and authority. Meanwhile, Mayor Jane Censoria Cajes-Yap of Tagbilaran City, the Philippines, discussed opportunities to enhance mechanisms such as disaster risk reduction laws and the updating of local climate action plans. Additionally, Mr. MD Ansur Rahman from Sirajganj Municipality, Bangladesh, underscored the

significance of legal mandates, policy frameworks, and capacity building as essential elements of the enabling framework for cities’ climate finance. Sirajganj Municipality also shared its initiatives aimed at attracting climate finance, including the development of green infrastructure and the restoration of water channels.

UCLG ASPAC Co-President and Dhulikel Municipality Mayor Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha delivered his closing remarks, expressing hope that the framework presented would pave the way for cities to access climate funding effectively. He stressed the potential of such initiatives to enhance climate resilience and inclusivity, urging continued collaboration among participants to ensure that climate finance serves as a catalyst for building resilient and inclusive cities.

UCLG ASPAC also ensured cities channeled their voices in Urban-Act Partners Meeting held prior to the side event. Representatives from each of the pilot cities in Urban Act, such as Padang City, Khon Kaen City, and Tagbilaran City; shared their concerns related to their respective focal areas.

- Mr. Didi Aryadi from Padang expressed concerns about urban mobility and advocated for transitioning to electric vehicles to support low-carbon environments.
- Ms. Anna Amalia from the Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning highlighted national-level focus on medium-term development planning and the need for climate resilience action plans at the city level.
- Dr. Pasit from Khon Kaen City shed light on the city’s climate change management initiatives.
- Mayor Jane from Tagbilaran City discussed the city’s focus on land use planning and waste management.
- Other participants from Bangladesh mentioned notable progress have been made with policy documents such as climate resilience masterplans and Green Climate Fund projects. ESCAP highlighted Bangladesh’s role as an emerging centre of excellence for adaptation, emphasising the importance of sharing knowledge with other nations.



Urban-Act Partners Meeting Sets Agenda for Climate Action in 2024

The gathering brought together consortium partners, including ESCAP, GIZ, and UCLG ASPAC. Each partner presented their priorities and timelines for the upcoming year.

ESCAP’s Priorities

The assessment of national enabling conditions for cities to access climate finance, and introduction of project concepts such as the Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) Green Solid Waste Management and Sustainable Urban Mobility. ESCAP aims to launch a city climate finance matchmaking programme, to conduct training sessions on climate-sensitive urban planning, and to organise a webinar series focusing on climate-conscious cities.

GIZ’s Priorities

Build partnerships with pilot cities to align sector priorities and needs. GIZ aims to commence research and technical work in collaboration with government partners on climate-sensitive urban planning, to review climate plans and investment plans of cities to identify priorities, leverage resources for project preparation, and to identify training needs for peer learning and knowledge transfer across cities.

UCLG ASPAC’s Priorities

The assessment of city enabling environments for environmental and climate change governance. UCLG ASPAC plans to publish a policy brief on urban climate governance and policy instruments for climate-sensitive urban planning, to support evidence-based climate-sensitive urban planning and the integration of climate change indicators into urban development plans, to develop a joint regional declaration, and to promote city pairing cooperation.

The Urban-Act partnership meeting served as a crucial gathering for aligning efforts and setting a comprehensive agenda for climate action in 2024. With strong collaboration and focused initiatives, the consortium aims to make significant strides in advancing climate resilience and sustainable urban development across the Asia-Pacific region.

Through the side event and partners meeting, the Urban-Act project secured the pathway for the smooth implementation of vertical integration of climate actions in the spirit of collaboration between stakeholders and partners.

Focusing on the completion of Output 1 (Improved institutional environment for climate-sensitive urban development) and Output 2 (Evidence-based and inclusive climate-sensitive spatial and urban planning) in 2024, the Urban-Act Project is setting the goals for the successful delivery of Output 3 (Project concepts for urban climate action investments identified).

UCLG ASPAC Internship Programme: Because Youth Matter



Since its inception, UCLG ASPAC has endeavoured to bring youth issues to the forefront through various means, such as organising Youth Forums or incorporating youth issues into discussions at multiple meetings. UCLG ASPAC is also committed to providing a platform for youth to grow and learn through the UCLG ASPAC Internship Programme (UAIP).

UAIP offers a unique opportunity for final-year students and recent graduates to immerse themselves in the dynamic realm of local governance and sustainable development within the Asia-Pacific region. This internship initiative aims to offer professional exposure and hands-on experience, enabling them to contribute to the projects and initiatives of local governments actively.

UAIP is designed to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, nurturing a new generation of leaders equipped



with the skills and insights necessary to address complex urban issues. Through this programme, interns are encouraged to leverage their diverse backgrounds, acquire new skills, and gain comprehensive knowledge of UCLG ASPAC's operational activities, thereby making meaningful contributions to the pursuit of sustainable development and inclusive governance in the Asia-Pacific region.

The implementation of UAIP has several main objectives: to raise youth awareness of urban and local governance issues, to enable youth to voice their ideas and concepts for better cities, and ultimately, to provide youth with the experience of working in an international organisation focused on local government issues. To date, UCLG ASPAC has welcomed over 200 youth coming from various educational backgrounds and different countries, dispersed across multiple divisions.

Internship Programme Collaboration

In late 2023, UCLG ASPAC hosted two internship students (Naeum Kim and Sungchan Lee) from Jeonju City, South Korea. Jeonju City decided to send young interns to international organisations for the first time in four years since 2019, aiming to foster global leadership among local youth.

This programme lasted for approximately two months, during which they were required to present their final activity report to the Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC, Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi.

UAIP 2024: New Internship Programme Format

In 2024, UCLG ASPAC introduced a new system. Youths can choose their internship period through three batches of applications in a year and select the desired professional field, such as Research and Policy, Knowledge Management, Communication (Social Media & Campaign), Project & Programme, and Finance & Accounting.

In, UAIP 2024 has received over 100 applicants from youth in the Asia-Pacific region, coming from different educational backgrounds, interests, and skills. It demonstrates significant interest among youth in the region in gaining work experience and contributing to urban and local governance issues by joining internship programme.

Out of the 100+ applicants, 15 top candidates were selected for interviews and five candidates were selected to join UAIP 2024 Batch 1. They will intern in Research and Policy, Knowledge Management, and Communication (Social Media and Campaign) for three months. With this new format for implementing the internship programme, every youth who participates will gain valuable experience and enhance their capabilities.

World Water Council: Invitation to Local Governments in Asia and the Pacific to the 10th World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia



UCLG ASPAC Secretariat Office in Jakarta received the visit of Mr. Loic Fauchon, the President of the World Water Council (WWC) on March 26, 2024. Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC, warmly welcomed WWC President together with Ms. Yoonjin Kim, Director of WWC for Asia Pacific Region and The 10th World Water Forum, and Mr. Mohammad Zainal Fatah, the Secretary General of Ministry of Public Works and Housing of Indonesia and his team members. The Forum will be held in Bali on May 18-25, 2024, in cooperation with the Government of Indonesia, led by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing.

The meeting highly recognised the important role of cities and local governments and thus specifically encouraged their active participation in the upcoming World Water Forum. “Local authorities are playing more important roles in water issues,” said Mr. Loic Fauchon. “We will work with local authorities in Asia and the Pacific for commitment, concrete and practical solutions to the world,” he added. Dr. Bernadia positively responded to this and expressed her appreciation for the visit.

UCLG ASPAC has been working with local governments and relevant stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific on water and sanitation issues, including the MuNASS programme supported by BMGF. UCLG ASPAC also works on transboundary cooperation like the Mekong Corridor Initiative and disaster risk reduction.

In the meeting, Mr. Loic Fauchon emphasised the importance of cooperation, including public and private partnerships to bring more capacity and investment in water-related issues. He added, “We have to better control water resources, reduce the water demand, and increase the quality of water and sanitation.”

UCLG World is coordinating the local authorities political process at the 10th World Water Forum by organising the Local and Regional Governments Day. UCLG ASPAC will also organise the side event entitled “International Workshop on Building Smart and Resilient Cities and Communities in Asia and the Pacific: Role of Policy Makers and Planners of Local Governments,” in partnership with United Nations Center for Regional Development (UNCRD) based in Nagoya, Japan.



Key takeaway

The need to move beyond simply responding to disasters and focus on building resilience through preventative measures.

Lessons Learned

(from CRIC pilot cities that have prioritised early warning systems: Ternate, Pangkalpinang, and Bandar Lampung)

- Mr. Saefullah, member of the CRIC Climate Working Group (Pokja) from Ternate: the importance of considering multi-faceted disasters in risk reduction.
- Mr. Erika Handoko, as Head of Government, Human Development, Economy, and Infrastructure of Pangkalpinang city's planning agency: the need for cross-sectoral and cross-stakeholder collaboration such as financial institutions.
- Mrs. Rein Susinda Hesty, Head of the city's Regional Development Planning, Research, and Innovation Agency (Bapperida) in Economy and Human Resources of Bandar Lampung: the importance of public consultation in implementing action plans.

Building Urban Resilience: Insights from the CRIC Panel of Experts in Makassar

UCLG ASPAC, under the Climate Resilient and Inclusive Cities (CRIC) Project, convened a Thematic Panel of Experts on Urban Resilience and Early Warning Systems on March 5, 2024 in Makassar. Taking theme “Building City Resilience through Triangular Cooperation”, the panel underscored the importance of collaboration among stakeholders in addressing climate change, inclusivity, and building resilience. The event brought over 100 attendees, from local government representatives, 10 CRIC pilot cities and its stakeholders, strategic partners, and experts on early warning systems and urban resilience. The event was graced by Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC; Mr. Thibaut Portevin, Head of Cooperation from EU Delegation to Indonesia/ASEAN; and Mayor Mohammad Ramdan Pomanto of Makassar.



The Expert Panels

- Dr. Dian Afriyanie from ITB Centre for Climate Change and Co-founder of Lokahita emphasised the need to transition from risk-based to resilience-based adaptation.
- Dr. Eng. Ilham Alimmudin from Hasanuddin University in Makassar, Head of the LPPM Disaster Study Centre, highlighted the importance of inclusive processes in building resilience, as well as adopting and social-ecological systems way of thinking. He also encouraged local governments to provide continuous disaster literacy campaigns.
- Mr. Muhammad Fadli as Pacific Disaster Centre Liaison for AHA Centre discussed strategies for mitigating disasters and enhancing resilience, especially amidst growing occurrences of hydro-meteorological disasters.

Insights from Partners



“**Early warning systems is integral in disaster risk reduction**, yet also complex in its nature when wrapped in the overarching aim of enhancing resilience. Therefore, there is a need for comprehensive tools, continuous development, contingency plans, and adequate funding support.”

Dr. Pascaline Gaborit,
Founder of Pilot4Dev

“Early warning systems should be looked into as tools rather than ultimate solutions. This would require **context-specific approaches** for more effective implementation.”

Prof. Youssef Diab,
Director of Research,
Universite Gustav Eiffel

Insights from three Indonesian cities on their approaches in addressing challenges were shared by Mr. Hamzah, as Disaster Analyst from the city's Regional Board for Disaster Management of Samarinda; Mr. Anggie Ardhiat, Head of Emergency and Logistics Division of Semarang; A. Hendra Hakamuiddin, as Chief Executive of the Makassar city's Regional Disaster Management Agency.

Overall, the Panel of Experts provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities for building resilient cities in Asia-Pacific, and the CRIC project, with its focus on triangular cooperation, underscores the significance of ongoing and hopes of continuous collaboration to address long-term climate challenges.



Kalibaru Hub Project 2024: Exploring Strategies, Kick-off and Focus Group Discussion

UCLG ASPAC is appointed to support Jakarta Provincial Government for the implementation of the Kalibaru Hub Programme, a transformative initiative facilitating fishing communities in the Kalibaru area to upcycle green mussel waste into cutting-edge environmentally friendly products and promote local economic development. This initiative receives funding support from the Global Resilient Cities Network (R-Cities) for a year implementation period. UCLG ASPAC plays a role as the project implementer.

Kalibaru Hub in North Jakarta is a community known for its green mussels, a popular food among Indonesians. The community relies on the green mussel industry for livelihood but the process is labour-intensive and generates a large amount of waste commonly dumped at sea. Proper waste management and working conditions for the community have become a major challenge.

Through this programme, the Kalibaru Hub will introduce innovative green mussel

waste management approaches. It will act as a community centre for SMEs to recycle waste efficiently and develop products from recycled waste. Capacity building of Cangkring (Cangkang Kering/Dry Shell) community will be part of the programme activities. The programme seeks recommendations for sustainable waste management and economic opportunities for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The funding is expected to accelerate the growth and success of local entrepreneurs.

The kick-off meeting and focus group discussion (FGD) organised by the Local Planning Agency of Jakarta Provincial Government and UCLG ASPAC on February 6, 2024 formally marked the start of the programme. Attended by 71 participants, the event brought together government agencies, community representatives, Non-Government Organisations, and stakeholders to explore collaboration and suggest green mussel waste products.



Dr. Bernadia I. Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC, emphasised the significance of the Kalibaru Hub Programme, showcasing the commitment to sustainable solutions for Kalibaru area.



Ms. Nini Purwojati, The Resilient Cities Network (RCN), shared that the Kalibaru Hub Programme is an exemplary collaboration between the local government and various organisations, emphasising the crucial role of the community in ensuring the initiative's success.



Mr. Andhika Ajie, the Head of the Regional Research and Innovation Centre of Jakarta, Local Planning Agency, mentioned that the Kalibaru pilot project was initiated by the provincial government in 2019.



Panel Discussion: Insights from Varied Perspectives

The panel discussion dug in into diverse perspectives:

- Ms. Annisa Utami: meticulous selection process that identified Kalibaru as a pilot location for the initiative, emphasising a broader project scope.
- Ms. Asih Bunga from Yayasan Kotakita: challenges such as poverty rates and expensive waste transportation.
- Mr. Adil Alba of Playo: programme objectives, addressing obstacles like limited resources.
- Mr. Rusmin, Head of Kalibaru Village: sanitation and waste challenges, grassroots initiatives.
- Mr. Trisno, spokesperson for the Cangkring Community: positive outcomes from the programme, the volatile nature of fishermen's livelihoods. Currently, the Cangkring community has taken the initiative to minimise green mussel waste, as seen by the participation of Cangkring women in making decorative items from mussel waste and setting up a small gallery at the Kalibaru cooperative office.

Focus Group Discussions: Crafting Recommendations for Sustainable Development

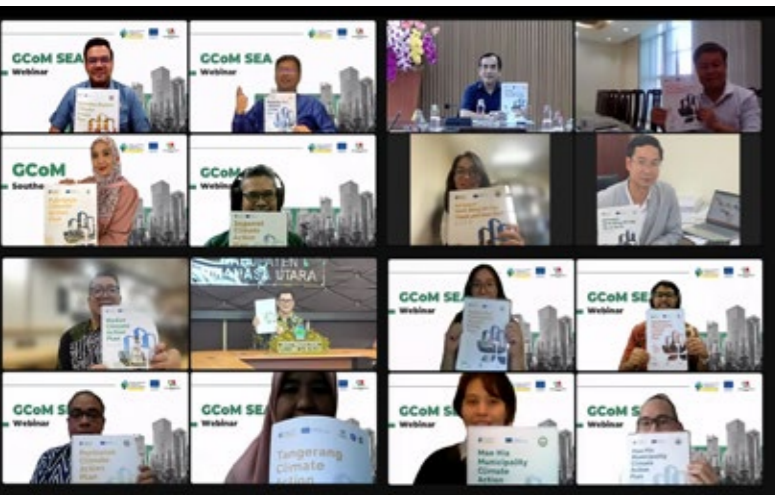
The FGD resulted in crucial insights and recommendations revolving economic, social, and environmental aspects.

- Economically, Mr. Adil Alba emphasised redefining entities, suggesting cooperative establishment, and exploring e-commerce. Formalising Cangkring as a legal entity was discussed to ensure ownership of the works.
- In the social realm, Ms. Bunga outlined strategies for youth issues and education.
- Environmentally, Mr. Angger expanded the focus to waste, pollution, and health insurance improvement, highlighting Ancol's conservation initiatives and waste banks in North Jakarta.

Moving Forward: Youth Empowerment and Green Mussel Waste Transformation

The Kalibaru Hub Programme also ensures youth involvement and empowerment in the implementation.

Through Cangkring Community, the programme will equip youth with the skills and knowledge needed for sustainable practices and community development. The programme is set to revolutionise the management of green mussel waste by transforming it into valuable product, such as paving blocks. This innovative approach not only addresses environmental concerns but also creates economic opportunities for the community.



GCoM SEA Webinar: Insights from COP28 and CAPs Showcase

UCLG ASPAC, as Secretariat of The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) Southeast Asia, hosted a webinar titled “City-Led Climate Solutions: Insights from COP28 and CAPs Showcase” on March 7, 2024, attracting 129 participants from Southeast Asia and beyond. The event commenced with opening remarks from Ms. Alexandra Lehmann of the European Union, highlighting the shared climate ambitions between the European Union and Southeast Asian countries and cities.

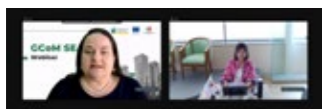
Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC and GCoM SEA Secretariat, underscored the importance of UCLG ASPAC’s role in climate actions and shared key outcomes of COP28, including the Local Climate Action Summit and advocacy on Loss and Damage. Additionally, representatives from 16 pilot cities presented their completed Climate Action Plans (CAPs), expressing gratitude for the guidance and technical assistance provided by GCoM.



A panel session moderated by Mr. Pablo Gandara featured Mayor Abigail Binay, YBhg. Datuk Noorliza Awang Alip, and Mr. Piero Remitti. Mayor Abigail highlighted the significance of local governments in climate discourse and commended initiatives like the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP). Datuk Noorliza emphasised multistakeholder engagement, particularly involving youth, in advocating for climate actions. Piero emphasised the importance of engagement with national governments and highlighted that COP is just the beginning of the climate action process.



The second panel session, moderated by Ms. Jacqueline Chang, focused on technical partners’ insights on supporting pilot cities in developing CAPs. Prof. Rizaldi Boer, Prof. Chin Siong Ho, Ms. Mewadee Seresathiansub, and Dr. Nguyen Sy Linh shared key advice on responding to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, creating awareness among citizens, mainstreaming city development, and capacity building for city officers.



In conclusion, the webinar highlighted the bold climate action at the local level, the launch of 16 CAPs under the GCoM Asia Project, and the importance of multistakeholder engagement. Participants were encouraged to maintain cooperation and coordination with the GCoM SEA Secretariat to further accelerate climate action efforts in the region.

16 CAPs launched:

Indonesia

Medan
North Minahasa
Pontianak
Tangerang

Malaysia

Putrajaya
Iskandar Puteri
Petaling Jaya
Segamat

Thailand

Nonthaburi
Hua Hin
Suphanburi
Mae Hua

Viet Nam

Cao Lanh
Nam Dinh
Hue
Sapa

City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation Conclave



UCLG ASPAC Municipal Network Advocacy on Sanitation in South Asia (MuNASS) Project contributed to the sanitation exposure in Nepal through the National City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) conclave in Kathmandu on December 21, 2023 organised by the Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN) and in collaboration with CWIS Alliance Nepal (CWISAN). The event was attended by more than 180 participants including representatives from Nepal Government – Federal and Provincial, Local Government/Municipalities, development partners (UN agencies, I/NGOs), private sector, PWDs, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) communities.

Participants shared the sanitation efforts, explored solutions to the issues, and finalised the Kathmandu Declaration. The National Citywide Inclusive Sanitation Conclave 2023 commenced with the inaugural session. President of MuAN Mr. Bhim Prasad Dhungana chaired the session. Minister of Water Supply Mr. Mahendra Raya Yadav graced the session as the chief guest. Likewise, Minister for Sanitation of Bagmati Province Mr. Tirtha Bahadur Lama, and Member of National Planning Commission (NPC) Dr. Anita Shah resided as the special guests, and Mayor of Dhulikhel Municipality, Immediate Past President of UCLG ASPAC, Mr. Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha resided as the guest for the session.

The formal inauguration of the Conclave began with the National Anthem followed by placing the faecal sludge manure in a flowerpot and watering it by the chief guest Minister of Water Supply, Mr. Mahendra Raya Yadav, symbolising the possibility of effective reuse of the faecal sludge and proper faecal sludge management.

Key objectives of the National Conclave were to create a common platform for learning and sharing sanitation initiatives for opportunities and solutions in safely managed sanitation services, and to encourage local governments to put greater emphasis on sanitation services including innovative products and technologies and accelerate the sanitation efforts thereby bringing three tiers of governments together in a single platform. This will ensure the spirit of cooperation, coordination, and co-existence of all three tiers of government as envisioned in Nepal Constitution.

Mayor Viandrei Cuevas of Palayan City: Digitalisation, Local Economy, and Good Financial Governance



MAYOR VIANDREI NICOLE J. CUEVAS
Mayor of Palayan City, Philippines

MAYOR Viandrei Nicole “Vianne” J. Cuevas is leading Palayan City, the capital of Nueva Ecija. Palayan, recorded as one of the least populated areas in the Philippines, saw remarkable progress and transformation under the leadership of Mayor Viandrei Cuevas. Priorities are laid in the areas of digitalisation, local economy, as well as good financial management.

Palayan City has embraced transformation in digitalisation, reflected by its successful launch of the Integrated Business Permit and Licensing System (IBPLS). IBPLS is recorded as a tremendous achievement in streamlining the city’s business operations and has revolutionised the process of getting permits and licenses, making the process more efficient and favourable for entrepreneurs. The progress in digitalisation has also embraced inclusivity as local community in Palayan received the Digital Literacy Training Programme. The programme supported beneficiaries with skills in internet usage, online safety, and basic computer skills.

Mayor Vianne also implements the Department

of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Livelihood Assistance, an initiative to improve the quality of life of local people and to create sustainable livelihood opportunities. The city’s website has recorded that nine households were selected to receive the support, enabling them to start their small businesses. Support includes various livelihood kits, such as store kits, vegetable vending kits, egg and rice retailing kits, home and cleaning supplies, and backyard goat-raising agribusiness kits. This empowers families to generate income through their businesses.

Palayan City also received recognition from the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) of the Philippines for the good financial governance of the city. The award highlights transparency and accountability in managing the local government’s budget for impactful programmes and initiatives.

Sub-Region Updates

Pacific

Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) is working to address funding and financing challenges faced by local governments. It is done following local government’s call for more funding tools to deliver better services and infrastructure. Both local government and the public understand that continuing to rely so heavily on household and business rates is not a sustainable funding approach for local government. “Councils will begin to consult their communities on their draft long-term plans soon, outlining the priorities for their community, how much it will all cost, and where the money might come from. It’s important that councils have more funding levers to meet the necessary investment required to fund existing services and essential infrastructure,” LGNZ President Sam Broughton said.



Southeast Asia

The Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) and Genetic Solutions Laboratory and Medical Services Philippines Corporation (GeneLabPH) join forces to launch Cancer Warrior Campaign in the Philippines. The campaign prioritises early cancer detection, aiming to significantly improve survival rates and alleviate the individual, social, and economic burdens associated with late-stage diagnosis. This aligns with ULAP’s commitment to the well-being of Filipinos and their advocacy for comprehensive health services at the grassroots level.



South Asia

All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIIILSG), with funding from Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Limited (RCF Ltd), has embarked on a pioneering project to cultivate women social entrepreneurs. This initiative aligns with the broader goal of promoting entrepreneurship under the visionary One District One Product (ODOP) scheme. The project’s objectives are ambitious yet achievable, with plans to train 210 women, transforming them into social entrepreneurs. By focusing on enhancing the skills of women in producing Agarbattis (incense sticks) and Moonj handicrafts, the initiative aims to leverage traditional crafts for modern markets.



East Asia

Advancing local diplomacy efforts, the Governors Association of the Republic of Korea (GAROK) and Jeju collaborated on an invitation programme to Jeju. Aligned with Jeju’s interest in fostering relationships with ASEAN countries, it specifically targeted embassy representatives from ASEAN particularly trade and commerce affairs. A roundtable discussion was held between the attendees and officials from Jeju. Participants also had the chance to visit several local Jeju enterprises, where they learned about their establishment stories and experienced their products firsthand.



New Members

UCLG ASPAC welcomes new members for approval in the First Session of Executive Bureau Meeting 2024.



Baglung Municipality

Chairman : Mr. Basanta Kumar Shrestha
Website : baglungmun.gov.np

Baglung Municipality is in the Baglung District of Nepal, known for its scenic beauty and cultural heritage. Situated in the western region of Nepal, it is surrounded by hills and mountains, offering breathtaking views of the Himalayas. Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy, with crops like rice, maize, millet, and wheat being cultivated.



Bandung Regency

Mayor : Dr. Dadang Supriatna
Website : bandungkab.go.id/

Bandung Regency, located in West Java, Indonesia, is a picturesque region known for its natural beauty and cultural heritage. Home to over 3 million people, it encompasses diverse landscapes ranging from lush mountains to fertile valleys.



Bedkot Municipality

Chairman : Mr. Bhoj Raj Bohara
Website : bedkotmun.gov.np/en

Bedkot Municipality, located in the far-western region of Nepal, is a scenic area characterised by lush landscapes and agricultural activities. With a population of around 30,000 residents, it is known for its vibrant rural life and traditional Nepalese culture.



Bhotekoshi Rural Municipality

Chairman : Mr. Pasang Nurpu Sherpa
Website : bhotekoshimun.gov.np/

Bhotekoshi Rural Municipality is situated in the Sindhupalchowk District of Nepal, known for its picturesque landscapes and natural beauty. The region is characterised by its mountainous terrain, with the Bhotekoshi River flowing through, offering opportunities for adventure sports like rafting and trekking.



Hariharpurgadhi Rural Municipality

Chairman : Mr. Bajradhwoj Waiba
Website : hariharpurgadhimun.gov.np

Hariharpurgadhi Rural Municipality is a picturesque area situated in Nepal, known for its natural beauty and cultural heritage. With a population of around 30,000 residents, the municipality is primarily agrarian, cultivating crops such as rice, wheat, and vegetables.



Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City

Mayor : Ms. Mina Kumari Lama
Website : hetaudamun.gov.np

Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City, located in central Nepal, is a bustling urban centre known for its industrial and commercial activities. With a population of over 130,000 residents, it serves as a vital economic hub in the Makwanpur District.



Kanepokhari Rural Municipality

Chairman : Mr. Rajmati Ingnam
Website : kanepokharimun.gov.np/

Kanepokhari Rural Municipality is located in the Morang District of Nepal. It is renowned for its serene natural beauty, characterised by lush green landscapes and picturesque surroundings. The municipality has a population of approximately 25,000 residents engaged in agriculture, mainly cultivating rice, maize, wheat, and vegetables.



Letang Municipality

Chairman : Mr. Bhupendra Lawati
Website : letangmun.gov.np/en

Letang Municipality is situated in the Morang District of Nepal. It encompasses a diverse population engaged in agriculture, particularly rice, maize, and wheat cultivation. The municipality boasts a rich cultural heritage, with vibrant festivals such as Dashain and Tihar being celebrated with enthusiasm.



Lisankhu Pakhar Rural Municipality

Chairman : Mr. Raju Lama
Website : lisankhupakharmun.gov.np

Lisankhu Pakhar Rural Municipality is nestled in the scenic hills of Nepal, offering breathtaking views and a serene environment. With a population of approximately 20,000 residents, it is predominantly an agricultural area, focusing on crops like rice, maize, and vegetables.



Putalibazar Municipality

Chairman : Mr. Tulasi Ram Regmi
Website : putalibazarmun.gov.np/en

Putalibazar Municipality is situated in the Syangja District of Nepal. It is renowned for its scenic beauty, nestled amidst lush green hills and fertile valleys. The municipality has a diverse economy, with agriculture, tourism, and small-scale industries being prominent contributors.



Shankharapur Municipality

Mayor : Mr. Ramesh Napit
Website : shankharapurmun.gov.np/en

Shankharapur Municipality, situated in Nepal's Kathmandu Valley, is renowned for its rich cultural heritage and historical significance. With a population of approximately 30,000 people, it is known for its ancient temples, traditional Newari architecture, and vibrant festivals.



Shijiazhuang City

Mayor : Mr. Yujun Ma
Website : www.sjz.gov.cn

Shijiazhuang, the capital of Hebei Province in China, is a vibrant metropolis known for its historical significance and modern development. With a population exceeding 10 million, it serves as a major transportation hub and industrial centre.



Tilottama Municipality

Chairman : Mr. Ramkrishna Khand
Website : tilottamamun.gov.np/en

Tilottama Municipality is located in the Rupandehi District of Nepal. It is a bustling urban center with a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial areas. The municipality is known for its vibrant markets, educational institutions, and healthcare facilities.



International Women's Day

International Women's Day: Building a Women-Friendly City

March 8th is International Women's Day. The development of women's careers is an important force in promoting the progress of human civilisation. The Guangzhou Award recognised five initiatives highlighting the topic of building a women-friendly city.

Bogotá, Colombia (Winning Initiative 2023) **Bogota Care Blocks - How a city is reorganising itself for women and achieving the SDGs**

It has long been recognised that women's "time poverty" is a structural cause of gender inequality. The unpaid burden of care falls disproportionately on women, which translates into women lacking economic autonomy. Women who are primary caregivers also tend to abandon higher education. They are prone to suffer from chronic mental and physical illnesses and have higher chances of experiencing gender-based violence. 30% of Bogotá's female population does unpaid caregiving full-time; 91% of this population is low-income; and 33% is deprived of free time for self-care.

"Care School for Men" is an initiative so that men can learn to recognise care and distribute care more equitably within the household. Result of this initiative, which provides childcare and a laundry service, enabled caregivers to gain a total of 4 hours daily to study, generate income, or rest.

Pimpri Chinchwad, India (Shortlisted Initiative 2023) **Navi Disha: Community Toilet Model**

The Indian city of Pimpri Chinchwad, a prominent industrial hub, hosts a significant number of migratory industrial labourers who have established residence in low-income settlement areas. The City has 160 Community Toilets that provide clean and hygienic sanitation facilities in these areas. Under the Navi Disha initiative, women from the targeted communities have formed groups that have taken responsibility for operating and maintaining the community toilets ensuring superior sanitation standards.

Round of discussions were conducted with the communities. Women came forward to take up the operation and maintenance of the community toilet in their area. Besides training in community toilet management, the city also makes a monthly payment to each women's group to cover the cost of sanitation equipment and cleaning materials to generate revenue streams for the women's groups.

This is a good example of gender mainstreaming in the sanitation value chain along with effective public-community partnerships and agile administration. Over 400 women are now engaged within the initiative managing 40 toilets with total of 862 toilet seats. Over 30,000+ beneficiaries are getting access to clean and safe toilets every day.

Tharaka Nithi, Kenya (Deserving Initiative 2023) **Enhancing Women's Livelihoods Labour Force Participation Through the Crèche Programme**

In the Tarakanisi region, despite increasing employment among women, they continue to bear most household responsibilities. Women spend much more time caring for children and performing other domestic chores, instead of income-generating activities. Childcare is therefore largely considered a barrier to women's participation in productive economic activities outside the home.

To handle this, the Tarakanisi County Government opened a nursery in Chuka Market in 2021. The goals of the crèche programme are to reduce the burden of childcare, ensure that their children are cared for while women are at work, promote the psychosocial well-being of nursing mothers, and promote children's growth and development. With the assistance of Kenyatta University curriculum experts, the county government also passed a policy that allows the development of special education programmes for children under five years old.

In July 2023, the policy was submitted to the county council. Over the next five years, crèches are planned to be inaugurated in all market centers in Tarakanisi County to achieve the desired transformation.

Santa Ana, Costa Rica (Shortlisted Initiative 2018) **Santa Ana en Cleto**

To reduce the use of private vehicles and improve road safety, Santa Ana designed a more inclusive mobility structure for pedestrians and cyclists in 2016: Santa Ana en Cleto. The project also contributes towards the recovery of public spaces.

It aims to improve the urban environment, well-being, health, and the right to use the city in a safe, respectful, and sustainable way. It is focused on women, as women are the main agents of change in the communities. By teaching women how to ride a bike and how to use it as a means of transport, the project can promote the gradual inclusion of other population groups.

The project reverses the widespread perception that pedestrians and cyclists have lesser power on the road and gives women more opportunities to use or allocate public space in the city.

Mezitli, Türkiye (Winning Initiative 2018) **Mezitli Women Producer's Market**

In Turkey, women are still one of the most vulnerable groups as they are often very much dependent on their families, and mostly on their male relatives or husbands. Therefore, the Women Producers Market is part of a general vision of Mezitli to be a women-friendly city and to encourage the local women to get more independent, thereby to increasing their self-confidence.

In doing so, Mezitli has set up the first market that women producers completely run. The initiative is supportive for local small-scale production and helps to strengthen local women as sellers, by providing them space and support to sell their local products, and encouraging them to be economical actively in society.

This initiative's outcome is already clearly visible, as it has increased the local employment rate and provided women with a platform to develop their economic existence, highly promoting gender equality in the city. In addition, the small-scale local economy has profited from this initiative. This means a more environmentally friendly economy and sustainable trade have been established, giving the whole city and its citizens a better quality of life.



Daegu International Youth Camp

Daegu International Youth Camp is one of the representative global programmes of Daegu for young people invited from its sister and friendship cities. Daegu has been organising Daegu International Youth Camp since 2005 to foster global leaders, enhance their understanding on Daegu and most importantly, build a global network and form bonds with participants.

During the camp period, university students from sister and friendship cities of Daegu are invited to Daegu, Korea for six days during summer vacation. Joined by local undergraduates, participants have the opportunity to explore new cultures of Daegu and Korea, discuss and share about their own city policy on various subjects and achieve team mission. More than 1,500 college students from the globe have participated in Daegu International Youth Camp from 2005 to 2023. It is certain that the Camp provided a very fulfilling experience to the participants since Daegu city received a very positive feedback with more than 90% of high satisfaction from the survey.

The programme is planned to invite more students from not just Daegu's sister and friendship cities, but from all over the world in the future. For more information, please refer to the following information on the 17th Daegu International Youth Camp which was held in July 2023. For 2024, it will be held sometime during July and August and we hope more young people can come to Daegu and have fun at the Daegu International Youth Camp.

Daegu's sister & friendship cities in Asia:

Qingdao, Hiroshima, Taipei, Ningbo, Chengdu, Da Nang, Yangzhou, Yancheng, Shenyang, Kobe, Ho Chi Minh, Shaoxing, Wuhan, Bangkok, Changsha, Kaohsiung, Bac Ninh, and Johor Bahru



17th Daegu International Youth Camp in 2023

- Period : July 23 - 28, 2023 (6 days)
- Venue : Daegu City
- Host/Organiser : Daegu City Government / Empathy Seeds
- Participants : 44 (34 from 14 cities, 10 local students including two foreign students studying in Daegu)
- Contents : Opening/Closing Ceremony, Korean language class, K-Culture, City Tour in Daegu, visit to see Korean Baseball League



Xi'an Tourism Sees Boom during the Chinese New Year Holiday

Xi'an has attracted visitors from all over the country and become one of the most popular tourist destinations during the Chinese Lunar New Year.

Big data monitoring reveals that tourism in Xi'an has exploded during the 2024 Spring Festival. On the first day of the Chinese New Year, Xi'an's tourism orders increased by 194% compared to last year, ticket orders surged by 430%, and tourism-related web searches rose by 294%. Throughout the Spring Festival holiday, Xi'an's tourism orders increased by 64% compared to last year, and scenic spot ticket orders rose by over 80%. In addition, among all Chinese cities, Xi'an became the top destination for inbound tourism, with inbound tourism orders increasing more than four times compared to last year, and was popular with foreign visitors.

Xi'an put efforts into improving public administration and service to ensure a better sightseeing experience. During the festival, many people in the city, including public security officers, sanitation workers, enterprise employees, actors and actresses, flight attendants, medical staff, media reporters, and officials at all levels, stick to their posts.

To meet the travel needs of both citizens and tourists during the Spring Festival, the transportation department in Xi'an has also timely allocated more vehicles and extended the operations, making every journey in Xi'an warmer and more convenient.





Guiyang Promotes Green Development through Environmental Protection

Since the beginning of 2024, Guiyang has been promoting the strategy of ecological development, transforming its environmental advantages into productivity and comprehensive urban competitiveness.

According to statistics, the ratio of excellent and good air quality days in Guiyang this year is currently at 99.4% ranking 12th among 168 key cities nationwide and the fourth among provincial capitals. The water quality of 28 national and provincial control sections all reached national standards, with an excellent and good water quality rate of 96.43%.

The Ministry of Ecology and Environment recently announced the naming of the seventh batch of demonstration areas for ecological civilisation construction, and Guiyang officially obtained the title of “ecological civilisation construction demonstration area,” a solid step forward in its ecological civilisation construction.

Over the past year, Guiyang has been working to build a national demonstration area for ecological civilisation, focusing on improving institutional mechanisms, strengthening ecological barriers, improving its natural environment, rectifying outstanding problems, promoting green development, and disseminating ecological concepts.

While strengthening its environment, Guiyang has also made efforts to promote high-quality economic and social development. The city has built 150,000 mu (10,000 hectares) of large-scale ecological vegetable bases in the first half of 2023, and the proportion of green markets in the city has reached 30%, with 62 green restaurants and 16 green tourism hotels.

It has also established two forest healthcare resorts and 30 forest health households, and nurtured 10 A-level logistics companies, one online logistics company, 11 green summer vacation hotels, and five green homestays. The supply of green products continues to expand.

In the future, Guiyang will continue to pursue ecological development and concentrate its efforts on becoming more environmentally competitive, boosting its development with a healthier environment.



Qingdao Drives Green Transformation in Manufacturing

Qingdao, a coastal city in Shandong province, has propelled the green transformation of the manufacturing sector and forged a new path in carbon reduction. A total of 39 factories in Qingdao have been recognised as national “green factories”.

Qingdao leads the province in the number of green manufacturing demonstration projects at or above the provincial level and has ranked seventh on the list of China’s top 100 advanced manufacturing cities for the past three years. The city has built 57 green factories at or above the provincial level and nurtured 13 units recognised as national intelligent manufacturing demonstration factories. To date, Qingdao has cultivated 16 national-level technology innovation demonstration enterprises.

Qingdao is focusing on resource coupling and recycling in industries such as petrochemicals and steelmaking. This includes exhausting and reducing newly generated industrial solid waste and reducing existing industrial solid waste. It is also promoting low-carbon collaboration between the upstream and downstream parts of the industrial chains, facilitating market-oriented cooperation between enterprises and cities in terms of water usage and heating.

In addition, it is adjusting financial policies to encourage and guide green and low-carbon development. For instance, financial incentives are being applied to green projects and demonstrations. The city encourages enterprises to participate in green electricity trading pilots. The application of digital production methods is driving energy conservation and carbon reduction, leveraging big data, cloud computing, 5G and other information technologies in this domain. The city has also fostered 64 smart factories and 569 digitised workshops and automated production lines.

Looking ahead, Qingdao will be steadfast in propelling manufacturing toward a high-end, intelligent, and green transformation, striving to become a national demonstration zone for new industrialisation.



The first zero-carbon community project is to be built in the Qingdao Olympic Sailing Centre. [Photo by Liu Dong]



Haier's washing machine factory in the Qingdao Area of the China (Shandong) Pilot Free Trade Zone. [Photo/WeChat account: qdgx2019]

Sejong City Creates Smart Living Information Service Tailored for Citizens, Delivered via a Single Login



Many cities around the globe are transitioning rapidly into smart cities by building on the information and communication technologies of the 4th industrial revolution to address various issues caused by urbanisation such as limited resources and infrastructures, traffic congestion, energy shortages, and environmental deterioration. Sejong City also plans to build a smart city during the period from 2007 to 2030, to improve the quality of life of its citizens, enhance its urban competitiveness, and complete the nation's administrative capital. When the smart city infrastructure and facilities were first established, public services involving matters such as crime prevention, transportation, the environment, and culture were set up to be provided on individual bases, and citizens had until recently suffered inconvenience in being forced to access each related website individually to utilise any of these services.

Considering this, Sejong City has now established "Sejong N", a location and map-based smart portal system that not only allows users to enjoy Sejong City's information services concerning day-to-day life issues including crime prevention, transportation, the environment and culture, all via a single login, but also makes possible related citizen participation and two-way communication. "Sejong N" currently offers urban living information in 86 different categories highly relevant to the everyday lives of citizens in Sejong City, such as traffic, safety, the environment, and tourism. It also provides 24/7 safety services through its mobile SOS security application, "Sejong Ansimi".



Sokcho City Embarks on a New Journey as a Carbon-Neutral City with Citizens



Sokcho has declared a new beginning as a leading carbon-neutral city in its design for the next 100 years.

Firstly, by signing agreements with climate action specialised companies and inviting renowned domestic and international climate experts, Sokcho engaged in consultations for development strategies. These included discussions on carbon neutrality policies and research. The city formulated its unique carbon-neutral basic strategy through net-

zero consulting and advisory services. Key initiatives involved the public sector's greenhouse gas energy target management system, reducing the use of paper cups in departments, organising net-zero competitions for shared housing, training carbon-neutral activists, promoting reusable containers during festivals and events, and encouraging citizen participation in carbon-neutral points. Particularly, the "Drone Light Show" at the Seorak Cultural Festival gained popularity as a representative case of carbon emission reduction using renewable energy. Last year, Sokcho City not only achieved recognition as the best institution in the energy sector at the Carbon Neutral Points event organised by the Ministry of Environment but also excelled as an outstanding institution in recycling, a key project in Gangwon State. Looking ahead, Sokcho City aims to make further strides as a leading carbon-neutral city, striving with its citizens.

Calendar of Activities

17-19 April
UCLG Executive Bureau Meeting
San Jose
Organised by: UCLG World

23-25 April
First Session of 2024 UCLG ASPAC Executive Bureau Meeting
North Minahasa Regency
Organised by: UCLG ASPAC

April-November
Asia Pacific Mayors Academy | virtual
Organised by: UCLG ASPAC, ESCAP, UN Habitat

18-25 May
The 10th WorldWater Forum
Bali
Organised by: World Water Council

21 May
Local and Regional Governments Day; International Conference of Local and Regional Governments in conjunction with the 10th World Water Forum Bali
Organised by: UCLG

22 - 23 May
International Workshop on Building Smart and Resilient Cities and Communities in Asia and the Pacific in conjunction with the 10th World Water Forum Bali
Organised by: UCLG ASPAC, UNCRD

June 2024
International Workshop
Organised by: UCLG ASPAC Culture Committee

2-4 July
International Mayors Forum 2024
Jakarta
Organised by: UNOSD, UCLG ASPAC, Jakarta City Government

8-18 July
High Level Political Forum
New York
Organised by: UN

11 July
Local and Regional Governments Forum (TBC)
New York
Organised by: UCLG

5 September
The 2nd Belt and Road Local Cooperation Committee (BRLC) Committee General Assembly and 2023 Council Meeting
Hangzhou
Organised by: Belt and Road Local Cooperation Committee

18-19 September
2024 ASEAN Mayors Forum
Vientiane
Organised by: UCLG ASPAC

September
Global Youth Creatives Residency
Organised by: Culture Committee

21-25 October
Second Session of 2024 UCLG ASPAC Executive Bureau and 2024 Council Meetings
Zhengzhou City
Organised by: UCLG ASPAC

8-10 October
UCLG Council
The Hague
Organised by: UCLG WORLD

14-17 October
Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
Pasig
Organised by: UNDRR

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

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