Dear Valued Members and Partners,

It is an honor to address you as the newly elected President of UCLG ASPAC. As we delve into the pages of the Annual Report 2023, I am filled with optimism and a sense of responsibility towards the diverse local governments and communities that form our region.

The challenges we face are dynamic, from sustainable development to inclusive governance, and this report encapsulates the collective efforts of our member cities to overcome these hurdles and the various platforms we provided to tackle these challenges—from the 2023 Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MOGAM) and the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) in Jakarta to the 9th UCLG ASPAC Congress in Yiwu, China, among others. United in purpose, we continue to forge partnerships, implement innovative solutions, and foster resilience in the face of global uncertainties.

We will continue to build on this great work that the UCLG ASPAC has achieved under the leadership of President Ashok and Secretary General Bernadia, and our members. We shall continue our work toward the empowerment of local commitments and the development and promotion of tailored local solutions, ensuring that these solutions are attuned to our unique aspirations for our local communities, the strengthening of regional networks, and the engagement of the youth.

As I take on the mantle of leadership, I am guided by the simple yet profound principle that I have shared with you: “The Future is Local!” This reflects our commitment to empowering communities, recognising that true progress emanates from the grassroots. When we say “The Future is Local”, we are also saying that the power to decide and shape that future is in the hands of the people who live in it. Decisions made closer to home are more likely to reflect the needs and aspirations of local communities. Through collaborative initiatives, we can shape a future where local voices are heard, and local needs are met. The Future is Local, Opportunity-driven, Controllable, Adaptive, and Limitless.

I extend my gratitude to all member cities, partners, and dedicated individuals who contribute to the success of our shared endeavours. May this Annual Report inspire us to amplify our efforts and reinforce our dedication to building a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient Asia-Pacific.

Governor Dakila Carlo Cua
Governor of Quirino Province
President of Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)
President of UCLG ASPAC

Dear readers,

I am proud to present our Organisation’s achievements in 2023 in this Annual Report. As the theme “Jump Higher” reflects, the unwavering commitment and support of local government leaders continue to drive our work which was evident at our Organisation’s largest gathering after the COVID-19 pandemic, the 9th UCLG ASPAC Congress in Yiwu. The creation of a new Committee on Logistics at the Congress marks our intention to boost the economic growth of our region. The success of the ASEAN Mayors Forum 2023 hosted by the Jakarta City Government demonstrate the readiness to consolidate for the sustainable growth of ASEAN cities.

The Localisation of SDGs has been our core activity over the past years. In 2023, UCLG ASPAC concluded its work under the framework of LEAD for SDGs Localisation Project in Pakistan. More members have developed VLRs and together with the local government associations we created the VSRs. We noted the enthusiasm and input we received during the South and Southeast Asia City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation Workshop in Tangerang. The 10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and Asia-Pacific Urban Forum and the 8th Asia-Pacific Urban Forum is where we amplified local voices and made statements for intervention at the higher level.

Our pledge to sustainable development remains strong through various capacity-building activities, including the Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy and our climate projects. With the spirit to continuously support cities and local governments, our commitment to advocacy, learning, policy and research, programme and projects, and decentralised cooperation persists.

With the leadership of President Dax and the newly elected Governing Body of UCLG ASPAC, we are ready to leapfrog toward creating clean and livable cities in Asia and the Pacific. I would like to express my gratitude to Mayor Ashok for steering this Organisation in the right direction in his term.

Building on the great work we did in 2023, let us fly higher in 2024, ensuring we make more steady improvements to cities and local governments. With the new leadership and a positive spirit, this Organisation can indeed Jump Higher!
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 through 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 in enhancing the services to the citizens based on good governance principles;

To promote race and gender equality, combating discrimination, promoting decentralised cooperation and international cooperation between local governments and their associations in strong democratic organisation;

To promote twinning and partnership between local governments and peoples.

Scope of Work
- Advocacy
- Research and knowledge management
- Capacity building and training
- Project development and management
- Decentralised cooperation (cities/local governments to cities/local governments exchange)

Organisation Chart
UCLG ASPAC GOVERNMENT BODY 2023-2025

DAKILA CARLO CUA
Representing South and Southeast Asia sub-region
President, Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)
Governor, Quirino Province

**PRESIDENT**

HE XIONG
Representing East and Northeast Asia sub-region
Mayor, Zhanhua City

BHIM PRASAD DHUNGANA
Representing South and Southeast Asia sub-region
President, Municipal Association of Nepal (MAAN)
Mayor, Nilakantha Municipality

ASHOK KUMAR
Representing Women in Local Government

SAM BROUGHTON
Representing Pacific sub-region
President, Local Government New Zealand
Mayor, Selwyn District Council

**CO-PRESIDENT**

RANJIT S. CHAVAN
Representing Associate and International Organisation Members
President, All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIILSG)

CHEN HAOSU
Founding President
The Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

ZHANG YAJIE
Representing Women in Local Government

HERU BUDI HARTONO
Host
Jakarta Capital City Government

ASHOK KUMAR
Representing Women in Local Government

BHIM PRASAD DHUNGANA
Representing South and Southeast Asia sub-region
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Mayor, Nilakantha Municipality

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SAM BROUGHTON
Representing Pacific sub-region
President, Local Government New Zealand
Mayor, Selwyn District Council

Co-Presidents assist the President in carrying out his/her responsibilities and when necessary assume the role of President. The Secretary General directs the daily activities of UCLG ASPAC and carries out the decisions of the General Assembly, the Council and the Executive Bureau. The Secretary General manages the General Secretariat as well as the activities and programmes under the guidance of the President and the responsibility of the Executive Bureau.

UCLG ASPAC comprises four sub-regions and all members are represented in the General Assembly, the supreme organ that is responsible for the overall policy, direction, and oversight of the Section. The Council is the principal policy-making body. It decides UCLG ASPAC’s policies in a collegial way and ensures that general policies adopted by the General Assembly are implemented. The Executive Bureau is responsible for initiating proposals and carrying out the decisions of the Council. The Presidency, comprising the President and co-Presidents, represents all four sub-regions, the Associate and International Members, as well as ex-officio namely the Host, Immediate Past President, Founding President, and Women in Local Government. The President is the principal representative of UCLG ASPAC. The co-Presidents assist the President in carrying out his/her responsibilities and when necessary assume the role of President. The Secretary General directs the daily activities of UCLG ASPAC and carries out the decisions of the General Assembly, the Council and the Executive Bureau. The Secretary General manages the General Secretariat as well as the activities and programmes under the guidance of the Presidency and the responsibility of the Executive Bureau.
UCLG ASPAC Congress: New Leadership, Cities Invigorated to Advance Economic Development in the Asia-Pacific Region

UCLG ASPAC successfully organised the 9th UCLG ASPAC Congress taking the theme “Advancing Balanced Economic Development for Asia and the Pacific,” hosted by the Yiwu Municipal People’s Government and the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) from November 13-15, 2023. UCLG ASPAC took the 9th Congress to the next level, emboldening cities and local governments to rise to their highest potentialities, particularly to attain the Sustainable Development Goals. The Congress also accelerated cities’ endeavours for development and sustainability through a Trade Matchmaking session.
Recommendations and Insights For Cities

The economic cooperation between the provincial government and the Korea International Cooperation Agency helped reduce poverty incidence and restored major watersheds in five villages.
Mr. Dakila Carlo Cua, a newly elected President of UCLG ASPAC and Governor of Quirino Province and President of Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), newly elected President of UCLG ASPAC

The need to foster cooperation and leverage the opportunities of digital economy.
Mr. Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha, Mayor of Dhulikhel Municipality, Immediate Past President of UCLG ASPAC

The need for UCLG ASPAC members to work together for the common good and to encourage the growth of small and medium enterprises.
Ms. Tri Rismahari, Minister of the Ministry of Social Affairs of Indonesia, President of UCLG ASPAC 2018-2021

Commitment to coordinated development that is open and inclusive, equal, and mutually beneficial, and innovative and green.
Mr. Yan Dong, Vice President of CPAFFC

Building open and inclusive system of cooperation, securing high-standard regional economic integration, exploring new domains of practical cooperation, and enhancing unity and trust among people.
Mr. Shi Zhongjun, Secretary General of ASEAN-China Centre

The need to improve the service level to promote the logistics industry.
Mr. Cai Jin, Vice Chairman of China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing, Asia-Pacific Regional Chair of the International Federation of Purchasing and Supply Management

Yiwu’s willingness to strengthen ties in trading and investment that will contribute to the development and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region.
Mr. Wang Jian, Party Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Yiwu Municipal Committee

Yiwu City’s open and inclusive investment and trade policies.
Mr. Luo Zupan, Vice Mayor of Yiwu

The Pacific Territorial Authority initiative of LGNZ was conceptualised to improve the people’s quality of life in the Pacific Islands.
Mr. Sam Broughton, Mayor of Selwyn District, Co-President of UCLG ASPAC

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Results of Statutory Affairs Meeting

Approval of new members
Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund (Bangladesh), Kageshwori Manohara Municipality (Nepal), Khaniyabas Rural Municipality (Nepal), Municipal Corporation of Turbat (Pakistan), Tangerang Regency (Indonesia), Waling Municipality (Nepal)

Establishment of UCLG ASPAC Logistics Committee led by Yiwu Municipal People’s Government

Approval of North Minahasa Regency as the Host of the First Session of the 2024 UCLG ASPAC Executive Bureau Meeting

UCLG ASPAC thanks all members and partners for actively participating in the 9th UCLG ASPAC Congress. We are looking forward to cooperating more with you to better impact cities and local governments in Asia and the Pacific region.

UCLG ASPAC also expresses its great appreciation to Jury members for their contributions at the first Regional Sanitation Award, Photo and Essay Competition.

The 9th UCLG ASPAC Congress also had several competitions. Winners of the Asia-Pacific Sanitation Award, conducted as part of the MuNASS Programme and supported by BMGF, were announced, namely: Warangal Municipality, Waling Municipality, Sakhipur Municipality, and Tangerang Regency. The second Photo Contest and first Essay Competition were also held and winners were announced in the Congress.

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UCLG ASPAC and Metropolis Workshop: Listen to Metropolitan Cities’ Needs and Concerns

UCLG ASPAC and World Association of the Major Metropolises (METROPOLIS) successfully co-organised a workshop “Listen to Metropolitan Cities: Financing Opportunities for Sustainable Urban Transitions/Transformations,” supported by Jakarta Capital City Government, host of the UCLG ASPAC Secretariat, FMDV - The Global Fund for Cities Development, and The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) on March 20, 2023. The event was held to gain a better understanding of the needs (including financial support) of Indonesian metropolitan city members, that significantly increase in number joining the UCLG, UCLG ASPAC, and Metropolis (Joint Membership). Cities’ sharing in this event was used as input for Metropolis’ Strategy 2023.

Cities Sharing

Bandar Lampung City
Preparation of Bandar Lampung as a metropolitan city, the city needs to manage funding and identify the development potential.

Dr. Rein Susinda Hesty

Palembang City
Interested to contribute to more knowledge sharing sessions between metropolis cities.

Ms. Sri Maryati

Bogor City
Eager to learn more on the essence of collaboration and learning between local governments and various stakeholders in implementing development projects with sustainability in mind. Challenges experienced have been in accessing funding, which have led to a halt in ongoing projects.

Mrs. Balgi Fahmi Sani

Jakarta City
Eager to learn more about financing opportunities and waste management from other cities such as Banyumas, to improve Jakarta’s participation as member of UCLG ASPAC and Metropolis at the upcoming Investment Forum.

Mr. Enggar Ferry

Medan City
Resonated with the planning and implementation of projects on waste management, eager to share more about their experience in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) schemes for local governments, and that public-private aspect; equally expressed by Semarang city.

Mr. M. Kali Hamzah Siregar

We find that listening to cities is much better than acting and implementing based on assumptions.

Mr. Jordi Vaquer
Secretary General of Metropolis

Insights For Cities

Seoul
Seoul’s private investment project, involving what is called a pre-negotiation system: from housing, public transport, and creation of public spaces; role of discussion, and collaboration between local governments, the public and even private sectors: formation of a negotiating committee comprised of both public and private organisations, pool of specialists for a working-level negotiation meeting followed by a policy negotiation meeting with the vice mayor before any specific decision and implementation of projects are made.

Ms. Kyungah Chung as a Secondee from Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) in UCLG ASPAC Secretariat

FMDV
Cities to create the solutions to finance the just urban transition.

Ms. Margot de Groot Van Embden, Programme Manager for the Asia Desk of FMDV, a global alliance of cities initiated by UCLG and Metropolis

SGAC
The multi-level intervention through the Smart Green ASEAN (SGAC) Programme targeting ASEAN cities.

Mr. Abdullah, Smart Green ASEAN Cities (SGAC) Project Officer of UNCDF

The workshop was closed with rounds of positive comments from both speakers and participants, with hopes of further UCLG ASPAC and Metropolis events in the future.
ASEAN Mayors Forum: Fortifies Collaboration among ASEAN Cities and Local Governments

UCLG ASPAC, as the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) Secretariat, successfully organised the 2023 AMF hosted by the Jakarta Special Capital Region on August 1-2, 2023. For the second time, the AMF and the Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC) were held jointly.

Insights and Recommendations for Cities

“People should be at the core of government work. … Governors and Mayors should pursue three main agendas to support the ASEAN Chairmanship theme: health resilience, food security, and energy transition.”

Ms. Retno L.P. Marsudi, The Minister of Foreign Affairs (MoF) of the Republic of Indonesia

“Local governments have a big role in supporting the continued relevance of ASEAN in responding to regional and global challenges and strengthening ASEAN’s position as the centre of regional economic growth. He mentioned MGMAC was first initiated by the Provincial Government of DKI Jakarta during the leadership of Mr. Joko Widodo in 2013 and has been since held annually following the ASEAN Chairmanship rotation.”

Mr. Heru Budi Hartono, Acting Governor of Jakarta Special Capital Region

“For innovative, inclusive, and sustainable urban development, cities will therefore need to find the right combination of technology, policy, and partners.”

Dr. Xiao Kim Ho, Secretary General of ASEAN

“ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth” based on three pillars: ASEAN Matters to signify ASEAN’s vital role to the region and importance of unity; Epicentrum of Growth to recognise ASEAN’s great economic potential and asset; and the Implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific to facilitate stable economic development.

Mr. Berlianto Situngkir, Director of ASEAN Economic Cooperation of MoEF of Indonesia

The Consul of the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Shanghai, China (November 2023 – present)

The importance of balance between urban and rural life which is demonstrated by three strategies: regulation to manage rural life, the establishment of Ministry of Village and Development, and allocation of budget.

Dr. Suhiriza ZA, Director General of Regional Administration, Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

“His province (Quirino), as a rural area, contributes to sustainable development through ecological balance and the ambition to be net zero in the next 5-10 years.”

Mr. Dakila Carlo E. Cua, The President of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)/Governor of Quirino Province, the Philippines

Vientiane had been planning several accelerated strategic programmes to increase job creation within 2023-2030 period, including: providing public spaces; improving the quality of clean water; improving transportation services (BRT development); and managing population growth

Mr. Atsaphangthong Siphardone, Governor of Vientiane

The importance of having long-term plans aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

Mrs. Noraini Roslan, President/Mayor of Klang Municipal Council, Malaysia

Strengthening partnership and collaboration is key to global growth and prosperity not only between ASEAN cities and partners but among ASEAN cities as well.

Mr. Nuan Pharat, Vice Governor of Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The importance of ensuring disaster resilience, and standardisation of data management and protection, and expressed support for the implementation of Voluntary Local Review (VLR).

Dr. Emil E. Dardak, Vice Governor of East Java (until February 2024)

Three goals to achieve the Brunei 2035 vision: develop educated, highly skilled, and accomplished people; ensure high quality of life; and achieve a dynamic and sustainable economy. Brunei also started mandatory reporting to track progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieved progress on SDGs 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 14, and 15 as reflected in their Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2023.

Mr. Mohammad Sofian bin Haji Basri, Acting Tutong District Officer, Bandar Seri Begawan-Brunei Darussalam

How Siem Reap Province is trying to reduce poverty by improving public service through one window, one service; public healthcare service; infrastructure; tourism development; agriculture development; and education.

Ms. Math Azimah, Deputy Governor of Siem Reap Province

Their challenge is how local people annually burn their far which brings serious air pollution. To address this, Luang Prabang paid more attention to public awareness; education and public health; and the provision of jobs and project to address poverty.

Mr. Saveuy Silavan, Vice Mayor of Luang Prabang City

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The importance of balance between urban and rural life which is demonstrated by three strategies: regulation to manage rural life, the establishment of Ministry of Village and Development, and allocation of budget.

Dr. Suhiriza ZA, Director General of Regional Administration, Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

His province (Quirino), as a rural area, contributes to sustainable development through ecological balance and the ambition to be net zero in the next 5-10 years.

Mr. Dakila Carlo E. Cua, The President of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)/Governor of Quirino Province, the Philippines

Vientiane had been planning several accelerated strategic programmes to increase job creation within 2023-2030 period, including: providing public spaces; improving the quality of clean water; improving transportation services (BRT development); and managing population growth

Mr. Atsaphangthong Siphardone, Governor of Vientiane

The importance of having long-term plans aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

Mrs. Noraini Roslan, President/Mayor of Klang Municipal Council, Malaysia

Strengthening partnership and collaboration is key to global growth and prosperity not only between ASEAN cities and partners but among ASEAN cities as well.

Mr. Nuan Pharat, Vice Governor of Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The importance of ensuring disaster resilience, and standardisation of data management and protection, and expressed support for the implementation of Voluntary Local Review (VLR).

Dr. Emil E. Dardak, Vice Governor of East Java (until February 2024)

Three goals to achieve the Brunei 2035 vision: develop educated, highly skilled, and accomplished people; ensure high quality of life; and achieve a dynamic and sustainable economy. Brunei also started mandatory reporting to track progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieved progress on SDGs 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 14, and 15 as reflected in their Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2023.

Mr. Mohammad Sofian bin Haji Basri, Acting Tutong District Officer, Bandar Seri Begawan-Brunei Darussalam

How Siem Reap Province is trying to reduce poverty by improving public service through one window, one service; public healthcare service; infrastructure; tourism development; agriculture development; and education.

Ms. Math Azimah, Deputy Governor of Siem Reap Province

Their challenge is how local people annually burn their far which brings serious air pollution. To address this, Luang Prabang paid more attention to public awareness; education and public health; and the provision of jobs and project to address poverty.

Mr. Saveuy Silavan, Vice Mayor of Luang Prabang City
UCLG ASPAC - MoHA: Towards Prolific Collaboration

UCLG ASPAC, and the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (MoHA), successfully held the 2023 meeting of Coordination and Evaluation of the Cooperation, hosted by City Government of Jambi, on February 27-28, 2023. The meeting is part of the UCLG ASPAC-MoHA agreement to ensure the increased participation of and benefits for member cities and local governments in Indonesia, the host country of the UCLG ASPAC Secretariat. The meeting brought more than 100 city officials representing 26 Indonesian cities and regencies, MoHA, the State Secretary, and the National Secretariat for SDGs/Ministry of National Development Planning of Indonesia. In this meeting, UCLG ASPAC also invited PT Sarana Multi Infrastruktur (SMI), a State-Owned Enterprise dedicated to achieving sustainable development for investors, government, and society.

Synergy and Benefits of Collaboration by the Internal Work Unit of the MoHA;
Synergy and Benefits of Collaboration by the cities and local governments that are members of UCLG ASPAC;
Local Governments’ Challenges and Constraints in membership in UCLG ASPAC;
Achievements and Good Practices as the result of Collaboration;
Favorable policy for continued support to UCLG ASPAC.

Responses by UCLG ASPAC Secretary General Dr. Bernadia:
- For facilitation of international cooperation, local governments can draft a plan on their expected international cooperation, which includes their priorities.
- For learning exchange, UCLG ASPAC will explore internship opportunities for Indonesia's local governments to city members in other countries in the region.
- For Carbon Trade issues, UCLG ASPAC will hold a workshop on carbon trade by inviting competent speakers.

Knowledge Sharing with PT SMI, Bappenas, and Seoul Metropolitan Government
This was a space for better understanding on alternative financing for climate actions; introduction of VLR to increase the knowledge of local government in developing the inclusive SDGs report that contributes to the VNR; good practices of Seoul delivered by UCLG ASPAC Secondee from Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) in becoming eco-friendly and liveable city.

Site Visit
All participants joined site-visit to the project location of the Integrated Resource Recovery Centre (IRRC) Waste to Energy (WTE) in Talang Banjar Market and Sanitary Landfill in Talang Gulo (TPA Talang Gulo). IRRC is a 2016 grant project from the United Nations Environment and Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in partnership with UCLG ASPAC. Participants also visited the Talang Gulo sanitary landfill, developed from a collaboration between the Government of Indonesia and the Government of Germany in the Emission Reduction in Cities–Solid Waste Management (ERIO-SWM) Programme, and participated in tree planting as part of the Jambi-UNESCAP-UCLG ASPAC air-pollution programme and visited the location of leachate treatment.

Cities’ Voices, Insights For Future Collaborations
- City of Samarinda, City of Jambi, City of Pangkal Pinang, City of Banjarmasin, and Regency of Ogan Komering Ilir shared their positive responses and expectations for upcoming activities, including capacity building for labour; expert certification; creative economy programme; green building; assistance to develop VLR; eco-tourism; internship/secondment programme and short-courses for Indonesian local governments; and knowledge exchange on carbon trade.
- City Government of Yogyakarta and Regency Government of North Minahasa also shared positive feedbacks and the North Minahasa Regency specifically proposed to get facilitation for collaboration and cooperation to develop their eco-tourism and optimise opportunities for their commodity (coconut oil).
UCLG ASPAC at the 10th APFSD: Collective Power of Local Governments

UCLG ASPAC partook in the 10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development from March 27 to 30, 2023, held in Bangkok, Thailand, under the framework of Asia-Pacific Local Government Coordinating Body (APLG), the regional coordination mechanism of local governments in the region.

Theme: “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels in Asia and the Pacific.” The Forum assessed progress on the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation); Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy); Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure); Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and Goal 17 (Partnership for the Goals).

UCLG ASPAC led the preparation of the Joint Statement of Local Authorities to the APFSD which was delivered by UCLG ASPAC Secretary General Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi at the plenary session on March 27, 2023, highlighting 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 Voluntary Local Review (VLR), and innovative financing and investment to localise the SDGs.

Local governments are helping each other through decentralised cooperation, and we need national governments and the international community to provide an enabling environment that will let us be more effective in the essential work that we do. With our collective power, the power of we, we can build our common future.

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi Secretary General, UCLG ASPAC

Localisation and SDG 11 are crucial enablers of all the SDGs that must be invested upon.
Ms. Germelina Singson-Goulart, Executive Vice President for Operations of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) and Mayor of the Municipality of Caoayan

UCLG ASPAC co-organised three parallel sessions at APUF-8.

- "Unlocking the Potential of VLRs: Building Sustainable Cities through Local Action and Follow-up and Review Processes”
- Enabling Frameworks to Support Asian Cities’ Ability to Access Climate Finance (with UNESCAP, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA))
- Leveraging Digital Innovation for Sustainable Urban Development (with UNESCAP, UNHABITAT, and Seeds Star)

Provided learning space for cities and local governments on initiatives related to urban regeneration and transformation for sustainable development and to discuss and finalise the Joint Local Government Statement to the APFSD, serving as input to the Joint Statement of the Assemblies delivered at the Closing Ceremony of APUF-8.

Graced by: Mr. Tae-young Yeom, Vice Governor for the Economy of the Gyeonggi Provincial Government and Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of UNESCAP

Creating a Sustainable Urban Future at the 8th Asia-Pacific Urban Forum

UCLG ASPAC, under the framework of The Asia-Pacific Local Government Coordinating Body (APLG), facilitated the expression of the commitment of cities and local governments to the global agenda at the 8th Asia-Pacific Urban Forum through the Local Government Assembly and parallel sessions on October 23-25, 2023. The event, held in Suwon, South Korea, and organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), focused on urban and territorial planning, urban climate action, inclusive urban digitalisation, and urban finance.

Local Government Assembly

Parallel Sessions

UCLG ASPAC organised/co-organised, together with partners, several in-person and virtual side events at the APFSD. At the side event “SDG11 in Focus: Glocalisation: Catalysing Local Implementation of Global Goals in Asia and the Pacific,” UCLG ASPAC Secretary General emphasised the importance of localisation to realise the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.
UCLG ASPAC, supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), is implementing the Municipalities Network Advocacy on Sanitation in South Asia (MuNASS) programme in the South Asia region focusing on Bangladesh and Nepal to strengthen the capacity of municipalities and municipal associations in designing and implementing City Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS). This investment has facilitated the learning of important lessons on how to fill SDG data gaps, made available important advocacy tools, and developed a scalable model for engaging municipalities to achieve SDG 6.2 within and beyond South Asia.

### Key achievements

#### Policy Advocacy

- Provided feedback on the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Policy, Joint Sector Review WASH Workshops in Madhesh Province, led the initiation of CWIS Guideline Indicators Validation Workshop (by MuAN);
- Completed study on Sanitation Data Management by MAB focused on SDG 6.2 showing lower achievements of SDG 6 than the data found in SDG tracker, supportive to Sanitation data management policy level to reduce data gap;
- Accomplished five national-level advocacy events including Policy Dialogue on Urban Sanitation and Shit Flow Diagram (SFD) Institutionalisation with more than 810 attendees including Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Municipal Staffs and Development partners;
- Drafted Seven By Laws to support pilot cities in Nepal as largest number of Policy support in Nepal;
- Successfully organised CWIS Conclave in Nepal participated by more than 270 City Leaders, National Leaders, High Officials (by MuAN) with leaders’ commitment to implement CWIS approach in Nepal.

#### Knowledge Management

- Sanitation Excellence Awards

-MuNASS IEC Materials
  - MuNASS Phase 2 has published valuable knowledge materials to support SDG 6.2 in both Nepal and Bangladesh. Sustainable Finance Department in Bangladesh has published number of guidelines for private sector, MAB has made a compendium and shared with cities to get access to finance for private sectors to address FSM. MuAN in Nepal has published SFD reports in both local and international level. 29 Reports have already been published. A literature on SFD, Poster on Safe Sanitation, Sticker, one video have been published.

#### Capacity building

- In the seven province of Nepal, 638 participants have received orientation on CWIS;
- Three teams from Nepal and one team from Bangladesh participated at the CWIS Learning Visit (SaniTour) in Hyderabad and Warangal of Telangana and Odisha (India) to learn from Best Practices Sanitation City on CWIS for the city leaders.
- In Bangladesh, Press Institute Bangladesh and MAB has jointly organised orientation for National Media personalities;
- The SFD exercises took place in 52 Municipalities of Nepal with 29 reports published by international platform SuSanA. DWSS in Nepal has agreed to incorporate a dashboard on Sanitation under their NWASH System and to add SFDs for greater audience and support;
- Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) Unit has been given an orientation on CWIS followed by a need of assessment workshop. In Bangladesh, GESI Unit has initiated the activity to raise the awareness of mass people in cities and stakeholders on Safe Public Toilet for women.
- Waling Municipality in Nepal has completed the construction of Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) and is now under a trial run. By October, it will upgrade its system and become fully functional. The business plan has also been prepared and revalidated by the Municipality.
- In Bangladesh, Lalmonirhat and Bera Municipalities have completed the construction of FSTP with the support of the government fund and already started operations.
- Lalmonirhat Municipality Sanitation Business Plan has been presented as part of the upcoming module at the Asia Pacific Mayors Academy and was well appreciated by workshop participants.
- National Institute of Local Government (NILG) under the Ministry of Local Government in Bangladesh has updated National Sanitation Training Manual with the support from MuNASS in collaboration with MAB.
- FSTP of Dhulikhel Municipality has been upgraded to Co treatment plant.

#### CWIS Regional Assembly in Kathmandu, Nepal (April 11–13, 2023)

**Kathmandu Recommendations**

[Click](https://tinyurl.com/ffad6hu9)

**South and Southeast Asia City Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) Workshop, Tangerang Regency, Indonesia**

**Sanitation Innovation Technology session, 9th UCLG ASPAC Congress, China**
Climate Action Support to Cities

CRIC

UCLG ASPAC Climate Resilient and Inclusive Cities (CRIC) Project, funded jointly with the European Union (EU), completed its capacity building support to cities and local governments in 2023. CRIC Project commits to supporting cities, particularly in their climate actions.

In 2023, CRIC Project:

Held CRIC Panel Discussion: Tackling Climate Change Challenges and Creating Opportunities in Climate Action

UCLG ASPAC Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) Southeast Asia (SEA) concluded its support to cities’ resilience in 2023 through various activities such as webinars, knowledge sharing, networking events, and training.

GCoM

5 National Workshops: Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Total Participants</th>
<th>Cities reached out</th>
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<tr>
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1 Southeast Asia Regional Workshop

<table>
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10th APFSD Side Event Knowledge Sharing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Participants</th>
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<tr>
<td>57</td>
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Local Empowerment, Advocacy and Development (LEAD) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Localisation in Pakistan

UCLG ASPAC under the framework of LEAD for SDGs programme, jointly funded by the European Union, supported local governments in Pakistan to localise the SDGs, for sharing learnings on SDGs localisation at regional level. In year 2023, the programme concluded its support. Below is the summary of its journey this year.

January 6, 2023 | Karachi
Local Councils Association Sindh organised a day-long consecutive Provincial Policy Dialogues on Localisation and Implementation of ‘SDG 3 Health and Well-being’ and ‘SDG 4 Quality Education’ in Karachi on January 6 and 23, 2023 respectively.

January 26, 2023 | Islamabad
Collaborating with the strategic stakeholder of LEAD for SDGs project, National Assembly of Pakistan’s SDGs Secretariat, LEAD jointly arranged the inauguration ceremony of the SDGs Knowledge Hub (SKH). Developed by LEAD4SDGs in close coordination with The Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives (PD&SI), SKH is to support the Government of Pakistan in supplementing the knowledge and information on the localisation of SDGs for development practitioners, policy, academia, and decision-makers to play a more effective role in sustainable local development through the realisation of SDGs Localisation in Pakistan.

February 16, 2023 | Islamabad
The project partnered with the National Assembly of Pakistan’s SDGs Secretariat and arranged an all-day National Dialogue on the localisation of the SDGs containing fruitful technical sessions on “Parliamentary Oversight of the SDGs, Local-level Reporting on SDGs and Identifying the Role of Local Governments in Achieving the Agenda 2030.”

February 27-28, March 1, 2023 | Gwadar, March 15-17, 2023 | Quetta
Three-day Programmes for multi-stakeholder intervention to rank SDGs and to build the capacity of the newly elected Local Government Representatives of Balochistan on Legal, Financial and Administrative Authorities and Localisation of SDGs in pilot districts of Gwadar and Quetta.

March 29, 2023 | Bangkok
Mr. Mian Rajan Sultan Pirzada, President, Association for Development of Local Governance along with representatives of Local Governments from Balochistan and Sindh participated in the 10th APFSD.

April 11, 2023 | Quetta
Multi-Stakeholders’ Workshop for the provincial and two districts (Quetta and Kech) SDGs alliances to discuss the baseline study, SDGs ranking, prioritisation results, and finalising the themes relevant for action research to improve planning and development at all levels.

April 13 - 14, 2023 | Karachi
Multi-Stakeholders’ Workshop was organised by Local Councils Association Sindh under the LEAD for SDGs Programme.

May 2023
Under the LEAD Project framework, the Local Councils Association Sindh and Balochistan conducted three district-level policy dialogues at Sukkur IBA University and the University of Turbat, addressing key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

June 13, 2023 | Islamabad
Capacity Building Workshop on SDG Local Reporting and Monitoring. The objectives: strengthening capacity of the local governments’ representatives on data and information collection relevant to progress and implementation of SDGs at local level and institutionalising SDGs reporting at local level that will operate beyond project life and instrumental in long-term for a localised sustainable development in Pakistan.

June 14, 2023
National Conference on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was organised in Islamabad, Pakistan to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs Agenda 2030 and empower local governments for inclusive and sustainable development at the grassroots level.

The conference brought together a diverse range of stakeholders, including policymakers, government officials, experts, and representatives from civil society organisations.

UCLG ASPAC Secretariat would like to thank our members in Pakistan for actively involved in the LEAD Programme, and to the EU for financial support.
Women Empowerment: From Gender Responsive and Participatory Budgeting Workshop to Championing the Works of Women Leaders

UCLG ASPAC in collaboration with Penang Women’s Development Corporation (PWOIC), and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), held Learning Workshop on Gender Responsive and Participatory Budgeting (GRPB) for local governments on February 13th and 14th, 2023. As part of the Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre (KLRTC), the event was hosted by the Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL), Malaysia.

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, the Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC, said, “The GRPB in local government is important. This issue is a two-pronged approach that includes a top-down approach, which is Responsiveness in local government budgeting, and a bottom-up approach, which is ‘Participatory’ to ensure community (particularly women) participation. Instead of having a separate budget for women, GRPB is an important tool to improve the transparency, accountability, effectiveness, and efficiency of the management of public expenditure and provides for a more equitable distribution of public finances for women and men.”

UCLG ASPAC also championed great works of female city leaders promoted through its monthly eNewsletter distributed to members and partners:

1. Hj. Umi Azizah, Mayor of Tegal
2. Lani Mercado-Revilla, Mayor of Bacoor
3. Rahma, Regent of Tanjungpinang
4. Jane Censoria Cajes Yap, Mayor of Tagbilaran
5. Indah Putri Indran, Regent of North Luwu
6. Satoko Kishimoto, Mayor of Suginami Ward
7. Anna Reynolds, Lord Mayor of Hobart
8. Kasmarni Purbaningtyas, Regent of Bengkalis
9. Sitti Djalia Turabin-Hataman, Mayor of Isabela
10. Imelda Aguilar, Mayor of Las Pinas
11. Beverly Rose Dimacuha, Mayor of Batangas
12. Viandrei Nicole J. Cuevas, Mayor of Palayan

UCLG ASPAC’s Committees also recorded various activities throughout year 2023 (such as in UCLG ASPAC Congress 2023):

- Standing Committee for South and Southwest Asia
- Standing Committee for Southeast Asia
- Tourism Committee
- Culture Committee
- BRLC

Involved: a total of 42 participants from 12 local governments in Malaysia.
Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy: Supporting City Leaders’ Capacity Building and Networking

**UCLG ASPAC** supports capacity building and networking of city leaders in the Asia-Pacific region under the framework of the Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy, a collaborative framework with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations University, Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU), and Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES).

In 2023, the Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy virtually launched and held its first two modules on April 4 and 18, 2023. A total of 13 Mayors from four countries comprise the fourth batch including Hang Tuah Jaya and Rompin (Malaysia), Bedok, Bheri, Phikkal, and Hetauda (Nepal), Anilao, Badiangan, Calapan, Cauayan, Iligan, and Ormoc (Philippines), and Nakhon Si Thammarat (Thailand).

Module 1 (Cities 2030) introduced global development frameworks mainly the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its linkages with the Paris Climate Change Agreement, Sendai Framework, New Urban Agenda, and Addis Ababa Action Agenda. It highlighted that all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have an urban dimension which underscored the importance of cities in achieving them.

During their self-introductions, Mayors identified the following challenges for sustainable urban development in their cities: insufficient financial resources; lack of technical capacity for disaster preparedness, climate change adaptation, and sustainable waste management; lack of adequate infrastructure; and limited public awareness and engagement on sustainable development.

Module 2 (COVID-19 Recovery) established the link between the SDGs and COVID-19 recovery and introduced the Voluntary Local Review (VLR). In her opening message, UCLG ASPAC Secretary General Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi acknowledged how local actions can shape the future of cities and how local solutions contribute to the regional recovery. UCLG ASPAC President Mayor Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha shared his experience in developing Dhulikhel Municipality’s VLR which enabled connection with the federal and provincial governments, and collaboration with different stakeholders. The VLR showcased their work on SDGs 1, 2, 4, and 6, and on participatory governance through the stakeholder councils for women, youth, and people with disabilities. Dhulikhel Municipality’s VLR is the first in Nepal and South Asia.

Facilitating Cities in Smart City Innovation Lab

**UCLG ASPAC** was engaged by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) to support the implementation of the “SCIL” Smart City Innovation Integration Project (October 2021-2023), a project to respond to the rapid population growth in cities across the Asia-Pacific region, which has brought about challenges such as traffic congestion, pollution, waste management, environmental degradation, and the increasing potential for a digital revolution. This project fostered innovation in the region by facilitating collaboration among cities, start-ups, major technology companies, and key development stakeholders to implement and expand technological solutions for sustainable urban development.

**RESULT:** The SCIL project selected Chiangmai, Sihanoukville, and Surabaya for implementation and local startups as service providers for respective pilot cities: Jaramba (Surabaya), GEPP (Sihanoukville), and Ally Generation (Chiang Mai).
New Members

Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund (BMDF)
Chairman: Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim
Website: bmdf.portal.gov.bd

Bheemdatt Municipality
Mayor: Mr. Padam Bokati
Website: bheemdattamun.gov.np

Biratnagar Metropolitan City
Mayor: Mr. Nagesh Koirala
Website: www.biratnagarmun.gov.np

Birendranagar Municipality
Mayor: Mr. Mohan Maya Dhakal
Website: birendranagarmun.gov.np

Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City
Mayor: Mr. Gopal Hamalthttps
Website: dhangadhimun.gov.np

Dharamshala Municipal Corporation
Mayor: Mr. Onkar Singh Nehria
Website: enedharamshala.in

Gyeongju City
Mayor: Mr. Joo Nak-Young
Website: gyeongju.go.kr

Kageshwori Manohara Municipality
Mayor: Mr. Upendra Karki
Website: kageshworimanoharamun.gov.np

Khaniyabas Rural Municipality
Mayor: Mr. Rana Bahadur Tamang
Website: khaniyabasmun.gov.np

Interns

Alma Atiela
Bachelor’s degree
University of Malaysia
Urban and Regional Planning

Iffah Zati Mazaya
Bachelor’s Degree
Institute of Technology Bandung
Urban and Regional Planning

Stefanie R Sitepu
Bachelor’s degree
Universitas Brawijaya
Public Administration

Francisca Flecia Paschalline
Bachelor’s degree
University of Gadjah Mada, International Relation

Laudza Fajrul Falakh
Bachelor’s degree
Parahyangan Catholic University, Bandung

Nicole Accalia Angriawan
Bachelor’s degree
University of Indonesia
Social Anthropology (2020)

Lalmonirhat Municipality
Mayor: Md. Rezaul Karim Swapan
Website: www.lalmonirhatmunicipality.gov.bd

Mardan City
Mayor: Mr. Himayat Ullah Mayar
Website: -

Municipal Corporation Turbat
Mayor: Mr. Balakhsher
Website: dccke.ch.com.pk

Pariaman City
Mayor: Mr. Genius Umar (October 2018 - October 2023)
Website: pariamankota.go.id

Qingdao Municipal People’s Government
Mayor: Mr. Zhao Haozhi
Website: english.qingdao.gov.cn

Tangerang Regency
Mayor: Dr. Andi Ony P., M.si.
Website: tangerangkab.go.id

Waling Municipality
Mayor: Mr. Krishna Khand
Website: walingmun.gov.np
Strengthening the Secretariat

UCLG ASPAC Secretariat is headed by the Secretary General. The Secretariat is made up of 35 members (as of December 2023), including core and project staffs, who serve a broad range of UCLG ASPAC’s works and activities throughout the Asia Pacific region, with balanced gender portion.

In 2023, UCLG ASPAC Secretariat Office continued the implementation of Enterprise Resources Planning (ERP) System in Human Resources Integrated System (HRIS) and started to cover the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) aspect to monitor and evaluate the employee performance, progress and impact as well as identify any issue on manifesto implementation, risk, or opportunity. In September 2023, KPI Modules of ERP System is ready to be utilised by the Secretariat’s staff.

Objectives:

- Continuation and implementation of the ERP System
- Introduction of the KPI aspect
- Workforce optimisation

Financial Highlights

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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>2,678,498,08</td>
<td>1,402,184,03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenditure Fiscal Year 2023**

- Communication & Publication: 61%
- Professional Fee: 18%
- Programme: 18%
- Others: 1%
- Overhead: 2%
- Travel: 5%
- Salaries & Social Charges: 6%

**Other Factors That Allow UCLG ASPAC to Operate at Reduced Costs:**

- Host City (Jakarta) provides the office space for the UCLG ASPAC Secretariat, including electricity and water.
- Organisations and local governments host and partially finance the Statutory Meetings and the programme activities.

**Main Contributors to Programmes**

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- IKI
- UN-Habitat
- ESCAP

**Membership Fees (Full vs Joint Member)**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
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<td>1,117,117,51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>711,061,94</td>
<td>1,117,117,51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Number Of Employees**

- 2018: 40
- 2019: 43
- 2020: 44
- 2021: 40
- 2022: 32
- 2023: 35

- *) In 2021, some employees completed their contracts and were hired as part-time consultants.
Knowledge Development Products
Throughout 2023, UCLG ASPAC produced and disseminated various knowledge development to our network.

## Newsletter
- **LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**
  - Cooperation For Sustainable & Resilient City
- **LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**
  - ADVANCING BALANCED ECONOMY

[Click: https://uclg-aspac.org/newsletters/]

## e-Newsletter
- Various news and updates

## Website
- [Click: https://uclg-aspac.org/newsletters/]

## e-Learning
- Various learning resources

## Videos
- **10 Years of Partnership**
  - 120 Countries, 79 Screeners, 15 Languages, 63 Meetings
- **Furthing Climate Action Across Southeast Asia**

[Click: https://tinyurl.com/mty4a2bv]

## Organisation Profile
- [APAC 2023]

## Annual Report 2022
- [APAC 2022]

## Social Media
- **Instagram**
  - 2023: 1,830
  - 2022: 1,451
  - Growth: 26.11%
- **Facebook**
  - 2023: 2,134
  - 2022: 1,930
  - Growth: 10.57%
- **Twitter**
  - 2023: 3,271
  - 2022: 3,110
  - Growth: 5.17%
UCLG ASPAC would like to thank our partners. Our work is made possible because of the support and collaboration.
Calendar of Activities 2024

19-23 February
Online Presidency Meeting
Organised by: UCLG World

19-24 February
Fellowship Training Programme
Gyeonggi Province
Organised by: HDP Nexus Committee

20-23 February
11th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
Bangkok
Organised by: UN ESCAP

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

18-25 May
The 10th World Water 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

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 (BRLCC)
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

September/October
Second Session of 2024 UCLG ASPAC Executive Bureau and 2024 Council Meetings
Zhangzhou 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.
We want to hear from you! Please send your feedbacks and suggestions to communication@uclg-aspac.org
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