

9TH UCLG ASPAC CONGRESS

PROCEEDING



Advancing Balanced Economic Development for Asia and the Pacific

13-15 November 2023
Yiwu, China

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FOREWORD



The 9th UCLG ASPAC Congress was successfully held in Yiwu from 13 to 15 November 2023 with nearly 500 city and local government officials, representatives of international organisations and local associations, experts, scholars and entrepreneurs gathered for in-depth exchanges and reached broad consensus on the theme of “Advancing Balanced Economic Development for Asia and the Pacific.”

The 9th Congress was highlighted by a number of wonderful activities and fruitful outcomes. The UCLG ASPAC Logistics Committee (UALC) was established, the “Yiwu Initiative on Promoting Asia-Pacific Logistics Cooperation” was released, and the sister city agreements were signed. The Congress served as an open and inclusive platform for friendly cooperation among cities in the Asia-Pacific region, where we have deepened our friendship, shared cooperation opportunities, discussed development plans and drew bright blueprints together. As a member of the UCLG ASPAC family, Yiwu looks forward to further cooperation and exchanges with member cities, and will stay committed to contributing wisdom and strength to the bright and prosperous future of the Asia-Pacific.

Mr. Ye Bangrui

Mayor of Yiwu Municipal People's Government

The 9th UCLG ASPAC Congress served as the biggest gathering of UCLG ASPAC members and partners after the COVID-19 pandemic. With the theme “Advancing Balanced Economic Development for Asia and the Pacific,” we highlighted the role of local and regional governments, strengthened city-to-city cooperation, and provided a platform for networking among decision makers from local governments and the key actors such as businesses. We have also successfully elected the UCLG ASPAC Presidency and Governing Body for the period 2023-2025. This proceeding bears the highlights of our biennial event to commemorate the wisdom from local and regional governments and identify our next steps to achieve balanced economic development for Asia and the Pacific.



Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi

Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 9TH UCLG ASPAC CONGRESS



The 9th UCLG ASPAC Congress was held on 13-15 November 2023, organised by UCLG ASPAC and co-hosted by the Yiwu Municipal People's Government and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. This is the first and largest in-person gathering of UCLG ASPAC since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.



MILESTONES

Election of UCLG ASPAC Presidency
and Governing Bodies for 2023-2025

Launch of Logistics Committee

Selection of Asia-Pacific
Sanitation Excellence Awardees

Conduct of the First Essay Competition
and the Second Photo Contest

WHAT

With the theme “Advancing Balanced Economic Development for Asia and the Pacific”, the Congress delved into the following areas: industrial upgrading, trade promotion, youth entrepreneurship, child-friendliness, and rural revitalisation.

WHEN

13-15 November 2023 (Monday to Wednesday)

WHERE

Crowne Plaza Yiwu Expo, Yiwu of Jinhua in Central Zhejiang Province, People’s Republic of China

WHO

36 Countries
487 registered participants
100 speakers
170+ local governments and organisations

HOW

7 Committee Meetings	1 Main Forum
4 Statutory Meetings	5 Sub-Forum
1 Opening Ceremony	2 Innovation Sessions
1 Closing Ceremony	2 Learning Forums



MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

50+ media representatives

THE 9th UCLG ASPAC CONGRESS

The 9th United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific Congress

OPENING CEREMONY



“As the world and human society are undergoing changes unseen before, we sincerely hope to build consensus and work in good faith with all participants to jointly promote the prosperity and development of the Asia-Pacific region and contribute to the building of a global community of shared future.”

Mr. Wang Jian, Party Secretary of the CPC Yiwu Municipal Committee, briefly discussed Yiwu's extensive experience and contribution in trade. He indicated 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 gave a speech at the Opening Ceremony.



Mr. Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha inaugurated the Opening Ceremony.

“As local and regional governments, we have a crucial role to play in addressing these issues and advancing balanced economic development as part of sustainable development in the region.”

Mr. Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha, Immediate Past President of UCLG ASPAC and Mayor of Dhulikhel Municipality, emphasised the need to foster cooperation among local and regional governments and with other stakeholders, and to leverage the opportunities of digital economy, global value chains, and youth, as drivers of economic transformation and social change.

“The stories of Zhejiang and Yiwu demonstrate, in very vivid terms, the striking features of China's economic growth, openness, innovation, inclusiveness, cooperation and win-win mentality.”

Mr. Shi Zhongjun, Secretary General of ASEAN-China Centre, considered the four following priorities for the future: building open and inclusive system of cooperation, securing high-standard regional economic integration, exploring new domains of practical cooperation, and enhancing amity and trust among people. The ASEAN-China Centre (ACC) is an intergovernmental organisation established by China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to promote practical cooperation and has been committed to strengthening exchanges and cooperation among the cities and local governments of China and ASEAN countries.



Mr. Shi Zhongjun delivered remarks during the opening ceremony.

城市 and 地方政府联合组织亚太区第九届会员大会

9th United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific Congress

主办单位：世界城市 and 地方政府联合组织亚太区
中国人民对外友好协会
义乌市人民政府

Organized by: United Cities and Local Governments ASPAC
Chinese People's Association of Friendship with Foreign Countries
Municipal People's Government

支持单位：浙江省人民政府

November 11-13, 2023
Yiwu, China



Ms. Tri Rismaharini delivered congratulatory remarks during the opening ceremony.

“

“For vulnerable groups in Indonesia, we launched an entrepreneurship programme called PENA which stands for National Economic Heroes.”

”

Ms. Tri Rismaharini, Minister of Social Affairs of Indonesia, highlighted the need for UCLG ASPAC members to work together for the common good and to encourage the growth Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). She cited the following activities to support SMEs: networking, creating joint marketing, and strengthening product quality. She also emphasised the importance of protecting cultures and achievements against global warming.

“

“Promoting the construction of an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future at the local level is a contemporary issue related to the well-being of people in Asia-Pacific countries, and it is also a shared responsibility and mission of local governments.”

”

Mr. Yan Dong, Vice President of CPAFFC, expressed their commitment to coordinated development that is open and inclusive, equal and mutually beneficial, and innovative and green. He added that Chinese cities are willing to work with regional partners to promote the Asia-Pacific as a pacesetter of cooperation and development, to create a more beneficial Asia-Pacific community of destiny, and to inject stronger momentum into regional and global economic recovery and sustainable development.



Mr. Yan Dong provided opening remarks at the opening ceremony.

“

“In this age of multiple crisis and uncertainty, let's elevate cooperation and partnership to open a brand-new chapter of the Asia-Pacific region, and the world; one that is more sustainable and prosperous for all people and planet.”

”



Mr. Ban Ki-Moon delivered a keynote speech at the Opening Ceremony.

Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, 8th Secretary General of the United Nations and Chairman of the Boao Forum, recognised that unity and cooperation remain critical to address the numerous challenges to humanity. He added that UCLG is an important platform for multilateral exchanges and cooperation of cities in the world.



MAIN FORUM

KEYNOTE SPEECH

“As we move forward, we must keep in mind that economic development is not an end in itself. It is a means to an end, and that end is to improve the lives of our people.”

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC, recommended focusing on inclusive growth, sustainable development, innovation and technology, and collaboration, for cities and local governments to advance balanced economic development. She expressed confidence that the shared values and vision of UCLG ASPAC can foster prosperity for the people.



Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi presented a keynote speech at the Main Forum.

“To further promote economic integration and institutionalisation in the East Asian region, we should work together on various economic cooperation arrangements.”

Mr. Lee Hee-sup, Secretary General of Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat, underscored the significance of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) as the first trade agreement that united China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea which can also bring numerous benefits to the ASEAN member states. He recommended enhancing the level of liberalisation of RCEP, ensuring complementarity and cooperation with other economic agreements, and restarting the negotiation on the free trade agreement between China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.



Mr. Lee Hee-sup delivered a keynote speech at the Main Forum.

“The world and mankind can only achieve development and progress through the creation of value.”

Mr. Cai Jin, Vice Chairman of China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing, Asia-Pacific Regional Chair of the International Federation of Purchasing and Supply Management, reported on the China logistics industry which serves as a pillar industry of the national economy. They made significant developments within the past 10 years that has significantly lowered logistics costs and improved efficiency. He mentioned that China's logistics industry will focus on 1) promoting the organisation of logistics to evolve toward the organisation of the supply chain; 2) promoting the digital development of logistics; 3) promoting the green, low-carbon and sustainable development of logistics and supply chains; 4) enhancing the resilience and security of logistics and supply chains; and 5) integrating into globalisation and continuously improving the global governance system of logistics and supply chains.



Mr. Cai Jin gave a keynote speech at the Main Forum.

ROUNDTABLE DIALOGUE

亚太城市和地方政府经贸合作圆桌对话会

Roundtable Dialogue: Economic and Trade Cooperation among Asia-Pacific Cities and Local Governments



主持人 Host
李玮



柯世贤
Dakila Carlo Cua



罗祖盘
Luo Zupan



山姆·布劳顿
Sam Broughton



安恩法
An Enfa



中野祐介
Nakano Yusuke



哈米德·本·侯赛因
Datuk Abd. Hamid Bin Hussain



Mr. Dakila Carlo Cua highlighted the significance of economic cooperation.

“

“As local governments assume their roles in the fulfilment of Philippine commitments to economic and trade agreements in various international and regional groupings such as ASEAN or the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), we have witnessed the emergence of more dynamic, aggressive and entrepreneurial local governments, which are indispensable to any trade facilitation strategy.”

”

Mr. Dakila Carlo Cua, President of Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) and Governor of Quirino Province, shared how the economic cooperation between the provincial government and the Korea International Cooperation Agency helped reduce poverty incidence and restored major watersheds in five villages. He also mentioned how e-commerce, with the promising blend of traditional products and modern technology, is driving economic growth and innovation in Quirino Province.



Mr. Luo Zupan emphasised the importance of enhancing international logistics.

“

“We will move faster to make our brands and delivery services go global, build more branches in foreign markets, fulfilment centers, and exhibition halls to connect Yiwu with the world.”

”

Mr. Luo Zupan, Vice Mayor of Yiwu, described the Yiwu-Xinjiang-Europe freight train service, which boosted economic and trade ties, created jobs, and promoted economic development along its route, as a successful case of inclusive and win-win-cooperation. To strengthen international logistics, in addition to the establishment of the UCLG ASPAC Logistics Committee, Yiwu will make efforts towards building three Silk Roads: on land, maritime, and in air.

“Localism is at the heart of Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ).”

Mr. Sam Broughton, Co-President of UCLG ASPAC and Mayor of Selwyn District, stated how the Pacific Territorial Authority initiative of LGNZ was conceptualised to improve the people's quality of life in the Pacific Islands and the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) Community Employment Programme (CEP) promoted community-led solutions for youth employment, education, and training. He underscored the importance of tailor-made solutions based from the approach that one size does not fit all.



Mr. Sam Broughton discussed the concept of Localism.

“To balance a city's economic growth with the sustainable development of its environment, it is necessary to have a scientific understanding of the relation between development and protection.”

Mr. An Enfa, Member of Standing Committee of CPC Kunming Municipal Committee and Vice Mayor of Kunming Municipal People's Government, illustrated Kunming's location and transportation advantages that allows it to connect with neighbouring countries and deepen cooperation. He cited the restoration of Dianchi Lake as an example of balancing economic growth with sustainable development of the environment.



Mr. An Enfa discussed strategies for balancing a city's economic growth.

“Where there are jobs, people will gather. However, the city's appeal is what makes them stay.”

Mr. Nakano Yusuke, Mayor of Hamamatsu City, remarked that to create a vibrant city, it is essential to focus on the development of jobs and the people. He also mentioned the Hamamatsu City International Strategy Plan which puts emphasis in fostering mutually beneficial cooperative relationships as a core pillar of diplomatic policy.



Mr. Nakano Yusuke discussed the importance of mutually beneficial cooperative relationships.

“We align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to create a city that offers infrastructure and provides an excellent work environment to foster economic growth.”

Datuk Abd. Hamid Bin Hussain, President of Sepang Municipal Council, disclosed how public-private partnerships can support the implementation of the SDGs. They have several initiatives to make Sepang investor-friendly such as providing more spaces and opportunities for commercial and industrial activities and fast-tracking the approval process of development proposals.



Datuk Abd. Hamid Bin Hussain highlighted public-private partnerships.



Sub-Forum: Industrial Upgrading

Speakers:

1. Dr. Ngo Trung Hai, Secretary General, Association of Cities of Viet Nam
2. Mr. Bhupender Attri, Commissioner, Shimla Municipal Corporation
3. Dr. Marcelino Pandin, Advisor, UCLG ASPAC
4. Mr. Zhang Yongping, Senior Engineer, China Electronics Standardization Institute
5. Mr. Jiang Hua, Deputy Secretary General, China Photovoltaic Industry Association
6. Mr. Wang Jiangbo, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, Jiangsu Huacan Telecommunications Group

Summary:

The sub-forum highlighted that development of technologies can support global targets on reduction of carbon footprint. These include the development of photovoltaic industry, electronic vehicles, and light-emitting diode (LED). Policies and investment on renewable energy were also encouraged.



Sub-Forum: Trade Promotion

Speakers:

1. Mr. Chung Hae-kwan, Ambassador and Vice Mayor for International Affairs, Daegu Metropolitan City
2. Mr. Himayat Ullah Mayar, Mayor, Mardan Municipal Council
3. Mr. Yang Yang, Deputy General Manager, Commodities City Group
4. Mr. Lu Xin, Financial Director for Overseas Business, Holley Group
5. Mr. Flame Liu, Global Store Investment Manager, SHEIN

Summary:

With the theme “Embracing the Asia-Pacific Initiative and Deepening Trade Cooperation”, the sub-forum focused on international enterprises and digital trade, and discussed new trends in trade development. Speakers from local governments expressed their willingness to strengthen trade cooperation. Speakers from the business sector shared their plans for international branding particularly for online fashion sales.

国际青年人才创新创业论坛

Create the Future and Business--International Youth Entrepreneurship Forum

主办单位：义乌市人民政府
承办单位：义乌市人才办
义乌市人力资源和社会保障局
义乌市人民政府外事办公室
义乌市技师学院
2017年11月

Sub-Forum: Youth Entrepreneurship

Speakers:

1. Mr. Lee Dong-hwan, Mayor, Goyang City
2. Mr. Handy Lao, Councilor, Laoag City
3. Mr. Isaac Kow, CEO and Co-Founder, ASEAN Youth Organization (Hong Kong Chapter)
4. Mr. Tian Yongpo, Director and Research Fellow, Human Resources Market Research Office, Chinese Academy of Personnel Science and National Human Resources Service Standardization Committee
5. Mr. Huang Yangjie, Director, Institute of China Innovation and Entrepreneurship Education, Hangzhou Normal University
6. Mr. He Shaoqing, Professor, Yiwu Industrial & Commercial College

Summary:

The sub-forum featured how local governments are supporting youth entrepreneurs. Some of these initiatives are customised support programmes and investment for start-ups. Learning opportunities through scholarships and leadership camps promoted youth development. Through these actions, local governments recognise the potential of the youth in shaping the region's economic development.



杨 菡 Yang Han
联合国儿童基金会项目官员
UNICEF Program Officer

Children's Journey
Integration and Enjoyment
童享融合

Children's Journey
Integration and Enjoyment
童享融合

Sub-Forum: Child-Friendliness

Speakers:

1. Mr. Ye Bangrui, Mayor of Yiwu
2. Mr. Peng Fuwei, Director General and First level inspector, Social Development Department
3. Ms. Stephany Uy Tan, Councilor, Catbalogan City
4. Prof. Dr. Genius Umar, S.Sos., M.Si., Mayor of Pariaman (2018-2023)
5. Ms. Zhang Yajie, Vice Chair, Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Guangzhou Committee
6. Ms. Zhang Jing, Chief planner of China Academy of Urban Planning and Design Construction
7. Ms. Wang Yu, Director, Institute of Livable Environment for the Elderly and Children, National Center for Residential Engineering, China Architectural Design and Research Group
8. Ms. Zong Lina, Head of Development Department, China National Children's Center
9. Ms. Yan Hang, Program Officer, UNICEF
10. Mr. Huang Chang Chao, President of the Asia Pacific Stationary Alliance

Summary:

The sub-forum aimed to explore best practices and experiences of child-friendly cities in the Asia-Pacific region, and to promote the integration of child-friendliness in city planning. Speakers from local governments discussed their initiatives that addressed the needs of children in relation to education and public space. Speakers from the academic institutions presented insights in constructing public spaces that are child friendly.



Sub-Forum: Rural Revitalisation

Speakers:

1. Mr. Bhagat Singh Khadka, Mayor, Ishma Rural Municipality
2. Mr. Md. Rezaul Karim Swapan, Mayor, Lalmonirhat Municipality
3. Mr. Joune James Esau Ganda, Regent Mayor, North Minahasa Regency
4. Ms. Jin Jing, President, Yiwu Agricultural Makers Development Federation
5. Mr. Xiang Xiaohui, President, Zhejiang Agricultural and Rural Modernization Institute
6. Mr. Yan Lijiao, Professor, Academy of Tourism and Leisure, Zhejiang University

Summary:

Speakers from local governments highlighted the potential of rural areas and importance of natural resources to the livelihood of communities. They also underscored the role of infrastructure and integration of urban and rural areas in enhancing connectivity and supporting economic activities. Speakers from academic institutions discussed the value of transforming cultural and natural resources into economic resources and the need to bolster the rural entrepreneurial ecosystem.



世界城地组织亚太区第九届会员大会

The 9th UCLG ASPAC Congress

签到处
REGISTRATION



Committee Meeting: Culture Committee

Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, as the Chair of the UCLG ASPAC Culture Committee, implemented several cultural policies and conducted three key activities in 2023. The International Workshop on Cultural Policy was held last 31 July to 4 August 2023 that gathered 30 people from 11 countries. The Jeju-Singapore Art Exchange Concert was held last 3 November 2023. The Global Young Creatives Residency Programme was held last 14-20 September 2023 and was participated in by 24 young artists and 38 lecturers. Jeju expressed commitment to continue their contribution to the cultural development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Three cities shared their cultural activities. Yiwu discussed about the China Yiwu Cultural Products Trade Fair, cultural heritage, and cuisine. Dagupan highlighted their Bangus Festival which celebrated the bountiful harvest as blessings from the sea and reminded the connection between the people and the sea. Pariaman shared about the Tabuik Festival, an important marker of identity in West Sumatra that boosts tourism, provides a positive image, and encourages social cohesion.



Committee Meeting: Humanitarian, Development and Peace (HDP) Nexus Committee

The HDP Nexus Committee, led by the Gyeonggi Provincial Government, emphasised that the global goals cannot be achieved without peace. Building peaceful societies is fundamental to sustained economic growth as a first step to fostering economic stability and social cohesion. The Committee noted that poverty alleviation and sustainable growth, two pillars of development cooperation, can serve as good basis for peace building. Peace building is necessary for the post-conflict social and political stability and prevention of further violent conflicts which would lead to aggravating humanitarian crises.





Committee Meeting: South and Southwest Asia Standing Committee and Circular Economy Committee

The South and Southwest Asia Standing Committee, as a sub-regional committee, was formed to strengthen cooperation among members and partners. Local government associations reported on their priorities and activities. Association for Development of Local Governance (ADLG) stated their advocacy towards decentralisation and empowerment of local governments. Federation of Sri Lanka Government Authorities (FSLGA) reported that they are implementing activities for the promotion of women leadership and youth engagement. Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN) conducted capacity building activities for municipalities. National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal (NARMIN) demonstrated their advocacy initiatives with federal and provincial governments to provide budget and capacity building for local governments. All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIILSG) emphasised the need to prioritise addressing the impacts of climate change and preparing for disasters. Municipal Association of Bangladesh (MAB) indicated that they are working for nationwide advocacy towards women-friendly Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities.

For the Circular Economy Committee, AIILSG and MuAN mentioned that they are working together to finalise the action plan and review the activities of the committee. They plan to develop e-booklets on demystifying circular economy.



Committee Meeting: Southeast Asia Standing Committee

Through the Southeast Asia Standing Committee, a dynamic collaboration and active participation from the government, community-driven organisations, has been more accessible, enhancing Southeast Asia's development. The ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) is the flagship initiative of the Committee. To date, AMF has produced seven (7) declarations (2011-2023) that contribute to the decision-making processes within ASEAN and serve as guidelines for actions at the local level.

Lao PDR is the ASEAN Chair in 2024. They identified the theme “ASEAN: Enhancing connectivity” with Three Community Pillars on promoting infrastructure connectivity, narrowing the development gap, and promoting greater economic integration and people-to-people exchanges.

Issues raised during the meeting include: gradual and fragile recovery of the ASEAN region from multidimensional disruptions; climate change, natural disasters, and security issues as pressing challenges; need to have a local government unit (LGU) in the ASEAN Secretariat; and the pending collection of best practices. Solutions shared during the meeting include: enhancing connectivity and resilience in the region; increasing capacity development aligned with the AMF Declarations; increasing local government participation in regional advocacy; developing a Best Practices Collection Report of ASEAN Cities; strengthening collaboration among local governments in ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific region; and continuing efforts to localise the sustainable development goals (SDGs).



Committee Meeting: Standing Committee of Women in Local Governments

As chair of the Committee, Guangzhou organized a series of telemedicine webinar in 2022. These webinars enabled sharing of experiences and best practices in women and children healthcare. Other activities conducted by the Committee were the Orientation Workshop on Gender Responsive and Participatory Budgeting, and Meeting with Réseau des Femmes Elues Locales d'Afrique or the Network of Local Elected Women of Africa (REFELA). Mayors of Dhulikhel Municipality, Kageshwori Manohara Municipality and Dagupan City, and representative from NARMIN also shared their initiatives and insights on women empowerment.

As part of its work plan, the Committee reported that they are working with partners, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC), and UN-Habitat, in developing a customised module on Gender Responsive and Participatory Budgeting for local governments in the Asia-Pacific Region. The Committee is also representing the Asia-Pacific region in the UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality through Vice Chair of CPPCC Guangzhou Committee Madam Zhang Yajie, Catbalogan Councilor Ms. Stephany Uy-Tan and Mayor of Klang Ms. Noraini Roslan. The Committee stated that they will continue its coordination with REFELA and FCM to strengthen the network of women leaders in the region. On the nomination of co-chairs for the Committee, there was interest from Kageshwori Manohara Municipality for the South & Southwest sub-region.



Committee Meeting: Tourism Committee

The UCLG ASPAC Tourism Committee (UATC), led by the Xi'an Municipal People's Government, addressed several matters during their meeting. Progress has been made in expanding the number of member cities and followers on social media. Xi'an also reported on the establishment of the International Ancient City Wall and Castles Alliance under the Committee. Member cities such as Catbalogan and Phnom Penh reported on the status of the local tourism sector. New members were approved including Qingdao, Samarinda, Yogyakarta, and Yulin. The Committee's work plan for 2024 was also presented including the 3rd Batch of the Chinese Language Programme, art exhibition, International Forum on Culture and Tourism Development of Silk Road Cities, set-up of UATC display area at UCLG ASPAC Secretariat, change of UATC website server, and publication of UATC newsletter.



UCLG ASPAC

Governing Body 2023-2025

次区域会议
Sub Regional Meeting



City Cooperation for Better Asia Pacific



PRESIDENT



MR. DAKILA CARLO CUA

Representing Southeast Asia sub-region

President of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) and Governor of Quirino Province

CO-PRESIDENTS



MR. HE XIONG

Representing the East and Northeast Asia sub-region

Mayor of Zhengzhou Municipal People's Government



MR. SAM BROUGHTON

Representing the Pacific sub-region

President of the Local Government New Zealand and Mayor of Selwyn District Council



MR. BHIM PRASAD DHUNGANA

Representing the South and Southwest Asia sub-region

President of the Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN) and Mayor of Neelakantha Municipality



MR. RANJIT S CHAVAN

Representing the Associate and International Organisation Members
President of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG)



MS. ZHANG YAJIE

Representing the Women in Local Governments
Vice Chair of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference
Guangzhou Committee



MR. ASHOK KUMAR BYANJU SHRESTHA

Immediate Past President
Mayor of Dhulikhel Municipality



MR. HERU BUDI HARTONO

Host
Acting Governor of Jakarta Capital City Government



MR. CHEN HAOUSU

Founding President
Chairperson of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with
Foreign Countries 2000-2011

EXECUTIVE BUREAU

East and Northeast Asia

1. Mr. Heong-joon Park, Mayor, Busan Metropolitan City
2. Mr. Yan Dong, Vice President, Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC)
3. Mr. Hong Joon Pyo, Mayor, Daegu Metropolitan City
4. Mr. Wu Xiande, Mayor, Fuzhou Municipal People's Government
5. Mr. Lee Cheol-woo, Chair of the Governors Association of the Republic of Korea (GAROK) and Governor of Gyeongsangbuk-do

6. Mr. Kang Im June, Mayor, Gunsan City
7. Mr. Nakano Yusuke, Mayor, Hamamatsu City
8. Mr. Yao Gaoyuan, Mayor, Hangzhou Municipal People's Government
9. Mr. Woo Beomki, Mayor, Jeonju City
10. Mr. Chiang Wan-An, Mayor, Taipei City Government
11. Mr. Ye Niuping, Mayor, Xi'an Municipal People's Government
12. Mr. Ye Bangrui, Mayor, Yiwu Municipal People's Government

South and Southwest Asia

1. Mr. Chintan Tamang, Mayor, Dhankuta Municipality
2. Mr. Md. Rezaul Karim, Mayor, Lalmonirhat Municipality
3. Mrs. Laxmi Devi Pandey, Chairperson, National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal (NARMIN)
4. Mr. Baikuntha Nath Neupane, Mayor, Vyas Municipality

Southeast Asia

1. Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Son, Chairman, Association of Cities of Vietnam (ACVN)
2. Mr. Dexter M. Uy, Mayor, Catbalogan City
3. Mr. Bima Arya Sugiarto, Chairperson of Association of Indonesian Municipalities (APEKSI) and Mayor of Bogor City
4. Mr. Apriyadi, Acting Regent Mayor, Musi Banyuasin Regency
5. Mr. Say Kosal, President, National League of Local Councils of the Kingdom of Cambodia (NLC)
6. Mr. Joune James Esau Ganda, Regent Mayor, North Minahasa Regency
7. Mr. Andi Harun, Mayor, Samarinda City

Pacific

1. Mr. Francis F B Green, Chairman of Kiribati Local Government Association (KiLGA) and Mayor of Abaokoro





Innovation Session: MuNASS Initiative to Promote Sanitation Innovation Technology to Address SDG 6.2

Speakers:

1. Mr. Dewan Kamal Ahmed, President of Municipal Association of Bangladesh (MAB) and Mayor of Nilphamari Municipality
2. Mr. Krishna Khand, Mayor, Waling Municipality
3. Mr. Abu Hanif Azad, Mayor, Sakhipur Municipality
4. Mr. Zhou Xiao Kang, Yixing Eco-Sanitary Manufacture Co.,Ltd.
5. Dr. Cai Ting, Beijing Enterprises Water Group Limited (BEWG) Product Development Center
6. Mr. Shamim Ashan Chowdhury, Project Manager, MuNASS, UCLG ASPAC

Summary:

UCLG ASPAC, with support from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), has been implementing the Municipalities Network Advocacy on Sanitation in South Asia (MuNASS) project to address SDG 6.2 since 2018. Through this session, MuNASS introduced innovations and new technologies for safe sanitation. The application and benefits of Reinvented Toilets (RTs) in the improvement of the urban living environment was presented. RTs are effective for controlling pollution and achieving waste-to-resource conversion. Various low-cost toilet systems such as flush toilet for black water treatment system, waterless toilet, and box toilet were also introduced.



Innovation Session: Women Trailblazers and Innovators in Local Governments

Speakers:

1. Ms. Mary Heather White, Project Director, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
2. Datuk Mahadi Bin Che Ngah, Mayor of Kuala Lumpur (2020-2023)
3. Ms. Khan Sovy, Mayor of Ou Chum Commune
4. Prof. Dr. Genius Umar, Mayor of Pariaman City (2018-2023)
5. Ms. Stephany Uy Tan, Councilor of Catbalogan City
6. Ms. Agnes Charlotte Bickart, Head of Institutional Relations, Metropolis

Summary:

Participants from UCLG ASPAC member countries, including Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, India, and the Philippines, gathered to champion the cause of empowering women in local governance. The event's dual objectives were clear: promote gender equality and encourage commitments from local governments and stakeholders to support and elevate women's participation and leadership. UCLG ASPAC members shared their commendable initiatives through posters, reflecting the progress made in their respective regions. Notable examples included Catbalogan's commitment to women's representation in local councils, Makati's establishment of the Gender and Development Council, and the All India Institute of Local Self-Government's Girl Power Project.



Learning Forum:

City Enabling Environment Assessment on Environmental and Climate Change Governance

Speakers:

1. Mr. Martin Hoffman, Regional Head of Climate, Energy, Environment, Biodiversity and Mobility, GIZ China
2. Mr. Suriya Yeekhun, Mayor of Prik Municipality
3. Mr. Alwis Rustam, Executive Director of Association of Indonesian Municipalities (APEKSI)
4. Dr. Mizan Bisri, Expert of CEE Rating
5. Mr. Ravi Ranjan Guru, Deputy Director General of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG)
6. Mr. Zhou Zeyu, Deputy Director General, National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation (NCSC)
7. Mr. Helmi Abidin, Regional Project Manager, UCLG ASPAC
8. Mr. Bhupender Atri, Commissioner, Shimla Municipal Corporation
9. Mr Yang Neng, CIB Research Carbon Finance Institute
10. Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC

Summary:

The Urban-ACT project co-organised this learning forum in collaboration with GIZ China. The learning forum aimed to present the City Enabling Environment-Environmental and Climate Change Governance (CEE-ECG) assessment results and share the practices of pilot cities. The discussion on the CEE-ECG assessment results noted the need for core actions at the national level and for capacity building, and difference in national and local priorities. Practices shared by pilot cities include low-carbon transport, eco-village planning, waste management, and climate-sensitive spatial planning.



Learning Forum: Asia Connectivity Seminar – Strengthening Global and Regional Supply Chain

Speakers:

1. Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC
2. Mr. Marcelino Pandin, Advisor of UCLG ASPAC
3. Ms. Noraini Roslan, Mayor of Klang Municipal Council
4. Mr. Nagesh Koirala, Mayor of Biratnagar Metropolitan City
5. Mr. Wang Jianwei, President of Yiwu International Land Port Group
6. Mr. Ali Nizar, Mayor of Addu City
7. Mr. Kazushige Endo, Director of Director of United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)
8. Mr. Lv Hang, Deputy Director of the Industrial Development Section of Chengdu Port and Logistics Office

Summary:

This learning forum underscored that adaptability and diversification are at the core of economic growth strategies. A global mindset is important to thrive not only in cross-border e-commerce activities but in an increasingly interconnected world. Seamless operation through a streamlined process, technology application, and a robust distribution network are indispensable to logistics excellence. Collaboration among stakeholders was also raised as a crucial element in building a resilient logistic system, taking into consideration perspectives from business, transport, and environment sectors.



LAUNCH OF THE LOGISTICS COMMITTEE

Initiated by the Yiwu Municipal People's Government, the UCLG ASPAC Logistics Committee was launched. The Committee aims to promote logistics interconnectivity among member cities in the Asia-Pacific region, help them build logistics networks, and advance common economic development in the Asia-Pacific region. Specifically, the committee will:

1. Build a platform for dialogues, exchanges, experience sharing, mutual benefits and win-win outcomes, hold conferences, forums, and activities on logistics, and facilitate pragmatic logistics cooperation among members;
2. Conduct theoretical research and policy consultation on global logistics, and promote best practices and cases of urban logistics development;
3. Establish a logistics cooperation mechanism among member cities on a mutually beneficial basis, in a bid to promote resource-sharing and win-win outcomes in the region;
4. Develop special logistics routes between member cities; improve logistics accessibility to build a new connectivity pattern in the Asia-Pacific region; and
5. Promote the concept, technology, and application of sustainable development of urban logistics.

“

“Logistics brings the world together and narrows the distance between you and me. It builds an important bridge for the flow of goods, convergence of interests, and people-to-people exchanges.”

Mr. Ye Bangrui, Mayor of Yiwu, talked about Yiwu's three hallmarks as a transport hub, as a transport corridor with four dimensions (land, marine, cyber, and air routes), and its global distribution network. With the establishment of the UCLG ASPAC Logistics Committee, he suggested building a new platform for economic and trade cooperation and a new logistics network, advancing research and development and using new technologies for digital and intelligent logistics, developing new rules of customs clearance logistics, and advocating a new model of green logistics in the Asia-Pacific region.

“

“It is necessary to move faster and build a passage system for global trade under the new development paradigm, innovate service models for international logistics, and establish safe, stable, green and intelligent logistics supply chain system.”

Ms. Yang Xiao, Executive Vice President of China Communications and Transportation Association Urban Logistics Union and Chief Editor of China Logistics Times, explained how the global trade landscape is changing and how this led to the ongoing transition from cost-based competition and expansion to value-based competition in the logistics industry. She expressed commitment to contribute proposals to the UCLG ASPAC Logistics Committee to improve its global competitiveness.

世界城地组织亚太区第 九届会员大会 暨世界城地组织亚太区 Closing Ceremony of the Inaugural Ceremony of

2023年11月15日
November 15, 2023



世界城地组织亚太区第九届会员大会
The 9th UCLG ASPAC Congress

CLOSING CEREMONY



Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi summarised the key points of the Congress during the closing ceremony.

“

“It is imperative that we collaborate to strengthen city-to-city cooperation and public-private partnerships, and to promote equal and basic services, effective democratic local governments, and good governance.”

”

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC, underlined the role of local and regional governments and the necessity of collaboration for a sustainable and prosperous future.



Mr. Dakila Carlo Cua delivered closing remarks.

“

“The future is local.”

”

Mr. Dakila Carlo Cua, President of UCLG ASPAC and Governor of Quirino Province, stated that the journey towards balanced economic development begins in cities and local communities. He identified that people, environment, governance, and peace are pillars to shape the future. He pledged unwavering commitment to strengthen UCLG ASPAC, amplify its collective voice, and champion the network's shared aspirations.

EXPLORE YIWU



Blue Route



The Blue Route provided a glimpse of China's logistics and delivery systems. The route covered two key locations: Yiwu International Port and ZTO Express Company. At the Yiwu International Port, the China-Europe Railway Express was highlighted as environment-friendly and a preferred choice for many businesses being a faster and more economical alternative to traditional air or sea freight. The extensive delivery network of ZTO Express Company was shown to have propelled the growth of online shopping in China.



Colourful Route

The Colourful Route covered a variety of destinations: the world's largest wholesale market for small commodities (Yiwu International Trade Market), the departure station of the world's longest freight railway (Yiwu-Xinjiang-Europe freight railway), the birthplace of the first Chinese edition of The Communist Manifesto, the beautiful Gangyao Village known for its pottery culture, and leading photovoltaic companies. This enabled participants to understand and experience Yiwu's trade and culture.



Golden Route

The Golden Route introduced the International Trade Centre District and explained the opportunities to do business with Yiwu. The route covered two key locations: District 1 which had souvenir and craft shops and District 6 which featured the MU Group that engaged in export trade and cross-border e-commerce. The MU Group has operations in domestic branch offices and purchasing and sales branch office in multiple international cities. The participants learned valuable insights on the business and trade landscape in Yiwu.



Green Route

The Green Route helped the participants better grasp the experience of rural development as one of the core strategic elements of China's development and discover the realities of human coexistence and coordinated development between urban and rural areas. In this route, participants visited two villages. The Gangyaou Village is a national AAA-level scenic spot and a traditional Chinese village. The village had a vibrant ceramic culture and was home to a 1,000-year-old kiln built during the Northern Song Dynasty. The Xilou Village is considered China's First Village of Brown Sugar as locals thrived on growing sugarcane and producing sugar. Participants witnessed pollution-free brown sugar production base and enjoyed local sugar products.

Opening Ceremony of UCLG ASPAC Public Space (Friendship Garden)



Yiwu City inaugurated its first outdoor international friendship exchange space - Friendship Garden. The goal is to provide a place for international friends to strengthen their bonds. Situated in Yiwu Botanical Garden, the Friendship Garden is centred around the picturesque Lianyan Lake, featuring scenic attractions like the Jianbo Bridge, Youyi Pavilion, and the Friendship Woods. During the inauguration of the Friendship Garden, attendees collectively planted red plum trees, symbolising the unity of member cities and their shared vision for a brighter future in the Asia-Pacific region.



Trade And Business Matchmaking



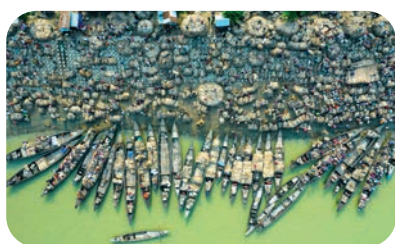
Alongside the UCLG ASPAC Congress and as part of the China Yiwu Imported Commodities Fair 2023, the fourth Zhejiang International Friendship Cities Exhibition was held at the Yiwu International Expo Center from 13 to 15 November 2023. The exhibition allowed UCLG ASPAC members to promote their respective cities/institutions. Exhibitors included AIILSG, Jeju, Catbalogan, GAROK, Gunsan, NARMIN, Xi'an, and Yogyakarta. UCLG ASPAC also organised business matching to facilitate connections between local governments/local government associations and businesses.



PHOTO CONTEST AND ESSAY COMPETITION

UCLG ASPAC held its second Photo Contest following the main theme of the 9th UCLG ASPAC Congress “Advancing Balanced Economic Development for Asia and the Pacific.” It had four (4) categories: trade and industrial advancement post-pandemic era, youth involvement in development, promoting innovative local development, and rural-urban interconnectivity. One (1) winner was selected for each of these categories plus one (1) winner of the Favourite Award. Board of jury included Ms. Evi Aryati Arbay, Independent Researcher, Author and Ethnographer; Mr. Manuel Alvarez Diestro, Chief Creative Officer of TAI School of the Arts; Mr. A.K.M. Emdadul Islam Bitu, Development Communication Visualizer; and Mr. Ravindu Iresh Maduranga, Programme Manager of Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities.

UCLG ASPAC would like to thank the Jury members for their contribution to the Photo Contest and Essay Competition.



Trade and industrial advancement post-pandemic era:

Shafiul Islam



Youth involvement in development:

Emman Foronda



Promoting innovative local development:

Vanesas Azzahra



Rural-urban interconnectivity:

Sudip Mati



Favourite:

Sourav Karmakar

UCLG ASPAC hosted its first Essay Competition. Also aligned with the main theme of the 9th UCLG ASPAC Congress, essayists could choose from five (5) sub-topics: industrial upgrading, trade promotion, youth entrepreneurship, child friendliness, and rural revitalisation. Board of jury included Mr. Riza Noer Arfani⁺, Lecturer & Researcher at Universitas Gadjah Mada; and Ms. Aurora Dominguez, Communication Director of Territorial Institute of Alicante Architects.

1st Prize:

Mike Natanael Norend Mandagie
“China’s Trade Ambition through BRI”



2nd Prize:

Ayu Adristi Cahyadewi “The Urgency of Child-Friendly Community for Children with Disabilities: A Key Pillar of Sustainable Economic Development in Asia-Pacific”



3rd Prize:

M. Ronot Rigen “Revitalizing Bukit Jaya Towards a Green Global Village”



ASIA-PACIFIC SANITATION EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Asia-Pacific Sanitation Excellence Award recognised four (4) cities or local governments in the Asia-Pacific region that have applied the City Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS), and made progress in the achievement of SDG 6.2. The Sanitation Value Chain served as a key area of measuring indicators. Cities or municipalities underwent a self-assessment and provided minimum evidence to prove their model.

UCLG ASPAC expresses its appreciation to the Independent Evaluation Committee: Professor Juliet Willetts, University of Technology Sydney, Dr. Tanvir Ahmed, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Bangladesh University BUET, and Ms. Isha Basyal Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Global Water and Sanitation Center, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. This first Asia-Pacific Sanitation Excellence Award is supported by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

Awardees



1

Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation, India



2

Waling Municipality, Nepal



3

Sakhipur Municipality, Bangladesh



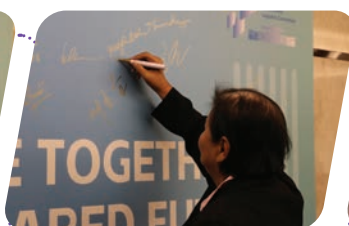
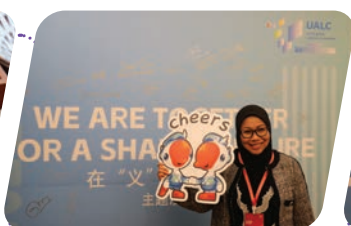
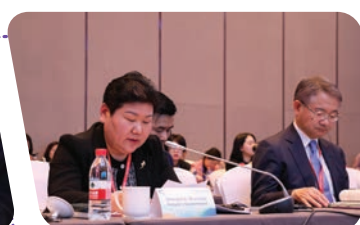
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Tangerang Regency, Indonesia

PHOTOS GALLERY



PHOTOS GALLERY





PHOTOS GALLERY





Executive Editor:
Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi

Editors:
Ramona Lissa Villegas
Betharia Raja Guk Guk

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and staff members of UCLG ASPAC Secretariat.



United Cities and Local Governments
Asia-Pacific



Jakarta Capital City Governments Building H, 21st Floor
Jl. Medan Merdeka Selatan No. 8-9
Jakarta 10110 Indonesia
Phone : +62 21 389 01 801 +62 811-804-700-2
Fax : +62 21 389 01 802

Facebook: uclgaspac
X: @uclgaspac
Instagram: @uclgaspac