

ASEAN MAYORS FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Submitted by the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) Secretariat
Hosted by the United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC)

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Abbreviations

ACVN	Association of Cities of Vietnam
AIMF	Association Internationale des Maires Francophones
AMF	ASEAN Mayors Forum
APEKSI	Asosiasi Pemerintah Kota Seluruh Indonesia
APPSI	Asosiasi Pemerintah Provinsi Seluruh Indonesia
ASCN	ASEAN Smart City Network
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASUS	ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy
BBST	Bandar Baru Salak Tinggi
CPR	Committee of Permanent Representatives
CWS	City Windows Series
KISMAT	Kitar Semula Minyak Masak Terpakai
EU	European Union
EV	Electric Vehicle
FCM	Federation of Canadian Municipalities
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
LGU	Local Government Unit
LGA	Local Government Associations
MALA	Malaysia Association of Local Authorities
MGMAC	Meeting of Governors/Mayors of ASEAN Capital
MRC	Mekong River Commission
NLC	National League of Commune
NMT	National Municipal Association of Thailand
OKI	Ogan Komering Ilir
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGAC	Smart Green ASEAN Cities
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
UCLG ASPAC	United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific
ULAP	Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines
UMCI	Urban Mekong Corridor Initiative
UN	United Nations
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Funds
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
VLR	Voluntary Local Review
VNR	Voluntary National Review

Foreword

Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC | AMF

It is my great pleasure to introduce this publication, which amplifies the voices and perspectives of cities and local governments in Southeast Asia. As Secretary-General of the United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC) which hosts the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) Secretariat, I have witnessed firsthand the dynamic role that local leaders play in driving sustainable development, fostering social cohesion, and building resilient ASEAN communities.

Mayors and local leaders play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our cities, propelling economic growth, promoting social cohesion, and safeguarding the environment. Meanwhile, the AMF provides these local leaders a platform for engaging in dialogue, sharing knowledge, exchanging best practices, and fostering partnerships to address common urban issues and enhance the quality of life of all. Through dialogue and cooperation, we can leverage our collective strengths to build resilient, inclusive, and sustainable cities that leave no one behind.

This publication provides information on shared activities, best practices, and lessons learned from cities and local governments across the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). By showcasing the diverse experiences and approaches of local leaders, we can strengthen collaboration, enhance knowledge-sharing, and empower communities to drive positive change.

All in all, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to city and local government leaders of ASEAN countries for their valuable contributions to the ASEAN community building. Together, let us harness the transformative potential of ASEAN cities and local governments to build a brighter future for all.

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi

Secretary General of the United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC)

ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) Secretariat





1. Introduction



Cities and local governments in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region face a diverse range of challenges, which vary depending on factors such as urbanisation rates, economic development levels, geographic location, and local governance structures. Many of them are experiencing rapid population growth and urbanisation, leading to strains on infrastructure, services, and resources. Managing this urban growth while ensuring sustainable development and adequate provision of services is a significant challenge.

Urbanisation and industrialisation in ASEAN cities often result in environmental degradation, including air and water pollution, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, and inadequate waste management. Mitigating these environmental challenges is essential for promoting sustainable development and resilience. Weak urban governance, inadequate planning, and ineffective land-use regulations can exacerbate urban challenges in ASEAN cities. Strengthening governance structures, enhancing urban planning capabilities, and promoting participatory decision-making processes are essential for sustainable urban development. Addressing these complex and interconnected challenges requires coordinated action and collaboration among governments, local authorities, civil society organisations, the private sector, and local communities. By adopting integrated and sustainable approaches to urban development, ASEAN cities can become more resilient, inclusive, and livable for all .

The ASEAN Mayors Forum is a platform that brings together mayors and local government leaders from cities in ASEAN. The AMF provides a venue for these leaders to discuss common challenges, share best practices, and explore opportunities for collaboration in addressing issues related to urban development, sustainability, and governance.

Through the ASEAN Mayors Forum, participants exchange knowledge and experiences on a wide range of topics such as urban planning, infrastructure development, environmental management, public health, and social welfare. By fostering dialogue and cooperation among mayors and local leaders, the AMF aims to promote inclusive and sustainable urban development across the ASEAN region.

The AMF serves as a platform for networking, capacity-building, and advocacy, enabling mayors and governors to work together towards common goals and priorities. It also contributes to the implementation of regional agendas such as the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy, and the ASEAN Smart Cities Network, which seek to enhance the quality of life and well-being of people in the ASEAN region.

Overall, the ASEAN Mayors Forum plays a crucial role in advancing urban governance, resilience, and sustainability in Southeast Asia, contributing to the shared prosperity and development of ASEAN member states.



1.1 AMF Goals

- Promote social, economic, and environmental sustainability
- Advocate global agenda commitment
- Engage in necessary collective actions
- Promote collaboration among local governments in ASEAN Nations
- Endorse local governments responsibilities to ASEAN development

1.2. AMF Logo



Three (3) distinct colors—blue, red, and yellow—aligned with the ASEAN emblem are used in the AMF logo. Red represents bravery and energy, blue denotes peace and stability, and yellow shows prosperity. The image of a dynamic globe is created by joining two curved lines with an oval in the middle, signifying how each element interacts with and builds upon the others to form the ASEAN Community as a whole.

1.3. Why Local Governments?

The ASEAN Mayors Forum views local government as the centerpiece of transformative societal change. But why local governments?

1. Local governments yield community-oriented benefits and provide localised solutions to issues that emerge within its territory.
2. Given the local government's spatial proximity to the community it governs, resources can be identified and mobilised effectively and efficiently.
3. Local governments promote and strengthen local democracy.
4. By understanding the community's needs, local governments can provide leadership and forge a long-term strategic vision aligned with the city's strengths, opportunities, and weaknesses.



2.

Activity Highlights



2.1. ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) 2023 on 1-2 August 2023

2.1.1. Overview

As one of the many embodiments of UCLG ASPAC’s relentless effort to foster sustainable development, the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) was conceived to propel constructive cooperation (e.g., advocacy, capacity building, training, research, knowledge management, project development, and project management) between local governments within and beyond the ASEAN region. This cooperation spans across a multitude of flourishing fields of development comprising local economic development, climate change, public health, disaster risk reduction, and other specific themes prioritised by the ASEAN. The AMF is also geared towards accelerating the sub-regional integration process in the region. The AMF fully supports the ASEAN mission towards an ASEAN Community united under One Vision and One Caring and Sharing Community. This regional platform was formed in 2011, and for the contributions it has made to further ASEAN’s agenda, was accredited as an ASEAN-affiliated entity in 2018.

At its core, this cooperative arrangement wishes to sharpen and amplify local governments’ indispensable role and contribution to the ASEAN and the world at large. In AMF, local leaders are encouraged to exchange reflective best practices and to indulge in collective action under the glorified banner of the common good. The AMF is also heavily involved in policy conversations, bridging local governments with ASEAN and other international partners for the betterment of ASEAN and its cities.

Contributing to Indonesia’s ASEAN Chairmanship in 2023 and carrying on the G20 Indonesia Chairmanship’s spirit, UCLG ASPAC, as the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) Secretariat, successfully co-organised the 2023 AMF hosted by the Jakarta Special Capital Region with the theme “Catalysing Regional Growth through Sustainable Development in ASEAN Cities”, in line with Indonesia’s ASEAN Chairmanship theme “ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth”, with the focus on economic strengthening, digitalisation, and resiliency. For the second time, following the success of the AMF and MGMA (Meeting of Governors/ Mayors of ASEAN Capitals) joint event in Phnom Penh in 2022, the AMF 2023 was also conducted in conjunction with MGMA 2023.

The 2023 AMF/MGMAC was conducted in an offline format (physical attendance) from 1 to 2 August 2023 at Fairmont Hotel Jakarta. Both events brought more than 500 participants, including Governors/ Mayors, senior local government officials, and representatives of local government associations from all ASEAN member states and strategic partners from UN bodies, other multilateral organisations, national partners, and stakeholders. Other participants included the Representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Country Permanent Representatives (CPRs), and national government representatives.

In alignment with Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship theme, the 2023 AMF elaborated on five (5) crucial areas:

a. Inclusive Economic Growth

In order to achieve ASEAN's goal of greater economic integration, the AMF emphasised the value of tangible and enhanced financial cooperation as a foundational element for the development of the ASEAN region.

b. Digital Transformation

The AMF acknowledged the need to strengthen programmes and collaborations to bridge the digital transformation gap in the ASEAN region.

c. Resilient Cities and Climate Action

Stakeholders still need help with the same difficulties, including a limited understanding of climate risks, a lack of data, and a shortage of financially viable projects incorporating climate resilience components.

d. SDGs Localisation

Governments have been working to advance the sustainable development agenda with assistance from international development partners to deliver on commitments to sustainable development.

e. Sustainable Mobility to Accelerate Cities; Net Zero Emissions

Developing green mobility industries is mandatory to enable opportunities and sustain the economy. Hence, exchanging best practices in sustainable mobility is fundamental for ASEAN development.





Mr. Heru Budi Hartono emphasised the role of local governments dealing with global challenges.

Mr. Heru Budi Hartono, Acting Governor of Jakarta Special Capital Region, remarked that local governments have a big role to support the continued relevance of ASEAN in responding to regional and global challenges as well as strengthening ASEAN's position as the centre of regional economic growth for the prosperity of the ASEAN people and the world. He also mentioned that how MGMAC was first initiated by the Provincial Government of DKI of Jakarta during the leadership of Mr. Joko Widodo in 2013 and was since held annually following the ASEAN Chairmanship rotation.



Dr. Kao Kim Hourn recognised the vital role of cities in spearheading action needed towards sustainable development.

Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary General of ASEAN, stated how the ASEAN Smart City Network (ASCN) and ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS) complement each other in catalysing opportunities for ASEAN cities. "For innovative, inclusive, and sustainable urban development, cities will therefore need to find the right combination of technology, policy, and partners." He recognised the vital role of cities in spearheading action needed towards sustainable development and the need for ASEAN Member States to build their capacity to promote pathways toward low carbon and climate resilient ASEAN. He concluded his message by acknowledging how MGMAC and AMF can be credible platforms to deepen collaboration and partnership among the ASEAN cities and local governments as well as catalyse collective efforts in attaining the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and beyond.



H.E. Retno L.P. Marsudi emphasised that people should be the core of governments' work.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, **H.E. Retno L.P. Marsudi**, inaugurated the AMF and MGMAC. She underscored that the people should be at the core of government work. She recommended that Governors and Mayors should pursue three (3) main agenda to support the ASEAN Chairmanship theme: health resilience, food security, and energy transition.



Mr. Berlianto Situngkar elaborated the 3 pillars of ASEAN

Mr. Berlianto Situngkir, Director of ASEAN Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, elaborated on the theme “ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth” based on three (3) 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.



Ms. Math Azimah introduced one window-one service practice to reduce poverty.

Ms. Math Azimah, Deputy Governor of Siem Reap Province, explained how they are trying to reduce poverty by improving public service through one window, one service; public healthcare service; infrastructure; tourism development; agriculture development; and education.



Dr. Safrizal ZA highlighted the importance of balance between urban and rural life.

Dr. Safrizal ZA, Director General of Regional Administration, Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, highlighted the importance of balance between urban and rural life which is demonstrated by three (3) strategies: regulation to manage rural life, establishment of Ministry of Village and Development, and allocation of budget.



Mr. Dakila Carlo E. Cua showcased how his province contributes to SDGs.

Mr. Dakila Carlo E. Cua, The President of Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)/ Governor of Quirino Province, the Philippines, remarked how his province as a rural area contributes to sustainable development through ecological balance and the ambition to be net zero in the next five to ten years.



Ms. Noraini Roslan underscored the importance of having long-term plans aligned with the SDGs.

Mrs. Noraini Roslan, President of Klang Municipal Council, Malaysia, underscored the importance of having long-term plans aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA).



Mr. Nuon Pharat emphasised collaboration as the key factor of global growth.

Mr. Nuon Pharat, Vice Governor of Phnom Penh, Cambodia remarked that strengthening partnership and collaboration is key to global growth and prosperity.



Mr. Dhany Sukma stated that central Jakarta adopts nature-based solutions to address extreme rainfall.

Mr. Dhany Sukma, Mayor of Central Jakarta, discussed how they are fostering economic growth by encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation, and how they are adopting nature-based solutions to address extreme rainfall caused by climate change.

Dr. Emil E. Dardak expressed support on the implementation of Voluntary Local Review.



Dr. Emil E. Dardak, Vice Governor of East Java, stressed the importance of ensuring disaster resilience, and of standardising data management and protection. He also expressed support on the development of Voluntary Local Review (VLR).



Mr. Saveuy Silavan shared local practices to address poverty.

Mr. Saveuy Silavan, Vice Mayor of Luang Prabang City, shared that their challenge is how local people annually burn their farm which brings serious air pollution. To address this, Luang Prabang paid more attention to public awareness, education and public health, and provision of jobs and projects to address poverty.

Mr Ngo Trung Hai mentioned the four (4) layers of smart cities' digital transformation.



Mr. Ngo Trung Hai, Secretary-General of The Association of Cities of Vietnam (ACVN), discussed how ACVN is focusing on digital transformation particularly smart cities which they conceptualise with four (4) layers: natural layer, physical infrastructure, digital infrastructure, and service infrastructure.



Mr. Mohammad Sofian bin Haji Basri reported that Brunei has started mandatory reporting on reducing GHG emissions in the Voluntary National Review (VNR).

Mr. Mohammad Sofian bin Haji Basri, Acting Tutong District Officer, Bandar Seri Begawan-Brunei Darussalam, stated that they have three (3) goals to achieve the Brunei 2035 vision: 1) develop educated, highly skilled, and accomplished people; 2) ensure high quality of life; and 3) achieve dynamic and sustainable economy. Brunei also started mandatory reporting to track progress in reducing greenhouse gas emission and achieved progress on SDGs 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 14 and 15 as reflected in their Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2023.



ASEAN city leaders delivered AMF Declaration



2.1.2 AMF 2023 Declaration

On 2 August 2023, city and local government leaders committed to and released the AMF 2023 Jakarta Declaration to coordinate their collaborative efforts and promises. The statement was delivered on stage by delegates from the ten ASEAN members: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. They emphasised important elements in this declaration with the goal of advancing ASEAN cities towards transformative, smart, and digital growth.

In keeping with the ASEAN Community 2025 agenda, the document also addressed the needs of local governments in promoting sustainable development, with the ultimate objective of creating inclusive and transformative urban lifestyles. Given its adoption, the AMF Declaration was submitted to the ASEAN CPRs and ASEAN Secretary-General for consideration.





2.2 The First Urban Mekong Corridor Initiative Dialogue (UMCID) on 27-28 February 2024

As one of the longest transboundary rivers in Southeast Asia, the Mekong Subregion is a naturally interconnected economic region of ASEAN five member countries: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam, and home to nearly 65 million inhabitants (mrcmekong.org). It has a crucial role in transportation, tourism, biodiversity, and agriculture of the region. However, as the population residing in cities is projected to soar, challenges such as climate change, declining agricultural yields, water scarcity, biodiversity loss, and waste management need to be addressed.



Expression of Commitment for Cooperation among Local Governments along the Mekong River Corridor

Enhancing collaboration is known as one of the best ways to address urban challenges by exchanging issues, solutions, and recommendations through dialogue. The Urban Mekong Corridor Dialogue, an initiative led by Cities Alliance and UCLG ASPAC, launched its first dialogue in Vientiane, Lao PDR, at the Landmark Mekong Riverside Hotel from 27 to 28 February 2024. The Urban Mekong Corridor Dialogue, a programme under the Urban Mekong Corridor Initiative, connected rapidly growing towns and cities for inclusive green development, and addressed challenges such as population growth, migration, and climate change impacts. The event also discussed roadmaps for dialogues, collaborative initiatives, and strategic cross-border cooperation.

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



Participants visited the solid waste treatment plan.

During the event, the delegates shared, highlighted and discussed their sustainable growth practices, especially on plastic and solid waste management. It also provided mentorship to accelerate urban development strategies. The dialogue resulted in a comprehensive planning approach that balances economic and social equity with environmentally sustainable development in the Greater Mekong Subregion. The Dialogue also produced an Urban Mekong Corridor Initiative (UMCI) Commitment which involved high-level dignitaries from Mekong countries and demonstrated a strong regional commitment to promote sustainable urban development and collaboration among cities

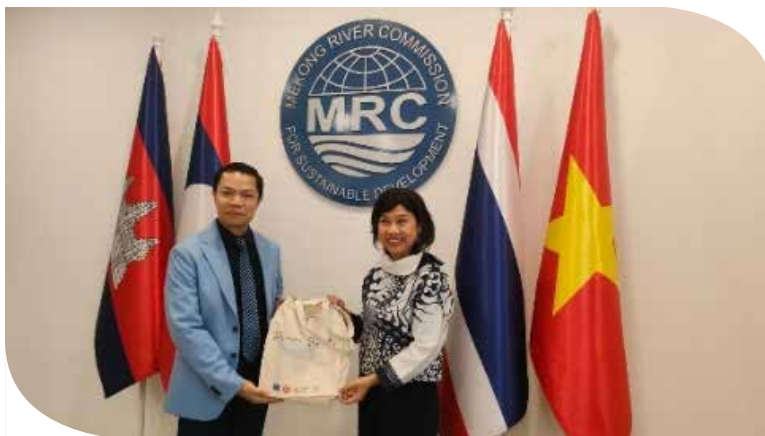
along the Urban Mekong Corridor. A study visit to That Luang and Solid Waste Transfer Station Nahai Village, Saysettha District was also conducted. In addition to the construction of the waste transfer station, the delegates were provided with practical information on how Vientiane Capital achieves sustainability through solid and organic waste management.

Continuing the success of the first dialogue, a forward-looking dialogue will be held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in June 2024, focusing on the technical matters for the realisation of long-term project implementation. The 2nd dialogue will target the previous participants and other representatives from ASEAN cities and beyond. The 2nd dialogue will focus on strengthening project proposals on solid waste plastic management and nature-based solutions.

2.3 Courtesy Visit to Vientiane Capital Administration for AMF and Mekong Corridor Initiative

2.3.1. Mekong Corridor Initiative Courtesy Visit on 18 January 2024

Mekong Corridor Initiative (MCI) is a joint initiative from UCLG ASPAC and Cities Alliance that involves cities and local governments of AMF, particularly in Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Viet Nam. It aims to identify and enhance development catalysts to foster a more competitive, interconnected, and sustainable network of towns and cities along the lower Mekong basin corridor.



Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi paid courtesy visit to the Mekong River Commission Office.

The courtesy visit also received support from the Vientiane Capital City Government to host the first MCI Dialogue on 27 to 28 February 2024, organised by UCLG ASPAC and Cities Alliance. A visit to the Secretariat of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) and a meeting with the CEO, Mr. Anoulak Kittikoune, was also conducted to ensure mutual benefits for all. This first dialogue would serve as a platform to promote collaborative efforts in addressing the common challenges the cities and local governments face in the corridor. It would also facilitate the establishment of partnerships within the MCI network.

This initiative seeks to strengthen the capacity and expertise of towns and cities along the Mekong corridor in promoting sustainable development and economic advantages. It will also explore cooperation on solid waste management, particularly plastic and nature-based solutions approach, as part of the overarching goals.

The AMF/MGMAC will be held side-by-side (combined) on 18 to 19 September 2024, following the previous AMF in Phnom Penh and Jakarta. Up to 250 participants, with more than 100 mayors/governors/city representatives from ASEAN, senior local government officials, and representatives of local government associations from all ASEAN member states will be invited to the meetings, including Myanmar and East Timor.

2.3.2. AMF Courtesy Visit on 17 January 2024

Following the ASEAN Chairmanship 2024, which is currently held by Lao PDR, the AMF Secretariat visited Vientiane Capital Administration to pay a courtesy to the Government of Vientiane for the preparation of the AMF 2024. The Provincial Government of Vientiane and the Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC reviewed the preparation, and amended the plans, agenda, and budget of AMF/ MGMAC 2024. The Secretary General also visited Luang Prabang City and was welcomed by the Vice Governor of Luang Prabang province.



Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi paid courtesy visit to the Governor of Vientiane for the preparation of AMF 2024.

UCLG ASPAC and local government of Vientiane have spoken with one voice regarding the conduct of the ASEAN Mayors Forum 2024. Vientiane, the Capital City of Lao PDR, the current ASEAN Chair, has confirmed to host the AMF Summit 2024, conducted back-to-back with the Meeting of Governments/Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC), on 18 to 19 September 2024.

The agreement on the hosting was the result of courtesy visit of Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC and team, together with Director for Community Affairs of the ASEAN Secretariat, Mr. Lee Yoong Yong, and His Excellency the Governor of Vientiane, Mr. Athsaphangthong Siphandone, the Vice Governor of Vientiane, H.E. Mr. Phouvong Vongkhapsao, and the related divisions from Vientiane Capital City Government. The Governor supported the AMF to be held on 18 to 19 September, spotlighting the ASEAN Chairmanship 2024 theme “ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience”, and bringing up discussions on (1) Smart City, (2) Green Tourism, (3) Sustainable Economic Development, (4) Clean and Sustainable City, and (5) Environmentally Sustainable City.



An agreement achieved between UCLG ASPAC and Vientiane for AMF/MGMAC 2024



2.4 Southeast Asia (SEA) Standing Committees Meeting at UCLG ASPAC Yiwu Congress on 13-15 November 2023



ASEAN City leaders attended the Southeast Asia Standing Committee Meeting at UCLG ASPAC-Yiwu Congress

2.4.1 Overview

A Committee established under the UCLG ASPAC framework, the Southeast Asia (SEA) Standing Committee has contributed to transforming societal changes while contributing to regional and global development. With its activities, the Committee has strengthened local governments and reinforced ASEAN's attempts to develop national and regional stability, elevating local actions to underpin a resilient ASEAN. Together with AMF, MGMAC, and Smart Green ASEAN Cities (SGAC), it has contributed to raising awareness and development of cities in Southeast Asia.

In partnership with the League of Cities of the Philippines as represented by Tanauan City Government that serves as the Committee Chair, the SEA Standing Committee organised its meeting at the bi-annual UCLG ASPAC Congress in Yiwu, China, from 13 to 15 November 2023. The ASEAN Mayors Forum 2023, ASEAN Entities Forum 2023, ASEAN Summit 2023, and Smart Green ASEAN Cities-City Windows #2 were just a few of the Committee's activities highlighted during the meeting.

2.4.2 Participating Speakers

- Mrs. Noraini Roslan, President of Klang Municipal Council 2021-2023, Malaysia
- Mr. Bounnao Fokumandeng, Vice Mayor of Pakse City, Lao PDR
- Mr. Dakila Carlo E. Cua, President of ULAP, Governor of Quirino Province, the Philippines, President of UCLG ASPAC
- Prof. Dr. Genius Umar, Mayor of Pariaman City 2018-2023, Indonesia
- Datuk Abd. Hamid Bin Hussain, President of Sepang Municipal Council, Malaysia
- Mr. Pok Sokundara, Secretary-General National League of Local Councils, Cambodia (NLC)
- Ms. Dina Junita Nara, Intermediate Expert Planner of OKI District, Indonesia

2.4.3 Meeting Opening



Ms Noraini Roslan chaired the SEA Standing Committee Meeting.

On behalf of Mr. Nelson Collantes, Mayor of Tanauan City, the Philippines, Mrs. Noraini Roslan, President of Klang Municipal Council, Malaysia opened and led the SEA Standing Committee meeting. She mentioned that the meeting would present various reports and end up with a Q&A session regarding the ASEAN challenges and opportunities.



Prof. Genius Umar delivered the Minutes of the previous SEA Standing Committee Meeting.

The meeting continued with the Review and Approval of Minutes of the Previous SEA Standing Committee Meeting 2022 in Daejeon, South Korea. For this, Prof. Dr. Genius Umar, Mayor of Pariaman City, Indonesia 2018-2023, delivered the minutes.

2.4.4 Meeting Presentations

2.4.4.1 ASEAN Chairmanship Lao PDR 2024

The first session was on ASEAN Chairmanship 2024 Lao PDR, which was presented by the Vice Mayor of Pakse City, Mr. Bounnao Fongkhamdeng. Lao PDR brought the theme: “ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience”. The theme emphasises ASEAN’s collective efforts in strengthening ASEAN Community to seize opportunities and address present and emerging challenges effectively under the three community pillars:

- promoting infrastructure connectivity;
- narrowing the development gap; and
- promoting greater economic integration and people-to-people exchanges.

Mr. Bounnao also shared the meaning behind the logo of Lao PDR ASEAN Chairmanship. The colours used in the logo represent the colours of the ASEAN Flag and Emblem: red, blue, yellow and white. The circular shape represents the globe and symbolises ASEAN’s relations and cooperation with external partners worldwide. This design element forms the letter “C” to symbolise “Connectivity”. This design element forms the letter “R” to symbolise “Resilience”.



Mr. Bounnao shared the background of Lao ASEAN Chairmanship 2024.

2.4.4.2 SEA Standing Committee Workplan 2024



Mr. Dakila Carlo Cua reported the activities and work plan of SEA Standing Committee.

The next agenda was on Reporting the AMF 2023 and SEA Standing Committee Workplan 2024 delivered by Mr. Dakila Carlo Cua, President of ULAP, Governor of Quirino Province, the Philippines, as well as the current elected President of UCLG ASPAC. He mentioned that the AMF and MGMAC were jointly conducted to catalyse opportunities for ASEAN cities for innovative, inclusive, and sustainable urban development. The discussions from the AMF and MGMAC 2023 led to the adoption of the Jakarta Declaration, which among others, highlighted key aspects propelling ASEAN cities toward smart, digital, and transformative growth and tackled the requirements of local governments in advancing sustainable development and aligning with the ASEAN Community 2025 regional agenda.

The following activities are in the pipeline for 2024:

- Capacity building (workshop-training) to implement the AMF Declaration
- Local Government (LG) participation in regional-level advocacy: ASEAN, and AMF
- Best Practice Collection Report of ASEAN Cities
- AMF/MGMAC 2024 in Lao PDR. The plan is to have an AMF++ (with China, Japan, South Korea).
- Smart Green ASEAN Cities 2024
- International Mayors Forum, June 2024

2.4.5 Showcasing ASEAN Best Practices



Datuk Abd. Hamid bin Hussain elaborated on Sepang Municipality's achievements on SGDs.

Datuk Abd. Hamid Bin Hussain, President of Sepang Municipal Council, Malaysia, shared some achievements of Sepang Municipality such as Bandar Baru Salak Tinggi (BBST) Sepang Walk, the environmentally friendly innovation Kitar Semula Minyak Masak Terpakai (KISMAT) programme, urban agriculture, and Salak Public Market.



Mr. Pok Sokundara delivered the report of City Windows Series activities.

Mr. Pok Sokundara, Secretary-General National League of Local Councils, Cambodia (NLC), representing Banyumas City and Siem Reap City, shared insights from the 2nd City Windows Series (CWS) which was conducted as part of the Smart Green ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Cities (SGAC) programme funded by the European Union (EU) to improve ASEAN cities' capacity in financing its smart and green city development initiatives. He mentioned that Siem Reap City focuses on developing smart green initiatives such as Electric Vehicle (EV) charger stations, smart public lights, and many more. He also shared about the success of Banyumas City's zero waste to landfill initiative.



Ms. Dina Junita Nara shared about Carbon Emissions Trading Planning in Ogan Komering Ilir (OKI) District.

Ms. Dina Junita Nara, Intermediate Expert Planner of OKI District, Indonesia, shared about Carbon Emissions Trading Planning in OKI District in 2024 which may contribute to increasing local revenue. The Ogan Komering Ilir District Government hopes that there are companies/investors who are interested in cooperating in planning the carbon trade, in accordance with existing geographical and regional conditions. Through carbon trading, the revenue earned is used to help vulnerable groups (subsidies) and finance economic recovery related to COVID-19. In addition, carbon trading can also increase incentives for green investment towards a low-carbon economy in the future.

2.4.6 Closing Statement



Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi closed the SEA Standing Committee Meeting.

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General, mentioned that dynamic collaboration is at the heart of the SEA Standing Committee. The platform has strengthened local governments and reinforced ASEAN's attempts to develop national and regional stability, elevating local actions to underpin a resilient ASEAN. UCLG ASPAC would continue hosting the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF), and collaborate with the Meeting of Governments/Mayors of ASEAN Capital (MGMAC) 2023, and the Smart Green ASEAN Cities (SGAC) - a programme executed by UNCDF. She concluded that this Committee will maintain its purpose and enlighten Southeast Asia to achieve faster development.

2.4.7 Conclusion

2.4.7.1 Issues raised during the meeting

- The ASEAN region has been gradually recovering from multidimensional disturbance but remains fragile.
- AMF has produced 7 AMF Declarations (2011-2023) to contribute to the decision-making processes within ASEAN and serve as guidelines for actions at the local level. It needs further support to make the commitments come true. All Declarations have been submitted to ASEAN Secretary General and CPRs.
- Climate change, natural disasters, and traditional and non-traditional security issues are still pressing challenges.
- Creating a Local Government Unit (LGU) in the ASEAN Secretariat is highly needed to foster ASEAN cities and local government.
- Best Practices Compilation Book from cities and local governments has not been collected yet.

2.4.7.2 Solutions shared during the meeting

- Enhancing connectivity and resilience is of utmost importance to ensure ASEAN collective efforts in the strengthening of the ASEAN Community to seize opportunities and address present and emerging challenges.
- Through SEA Standing Committee, a dynamic collaboration and active participation from the government, community-driven organisations, has been more accessible, enhancing Southeast Asia's development.
- Cities and Local Governments must be proactive to participate in the meetings, events, and other related activities to gain maximum outcomes. In relation to this, SEA Standing Committee proposed some agendas to be considered:
 - Increase capacity building (workshop-training) aligning the AMF Declarations.
 - Increase Local Government (LG) participation in regional-level advocacy.
 - Best Practice Collection Report of ASEAN Cities needs to be produced soon to unite those incredible initiatives from cities.
- Collaboration among cities and local governments in ASEAN and other nations in Asia Pacific needs to be increased. The similarities and close distance relationship among ASEAN countries make us understand each other better.
- Continuous efforts to localise SDGs should be maintained to receive significant results.





ASEAN C & AM 2023

AND MAYOR OF ASEAN CAPITAL MARKET

KARTA, 1-2 AUGUST 2023

2.5 The Smart Green ASEAN Cities: City Windows (High-Level Policy Dialogue) hosted by Banyumas Regency, Indonesia on 12-14 September 2023



The participants of Smart Green ASEAN Cities: City Windows Event 2023

UCLG ASPAC, as the Secretariat of the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF), supported the 2nd City Windows Series (CWS), a high-level event held as part of the Smart Green ASEAN Cities (SGAC) programme funded by the European Union (EU). This 2nd CWS contributed to enhancing the knowledge of ASEAN cities to finance their smart and green city development initiatives. Since 2022, UCLG ASPAC and the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) have collaborated to implement SGAC to promote more sustainable urbanisation in the ASEAN cities so that green and smart city solutions can be adopted in the ASEAN region.

Co-hosted by the UNCDF, with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia and the City of Banyumas, in cooperation with the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV) and the ASEAN Secretariat, the 2nd CWS took the theme “Transforming Cities – Planning, Structuring, and Financing Projects.” This demonstrated the implementation of various urban policies for investment, following a coherent circular system with the member states’ policies. Furthermore, the 2nd CWS also contributed to strengthening cities’ capacity in subnational financing through fruitful discussion, practical training, and knowledge exchanges, which promoted collaborative financing with the private sector, financial institutions, and government entities. The 2nd CWS showcased various city project presentations to bring up opportunities for innovation and financing. Participants were also able to see waste management solutions practiced by Banyumas Regency and learn the process of delivering city-financed smart green projects.

The 2nd City Windows Series successfully convened leaders and development partners to discuss investment financing and partner with national and sub-national governments. Selected SGAC cities showcased their project design, planning, and financing, discussing challenges faced in preparing for investment financing which inspired other cities in ASEAN. A field visit to the Banyumas project site also provided additional insights into waste management and circular economy practices, innovative financing instruments, and public-private partnership for smart green projects.

The 2nd CWS demonstrated the implementation of urban policy to investment, following a coherent circular system with the member states' policy. Furthermore, it also strengthened cities' capacity in subnational financing through discussion, practical training, and knowledge exchange, which leveraged financing in partnership with the private sector, financial institutions, and government entities. The focus of the 2nd CWS was city project presentation to exchange information and expertise on opportunities for innovation and financing. For the practical pathway, participants were able to see waste management solutions of Banyumas Regency and learn the complete process of delivering the city-financed smart green projects.



The AMF Secretariat contributed to moderating the City Showcasing and Knowledge Sharing Session on Urban Environment Management

The AMF Secretariat moderated the City Showcasing and Knowledge Sharing Session with the theme: Urban Environment Management. The session brought three speakers from Southeast Asia and Europe, namely Nakhon Sawan Municipality of Thailand, Phitsanolkul Municipality of Thailand, and the Rotterdam City of Netherland. From this session, each city presented its project design, planning, financing, and the challenges that followed during the project implementation.

2.5.1 Output of the SGAC High-Level Dialogue

- Best practices shared on waste management, environmental and digital innovation, and identification of projects for city financing. Knowledge product developed from city projects.
- Practical demonstration through site visit and business plan development for cities to incorporate into city projects and plans. Horizontal learning lessons and platform developed.
- Sharing knowledge on identification of city financing of projects and feasibility studies based on readiness for cities.
- Exploration on cities' capacity in subnational financing of its smart and green city initiatives through dialogue, hands-on training, and knowledge exchange.
- Practical identification and demonstration of projects and potential to leverage financing in partnership with the private sector, financial institutions, and/or government entities.
- Presentation on project design, planning, financing plan, and challenges on the preparation for investment financing of pilot projects.
- Capacity Building based on the SGAC Capacity Development Strategy for Financing Scheme.
- Opportunities and next steps of project implementation.

2.6 ASEAN Fest 2023: The Seminar on Financial Inclusion of Financial Services Authority of Indonesia (OJK) on 24 August 2023

Financial inclusion is critical to improve the quality of life in ASEAN countries, particularly Indonesia. However, a financial inclusion gap exists between urban and rural areas. Digital finance has the potential to help eliminate inequality.

The OJK held the “OJK Seminar on Financial Inclusion: Closing the Financial Inclusion Gap Between Rural and Urban Through Digital Financial Inclusion” on 24 August 2023, to meet the 2024 target of achieving 90% financial inclusion and narrowing the financial divide across Indonesia. The Seminar was opened by the Chair of OJK, Mr. Mahendra Siregar. This Seminar was envisioned as a platform for public and private sector stakeholders to share experiences, comprehend challenges, and design solutions to improve financial literacy and inclusion in ASEAN countries. Furthermore, this programme is consistent with OJK’s support for Indonesia’s role as ASEAN Chair in 2023, with the overriding goal of supporting economic growth and stability in the ASEAN region.

The Seminar focused on rural communities in the ASEAN area, with the goal of closing the financial inclusion gap through digital financial inclusion initiatives. The presenter highlighted ASEAN progress in reducing financial exclusion and emphasised the importance of empowering rural communities. They also discussed the importance of promoting economic growth in ASEAN and including remote regions into the financial framework. The speaker emphasised the importance of introducing digital financial services and called for improved financial education. There was a panel discussion centred on increasing financial inclusion in rural environments which highlighted financial inclusion efforts in Indonesia. Cooperation between government agencies, central banks, and financial institutions is critical for advancing financial education and inclusion.

During this Seminar, a range of efforts and undertakings concerning the advancement of financial inclusion in ASEAN nations, notably in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Kuala Lumpur, were deliberated. The presenters highlighted the importance of collaboration among city governments, financial service providers, regulatory authorities, and other relevant parties. This collaboration can address capacity difficulties and challenges faced by local governments, as well as to improve financial understanding and foster inclusivity. The objectives included transforming social assistance beneficiaries into micro-entrepreneurs, building digital infrastructure to improve access to financial services, and providing financial help to marginalised and underprivileged groups. The seminar emphasised the importance of connectivity, inclusiveness, and financial education in achieving financial inclusion.





ASEAN Fest 2023



ASEAN SEMINAR ON FINANCIAL INCLUSION BRIDGING THE FINANCIAL INCLUSION GAP BETWEEN RURAL AND URBANS THROUGH DIGITAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION

Jakarta, 24 August 2023



Secretary General Bernadina and Governor Dakila Carlo E. Cua of Quirino Province/President of UCLG ASPAC pictured with the Chair of OJK, Mr. Mahendra Siregar, Dr. Friderica Widyasari Dewi of OJK, and other speakers at the end of the opening session.

Mr. Sarjito, Deputy Commissioner for Financial Services Market Conduct and Consumer Protection Supervision at OJK, discussed the Regional Financial Access team, a consortium of local government representatives, experts, financial service providers, and regulators, in Indonesia. The team aims to address challenges, foster financial awareness, and promote inclusivity. They focus on rural land certification and preventing predatory lending practices. The team emphasises cooperative efforts and strategic alignment with micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) for better financing prospects. Financial inclusion is crucial in Indonesia, with financing needed in sectors like agriculture, education, livestock, and advisory services. The collaboration between regional financial access teams and service providers is crucial, as is the promotion of digitalisation. The speaker acknowledged the financial inclusion gap and emphasised economic empowerment as a foundation for financial inclusion.

Ms. Yunita Resmi Sari, Bank Indonesia's Protection Department, discussed a project promoting financial inclusion in Indonesia. The project transforms social aid beneficiaries into micro-entrepreneurs, with facilitators including local universities and NGOs assessing their economic potential. The project has been successful, with 91 projects across Indonesia mainly involving women. Beneficiaries have started businesses, sold products through e-commerce platforms, and experienced increased income. Financial inclusion has improved, with 88% of members having financial records and 82% having savings accounts. The project emphasises the importance of collaborative actions among stakeholders, including government, NGOs, universities, industries, and financial institutions, to empower people and create new entrepreneurs. The goal is to replicate these efforts and create microentrepreneurs across Indonesia, aiming for 90% economic and financial inclusion by 2024.

Mr. Dakila Carlo E. Cua, Governor of Quirino Province discussed financial inclusion in the Philippines, highlighting the necessity of accessible financial services for everyone, especially vulnerable groups. He referred to the country's strategy for financial inclusion, involving local governments implementing plans and digital avenues to reach more citizens. The Philippines employs digital infrastructure to enhance financial inclusion, exemplified by the Paleng-QR programme (Public Market QR programme), utilising QR codes in markets and transportation for financial access. Fintech companies are aiding the underserved but the limited connectivity in rural areas poses a challenge to digital service adoption. To address this, he advocated for government investment in infrastructure to bridge the digital gap, ensuring universal financial inclusion. In essence, a connection exists between digital infrastructure and financial inclusion, necessitating simultaneous efforts in both areas.

Dato' Mahadi Che Ngah, the 13th Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, emphasised the importance of financial inclusion in achieving equity, inclusivity, and sustainability. He underscored the need to expand financial services accessibility and foster an inclusive urban environment for marginalised groups, such as the B40 category (earning less than \$1,000 per month) and homeless individuals. To combat financial barriers, targeted interventions have been implemented, such as home ownership and small business establishment. The Kuala Lumpur City Hall actively oversees these initiatives, and an urban farming programme has been introduced for homeless individuals. He also highlighted initiatives aimed at increasing financial inclusion, such as the establishment of the SDG Digital Centre in Kuala Lumpur, which monitors various programmes and financial inclusion implementation. This centre serves as a hub for information dissemination and simple access to resources.

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC, presented an overview of finance options available to local governments for advancing financial inclusion. The speaker introduced programmes that link local governments with potential donors and financial institutions. A member help desk has been established, and best practices are compiled, spotlighting initiatives like the Indonesian bank's effort and the carbon bank system in Cambodia and Korea. Emphasis is placed on the significance of inclusivity and connectivity in financial systems, illustrated by examples such as digital platforms connecting urban farmers in Yogyakarta. The importance of women's participation in development is highlighted, along with a recommendation for forming task forces for financial inclusion across ASEAN. The significance of financial literacy for local governments in ASEAN countries is also discussed. Dr. Bernadia underscored the need to advocate for public-private partnership (PPP) and enabling policies that bolster financial options like PPP and municipal bonds. A noted concern is the limited issuance of municipal bonds in Indonesia, raising questions about the success of this funding mechanism in other nations like China and Japan for infrastructure projects. She underscores the value of research, data collection, and collaborative innovation labs in advancing financial inclusion efforts.



Distinguished delegates during the opening ceremony of OJK Seminar.

2.7 Courtesy visit to the Permanent Representative of Cambodia to ASEAN on 23 June 2023

For the realisation of AMF Summit 2023, Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, through AMF Secretariat, scheduled a courtesy visit to some ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPRs). The first stop was to the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia to ASEAN, H.E. Ambassador Heng Sarith, on 23 June 2023. Through the courtesy call, the AMF Secretariat took that opportunity to express gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency Prime Minister Hun Sen, Governor Khuong Sreng of Phnom Penh, and all officials of the Phnom Penh City Government for the huge success of AMF 2022 Phnom Penh.

Concerning AMF 2022, Ambassador Heng Sarith contributed to conveying the invitation from the AMF Secretariat to Phnom Penh Government to host the AMF meeting. The Ambassador also witnessed the success of AMF Phnom Penh through Cambodian local news and appreciated the organisation's effort to promote bottom-to-up cooperation (local government cooperation at the ASEAN level), and top-to-bottom cooperation (conveying the national government's policy to the local government). The Ambassador expressed that this is the vital role of AMF.

Further, the Ambassador also saw that the AMF is a good platform for sharing experiences and promoting development among cities in ASEAN. Responding to this, the Secretary General explained that the organisation has been facilitating cooperation not only at the provincial and city level but also involving regencies. The Ambassador expressed interest in formulating a sister city relations between Jakarta and Phnom Penh, and Secretary General expressed her support to facilitate this cooperation. Besides city collaboration, the Ambassador encouraged promoting ASEAN collaboration with partners, especially for the economy, culture, and tourism. The Secretary General explained that the AMF Summit 2023 would bring some partners into the session, such as the UNCDF, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), World Economic Forum, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and Association Internationale des Maires Francophones (AIMF).

In terms of partnership and collaboration, the AMF Secretariat planned to involve Dili Municipality in the AMF 2023. However, due to the political situation in Timor Leste, AMF invited mayors from Myanmar. The Ambassador was part of the special envoy Myanmar Mission during the Cambodia ASEAN Chairmanship. The Ambassador also appreciated the tree plantation ceremony during the upcoming AMF Summit 2023. This ceremony symbolised ritual and friendship among cities and local governments, which has also been implemented in Cambodia for many international events.

Another important point of the visit was the request for support from the Ambassador on the realisation of the Local Government Unit in the ASEAN Secretariat. This can be one of the ASEAN Institutional Reform's results in strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat's role.

Referring to the "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth" motto as the theme, we will always be ready to contribute to revitalising the collaboration spirit consistently throughout the works and achieve the goal of building ASEAN Communities and meet ASEAN COMMUNITY VISION 2025.



Courtesy visit of Secretary General to the CPR of Cambodia on 23 June 2024.



The gathering of Entities Associated with ASEAN 2023

2.8 ASEAN Entities Forum

The 7th Forum of Entities Associated with ASEAN was successfully held on 15 May 2023 at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia. The event was supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) ASEAN Project, to strengthen direct engagement between entities and the ASEAN Secretariat, stimulate collaboration, widen the networks, and deepen the partnership as a way forward. This purpose is also aligned with the Indonesian Chairmanship theme, ASEAN Matters, Epicentrum of Growth.

The Forum was opened by Mr. Tran Duc Binh, Deputy Secretary-General (DSG) of ASEAN for Community and Corporate Affairs, who emphasised the crucial role of the ASEAN Entities. He added that the support from the entities might result in positive changes for the people in the region and advance ASEAN's agenda for sustainable development.

The Forum continued with a roundtable discussion with the theme, "Charting a Sustainable Future for ASEAN." The session was led by Mr. Romeo, Leading the Committee Relation Division of ASEAN, and aimed to discuss sustainability concepts and strategy in ASEAN. The session was delivered by three (3) sections of interactive games in which participants could share their perspectives about SDGs and their practices in ASEAN.

The Forum continued with the roundtable discussion, where participants were exposed to managing ASEAN cooperation projects (ACPs), fund disbursements, and reporting. The entities had the chance to learn how to use the available resources for their projects and the processes throughout the ASEAN project cycle. It also helped the entities engage with partners and donors by taking the available resources with the donor and partners.

The main session was the interface with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, led by Mr. Lee Yoong Yoong, Director of Community Affairs Directorate, ASEAN Secretariat. The Secretary-General encouraged joint collaboration among entities to advance ASEAN development and bring solutions and benefits to the grassroots level. Further, the Forum would foster robust stakeholder cooperation for more successful ASEAN Community building efforts.

The entities hoped this Forum would illuminate capacity building among entities and spark more collaboration. Since the changes may take time, collaboration is essential to advance Southeast Asia's development.



3. AMF Digital Platform

3.1 AMF Mayoral Video



AMF 2023 Mayoral Video

Mayoral video profile has been produced to introduce the participating mayors during the AMF/MGMAC 2023. Aside from commercials, pamphlets, reports, and social media posts, the video profile is one of the most important ways to introduce and draw larger attention, and effective promotion to AMF networks.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Uhd6VpppQ4>

3.2 AMF Webpage



AMF Webpage

The UCLG ASPAC website is home to the AMF webpage which showcases AMF activities. It serves as centralised hub for information about the AMF, including its mission, history, publishing and distributes online content, including articles, blog posts, videos, and more. In summary, the webpage serves as a multifunctional tool for AMF. It facilitates online presence, brand representation, cities engagement, and content publishing, and plays a crucial role in supporting the organisation's objectives and enhancing its overall success in the digital age.

<https://uclg-aspac.org/amf/>

3.3 AMF X Account



AMF X Account

X, formerly twitter, serves as a versatile social media platform for AMF to enhance its online presence, engage wider with cities and local governments of ASEAN, and achieve its communication, and organisation objectives. It also allows AMF to have direct engagement with the local governments in real-time, enables the AMF to address inquiries, provide support, and gather feedback, fostering a stronger ASEAN connection. Further, the AMF facilitates networking and collaboration opportunities for cities and local governments in ASEAN. https://twitter.com/AMF_uclgaspac

4. AMF Knowledge Management



AMF Proceeding Report 2023

4.1 Proceeding AMF 2023 Submission on 28 December 2023

A proceeding report of AMF 2023 was produced by the AMF Secretariat following the completion of the AMF meeting held in Jakarta on August 1-2, 2023. This proceeding highlighted the flow of the meetings, people involved, result and the conclusion of the meeting. Additionally, it works effectively to foster memorable experiences, trust, and increased AMF involvement in ASEAN cities and local governments. This proceeding has been printed and distributed either electronically and in print, to ASEAN Secretariat, participants, and members of UCLG ASPAC/AMF.



4.2 AMF-UNCDF Thematic Case Study Report (Term 1 and 2)

The cooperation between UCLG ASPAC/AMF secretariat and UNCDF aims to implement the “Smart Green ASEAN Cities” (SGAC) project. This ASEAN-wide initiative encourages sustainable urbanisation in ASEAN cities while lowering their environmental footprint, and raising citizens’ quality of life. The project’s specific goal is to encourage the adoption of green and smart city solutions throughout the ASEAN region. As part of the cooperation, the three thematic short case studies on smart green urban development practices were developed..



UNCDF-AMF Best Practice Report 2023

The reports aim to provide additional reference to cities and local governments on green practices, novel approaches to achieving urban resilience, and methods to localise creative and sustainable financing.

Scope of Study Term 1

- a. Climate-smart and Sustainable Infrastructure
- b. Waste Management
- c. Green Spaces and Urban Biodiversity

Scope of Study Term 2

Air pollution and Clean Urban Transport Solutions

- a. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
- b. Water and Sanitation

4.3 AMF Proceedings



AMF Proceedings

4.4 AMF Annual Reports



AMF Annual Reports

4.5 AMF Leaflet



AMF Leaflets

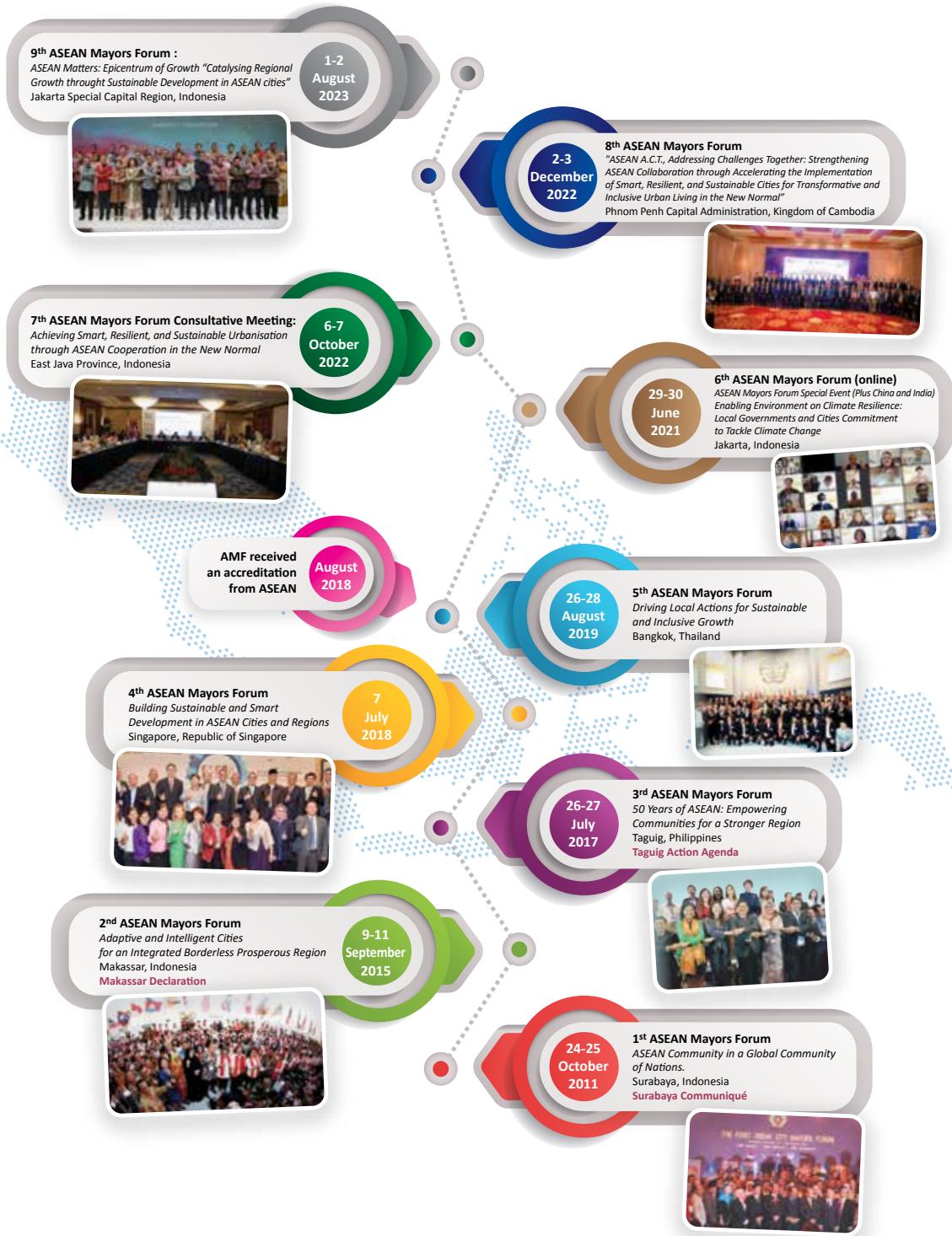


5.

AMF Timeline

ASEAN MAYORS FORUM - TIMELINE

ASEAN: A Community of Opportunities for All



6. AMF Partnership

6.1 INSTITUTIONS

UCLG ASPAC

UCLG ASPAC allocates the budget to hold the AMF annually. It is part of the Southeast Asia Standing Committee of UCLG ASPAC. UCLG ASPAC is the only local government organisation recognised by the United Nations, and AMF is the only local government platform accredited by ASEAN.



ASEAN Secretariat

ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) has received accreditation from ASEAN Secretariat as the only local government network-affiliated entity on 23 August 2018. UCLG ASPAC hosts the AMF Secretariat under the framework of its Southeast Asia Standing Committee.



AIMF

Association Internationale des Maires Francophones (AIMF) harnesses collective efforts to advocate for visionary and accountable policies aimed at advancing an urban landscape characterised by heightened consideration for human well-being, environmental integrity, and the vitality of existence. AIMF collaboratively undertakes initiatives within this domain, serving the interests of communities while concurrently charting novel horizons that nurture social cohesion, parity, and the embrace of diversity.



APEKSI

The “Asosiasi Pemerintah Kota Seluruh Indonesia” (APEKSI) is an esteemed establishment dedicated to fostering the advancement of City Government Associations, District Government Associations, and Provincial Government Associations throughout Indonesia to cultivate a sense of genuine autonomy within these associations, ensuring their robust representation within the National Coordination Forum of Local Government Associations (DPOD). APEKSI hosted the first AMF in 2011.



European Union

Grants have been given to the UCLG World Secretariat to support the work of the UCLG Network, empower local authorities, and strengthen the position of local governments internationally. UCLG and the European Commission (EC) signed a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) in January 2015, and the European Commission granted UCLG an Operating Grant.



FCM

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is a distinguished advocacy consortium that represents a diverse assemblage of more than 2000 Canadian municipalities. While devoid of formal legislative authority, the FCM wields substantial capacity to shape discourse and policy, holding a pivotal role as the premier national lobbying entity for mayors, councillors, and other duly elected municipal dignitaries.





UNCDF

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) promotes public and private funding to benefit underprivileged countries worldwide. The UNCDF supports local governments in their efforts to finance the SDGs project development. In relation to this, as the only local governments network affiliated with ASEAN, UNCDF supported AMF 2022 Cambodia financially and took part as one of the speakers in the financing session. The funding is part of the project entitled Smart Green ASEAN Cities (SGAC).



UNESCAP

UNESCAP promotes economic activities between the region and other parts of the world while also boosting economic activity in Asia and the Far East. Through AMF 2022 Phnom Penh, UNESCAP moderated the discussion on Enabling Environment: Urban Climate Resilient and Disaster Risk Reduction in ASEAN and Local Governments Initiatives impact the Global Agenda on Urban Climate Resilient and DRR.



World Economic Forum

The World Economic Forum (WEF) functions as a preeminent international non-governmental organisation and influential advocacy entity, serving the interests of multinational corporations. Situated within the esteemed environs of Cologne, Canton of Geneva, Switzerland, the WEF emerged into existence on the 24th of January, 1971, under the visionary leadership of German engineer Klaus Schwab.



GIZ

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) is a global leader in sustainable development and global educational initiatives, with a rich history spanning over 50 years. With expertise in economic advancement, labour market enhancement, energy and environmental stewardship, conflict mitigation, and security establishment, GIZ is a valuable asset globally. Its competencies resonate with stakeholders like the German Government, European Union institutions, United Nations entities, private sector, and governmental bodies across diverse nations.

6.2 PROGRAMMES AND PROJECT



IKI

The International Climate Initiative (IKI) constitutes a pivotal component of the German government’s far-reaching global climate finance dedication. To date, IKI has granted its endorsement to in excess of 950 projects centred on climate and biodiversity, encompassing a comprehensive financial outlay amounting to nearly 6 billion euros (2008-2022).



SGAC

The “Smart Green ASEAN Cities” initiative is a comprehensive programme designed to aid ASEAN Member States in proactively addressing the considerable challenges stemming from rapid urbanisation. This initiative is centred on the strategic implementation of environmentally conscious and intelligent solutions, leveraging digitalisation and cutting-edge technologies.

6.3 Local Government Association (LGA) in Southeast Asia

The AMF is not alone in carrying out its tasks and desires. The AMF often joins hands with Local Government Associations (LGA) to help strengthen the work of the AMF and its members. LGA is the national voice of local government devoted to supporting, promoting, and improving local government. In ASEAN, several LGAs exist, this includes:

Cambodia-National League of Local Council (NLC)

The National League of Local Councils (NLC) is the national voice of local government associations that represent Municipal, District, Khan, Commune, and Sangkat Councils throughout Cambodia. NLC seeks to support the interests of its members at the national level and provide local councils with the services they need. But among other things, NLC is particularly vocal to aid its members in their decentralisation efforts. To do so, NLC dispenses training and other relevant services on the legal and regulatory framework needed to foster adept local governments.



Indonesian Association of Local Authorities (APEKSI)

APEKSI is an organisation for all city governments in Indonesia. Established on 25 May 2000, the organisation grew out of a need to empower local government functioning in Indonesia. APEKSI helps the city governments to strengthen regional autonomy and provides beneficial arrangements between Indonesian city governments. The association also arms its members with advocacy, capacity-building, and the development of technological innovations. In 2023, APEKSI has 98 members spread across the country.



Asosiasi Pemerintah Provinsi Seluruh Indonesia (APPSI)

“Asosiasi Pemerintah Provinsi Seluruh Indonesia” (APPSI) is an association that serves as a platform dedicated to nurturing collaboration and strategic alliances among Provincial Governments, with a strong emphasis on mutually advantageous arrangements. Moreover, it endeavours to cultivate a climate of harmonious interaction between the Provincial Government and the central Government, aimed at bolstering the effective execution of regional governance and autonomy. This concerted effort is geared towards facilitating the attainment of socioeconomic prosperity and equitable societal well-being.





Malaysia-Malaysia Association of Local Authorities (MALA)

The Malaysian Association of Local Authorities, more familiarly known as MALA, was set up on 20 October 2000. MALA members are from the local authorities across Malaysia, namely the City Council, the Municipal Council, the District Council or any other authorised body, organisation or with a function similar to that of a local authority. The main purpose of MALA is to coordinate and unify the various activities of Local Authorities in Malaysia to further enhance and contribute to the development and progress of the local authorities, whilst maintaining sustainable development within them.



Philippines-Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)

The Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) is the umbrella organisation of all leagues of local government units (LGUs) and locally elected government officials, and was formed in 1998, registered in 1999, and further endorsed through Executive Order 35, series of 2004. ULAP was created to convene and represent its member leagues and local governments to national and sub-national policy and program committees in continuous pursuit of strengthening and capacitating LGUs for local autonomy and good governance.



Thailand-National Municipal Association of Thailand (NMT)

The National Municipal Association of Thailand (NMT) is the local government association for municipalities in Thailand. The NMT carries several duties, which among other things, are: (i) to promote cooperation and good relations between municipalities, other forms of local government organisations, and other developmental bodies (i.e., community organisations, private organisations, and state enterprises); (ii) to promote the development of the local political system of municipalities; (iii) to provide research and development, training, workshop, and capacity-building for local municipalities; (iv) to represent municipalities across the country in conducting political activities with the government, parliament, and relevant political organisations at the national level, this includes matters related to the formulation of policies, legislation, and regulations on, but not limited to, local decentralisation.



Vietnam-The Association of Cities of Vietnam (ACVN)

Headquartered in Hanoi, Vietnam, ACVN was established during the beginning of the country's modernisation and international integration. It is registered as an NGO under the State Management of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Its main goal includes acting and organising for the best interests of Vietnamese cities and towns primarily via capacity-building.







7. Conclusion

This report shows an overview of the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) activities to assist ASEAN local governments in dealing with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), climate change, smart cities, and many other issues. The activities supported ASEAN's efforts to strengthen national and regional stability and emphasised the importance of local initiatives in building a resilient ASEAN focusing on regional challenges.

UCLG ASPAC, as AMF Secretariat, in cooperation with the Provincial Government of Special Region of Jakarta, has successfully organised the MGMAC-AMF 2023 on 1-2 August 2023. The event was attended by more than 500 participants, with attendance of mayors/governors/city representatives from ASEAN, senior local government officials, and representatives of local government associations from all ASEAN member states. The 2023 AMF had the theme with the theme "Catalysing Regional Growth through Sustainable Development in ASEAN Cities," In line with Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship theme "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth", with the focus on economic strengthening, digitalisation, and resiliency. For the second time, following the success of the AMF and MGMAC (Meeting of Governors/ Mayors of ASEAN Capitals) joint event in Phnom Penh in 2022, the AMF 2023 was also conducted in conjunction with MGMAC 2023.

The ASEAN Mayors Forum is an important platform where mayors from various cities within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region gather to discuss common challenges, share best practices, and explore opportunities for collaboration. The AMF typically addresses a range of topics related to urban development, sustainability, infrastructure, and governance.

The 2023 ASEAN Mayors Forum, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, focused on pressing issues facing urban areas in the ASEAN region, such as rapid urbanisation, environmental sustainability, transportation infrastructure, affordable housing, and disaster management. With Jakarta being one of the largest and most populous cities in Southeast Asia, it served as an apt host for such discussions.

Key objectives of the 2023 AMF included fostering cooperation among ASEAN cities, promoting sustainable urban development initiatives, and exchanging knowledge and experiences to address common urban challenges effectively. It also provided an opportunity for networking and forging partnerships between local government officials, urban planners, policymakers, and other stakeholders from across the ASEAN region.

Overall, the ASEAN Mayors Forum in 2023 played a crucial role in advancing the collective efforts of ASEAN cities towards building inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urban communities.

8. Annexes

8.1 AMF Declarations

8.1.1 Jakarta Declaration



Jakarta Declaration ASEAN Mayors Forum 2023

WE, the Governors, Mayors and Local Government Leaders representing the vibrant provinces, cities and municipalities of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), convened in the spirit of collaboration, cooperation, and shared vision.

HAVING gathered in Jakarta on the 1st to 2nd of August 2023 for the Meeting of the ASEAN Mayors Forum 2023 (AMF 2023) under the theme “Catalysing Regional Growth through Sustainable Development in ASEAN Cities”, aligned with “ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth” as Indonesian ASEAN Chairmanship Theme 2023.

PURSUING previous commitments and efforts made in the preceding ASEAN Mayors Forum, namely the Surabaya Communiqué 2011, Makassar Declaration 2015, Taguig Action Agenda 2017, AMF Declaration 2019, Joint Declaration of the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Mayors on the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations, and the AMF 2022 Phnom Penh Declaration.

EMPHASISING the importance of forging further intra- and inter-regional partnerships to make Southeast Asia the centre of regional economic growth and an engine for global growth, complementing the attainment of ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

REAFFIRMING the commitment of ASEAN Cities and Local Governments to foster innovation and to mobilise resources in driving sustainable urban development for the accomplishment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the New Urban Agenda.

LOOKING FORWARD to the next Meeting of the ASEAN Mayors Forum to be held in Vientiane, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.

RECOGNISING the urgent need for sustainable urban development, we hereby declare our commitments and actions to:

1. **APPEAL** to ASEAN Leaders to normalise the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) and the Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC) as integrated ASEAN Sectoral Bodies that channel the aspirations of local governments to deepen the ASEAN community-building process.
2. **STRENGTHEN** the efforts and reaffirm our dedication to the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda in alignment with the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy, and ASEAN Smart Cities Framework. We will enhance regional cooperation, knowledge sharing, and capacity building to accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. By working together, we aim to create resilient, liveable, inclusive, and sustainable cities that improve the well-being and quality of life for all ASEAN citizens.

3. EMBRACE the sustainability principles to create resilient, liveable, and prosperous urban environments for the present and future generations. Continuing our commitment to sustainability, we further promote sustainable urban planning and implementation, efficient resource management, inclusive urban economic growth, and climate resiliency.
4. FOLLOW-UP on the opportunity to contribute to the development of the ASEAN Community Post-2025 Vision. With AMF as an entity associated with ASEAN, we will engage our community to craft a visionary Post-2025 Vision that reflects the aspirations and needs of our diverse communities, propelling ASEAN towards a brighter, peaceful, and sustainable future.
5. FACILITATE learning, capacity building, and development opportunities among cities and local governments in ASEAN in line with the strategic priorities of ASEAN Community Vision 2025, ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy, ASEAN Smart Cities Network, and their respective follow-up. We will strengthen knowledge exchange, peer-to-peer learning, best practices sharing, and technical and managerial cooperation among cities and local governments.
6. ENSURE meaningful engagement of women particularly at the local decision-making processes in cities and local governments in ASEAN. Recognising the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment, we strive to create inclusive and gender-responsive environment that promote women's leadership and participation.
7. PROMOTE sustainable economic development for the prosperity of our cities and regions through fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, and encouraging the development of a green and blue economic investment in sectors that generate decent jobs, boost technological and industrial advancement for MSMEs, and contribute to the sustainable growth of our urban economy. We will also explore synergies with the ASEAN Villages Network to promote rural development.
8. ENHANCE our efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, promote energy efficiency and conservation, and transition towards renewable energy sources. We further commit to upgrade our adaptive capacities to address climate-related challenges, including rising sea levels, extreme weather events, food security, and water management, and to ensure the resilience of our urban and rural communities.
9. FOSTER sustainable urban mobility and digital transformation towards better connectivity and quality of life all ASEAN citizens. With a vision for enhanced quality of life for all ASEAN citizens, we will prioritise the development of efficient and inclusive transportation systems that reduce congestion and emissions, and improve accessibility. Embracing smart city solutions, we aim to harness technology to enhance public services, connectivity, and citizen engagement.
10. CALL ON ASEAN Member States (AMS) to create and reinforce enabling environment, including access to finance, and transboundary economic investment and cooperation, to unlock the potential of cities and local governments. We urge AMS to establish favourable policies, regulations, and mechanisms that facilitate financial support for local initiatives. This includes streamlining procedures, providing affordable credit options, and promoting innovative financing models.

To operationalise the aforementioned, we will continue our collaborations with international entities, development institutions, educational institutions, the business sector, and non-governmental organisations.

Adopted this day, on the Second Day of August in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three, in Jakarta, the Republic of Indonesia, in a single original copy in the English Language.

8.1.2 Phnom Penh Declaration



Following the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) Consultative Meeting 2022 in East Java Province, Indonesia, we, Mayors and Governors of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), convened at the ASEAN Mayors Forum 2022 with the theme “ASEAN A.C.T., Addressing Challenges Together: Strengthening ASEAN Collaboration through Accelerating the Implementation of Smart, Resilient, and Sustainable Cities for Transformative and Inclusive Urban Living in the New Normal” co-organised by AMF, the United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC) and Phnom Penh Capital Administration, in collaboration with the UN bodies and ASEAN Secretariat, and hosted by the Phnom Penh Capital Administration, Kingdom of Cambodia, on 2nd and 3rd December 2022.

The Phnom Penh Declaration refers to and affirms the previous AMF outcome documents, including the Surabaya Communiqué 2011, Makassar Declaration 2015, Taguig Action Agenda 2017, AMF Declaration 2019, and Joint Declaration of the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Mayors on the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations, to reinforce and focus on enhancing collaboration with ASEAN stakeholders to ensure peace, security, and prosperity for the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. The Phnom Penh Declaration serves as the foundation for collaborative action of the cities and local governments in the ASEAN region.

Recognising the different capabilities and capacities in cities and local governments that face similar challenges, ASEAN Mayors and Governors declare to:

1. **STRENGTHEN** the efforts to build smart and sustainable cities and territories to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDGs 9 and 11, by investing in digital infrastructure and promoting inclusive digital transformation.
2. **CONTRIBUTE** to the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS), and ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, which support COVID-19 recovery and strengthen resilience towards achieving a connected, sustainable and inclusive ASEAN Community. We further welcome the opportunity to engage in the development of the ASEAN Community Post-2025 Vision and ASEAN Connectivity Post-2025 Agenda.
3. **UNDERTAKE** local actions founded on the complementarities of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
4. **COOPERATE** with national and subnational authorities and other stakeholders to accelerate local actions contributing to climate action and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
5. **FACILITATE** knowledge and technology transfer considering the local context and capabilities of cities and local governments.

6. ENGAGE the youth and address youth unemployment through innovative programmes and projects.
7. UPLIFT the quality of life of the people through local initiatives that promote human development, resiliency, and sustainable development, and in line with the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER).
8. ACKNOWLEDGE the important role of culture in sustainable development and promote policies and programmes that will support local culture and tourism sectors.
9. IMPROVE enabling environment of cities and local governments, including access to finance, capacity building, and institutional framework.
10. BUILD the technical capacities of city officials to ensure planning and implementation of sustainable urban development initiatives.
11. ENSURE stability of local finance and the local economy in ASEAN cities and local governments.
12. EMPOWER women towards greater contribution and involvement in local governance.
13. INITIATE a collective action plan developed by ASEAN cities and local governments through AMF.
14. PARTICIPATE actively in the upcoming ASEAN regional meetings and forums, including the AMF.
15. WELCOME the admittance, in principle, of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to the ASEAN, and stand ready to work closely with its Mayors and Governors for the AMF.
16. WORK more closely with ASEAN and regional institutions like ASEAN Secretariat and UCLG ASPAC to undertake more cooperation and collaboration as part of the ASEAN Community Building.

Adopted this 3rd of December 2022 at Sokha Phnom Penh Hotel & Residence in Phnom Penh Capital Administration, Kingdom of Cambodia during the 2022 ASEAN Mayors Forum.

8.1.3 Bangkok Declaration



ASEAN MAYORS' DECLARATION
DRIVING LOCAL ACTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH
The 5th ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF), Bangkok, 27 August 2019

WE, the Mayors of Member States of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), convened at the 5th ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) with the theme “Driving Local Actions for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth” in Bangkok, on 26-27 August 2019. Our meeting was held in line with Thailand’s ASEAN Chairmanship and in the spirit of advancing partnership for sustainability to achieve people-centred and forward-looking ASEAN.

RECOGNISED our shared responsibilities and joint actions to promote peace, prosperity, and citizens’ well-being, without leaving anyone behind. With our political mandate to work at the level of government closest to the people, we are committed to intensify our efforts and collaboration under the AMF to deepen the ASEAN Community and address common challenges including those associated with rapid urban development, climate change and widening social and economic inequalities.

ACKNOWLEDGE that while all South East Asian Countries are different, we face similar challenges arising from rapid urbanisation and that this similarity provides an opportunity to address urbanisation in a coordinated and integrated regional manner.

DETERMINED to build upon the commitments we made as reflected in the outcome documents of previous AMF, namely the Surabaya Communiqué in 2011, Makassar Declaration in 2015 and Taguig Action Agenda in 2017, that supported the creation of the ASEAN Community as we now move forward to the ASEAN Vision 2040.

ACKNOWLEDGE that the ASEAN Secretariat is well placed to coordinate, harmonise and elevate efforts to address urbanisation in the region in a coherent and coordinated manner.

REITERATED the importance of our leadership and major role of local governments in the implementation of the ASEAN’s integration frameworks such as the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 as well as the global agendas particularly the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

SHARED the sense of urgency to work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We emphasised local governments’ key responsibilities in policy areas that affect the achievement of all SDGs and highlighted the need to advance the localisation of global agendas. We welcomed the progress made through the complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

CONVINCED that local governments have to be at the forefront of climate action if we are to make transformative and far-reaching improvement on ecological system. We are mindful of the urgent need to scale up our work to protect vulnerable groups that have been affected by or exposed to the impacts of climate change and poor environmental conditions such as air pollution and rapid increase of marine debris.

CONCERNED by the fact that our region is prone to natural disasters that can have catastrophic effects on people's lives and socio-economic development. We underlined the need to be better prepared for this challenge by enhancing the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) capabilities and expressed our support to the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region.

REAFFIRMED our commitment as members of the ASEAN Mayors Forum, which is an entity that upholds the ASEAN's principles and purposes, we hereby:

1. Strive to deepen our network and collaboration to achieve the ASEAN Vision 2040. We will foster dialogues, exchanges and harness lessons from our actions to reinforce the dynamics of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (MPAC), the ASEAN Sustainable Urban Strategy (ASUS), and the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) as guiding frameworks for sustainable development;
2. Commit to scale up our efforts to localise the sustainable development goals, ensuring that local plans contribute to national, regional and global targets. Our efforts should be complemented by mechanisms to create synergies with national plans and actions. In this regard, we call on national governments to provide an enabling environment for local governments, noting that the decentralisation trend in ASEAN is shifting more responsibilities to local governments;
3. Agree to enhance our mutual efforts to identify, develop and implement innovative policies and actions to address inequalities and complex challenges presented by rapid urban development. We welcome the ASEAN's promotion of knowledge on smart urbanisation strategies and models including through the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) and express our keen interest to engage in the existing frameworks;
4. Determine to strengthen our actions against climate change including through advocacy campaigns and collaboration on measurable local actions. We are committed to the development of national action plan to prevent, reduce, and manage marine plastic debris in support of the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14 and minimisation of waste through sound waste management policies to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11 and 12;
5. Aim to intensify our work and collective efforts to address disaster risk by developing local disaster risk reduction and management plans in line with national policies and the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), with the aim to contribute to substantial increase of the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020, set under target E of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR);
6. Welcome the report on ASEAN Vision 2040: Towards a Bolder and Strong ASEAN Community and its recognition of the AMF as a network that can help ASEAN advance inclusive growth, sustainable development, and people empowerment. We resolve to strengthen our network and cooperation to contribute to this vision;
7. Call on our international partners, particularly ESCAP and UN-Habitat, to ensure that the outcomes and commitments made at this AMF are reflected and followed-up at occasions such as the Seventh session of the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum to be Held in Penang, Malaysia, in October 2019 and in the Tenth session of the World Urban Forum to be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates in February 2020;
8. Commit to building and strengthening our partnership to accelerate efforts, and to increase resources and commitments towards the implementation of this Declaration.

8.1.4 South Korea-Bangkok Joint Declaration



JOINT DECLARATION OF THE ASEAN-REPUBLIC OF KOREA MAYORS ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASEAN-ROK DIALOGUE RELATIONS

Adopted at the 5th ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) co-organised by the United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC), Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), the United Nations Economic Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) The United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok, 27th August 2019

WE, the Mayors of Member States of the Association of South East Asian Nation (ASEAN) and the Republic of Korea (ROK), met at the 5th ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF), organised in the framework of Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship, with the theme "Driving Local Actions for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth" in Bangkok, on 26-27 August 2019. Our meeting underscored the ASEAN-ROK's commitment to enhance cooperation at all levels as we are commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations this year.

ACKNOWLEDGED the efforts to elevate ASEAN-ROK relations and progress made in building a strategic partnership, operationalised by the Plan of Action (POA) 2016-2020 to achieve the objectives set in the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity adopted in October 2010.

EMPHASISED the vital role of cities and local governments in contributing to the cooperation between ASEAN and ROK, being the level of government that is closest to the people and works to safeguard people's quality of life, inclusive growths and promotes sustainable development.

WELCOMED the Ministerial Declaration of the First ASEAN-ROK Infrastructure Ministers' Meeting that complements the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC 2025) and presents wider opportunities for cooperation on sustainable urbanisation.

COMMENDED ROK's commitment to double its contribution to the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund during the 6th ASEAN-ROK Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting last 12th April 2019 and stressed the important roles of local governments in the implementation of future joint programmes and projects.

SHARED our enthusiasm on and looked forward to the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit to be held in Busan, ROK, on 25th-26th November 2019 in celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations.

COMMITTED to:

- Promote regular dialogues and exchanges between ASEAN and ROK Mayors, by leveraging the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF), to reinforce local government and people-to-people partnerships.
- Facilitate exchanges and cooperation on digital technology and innovative practices to build smart, sustainable and inclusive cities and societies, in line with the ASEAN Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC 2025), the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) and the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS).
- Enhance city-to-city collaboration on climate change and related pressing urban and regional challenges such as traffic congestion, pollution, waste management and marine debris;
- Foster people-to-people ties and empower our youth by providing avenues for educational and cultural exchanges and engagements in development policy formulation and implementation.
- Leverage on the ASEAN-ROK Mayors to advance collaboration.



TAGUIG ACTION AGENDA

Local Governments for a Stronger ASEAN

AT the City of Taguig, Republic of the Philippines, Mayors, Vice-Mayors, and other representatives of local governments from the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), adopted the “Taguig Action Agenda: Local Governments for a Stronger ASEAN.” The Taguig Action Agenda reaffirms and follows the Surabaya Communique’ and Makassar Declaration, outcome documents of the 1st and 2nd ASEAN Mayors Forum, respectively.

IN support of the ASEAN Vision and the “ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together,” and with the understanding of the important role of local governments in engaging the people and ensuring that the benefits of the ASEAN Community is enjoyed by the people, the delegates concurred to implement the Agenda. It should naturally serve as basis for coordination and as reference document for future collaboration of cities and local governments in the region.

THE Agenda is designed to strengthen local government participation in the realization of ASEAN objectives through concrete actions at local level.

THE ASEAN local governments hereby commit and undertake to:

1. Formally organize an entity dedicated for ASEAN local governments that will serve as regional platform for collaboration that will be accredited and supported by the ASEAN Secretariat;
2. Collectively and actively participate in formal ASEAN meetings and processes to articulate issues and challenges besetting local governments across the region, in order to improve alignment and coordination for policy implementation, and to build stronger partnerships;
3. Establish a cadre of innovative and inspiring local leaders that will continuously engage key stakeholders and members of communities to participate in the realization of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 which highlights people-centeredness in its growth agenda;
4. Implement key areas of existing global commitments that call for an active role of local governments including the Sustainable Development Goals, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Paris Agreement on Climate Change, New Urban Agenda, and Financing for Sustainable Development.
5. Forge a more resilient future by reducing disaster and climate related risks, preventing the generation of new risks, and adapting to a changing climate through the implementation of economic, social, cultural, and environmental measures which addresses exposure and vulnerability and strengthen resilience.

THE ASEAN local governments will regularly review the progress of the Taguig Action Agenda and undertake to convene as a unified body every two years.

ADOPTED this 27th day of July 2017 at Shangri-la the Fort in Taguig City, Philippines during the 3rd ASEAN Mayors Forum.

8.1.6 Makassar Declaration



Makassar Declaration on ASEAN Cities and Local Governments

We, Mayors from ASEAN member countries, participating in the ASEAN Mayors Forum and City Expo 2015 with the theme “Adaptive and Intelligent Cities for an Integrated Borderless Prosperous Region”; jointly organized by UCLG ASPAC, the Committee of Permanent Representatives of ASEAN, and the City of Makassar, have gathered from 8th to 10th September 2015 in the City of Makassar, South Sulawesi Province, Republic of Indonesia;

AFFIRMING that local governments play an important role in ASEAN, and particularly in building a stronger ASEAN Community, ensuring the implementation of the strategies under the three pillars of the ASEAN Community, beyond its constitution in December 2015;

DETERMINED to achieve the advantages and benefits that the ASEAN Community envisions and aims to bring to the ASEAN people, in spite of the challenges and impact for local governments;

EXPRESSING our strong belief that aligning our local development strategies with the developments of ASEAN will bring economic dynamism, government efficiency, and positive social, cultural, and environmental change;

REALIZING that local governments need to meet the standards of ASEAN, not only for the economic community, but to include the pillars of political security by highlighting good governance, upholding of human rights, strengthening cooperation on key political issues; and focusing on socio-cultural issues focusing on human development, women, youth and children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, indigenous people for better social justice and environmental sustainability, as enshrined in the ASEAN Community Blueprint.

RECOGNIZING that local governments' vision as part of ASEAN include four key elements:

1. People-empowerment - Cross cultural communication and exchange, highlighting the importance of youth as the future of ASEAN at the grassroots level to work for development are invaluable for the ASEAN Community to succeed and prosper, accompanied by decentralization and autonomy.
2. Integrated and inclusive approach - local governments deal with a multitude of issues that require an integrated approach. Critical thematic areas for ASEAN demanding attention and urgent actions include climate change, local economic development, tourism, poverty reduction, education for all, health and gender mainstreaming.
3. Responsive and forward-looking - local governments continuously strive to become intelligent and adaptive in response to challenges. To succeed, the promotion of good governance and the strengthening of financial options for plans to materialize are fundamental.
4. Heritage Preservation - The ASEAN Community should not lose sight of its heritage and preserving it should always be part of our identity.

URGING ASEAN to reach local governments, to assess their needs and to support the necessary actions to achieve solutions for the region common problems.

DO HEREBY:

1. LOBBY for a stronger ASEAN Secretariat dealing with the local government issues, creating a specific unit to coordinate the regional action;
2. URGE central governments to provide the enabling environment (legal, administrative, and financial) necessary for local governments, private sector, civil society organizations, and citizens to carry out their responsibilities and to maximize their role, reinforcing the necessary background for an empowered society.
3. BRING the central governments to support local governments and citizens for their active participation in achieving the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 11 “Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable,” as well as in formulating the New Urban Agenda with the occasion of Habitat III and its preparatory process.
4. APPEAL to relevant agencies to perform the necessary steps to undertake the following actions:
 - a. Raise awareness and educate people about ASEAN through different modalities and channels, including academic curricula, cultural exchange programs, social media, etc. Creating an ASEAN University for educating the ASEAN community and promote knowledge and sharing of expertise, bringing the people of the ASEAN member states closer together.
 - b. Organize an annual ASEAN mayors meeting prior to the ASEAN Summit to deliver the recommendations of local governments to the Heads of State and Government. Also, to create an ASEAN Mayors organization, spearheaded by UCLG ASPAC and its secretariat to support its operations.
 - c. Establish or formalize a platform, such as DELGOSEA to promote the sharing of experiences and good/best/smart practices, including prospects for replication, knowledge enhancement, skills development and capacity building.
 - d. Explore financial options, accessible to local governments, such as the establishment an ASEAN bank or the mobilization of domestic and international resources to address the perennial challenge suffered by many local governments lacking financial resources for sustainable development.

Overall, we agree to focus on the opportunities the ASEAN Community presents to us all, and to turn challenges into opportunities able to transform the ASEAN society. We commend this Declaration to be an integral part of the ASEAN Foundational Charter.

SIGNED this day
9th of September 2015.

8.1.7 Surabaya Communique



Surabaya Communiqué 1st ASEAN City Mayors Forum, Surabaya, Indonesia, 24-25 October 2011 “ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations”

1. The 1st ASEAN City Mayors Forum (The First ACMF) held on 24-25 October 2011 in Surabaya, Indonesia, was chaired by the Chairman of Board of the Association of Indonesian Municipalities (APEKSI), Honorable Eddy Santana Putra and was attended by mayors of ASEAN cities.
2. We, the mayors of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States, have conducted substantive and productive discussions under the theme of “ASEAN Cities Towards ASEAN Community 2015 and Beyond: Challenges and Opportunities of the 21st Century.”
3. We take note the notation of H.E. Wardana, the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, who emphasized that the First ACMF is timely and opportune towards the establishment of ASEAN Community in 2015. Furthermore, we noted four priority areas of cooperation proposed, namely Public Administration and Governance, Environment and Sustainable Development, Public Service, and Regional Network. The deliberation of the Meeting is expected to serve as foundation of a strong regional partnership and contribute to more action-based common policies and strategies.
4. We welcome the initiative of holding the ACMF as an opportunity to promote roles and contributions of ASEAN cities in economic and socio-cultural cooperation in the region towards the establishment of ASEAN Community 2015. While contributing to the regional integration process, we also believe that the ACMF can strengthen regionalities of solidarity, community engagement, public participation, and universal values of humanity towards transformation of a new ASEAN as a people-oriented, people-centered, and people-driven organization.
5. We affirm our commitment to enhance cooperation among ASEAN cities towards the establishment of ASEAN Community 2015 characterized by a caring and sharing community. In this regard, we realize the importance of our common goals in creating ASEAN as a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable region. Furthermore, we encourage the exchange of experiences and best practices among ASEAN cities as well as with cities from ASEAN dialogue partners.
6. We feel the need to encourage the development of expertise through ASEAN cities capacity building, such as exchange of visits, joint education and training programs, joint research projects, mainstreaming gender issues, and networks of cooperation in facing challenges and taking advantages of the 21st century.
7. We believe that networks of cooperation between ASEAN cities can develop and improve the livelihood of ASEAN peoples. Therefore, it is essential to further strengthen collaboration among ASEAN cities to promote socio-cultural and economicities.
8. We affirm that ASEAN undertakings in three pillars of the ASEAN Community can only be assured through greater role of public participation. In line with this matter, we are indeed committed to promote public awareness and sense of ownership and belonging to ASEAN that in turn will contribute to productive interaction between ASEAN peoples.
9. We also share the same view that community building should be supported with effective public services, adequate means of communication, and infrastructure facilities. These conditions will enable ASEAN peoples to work together effectively and efficiently in sustaining the ASEAN Connectivity, particularly people-to-people connectivity.
10. We are of the view that it is necessary to establish the ASEAN City Mayors Forum, taking into account the prevailing national laws and regulations in respective ASEAN Member States.
11. We propose to convene the future ASEAN City Mayors Forum periodically on voluntary basis to discuss substantial matters that have become common interest of ASEAN and joint efforts that shall be taken to address current challenges. In this regard, we concurred that a Working Group shall be established to take necessary steps to examine the formalization of the ASEAN City Mayors Forum, follow up the outcome of this forum, explore the areas of cooperation, and formulate a work plan of the ASEAN cities towards the ASEAN Community by 2015. For this purpose, we will therefore seek guidance from concerned institutions and support from the ASEAN Secretariat.
12. We express our appreciation to the City of Surabaya, Indonesia for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangement made for the Meeting and to all delegates for their valuable inputs and suggestions.



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
SECRETARY-GENERAL

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23 August 2018

Mayor Lani L. Cayetano

Interim Chairwoman of ASEAN Mayors Forum

Mayor of Taguig City and Chairperson of the League of Cities of the Philippines

Quezon City, Philippines 1110

THE PHILIPPINES

Dear Mayor Cayetano,

Subject: Accreditation of the ASEAN Mayors Forum as an entity associated with ASEAN

I have the honour to inform you that the application of the ASEAN Mayors Forum to be an entity associated with ASEAN has been approved. The ASEAN Mayors Forum will be listed in Annex 2 of the ASEAN Charter under the category of "Other Stakeholders."

As an accredited entity, ASEAN Mayors Forum shall enjoy the privileges of and be bound by the obligations for accreditation, in accordance with the *Guidelines on Accreditation of Entities Associated with ASEAN* and *Guidelines on Accreditation of Civil Society Organizations* (enclosed). The *Rules of Procedures and Criteria for Engagement for Entities Associated with ASEAN* provide guidance for closer cooperation with ASEAN.

We look forward to ASEAN Mayors Forum's active participation and meaningful contribution to our efforts to build a just, dynamic, inclusive, people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN Community!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lim Jock Hoi', written over the printed name.

DATO LIM JOCK HOI



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