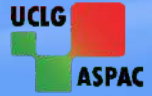


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United Cities and Local Governments
Asia-Pacific

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

N E W S L E T T E R



COLLABORATION FOR GREEN AND SMART CITY



Dear Readers, Governors, Mayors and Fellow Local Government Leaders,

Innovation knows no boundaries when local governments unite for a shared purpose. Too often, our default mindset as leaders is one of insular focus—dedicated solely to our immediate communities and constituencies. While our intentions are to serve our communities to the best of our abilities, this inward approach can obscure the larger truth: each of our cities and towns is part of an interconnected whole, where true progress is only possible when we see beyond our individual borders. We must foster a sense of shared destiny, recognising that the prosperity of our regions depends on our willingness to collaborate, integrate our strengths, and work together towards a common vision.

In this newsletter, we are called upon not only to partner but to be driven by innovation in our collaborations across the Asia-Pacific Region in order to build a green, digital, and high-tech urban future.

The challenges we face today—climate change, rapid urbanisation, digital inequality—have evolved, demanding novel solutions achievable through bold and creative regional cooperation. By embracing innovation, we can transform these challenges into opportunities, leveraging technology, sustainable practices, and shared expertise to reshape our urban landscapes into resilient, future-ready communities. We must be prepared to break traditional silos, share knowledge openly, and take courageous steps together toward a greener and more connected future. Let this newsletter be a source of inspiration—a reminder that no city or local government stands alone, that we have a shared destiny.

I urge each of my fellow leaders to continue to be catalysts in this movement, to bring innovation into our local actions, and to turn collaboration into a dynamic force for sustainable development. By nurturing partnerships that are as bold as they are inclusive, we can CREATE solutions that endure, CALIBRATE policies that align with our shared goals, and CHAMPION the transformative power of innovation in every facet of urban governance.

Together, let us redefine what our cities can achieve—not as separate entities, but as a cohesive and empowered region, working hand in hand to build a future that is green, digital, and high-tech. The future is local!

Dakila Carlo Cua
President, UCLG ASPAC
President, ULAP
Governor, Quirino Province



I am glad to welcome you to this 41st Edition of the UCLG ASPAC Newsletter and meet you again at the Council Meeting 2024 in Zhengzhou, China. I am particularly excited that our statutory meeting specifically spotlights innovation and collaboration, which have become the nerves of local governance. I trust innovation has become inseparable in our work, as reflected well in our progress.

We are proud to inform you that we have completed several milestones in 2024. Following the successful Executive Bureau Meeting 2024 in North Minahasa, Indonesia, we once again reconnected governors and mayors at the ASEAN Mayors Forum 2024. We highly appreciate the commitment and efforts made by the City Government of Vientiane. We also supported our host city, Jakarta, to revitalise the partnership spirit of city leaders through the International Mayors Forum 2024. Under the framework of Municipalities Network Advocacy on Sanitation in South Asia (MuNASS), we enhanced the capacity and network of local governments through a successful assembly of the City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) Summit 2024 in Sri Lanka. Our contribution also goes beyond the project we work on. Among many, we made a meaningful presence and contribution at various regional and global events, including the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, 10th World Water Forum 2024 in Bali, and the High-Level Political Forum in New York. We are also proud to mention that we continue holding our commitment, to build the capacity of local leaders through the Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy.

Apart from that, as a local government association, there is no bigger achievement than to see our works give a positive impact on our members. This becomes our strongest motivation to continuously give our best support to leaders with the same vision, to continuously make improvements in their city.

Let us all use the opportunity to once again spark the collaboration spirit among us to drive innovation and changes needed to make our city greener and surely greater.

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi
Secretary General, UCLG ASPAC

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JOURNEY TO ZHENGZHOU

Shaolin Temple

Location: at the southern foot of Mount Song, 13 km northwest of Dengfeng City, Zhengzhou City, Henan Province.



Main Gate of Shaolin Temple



Forest of Towers



Luoyang Water Banquet

Henan Dishes



Jiao Hua Ji



Hui Noodles

As one of the National Central Cities in China, Zhengzhou is the capital and largest city of Henan Province. It serves as the political, economic, technological, and educational centre of the province. It also has historical and cultural richness in store. Let's explore and experience Zhengzhou to the fullest!



Zhengzhou Aquarium



Location: Jin Shui Qu, Zheng Zhou Shi, China, 450011

Zhengzhou City God Temple



Location: No. 4 Shangcheng Road, Guancheng Huizu District, Zhengzhou, Henan Province

Yellow River Scenic Area



Yue Mountain Temple, Zijin Pavilion



Sculptures of Emperors Yan and Huang



Henan Museum

A state-of-the-art national-level museum and now the largest artifact collection, protection, research and exhibition centre in central China.






GREEN AND SMART CITY

GREEN CITY

What it is. An urban enclave where construction, design, and operation prioritise the preservation of the natural world alongside the social, physical, and economic health and wellness of the city's inhabitants.

(instituteofsustainabilitystudies.com)

FEATURES


-  Community gardens
-  Rooftop gardens
-  Cycling infrastructure
-  LEED-certified buildings made from green concrete
-  Renewable and locally sourced wood or recycled plastics, and zero-emission renewable energy. Green architectures featuring smart heating and cooling systems, solar panels, and natural building materials like bamboo or stone

BENEFITS OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN CITIES

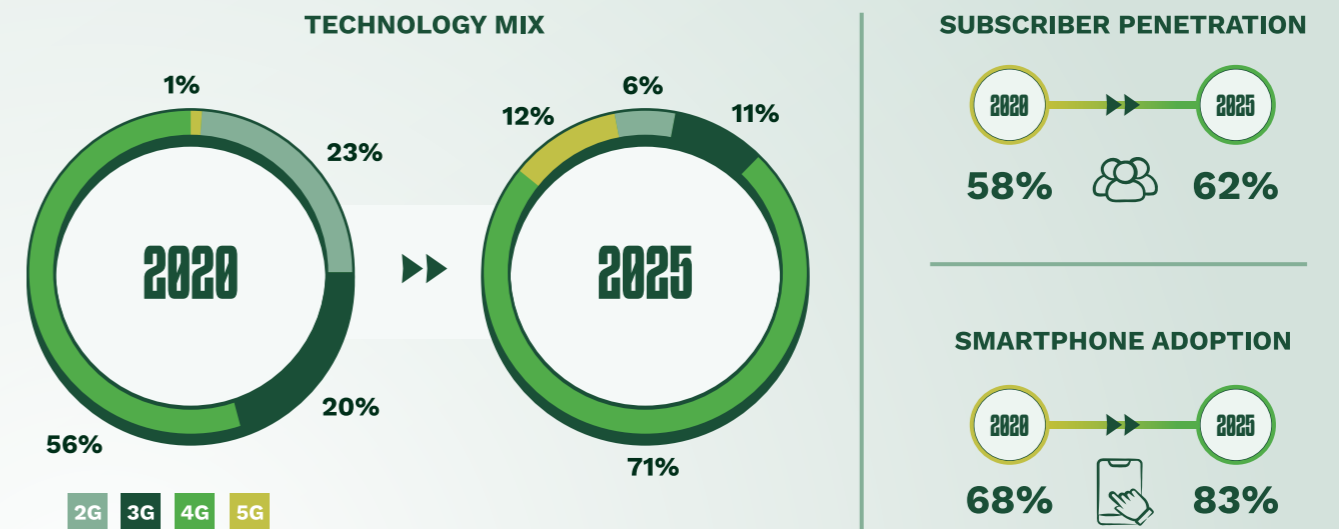
- 1 More effective, data-driven, decision-making**
A well-designed data analytics strategy gives city officials/decision makers the ability to access and analyse a massive amount of information from where they can get meaningful and actionable insights.
- 2 Enhanced citizen and government engagement**
Make smart cities a more attractive place for residents to live and promote a connected citizen experience.
- 3 Reduced environmental footprint**
Provide cities with new tools to mitigate their ecological impact.

SMART CITY

What it is. A place where traditional networks and services are made more efficient with the use of digital solutions for the benefit of its inhabitants and business. (commission.europa.eu)

-  Goes beyond the use of digital technologies for better resource use and less emissions
-  More efficient ways to light and heat buildings
-  Smarter urban transport networks, upgraded water supply and waste disposal facilities
-  More interactive and responsive city administration
-  Safer public spaces and meeting the needs of an ageing population

INSIGHT ON INTERNET CONNECTION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION IN 2025*



*) Excludes China, Hong Kong, Macao

Sources:
instituteofsustainabilitystudies.com
commission.europa.eu
<https://www.geospatialworld.net/prime/hype-digital-cities/>
gsma.com
and various other sources

READY TO GRAB THE OPPORTUNITIES?

CHECK OUT GOOD PRACTICES FROM CITIES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC.



KHON KAEN: SMART HEALTH INITIATIVE

Khon Kaen is the capital city of Khon Kaen Province, one of the seven leading provinces selected for the Thailand Smart City National Agenda 2017. To ensure the city is inclusive, Khon Kaen chose Smart Health as one of its main socioeconomic drivers for the city's development.

Context



Khon Kaen was anticipating challenge in the increase of its aging population. The city estimated that soon it would no longer have the economic and public health capacity to deal with it, unless further actions taken. Data shows that elderly population in Khon Kaen in 2021 is 18% and will reach 21% in 2025. It is also shown that majority of the elderly in the city suffers from at least one of the non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as chronic kidney diseases (CKDs), diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular diseases. Both the central and local governments have spent a large amount of their healthcare budget for treatment of those diseases. However, the used system had its weaknesses such as not empowering patients to know their health and lack of well-adjusted digital health technology in the public health service and personal health monitoring.

Solution



Local government of Khon Kaen decided to reform its health services by improving its infrastructure and integrating a smart healthcare model "Khon Kaen Smart Health". Incorporating three components: 1) Preventive healthcare service, 2) Smart ambulance/ambulance operation centre, and 3) Health information exchange; the initiative seeks for transformation in health perception and providing a good design of the city's healthcare infrastructure, including a seamless health connection from one's home to the hospital and vice versa. It also ensures a user-centric design, putting people at the centre of all the services provided to them comprising (1) smart health monitoring from home using Internet of Things (IoT) medical and non-medical devices such as smart watches; (2) smart ambulance for emergencies and smart connected systems for health monitoring reports for the doctor; and a (3) Health Information Exchange (HIE) standard platform, where all medical and personal health records will be operated. Eventually, the overall aggregated data can be monitored and analysed with AI to provide accurate predictions and personalised suggestions for better health outcome.



How It Works

- Smart digital health technology was introduced to elderly (60-75 years) of 30 households, monitoring their health with IoT devices during one year, specifically, their glucose level, heart rate, blood pressure, steps, food saltiness, food types and sleep time.
- The elderly were taught to use blood pressure monitors, charging batteries and the corresponding IoT devices to know their own health status and use the information to manage their behaviour.
- 125 village health volunteers and caregivers were introduced to and trained in the usage of the IoT medical devices and a corresponding Long Term Care application.
- 500 additional elderly people were introduced to and trained in the usage of smart watches.

Stakeholder Engagement



The initiative actively engaged various stakeholders, initially 12 evolving to 25 organisations, including Khon Kaen Province, Khon Kaen Municipality, Digital Economy Promotion Agency (DEPA), Khon Kaen University, Mahasarakam University, Khon Kaen Provincial Health Office, Khon Kaen Health Security Office, Khon Kaen Hospital, Khon Kaen University Science Park, Health Tech Association of Thailand, Khon Kaen Makers Club, Northeastern Software and Business Innovation Association (NESBIA).

Funding



Contributions came from various involved stakeholders including Khon Kaen University, DEPA, and Khon Kaen municipality allocating budget to the provincial budgetary as well as the Khon Kaen municipality annual budget.

Award



This initiative has won the first prize of the IDC Smart City Asia Pacific Awards 2018 and the prize in the category of Public Health and Social Services.

Sources:
APEC Case Studies, Best Practices of Smart Cities in the Digital Age (July 2021)
various other sources



JINAN: INTELLIGENT ECOSYSTEM FOR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Context

Jinan, capital city of Shandong Province, was once the country's most congested city (data in 2015) due to sharp increase in the number of city's populations. Facing this, Jinan had a public-private joint project launched in 2016 between Jinan's Traffic Police, overseeing city's traffic control, and DiDi, a private company with world's leading mobile transportation platform. The project built a big data based smart transportation system for Jinan's traffic control.

Solution



The public-private collaboration built a "one cloud four hubs" operating system architecture, a traffic management ecosystem with real-time perception of traffic signs, dynamic analysis of traffic emergency events, scientific evaluation of traffic status, and intelligent traffic control decisions.

The overall big data management cloud gathers traffic data, while the "four hubs" are composed of a perception centre, an analysis centre, a decision centre, and an evaluation centre. These hubs are responsible for building a closed-loop control mode of "real-time perception-analysis and judgement-intelligent decision-release evaluation", which finally evolves into a real traffic brain that is capable of self-evolution and self-learning.

Through accurate and complete data collection, the system platform relies on the learning, cognition, interpretation, calculation, simulation, and decision-making, which makes traffic management and decision-making more effective, while the carrying capacity of the road network can be maximised.



Stakeholder Engagement

A trilateral cooperation agreement was signed in 2018 between the Jinan Municipal Traffic Bureau, Shandong University, and the Transport Company DiDi to develop the so-called Jinan Traffic Brain (JT Brain) Project led by the municipal traffic police department.



Policies

In 2018, the local Government of Jinan formulated an Action Plan for the Construction of New Smart City in Jinan (2018-2020) to accelerate the construction of a new smart city in Jinan, to improve the urban governance capacity as well as the modernisation level, and to promote the city's digital and intelligent transformation and development.



Financial Aspects

The local government of Jinan funds the JT Brain through government procurement. Generally, the investment and financing of smart city construction in China can be divided into three main modes: government funding, PPPs as well as enterprise investment. Based on the different local development situations, there are differences in the proportion of the three modes applied.

Results

Command and dispatch daily average handling of more than 500 accident alarm cases, more than 150 quick accident handling alarm cases, and more than 400 traffic congestion alarms.

The average time of receiving and dispatching police was reduced from 7 minutes before the establishment of smart office, to 4.5 minutes, and the overtime rate of receiving and dispatching police was less than 0.5%.

The average time of handling the police on the spot was improved from 9 minutes to 7 minutes, and the overtime rate was less than 0.9%.

The average time of police mediation in the traffic accident remote mediation centre decreased from 7 minutes to 5 minutes, and the overtime rate was less than 0.8%.

Sources:
APEC Case Studies
<https://apsec.tju.edu.cn/ueditor/php/upload/file/20210106/1609914588107456.pdf>
Images: skyscrapercenter.com
and various other sources



POKHARA: TOWARDS BEAUTIFUL, SAFE, AND PROSPEROUS CITY

Pokhara is a metropolitan city in Nepal and the gateway to the Annapurna Range, base point for entering the Himalayan foothills. Given to its location, Pokhara has become an attractive destination and been announced as the tourism capital of Nepal in 2024. Exposed with natural blessings, Pokhara still needs to improve its infrastructure to keep up with the demands and tackle various challenges, from traffic congestion to inefficient public transportation, in addition to ineffective development control threatening the city's natural resources.

Sustainable Tourism Action Plan (STAP) addressing physical, policy, and economic measures is proposed to tackle the challenges and benefit wider urban communities and liveability. STAP is aimed to maintain the city's tourism value by putting natural assets first – enhancing liveability for residents and visitors. The STAP builds on the strategic goals that support Pokhara Vision 2100: Beautiful, safe, and prosperous Pokhara.



Facts

- Tourism is the second largest industry in Pokhara
- Tourism accounts for 25.4% of the city's total transactions
- Tourism provides 5,000 direct jobs



Challenges

- The concentration of tourism put natural assets at risk
- Unregulated development is leading to the disappearance of green and open spaces
- Lake Fewa and other lakes are at risk due to lack of control in development plan
- The decline in open spaces, grasslands and forests is negatively affecting the local community's self-reliance and way of life
- Inadequate and unsafe infrastructure for walking and cycling
- Insufficient data to effectively plan transportation infrastructure and facilities
- Capacity of local authorities and stakeholders



Solutions

Identification of fifteen priority measures, each to be delivered in up to 24 months.

1. **Maximise the tourism potential of lakes, rivers, and streams by preserving and enhancing their natural value as tourist attractions.**
Projects: Firke Khola Corridor Development Project, Seti Gorge at KI Singh Bridge, Botanical Garden Adjacent to Seti River
2. **Expand local attractions beyond the city centre to other areas to reduce congestion in the main tourist areas and increase the economic benefits of tourism.**
Projects: Panchase Ecodevelopment and Access, Sarangkot Adventure Hill
3. **Improve opportunities to welcome and inform visitors by creating assets that provide better information and promote local tourist attractions.**
Projects: Pokhara Entrance Park Development
4. **Preserve core tourism assets while enhancing the overall tourist experience by improving liveability and visitor experiences in central tourist areas.**
Projects: Lakeside and Urban Core Traffic Improvements, Bindabasini Area Street Redevelopment, Electric Vehicle Infrastructure and Multimodal Hub, Airport-Fewa Lake Enhanced Connectivity, Fewa Lake Organic Trail and Bunds, Green Pokhara: Greening Dense Urban Areas
5. **Maximise the tourism potential of lakes and lakeside areas by improving the condition and tourism options for Fewa Lake and increasing access to other lakes.**
Projects: Inter-lake Cycle Track, Begnas and Rupa Lakes Development, High-Speed Fewa-Begnas Connectivity



Sources:
<https://www.icf.com/insights/environment/3-best-practices-creating-sustainable-cities>
<https://www.icf.com/clients/international-development/enhancing-livability-pokhara-nepal>
 Pokhara Sustainable Tourism Action Plan (ADB, March 2023)



MELBOURNE: FOR GREATER AND GREENER CITY

Melbourne is an example of successful green transformation. Under the Grey-to-Green Project, the car-centric Melbourne was turned green with trees that are famous all over the world. Melbourne comes to this stage by converting more than 80 hectares of “grey areas” into safe, accessible, diverse ‘green’ space for all to enjoy. Melbourne was also one of the first cities in the world to launch its Urban Forest Strategy in 2012 (2012-2032) with goals to create resilient landscapes, community health and wellbeing and a liveable, sustainable city.

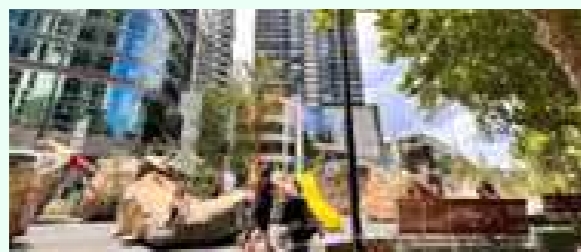
Facts



Features: reconfiguring sites owned or managed by council (surplus road space, car parks, slip lanes, and maintenance depots)

Converted more than 80 hectares of asphalt into diverse public spaces over a 35-year period

Developed 12 key projects (2018-2022) representing more than 28000m² of new pedestrian and green space



Southbank Boulevard Project
Completed: 2022
Delivered 22,000 m² of new open space, 400 new trees, and climate adaptive planting



Princess Bridge
Completed: 2021



Princess Bridge
Completed: 2006
created a major new pedestrian plaza at the junction of significant metropolitan zones and enhanced connection to the

Urban Forest Strategy



Vision: a healthy, resilient and diverse urban forest that contributes to the health and wellbeing of our communities, and to a liveable city that will create better urban environments for everyone.

Strategies:

- 1. Strategy 1: Increase canopy cover**
Target: from 22% to 40% (by 2040).
- 2. Strategy 2: Increase urban forest diversity**
Target: urban forest will be composed of no more than 5% of any tree species, no more than 10% of any genus and no more than 20% of any one family.
- 3. Strategy 3: Improve vegetation health**
Target: 90% of the City of Melbourne’s tree population will be healthy by 2040.
- 4. Strategy 4: Improve soil moisture and water quality**
Target: Soil moisture levels maintained to provide healthy growth of vegetation.
- 5. Strategy 5: Improve urban ecology**
Target: Protect and enhance a level of biodiversity that contributes to a healthy ecosystem.



Greening of Streets in City Road, South Bank



Increasing canopy cover in North Melbourne

Sources:
various sources



UCLG ASPAC-GUANGZHOU #1 PROJECT INAUGURATION

“CULTIVATING HEALTHY AND GREEN SCHOOLS IN NORTH MINAHASA”

UCLG ASPAC and Guangzhou Municipal People’s Government inaugurated the first project highlighting children’s health in North Minahasa (June 5, 2024), organised back-to-back with the first session of UCLG ASPAC Executive Bureau Meeting. This is part of a two-year commitment of Guangzhou, as Chair of the Standing Committee Women in Local Government (SCWILG) and owner of the Guangzhou International Prize for Urban Innovation (Guangzhou Award) platform consistently promoting and awarding cities’ good practices for sustainable development agenda.



For the first project, UCLG ASPAC and Guangzhou give access to clean water (building a well) and bring a food stall to the school area, considering their needs. Beneficiaries of this project are five selected schools including four elementary schools (SD Inpres Suwaan, SD Inpres Sarongsong 1, SD Negeri Maen, SD Negeri Tamba) and one junior high school (SMP Negeri 2 Airmadidi) in North Minahasa Regency, Indonesia. A food stall was built and provided to the schools so that students can find food within the school area.

The Inauguration



The inauguration ceremony preceded the First Session of the UCLG ASPAC Executive Bureau Meeting 2024 event. Attending participants were warmly welcomed with an opening dance performed by school children and remarks from high profiles. The inauguration was marked with ribbon cutting symbolising the reception of support from the Guangzhou Healthy and Green School project. UCLG ASPAC also passed plaques and certificates to five school headmasters during the opening session of the Likupang Tourism Festival 2024.



“ On behalf of the people of North Minahasa Regency, I, as the Regent Mayor, would like to sincerely thank Guangzhou and UCLG ASPAC for their collaboration and support in implementing the Healthy and Green School project in North Minahasa. This joint endeavor ensures our students receive nutritious meals and promotes healthy eating habits.

Regent Mayor Joune Ganda,
North Minahasa Regency

“ Green schools are fundamentally important... They contribute to improving students’ behaviour through a positive culture and maintaining sustainability in the future.

Ms. Nova Tindangen
Teacher of Suwaan Elementary School

CLOSING CEREMONY

MEETING OF GOVERNORS/MAYORS OF ASEAN CAPITALS AND ASEAN MAYORS FORUM (MGMAC & AMF 2024)

19 SEPTEMBER 2024, VIENTIANE, LAO PDR



ASEAN Mayors Forum 2024: A Milestone for Urban Connectivity and Resilience

UCLG ASPAC once again lit up the spirit of collaboration among cities and local governments in the Southeast Asia sub-region through the conduct of the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) on September 18-19, 2024. Highlighting theme "Enhancing Connectivity & Resilience for Sustainable Development of ASEAN Cities", this year's event was hosted by Vientiane Capital Administration, Lao PDR, and held in conjunction with the Meeting of Governors/Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC). The Forum attracted around 350 cities, mostly city and local government leaders and senior officials, in addition to other distinguished guests including the Prime Minister of Lao PDR, the ASEAN Secretary-General, Lao Ministry representatives, UN representatives, ASEAN Ambassadors, urban planners, and key stakeholders. Their active participation highlighted the growing importance of city-level leadership in addressing local challenges and contributing to regional integration and sustainable development.



“ This year's forum theme resonated strongly with Lao PDR's Chairmanship of ASEAN, which focuses on strengthening regional connectivity and resilience amid a disruptive global landscape. Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Sonexay Siphandone underscored the significance of connectivity and resilience for ASEAN's future. He emphasised that Lao PDR aims to transition from a land-locked to a land-linked country, serving as a hub for regional integration. This vision aligns with Lao PDR's goal of contributing to ASEAN's resilience and ability to respond effectively to future challenges.



“ ASEAN is developing its Community Vision 2025, where smart and sustainable urban development is a key strategic priority. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary General of ASEAN, stressed the critical role of cities in driving socio-economic progress and addressing challenges. To achieve smart and sustainable urban development, he recommended enhancing connectivity and resilience, ensuring inclusion, and building capacity of city leaders and officials. Platforms like the ASEAN Mayors Forum, ASEAN Smart Cities Network, and the Meeting of Governors/Mayors of ASEAN Capitals will be essential in fostering collaboration and promoting sustainable urban development beyond 2025.



“ Governor of Vientiane Capital Administration, Mr. Athsaphangthong Siphandone in his welcoming remarks, emphasised that local governments play a crucial role in building the ASEAN Community. He underscored the importance of AMF and MGMAC that provide opportunities for collaboration and innovation, enabling cities to promote regional economic growth, and strengthen people-to-people linkages and cultural exchange.



“ Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC as the AMF's Secretariat, highlighted the Forum's alignment with the Lao's 2024 ASEAN Chairmanship theme of "Connectivity & Resilience" and its support to ASEAN's Community Vision 2025. She underlined the vital role that cities and local governments play in implementing policies, fostering resilience, and addressing key challenges such as urbanisation, climate change, and socio-economic disparities.

During the meeting, AMF/MGMAC delegates participated in five parallel sessions focusing on 1) Sustainable and liveable cities, 2) Green tourism, 3) Sustainable economic development, 4) Environmentally sustainable cities, and 5) Climate resilience. These sessions offered valuable insights, including the need for local governments to increase knowledge exchange and capacity to build bankable projects and mitigate disasters, foster commitment from all stakeholders and engage local communities and international organisations, create conducive business environments, enhance legal regulations, prioritise green incentives and policies, and integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation efforts which are socially-inclusive and gender-sensitive. Data-driven governance was also highlighted as critical to fostering resilience and sustainability at the local level.

One of the forum's major outcomes was the adoption of the **Vientiane Declaration 2024**, which outlines shared commitments toward improving local governance, promoting inclusivity, and building sustainable cities. The declaration reflects the collaborative spirit of the Forum and its vision for ASEAN cities and local governments. Additionally, it was agreed that the ASEAN Mayors Forum will be renamed as the ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum (AGMF), recognising the evolving role of governors and mayors in shaping local governance. At the closing, the handing over of the flag to the next host of AGMF/MGMAC 2025, the City of Kuala Lumpur, was undertaken. Malaysian delegates comprising of Deputy Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Mayors of Kuantan and Sepang, and representatives from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government received the flag from the Vientiane Governor accompanied by Mayor of Kaysone and Mayor of Luang Prabang.

As ASEAN forges ahead with its Community Vision 2025, the close collaboration between local governments, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community Vision 2025 will be crucial. Local governments will continue to play a central role in shaping ASEAN's future, ensuring that the region's cities are inclusive, resilient, and equipped to face the challenges and opportunities of the future.



URBAN-ACT: Aligning Climate Targets in Padang and Medan - Unveiling Policy Review, City Pairing, and Collaborative Climate Action Opportunities

UCLG ASPAC, under the framework of Urban-Act programme, organised meetings with the Climate Change Working Groups both in Padang and Medan City on July 22-26, 2024. The key objectives were to present the findings of the policy review and policy brief on vertical integration of low-carbon and climate-resilient development to the pilot cities, identify potential collaborations tailored to the specific needs of Padang and Medan, and explore potential city pairings and cooperation opportunities within the Urban-Act framework.



The meetings gathered approximately 30 participants from each Climate Change Working Groups, representing cross-regional institutions including the Development Planning Agency (Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan Daerah), Environmental Agency, Agriculture Agency, Health Agency, Transportation Agency, Regional Disaster Management Agency (Badan Penanggulangan Bencana Daerah/BPBD), Fisheries and Food Agency, as well as Public Works and Housings Agency.



Our recommendations:

1. Creating a dedicated commission to monitor initiatives and achievements
2. Enhancing coordination with related ministries and agencies
3. Preparing technical guidelines for effective implementation
4. Ensuring contributions of local initiatives to national target

The policy review findings highlighted that while development goals for low carbon and climate resilience are generally aligned with existing regional programmes at both the provincial and city levels, the initiatives are not reflected and detailed in the regional development planning documents. Instead, the initiatives are only included in the Strategic Plans of various Regional Apparatus Organisations (*Organisasi Perangkat Daerah/OPDs*), leading to a disconnect in targeting low carbon and climate resilience goals directly. To address this gap, the policy brief recommended creating a dedicated commission to monitor the climate change initiatives and achievements, enhancing coordination with related ministries and agencies, and preparing technical guidelines for effective implementation and ensuring contributions of local initiatives to national target.

The meetings also focused on exploring climate actions based on the priority needs identified in Padang and Medan. Key areas for action highlighted by the pilot cities include waste management, public transportation, disaster risk reduction, fertilisers, and several other issues. These actions will be assessed against readiness criteria and existing city plans to guide the prioritisation of climate initiatives in each city.

At the same time, this series of meetings coincided with a visit from GIZ China and Shenzhen Bus Group (SZBG) that aimed to explore potential collaboration in the transportation sector. Their rapid assessment led to recommendations for improving public transportation in Padang and Medan including upgrading standard services (such as route maps, timetable, stop information, bus depots), and improving safety.

To ensure a cohesive and collaborative approach, the next step for Urban-Act Indonesia is to synchronise climate policies, creating synergy in their implementation at both national and regional levels. This will involve integrating climate actions into the forthcoming Regional Medium-Term Development Plans (Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Menengah Daerah/RPJMD), which was also the concern of the Acting Mayor of Padang City (Mr. Andree Algamar) while welcoming the team during the courtesy visit in Padang. Furthermore, the identified climate actions will serve as a foundation for prioritising initiatives and will be considered for city pairing activities and expanding access to climate funding tailored to the specific conditions of each city.



City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation Summit 2024

UCLG ASPAC, under the framework of the Municipalities Network Advocacy on Sanitation in South Asia (MuNASS), organised the South and Southeast Asia City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) Summit 2024 on September 25-26, 2024, hosted by the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities (FSLGA). The event brought representatives from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, Youths, Media, and Sanitation Experts.

City mayors emphasised the urgencies for regional collaboration to acquire more technologies and innovation to address "Safe Sanitation for All." They stressed the importance of learning and knowledge exchange to develop sustainable solutions for achieving SDG 6.2, focusing on institutionalising CWIS for marginalised communities. The summit underscored that inclusive sanitation can only become a reality for all through united regional efforts.

Key Recommendations



Strengthen Regional Collaboration. Emphasise the critical need for enhanced collaboration among municipalities across South Asia to effectively address shared urban challenges and develop sustainable solutions, particularly regarding sanitation.



Promote Knowledge Exchange. Create platforms for sharing experiences and best practices among local government associations to foster learning and innovation in safe sanitation initiatives, thereby empowering all municipalities to adopt effective strategies.



Raise Awareness on CWIS and Fecal Sludge Management. Increase efforts to educate both elected and non-elected officials about the importance of City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) and fecal sludge management, integrating these concepts into regular urban development planning.



Enhance Financial Support. Advocate for increased financial resources from both the public and private sectors to ensure that sanitation services remain accessible to all, particularly in low-income and marginalised communities.



Advocate for Participatory Governance. Implement the Kathmandu Recommendation 2023 by encouraging participatory governance that includes low-income and marginalised communities in decision-making processes, ensuring that their voices are heard, and their needs are addressed in urban sanitation initiatives.

Insights from the Summit



In Sri Lanka - Under the legal framework of the policy, it provides guidelines and standards for the selection and construction of sanitation facilities as well as penalties for non-compliance. It is commendable to see the key areas identified in the policy that include all-important aspects pertaining to inclusive sanitation with particular attention to the marginalised, youth, women, and people with disabilities. However, the movement for safe sanitation for all in this region is still equally important for every city until we bring that last person under the coverage of equitable society - stated the board member of FSLGA - Mrs. Ranasi Gunawardhana in her welcome speech at the Summit. She also made a call for stronger regional cooperation and FSLGA would play vital role with upcoming elected city leaders for achieving the goals of SDGs.



UCLG ASPAC Secretary General, Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi emphasised to share knowledge, experience, skills, ideas and strengthen regional cooperation to move forward instead of waiting for decades to achieve the goals. She also urged to keep in mind the shared vision that unites us - a vision of cities and municipalities where no one is left behind, where every individual, regardless of their background, has access to proper sanitation and enjoys a life of dignity and opportunity. Dr. Bernadia mentioned that, we must not lose sight of the pressing issue at hand - ensuring that every resident in our cities has access to safe and dignified sanitation. In many parts of our region, the lack of proper and safe sanitation facilities continues to hinder the well-being and potential of countless individuals and communities. The consequences of inadequate sanitation extend beyond just health; they touch upon dignity, education, and economic opportunities.



UCLG ASPAC Co-chair, and MuAN President Mr. Bhim Prasad Dhungana in his opening session speech made a call for more collaboration among South and Southeast Asian cities for sharing technologies and innovative ideas to use the local resources for achieving SDG 6.



President Dakila Carlo E. Cua Visits UCLG ASPAC Secretariat, Shares Vision on Leadership, Climate Action, and Youth Engagement

UCLG ASPAC Secretariat welcomed Governor Dakila Carlo E. Cua, also known as Governor Dax, President of UCLG ASPAC, for a brief yet insightful visit on August 12, 2024. Gov. Dax engaged with the Secretariat team, commending their ongoing efforts and sharing his insights during an interview.

Reflections on the UCLG ASPAC Presidency

Gov. Dax expressed deep appreciation for the organisation’s members and their collaborative spirit. “The inspiration comes from the people I meet at UCLG ASPAC,” he stated. “Leaders like our Secretary General, other mayors, and local leaders share a common passion to make their small part of the world a little better.”

He also acknowledged challenges that may come with UCLG ASPAC’s mission in amplifying the voices of local leaders and strengthen local governance, pointing out that those closest to the ground such as local governments are most in tune with local needs and can draw the most effective solutions from communities. “The challenge is in amplifying the voice of these local leaders,” he explained. “World leaders, national leaders, and heads of state usually have good aspirations for the people they serve. But success in achieving these goals will require collaboration with local leaders.”

He also stressed the importance of clear communication and vision in leadership as according to Gov. Dax, an effective leader must convey their dreams and aspirations in a way that resonate with communities. That way, they will be motivated to take action.

Climate Action: A Shared Responsibility



On climate action, Gov. Dax highlighted the importance of a united approach to tackling climate change. “This is a battle we cannot afford to lose,” he asserted.

He called for an equitable approach to climate action, particularly in considering the disproportionate impact of climate change on developing nations by indicating how industrialised nations are more responsible for environmental damages and gain more economic benefits, with developing nations often bearing the weight of the consequences.

Therefore, addressing climate change needs not only environmental solutions but also economic ones, thus keeping social justice in mind. “How could we expect a poor, rural community to protect their environment when they don’t have enough resources to feed their children?” he questioned. To that, he feels that dialogue and collaboration can create fair and effective strategies. “The carbon efforts and the COP conferences are significant first steps, but I hope they progress into more socially just mechanisms to help developing nations,” he added.

He further advocated for differentiated responsibilities in climate agreements, considering the varying contributions to global pollution. “If your nations pollute more, your targets need to be more stringent. If your nation doesn’t have the same carbon footprint, maybe your targets do not have to be as high. But there has to be a more just way of doing this.”

Youth Engagement: Building a Sustainable Future

During the interview, Gov. Dax also shared his thoughts on the critical role of youth in local governance and societal progress. This includes his observation on the unique advantages today’s youth have due to social media and technology to amplify their ideas and aspirations to the world about matters of the world like environment, climate, society, and family. As a result, he emphasised the importance of preparing the next generation to take up leadership roles to ensure that sustainable development continues. “I am a firm believer in the quote ‘You cannot have success when there is no successor. How can we say you’re successful when no one is there to further the torch you started? So, the young need to build on the gains of this generation.’”

However, adding to their passion to make this world better, Gov. Dax also noted a shift in priorities among the youth, with many expressing concerns about starting a family due to social, and economic implications. He suggested that this would be a topic for leaders to discuss in the future. “We need to make sure that having a family is not seen as an inconvenience but as a valuable addition to society. This is something for leaders to discuss.

Concluding his visit, Gov. Dax enthusiastically reminded the UCLG ASPAC Secretariat that meaningful change requires time, commitment, and collaboration. “Change does not happen overnight,” he stated. But with a shared vision and purpose, we can achieve great things, one step at a time.”

The Kalibaru Festival: A Celebration for Local Innovations

UCLG ASPAC under the Kalibaru Hub Project, livened up the Kalibaru Festival held on August 31, 2024, at Plaza Kalibaru, organised in collaboration with Kalibaru Village and the North Jakarta Government. The event celebrated local culture and innovations, especially from the Kalibaru Hub Project, attracting over 400 attendees. UCLG ASPAC Secretary General, Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, gave her opening remarks, introducing UCLG ASPAC's initiative in Kalibaru, focusing on how UCLG ASPAC will still support this event next year. She also highlighted the importance of protecting the environment by not throwing trash everywhere.

In this festival, the Kalibaru Hub Project set up a Community Booth for the Cangkring Group to showcase their innovations in sustainable practices: transforming green mussel waste into valuable products. The booth attracted over 100 visitors with interactive quizzes and T-shirts promoting sustainability. The team also distributed T-shirts and flyers to raise awareness about the project and promote the Cangkring Community's environmental innovations.

The event significantly increased the visibility of the Kalibaru Hub Project and its efforts to promote sustainability. It successfully engaged the local community highlighting the project's role in fostering innovation and environmental awareness.



MAYOR MICHELLE RABAT OF MATI CITY: THE AWARDS SAY IT ALL



The works of a city leader speak more volumes when they are acknowledged by relevant parties, in addition to local people as direct beneficiaries. This is what we see in the leadership of Mayor Michelle Nakpil Rabat of Mati City, Philippines. The more we see, the more we list down her achievements and awards that she has received from various stakeholders who acknowledged the work she did for the city and the people.

One of the highlighted projects in the city is the construction of Mati City Fish Port in Barangay Centro. Inaugurated on October 23, 2023, this is a collaboration between the local government of Mati City, under the leadership of Mayor Michelle, and the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA). The fish port is planned to have facilities such as a market hall, harbour area, fish landing, and other components supporting post-harvest season. It is expected that local fish producers and fish buyers, including wholesalers and retailers, will reap benefit.

Under the leadership of Mayor Michelle, Mati City became the Regional Winner of the Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan (MMK) National Search for Outstanding Coastal Community for its Exemplary Fisheries Conservation Efforts (2022). Receiving a PHP 2 million (USD 35,297,96) prize, the local government of Mati announced that the prize will be used for artificial reef production projects to increase the biodiversity of fish and provide coastal protection so that fisherfolk can benefit from enhanced fish catches, production activities, and protection of communities and fishing grounds.



In terms of health services, the city has also bagged various awards from the Department of Health of the country: the silver awardee in the first-ever Mental Health Green Ribbon Award, along with the Municipality of Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur; the silver for the Top 3 Performing Tuberculosis (TB) Directly Observed Therapy (DOTS) Facilities; and bronze for the Top Performing Programmatic Management of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (PMDT) Treatment Facilities.



New Members

UCLG ASPAC Secretariat welcomes new members to be approved at the Council Meeting 2024 in Zhengzhou.

Including Youth in Local Government's Works: How Far Can It Go?

UCLG ASPAC has continuously advocated the importance of including youth in local governments' works. This page is dedicated to show relevant good practices, initiatives, and to promote figures with similar vision in mind for insights on the implementation in respective cities.

Bridging Generations: Michiko Frizdew Leads Youth-Local Government Collaboration in Riau, Indonesia

Pekanbaru, Riau Province – In an era where the voices of youth are becoming increasingly influential in shaping public policy, Michiko Frizdew stands out as a pioneering figure in bridging the gap between young people and local government. As the Founder and Director of MF Communications, a platform dedicated to empowering youth through communication, Michiko has become a catalyst for change in Riau Province, Indonesia.

Born in Ujungbatu, Rokan Hulu Regency, and continuing her education in Pekanbaru City, Michiko's journey into youth empowerment began at a young age. She completed her undergraduate education at the University of Riau and is currently pursuing her Master's degree at the same university. Her passion for public speaking and communication led her to establish MF Communications in 2017, a platform that has since grown to offer a variety of training programmes, workshops, and competitions aimed at improving the communication skills of youth in her community. "I realised early on that communication is key to personal and professional success," Michiko says. "But beyond that, it's a powerful tool for advocacy and change."

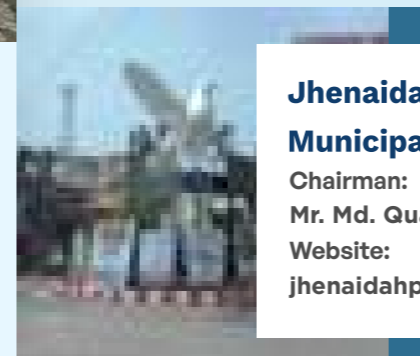
Recognising the importance of collaboration, Michiko has been instrumental in forging partnerships between youth and the local government. In 2022, she was honoured with the title of Youth Pioneer in Education by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Indonesia, a recognition that not only validated her efforts but also opened doors for greater collaboration with the local government in Riau.



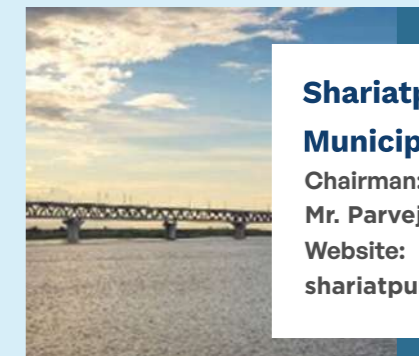
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 Mr. Muhammad Bobby Afif Nasution
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portal.medan.go.id



Ulipur Municipality
 Chairman:
 Mr. Mamun Sarker
 Website:
ulipur municipality.gov.bd



Sub-Region Updates

South Asia

All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIIILSG) at Nagpur held Local Self Government Day, in combination with the Silver Jubilee Celebration of Nagpur Centre. Those combined events were organised on August 31, 2024, at the National Fire Service College auditorium. The event was held to honour the importance of local governance and reflect on the AIIILSG's achievements over the past 25 years at the Nagpur Centre. On this occasion musical events were also organised by the AIIILSG's Centre at Nagpur.



Southeast Asia

Association of Indonesia Municipalities (Asosiasi Pemerintah Kota Seluruh Indonesia/APEKSI), collaborated with PT Napindo Media Ashatama (Napindo), ASECH Indonesia (Centre of Excellence on Smart City), Indonesian Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Business Association (*Asosiasi Pengusaha Teknologi, Informasi, dan Komunikasi Nasional/APTIKNAS*) and Citiasia, supported by the Ministry of Home Affairs, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology, held a national forum, during Indonesia International Smart City Expo & Forum (IISMEX) Integrated Technology Event (ITE) 2024. The session took theme Indonesia Cities Outlook 2024 and there was also a Smart City Tech Festival. The event was held on September 19, 2024 in Jakarta International Expo (JIExpo). UCLG ASPAC Secretariat also joined the exhibition highlighting the Organisation's work on climate resilience, water and sanitation. The Expo attracted more than 18,000 visitors.



Pacific

Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) held its Annual SuperLocal Awards and announced its 2024 winners at the LGNZ Fulton Hogan Conference Dinner in Wellington on August 23, 2024. The SuperLocal Awards champion the incredible work that local government does. This year, Councillor Neville Phillips of Gore District Council won the SuperHuman Award for what judges described as his "tremendous service"; Masterton District Council bagged the SuperEngaged Award for its innovative Your Place - Your Plan | Thinking about Masterton's Future; Gisborne District Council won the SuperCollab Award for its Marae Emergency Preparedness and Resilience project; Tasman District Council secured the SuperSteward Award for its Mangatāwhai/Black Valley Wetland Restoration project; Gisborne District Council also grabbed the SuperIdea Award for its Tairāwhiti Civil Defence Emergency Management Common Operating Picture project. LGNZ President Sam Broughton, who is also the Co-President of UCLG ASPAC, congratulated the winners, finalists, and councils entering this year's awards.



East Asia

As a friendly, multicultural, and inclusive city, Taipei invites its citizens to celebrate Eid al-Fitr together each year to promote the exchange of different cultures. The 2024 Eid al-Fitr celebration was held on April 14, 2024, at the Daan Forest Park in Taipei. At the opening ceremony, Mayor Wan-An Chiang expressed his gratitude to local enterprises supporting Muslim-friendly certification and offer certified products in Taipei. He also emphasised that the city government would continue to work together with local businesses to welcome more Muslims to Taipei. In 2023, Taipei received the "Most Promising Muslim-friendly City Destination of the Year (Non-organisation of Islamic cooperation)" award from Crescent Rating, a prominent Muslim travel promotion company.





New Taipei City: Sex Education, Gender Equality, and Sustainable Fashion

Gender Equality Hub Next to Christmasland: Sex Education for Children

The New Taipei City Government, in collaboration with a non-profit organisation, Friendly-to-All Co-Parenting Organisation, has established and inaugurated an All Gender NeST Room, a public educational facility for gender equality, on November 1, 2023, located in the Citizen Plaza.

The All Gender NeST Room is a fun and safe place for children and easily accessible by public transportation, includes a children's play area with a focus on sex education themes, a museum of sanitary products, special displays, a gender equality book corner, and a multi-functional classroom area for lectures, workshops, and theatrical performances. The layout is well-thought and designated to creating an immersive gender equality surrounding the New Taipei City Christmasland.



Sanitary products from various countries on display at the museum of sanitary products.

(Image Source: New Taipei City Government)

Director General of New Taipei City, Ms. Chingyu Yao, stated this is one of milestones reflecting the New Taipei City government's commitment to equality and human rights. It is also a concrete practice of Mayor Yu-Ih Hou's policy commitment to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals regarding gender equality. Ms. Chen Yi, Chairperson of the Friendly-to-All Co-Parenting, expressed gratitude to the New Taipei City Government for their cross-departmental collaboration, allowing the most conveniently located prime space at the interchange of the three public transportation systems to be dedicated to children.

In the future, the All Gender NeST Room, through innovation subsidies, will host various gender equality education exhibitions, promote picture books, organise topic-based lectures and workshops, to integrate gender equality into the lives of citizens.



Mayor Dexter M. Uy and Councilor Stephany Uy-Tan of Catbalogan City visit the gender-friendly restroom.

(Image Source: New Taipei City Government)

The New Taipei City and Catbalogan City Government exchanged insights on gender equality policies on March 26, 2024. Councilor Stephany Uy-Tan of Catbalogan City discussed the recent MOVE project (Men Opposed to Violence against Women and Children), focusing on engaging men in the United Nations campaign "Violence against Women and Children (VAW-C)" and promoting knowledge on reducing violence against women within organisations and communities. Mayor Dexter M. Uy of Catbalogan City expressed his full support, with an aim of achieving the Philippines' national policy goal of "Zero Violence Against Women." The exchange continued with a tour on the gender-friendly restroom led by Ms. Chen Yi, the President of the Friendly-to-All Co-Parenting Organisation. Both parties shared experiences in implementing gender equality and SDGs policies, aspiring towards a sustainable and prosperous urban future.



Weave Venture Delegation Visit: Sabrina Fashion Industrial Corp.

(Image Source: Anchor Asia)

Weave Venture 2024: A Landmark Event Reshaping Sustainable Fashion

New Taipei City, realising its sustainable fashion initiative, "Fashion for All", collaborated with Anchor Asia hosting a groundbreaking programme "Weave Venture" in May 2024. This event, dedicated to fostering innovation and transformation in the textile and apparel industry, showcased a day of immersive experiences and collaborative discussions, drawing over 50 industry leaders and investors from renowned companies such as Far Eastern Group, Pou Chen Group, Nan Ya Plastics, Acer Group, and lululemon.

Representatives from various relevant industries also attended the reception, showcasing the potential for global collaboration in sustainable fashion and industrial innovation.



New Taipei City Mayor Hou Yu-Ih made a stylish appearance at the networking reception by donning a fashionable vest crafted from his own old denim jeans.

(Image Source: Anchor Asia)



Bedkot Municipality: Sawanka Dola Celebration by Rana Tharu Community

Sawanka Dola is a festival celebrated by the Rana Tharu community of Sudurpaschim Province. It is called Sawanka Dola as the festival plays ping (swing) and celebrated in the Nepali month of Shrawan, beginning of the month (July-August) according to the lunar calendar. This period is auspicious in the Hindu calendar and is often associated with various religious festivities.

Procession and Worship. The festival involves a grand procession where a palanquin (dola) is carried around the village. It is often adorned with flowers and other decorative items and placed in public accessible to everyone. Especially on Teej festival, after making a 'mura' (knot of rope used in the swing) and immersing it in the river, the festival concludes formally.

Deity Worship. The primary deity worshipped during this festival is typically a local deity or a representation of Lord Shiva, as Shrawan is considered a holy month for Shiva devotees.

Community Participation. The entire community actively participates in the festivities. It is a time for social gathering, music, dance, and communal meals.

Purification Rites. Before the main festivities, purification rites are conducted including bathing in rivers or ponds and offering prayers to ancestors.

Cultural Significance. Sawanka Dola is not just a religious event but also a celebration of the Rana Tharu's cultural identity. It passes down traditions and cultural values to younger generations. It is said that women fast on Teej to wish their brothers and sisters a long life. The festival reinforces community bonds and provides an opportunity for social cohesion.

Attire and Music. Women are often dressed in vibrant Ghagariya (Type of Lehenga) and men in traditional dhotis. Folk music and dances are integral parts of the celebration. Instruments such as the dholak (a type of drum) and the harmonium are commonly used.

Feasting and Food. Special dishes for the festival often involve local ingredients and traditional recipes. After the fast is over, it is customary to eat traditional dishes such as Gulgula, Simahi, Puri and feed it to the relatives. In this festival, brothers give gifts to their sisters.

Cultural Preservation. Festivals like Sawanka Dola play a crucial role in maintaining the cultural fabric of the community amidst modernization and changing lifestyles.

“**Sawanka Dola exemplifies the vibrant cultural traditions of the Rana Tharu people and their devotion to preserving their ancestral customs.**”



Gunsan City: Hosting the Saemangeum Renewable Energy Fair

Gunsan City, Republic of Korea, hosted the “Saemangeum Renewable Energy Expo 2024” at the Gunsan Saemangeum Convention Centre (GSCO) on May 21, 2024. The event was co-hosted by Gunsan City and Jeonbuk State and organised by Jeonbuk Technopark (JBTP) under the theme “Special Encounters, New Beginnings, RE100-CF100 Energy Solution Alliance!”. The event promoted the status and policies of the energy industry in the Jeonbuk State, revitalised the energy industry, and strengthened related industry-academia networks.

Firstly held in 2004 and celebrating its 20th anniversary, the New and Renewable Energy Fair provided regular networking, energy policy discovery, government policy recommendations, and energy industry promotion to foster the energy sector industry and create an ecosystem.

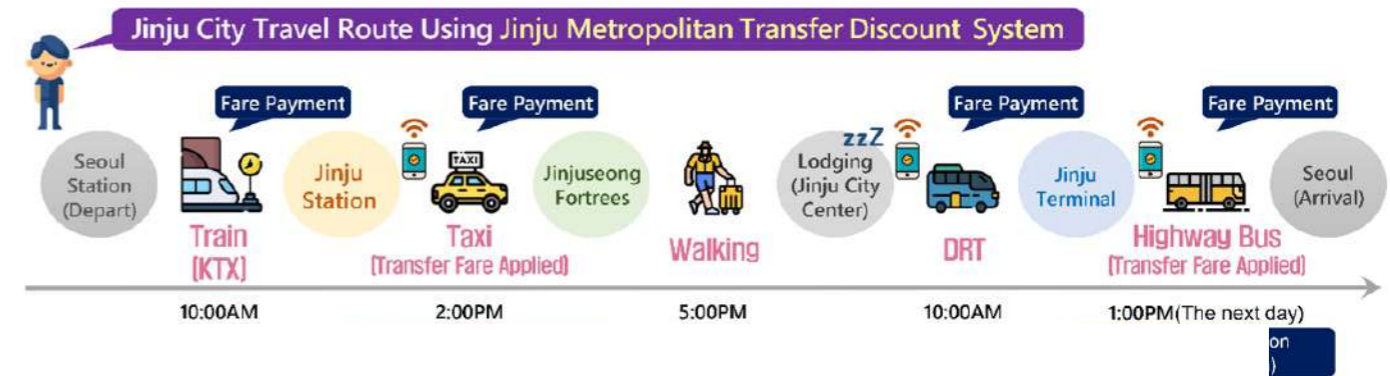
In particular, the day’s main event was companies expressed commitment in the MoU Signing Ceremony for the RE100 (Renewable Electricity 100)-CF100 (Carbon Free 100%) Energy Solution Alliance, a public-private industry-academia partnership to innovate the energy industry and build a sustainable energy environment.

At this year’s exhibition, promising Korean companies participating in the RE100-CF100 Energy Solution Alliance, including Hyundai E&C, Korea Offshore Wind Power, OCI Power, Doosan Fuel Cell, Terralix, and Samil C&S, showcased their innovative technologies and products for renewable energy.

At the regular forum, domestic scholars and research institutes gave topic presentations on the renewable energy industry and the way forward in the new energy economy, and posters of research papers from universities participating in the Jeonbuk Regional Energy Cluster Talent Development Programme were displayed to showcase the achievements of the cluster’s talent development.

“This event will play an important role in fostering the impact of the new energy industry by forming networks and strengthening cooperation systems in each field of renewable energy not only in our region but also in South Korea,” said Mayor Kang Im June. “Gunsan City will spare no effort to help Saemangeum’s energy industry lead the local economy and lead Korea’s energy policy.”

City of Jinju: Leading Sustainable Green City Development with ‘Jinju-Type Future Mobility’



The City of Jinju is driving innovative changes in public transportation by integrating advanced smart technology to address local challenges such as an aging population and urban hollowing out, while also stimulating the local economy and transitioning towards an eco-friendly future city. Local government of Jinju designated the ‘Jinju-Type Future Mobility’ project to position Jinju as a ‘Future Mobility Specialised City’ by implementing 1) MaaS (Mobility as a Service) and 2) DRT (Demand Responsive Transit).

1 MAAS (Mobility As A Service)

MaaS is a platform designed to provide users with optimal mobility convenience by integrating all necessary transportation modes to reach their destination, offering personalised route information, cost details, and ride-hailing and payment services. Jinju City plans to incorporate MaaS into its tourism policy to offer visitors promotional benefits, such as information about attractions and fare discounts. This is expected to increase tourist numbers and contribute to local economic revitalisation.

2 DRT (Demand Responsive Transit)

DRT represents a new type of bus service that allows users to request a bus on demand, similar to ride-hailing services, as opposed to fixed-route buses. It offers cost-effective fares and real-time route adjustments and minimised maintenance costs for underutilised routes and environmental impact. Jinju City plans to operate three types of DRT services: a suburban DRT for elderly residents in rural areas, a tourist DRT connecting major attractions, and an urban DRT serving key city hubs. These demand-responsive transportation policies are recognised as effective solutions for addressing mobility challenges for the elderly and revitalising urban areas.

Through its Future Mobility initiative, Jinju City is addressing local challenges such as an aging population, urban decline, and economic downturns, while also tackling the costs and environmental impacts of low-demand routes. This initiative advances Jinju’s goal to become a sustainable green city.

CARBON FIBRE METRO TRAIN UNVEILED IN QINGDAO



CRRC Qingdao Sifang and Qingdao Metro developed the CETROVO 1.0 train using reduced weight and energy consumption, paving the way for a greener future for subways. The innovative train utilises carbon fibre composites, revolutionary materials known for their strength-to-weight ratio.

“By using this ‘king’ of new materials, the train achieves an impressive 11 percent weight reduction compared to traditional metal models,” said Mr. Liu Jinzhu, a senior designer at CRRC Qingdao Sifang. That means a lighter body, with the weight savings directly translating into a seven percent reduction in energy consumption, leading to an annual decrease of 130 metric tons of carbon emissions. The environmental benefit is equivalent to planting roughly 6.7 hectares of forest.

Despite its lighter frame, the carbon fibre construction doesn’t compromise on strength. Mr. Liu said that the components offer superior resistance to impact and fatigue compared to traditional metals, ultimately extending the train’s life span. The reduced weight also translates to less wear on wheels and rails, minimising maintenance requirements.

The CETROVO 1.0 also incorporates advanced digital twin technology through an intelligent operation platform called SmartCare. The system enables the train to self-diagnose and detect potential problems, ensuring safe and efficient operation while minimising maintenance costs, which are projected to be 22 percent lower over the train’s life cycle.

Mr. Lyu Xiaojun, another senior designer at CRRC Qingdao Sifang, highlighted the critical role of minimising energy consumption and carbon emissions in China’s urban rail sector.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

- ☆ **31 Oct-2 Nov 2024** **11th 21st Century Human Values Forum**
Andong City
 Organised by: Korea Foundation for Cultures and Ethics
- ☆ **4-8 Nov 2024** **World Urban Forum 12**
Cairo City
 Organised by: UN Habitat
- ☆ **11-13 Nov 2024** **Jeonju Future Cities Forum 2024**
Jeonju City
 Organised by: Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism
- ☆ **11-22 Nov 2024** **UN Climate Conference Baku**
Baku City
 Organised by: UNFCCC
- ☆ **15-18 Nov 2024** **Forum on Sustainable Development of Marine Economy**
Fuzhou City
 Organised by: 21st Century Cooperation Committee
- ☆ **2-4 Dec 2024** **Thematic Panel of Experts - "Financing Sustainable Climate Resilient and Inclusive Cities"**
Kochi City
 Organised by: CRIC UCLG ASPAC

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

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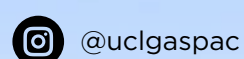
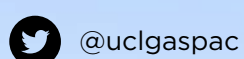
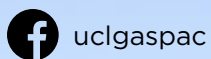
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