

ASEAN MAYORS FORUM 2024 PROCEEDING

**Enhancing Connectivity
and Resilience for Sustainable
Development of ASEAN Cities**



Lao National Convention Center, Vientiane
Lao People's Democratic Republic
18 – 19 September 2024



FOREWORD

I warmly welcome distinguished guests and delegates to Meeting of Governors/ Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC) and ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) in Vientiane. Highlighting the theme *"Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience for Sustainable Development of ASEAN Cities,"* we together emphasise the commitment of ASEAN capitals, cities and local governments to fostering collaboration at local and central levels. These efforts aim to support ASEAN Community building, achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that ensures livable, vibrant, and healthy cities for all.

I further note the alignment of the meetings with the Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship 2024 theme, reflecting the Lao's ambition to transition from a land-locked country to a hub of regional connectivity and integration. The discussions at AMF and MGMAC successfully address challenges, share valuable lessons, and implemented development plans to enhance connectivity and resilience in ASEAN cities. Congratulations on the successful meetings.



H.E. Mr. Sonexay Siphandone
Prime Minister of Lao PDR



H.E. Mr. Athsaphangthong Siphandone
Governor of Vientiane Capital Administration,
Lao PDR

On behalf of the Vientiane Capital Administration, it is my great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all esteemed participants of the Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capital Cities (MGMAC) and ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) 2024. We are truly honoured to host this prestigious gathering in our city, which offers a unique blend of tradition and modernity. Hosting MGMAC/AMF 2024 is an important milestone for us, reflecting our dedication to being an active participant in ASEAN's shared journey toward sustainable urban development. May this forum be a platform for meaningful dialogue and impactful outcomes that will benefit all our cities and communities.

FOREWORD



Dr. Kao Kim Hourn
Secretary-General of ASEAN

This year's theme of "Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience for Sustainable Development of ASEAN Cities" resonates well with Lao PDR's Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2024, which is committed to strengthening connectivity and resilience in the region amid increasingly disruptive and uncertain geopolitical and economic landscapes. I am confident that the connectivity established among our cities, along with the resilience they have demonstrated, will continue to deliver benefits to our people. ASEAN is now developing the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan, where smart and sustainable urban development is a key strategic priority. I am confident that the discussions and outcomes of this year's ASEAN Mayors Forum and Meeting of Governors/Mayors of ASEAN Capitals 2024 will offer useful insights for this vital regional undertaking.

Welcome to the AMF/MGMAC 2024 in Vientiane. This year's theme, "Enhancing Connectivity & Resilience for Sustainable Development of ASEAN Cities," is both timely and vital, reflecting the ASEAN Chairmanship's focus. This theme is particularly relevant as we face the evolving challenges and opportunities in our region. Forums like these provide a valuable opportunity to collaboratively explore solutions for building stronger, more resilient communities. As our cities and local governments encounter increasing demands, the need for enhanced connectivity and resilience is more pressing than ever. By coming together, we can advance sustainable, inclusive, and resilient urban development across ASEAN. This gathering also offers a platform to amplify the voices of local governments in shaping the ASEAN Community. I look forward to the actionable outcomes to create a brighter future for all our communities.



Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi
Secretary-General of UCLG ASPAC/AMF





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OPENING CEREMONY

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

18 SEPTEMBER 2024, VIENTIANE, LAO PDR

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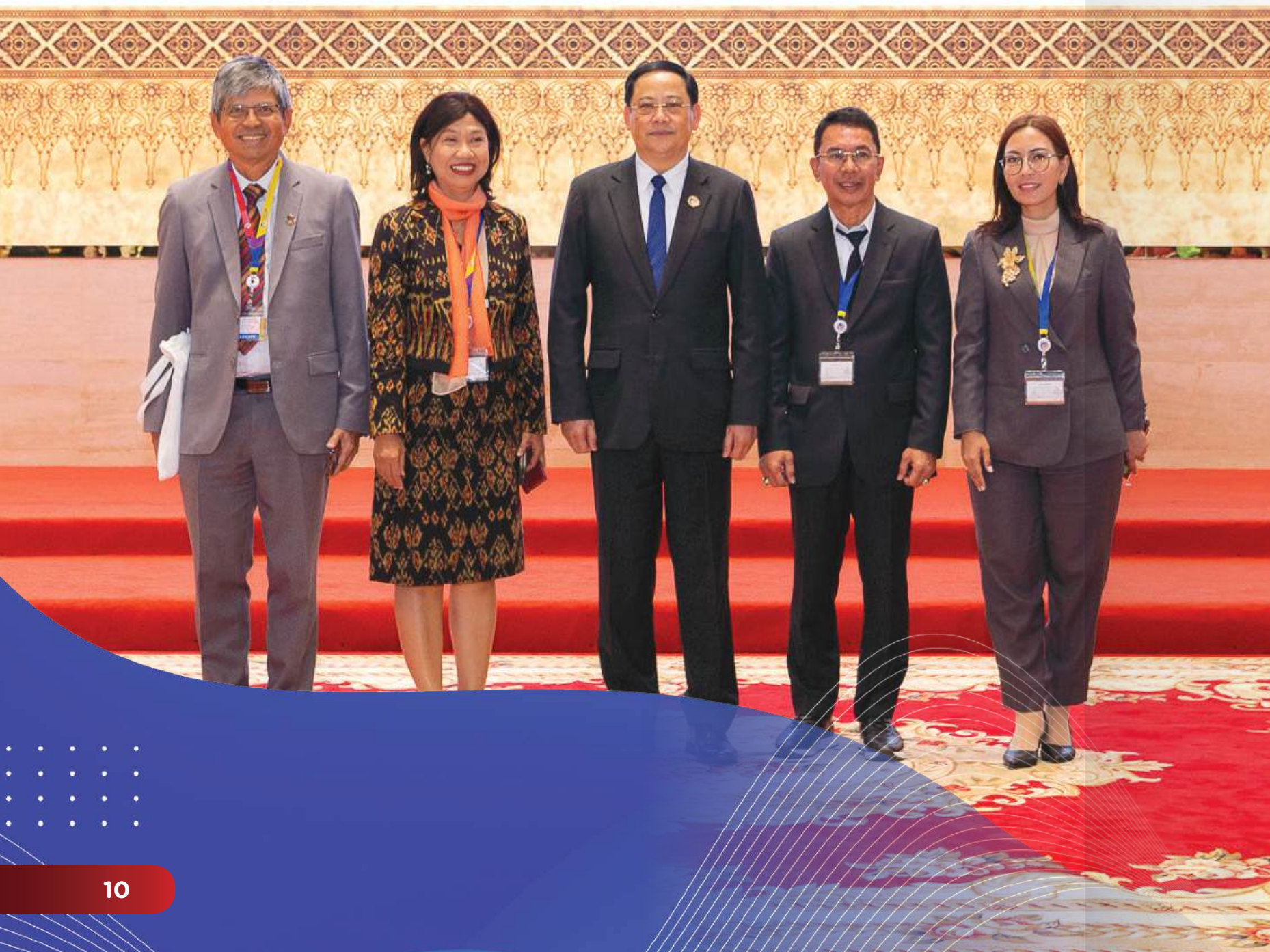
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OPENING CEREMONY

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ABOUT ASEAN MAYORS FORUM (AMF)

The ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) is a network of local government leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region and a platform that aims to support the ASEAN Community Building. The AMF has been hosted by various cities in ASEAN including Surabaya in 2011, Makassar in 2015, Taguig in 2017, Singapore in 2018, Bangkok in 2019, Phnom Penh in 2022, and Jakarta in 2023, and has been held in line with the ASEAN Chairmanship since 2017.

In 2018, AMF received accreditation as an entity associated with ASEAN and is the first and only local government network to acquire this recognition from ASEAN. This accreditation serves as a strong indication that ASEAN values the role and contribution of local governments in the region's development.

This 2024, for the third year in a row, AMF and MGMAC were held jointly and hosted by the Vientiane Capital Administration. Complementing the Lao PDR ASEAN Chairmanship theme of "Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience", AMF and MGMAC had the theme "Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience for Sustainable Development of ASEAN Cities". The AMF 2024 aimed to:

1. Promote collaboration: Foster consultation and cooperation among local governments, the private sectors, international organisations, and academics to strengthen the ASEAN socio-economic system.
2. Build resilience: Enhance city and local governments resilience against economic slowdowns, natural disasters, epidemics, rapid urbanisation, and climate change.
3. Improve connectivity: Explore ways to enhance connectivity through transportation, telecommunication networks, and digital technology. This aims to facilitate economic growth, social development, and access to services.
4. Strengthen alliances: Form alliances and partnerships to tackle common challenges, including securing funds and resources for specific programmes/projects.
5. Encourage joint efforts: Promote concerted efforts to build more connected and sustainable communities. By uniting beneficiaries from various sectors and encouraging joint action, the AMF and MGMAC aim to create positive change and advances shared objectives.

The AMF and MGMAC 2024 adopted two key documents, the AMF 2024 Vientiane Declaration and the MGMAC 2024 Vientiane Declaration. These documents have been submitted to the ASEAN Secretariat for consideration in its regional policymaking processes.



OPENING CEREMONY

In his opening message, **Mr. Athsaphangthong Siphandone**, Governor of Vientiane Capital Administration, stated that local governments must continue to exert greater effort to further enhancing connectivity to promote regional economic growth, strengthen people-to-people linkages, and cultural exchanges between cities. He called for the enhancement of collective resilience to address challenges in a timely manner and seize opportunities. AMF and MGMAC could enhance relations among ASEAN capitals and cities to discuss and explore the solutions to common challenges, and to develop strategies that benefit cities and the region.



Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC and AMF, highlighted the opportunity for AMF and MGMAC with the ongoing development of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 (ACV 2045). She emphasised the important role of cities and governments in realising this vision by driving sustainable urban development, enhancing connectivity, fostering resilience, and enabling transboundary cooperation. She called for cities and local governments to reaffirm their commitment to the ACV 2045.



The Secretary-General of ASEAN, **Dr. Kao Kim Hourn**, acknowledged the efforts made by ASEAN national and city governments to enhance the quality of urban living through smart, forward-looking solutions. To amplify collaboration on smart and sustainable urban development, he recommended enhancing connectivity and resilience by building sustainable infrastructure, ensuring inclusion, and nurturing interaction among cities. He highlighted that smart and sustainable urban development is a key strategic priority of the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan (ACSP) which is part of ACV 2045.



Mr. Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of Lao PDR, officially opened AMF and MGMAC. He recognised the importance of the meeting to promote development, share good lessons, and solve problems alongside the implementation of action plans. He remarked that the 2024 ASEAN Chairmanship theme on “Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience” is consistent with policy and goals to transform from a land-locked country into a land-linked country which is a centre to regional integration.



OPENING CEREMONY

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

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PLENARY SESSION

The plenary session addressed the AMF theme on “Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience for Sustainable Development of ASEAN Cities”. This session was moderated by Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC and AMF. In line with the theme, each of the panelists responded to specific questions.

With the theme of connectivity and resilience, how is Vientiane Capital aligning with this theme and what efforts are being made at the local government level to implement these principles?

Mr. Athsaphangthong Siphandone, Governor of Vientiane Capital Administration

Linkages and connectivity require more than technology. Transportation infrastructure, awareness of regulations, cultural and social connection would connect us together. We aim to increase the quality of services for the people, harmonise registration across ASEAN countries and cities, support the tourism industry, and facilitate cultural and social engagements.

As a member of the High-Level Task Force on the Post 2025 ASEAN Community Vision, how will the ACV 2045 impact the work of the ASEAN local leaders, Mayors and Governors, especially in connectivity? What are your suggestions on how we can maximise benefits from ACV 2045? What do you see is the role of local governments in meeting the ACV 2045?

Ambassador Elizabeth Buensuceso, Former Vice Minister and Eminent Person of the Philippines to the HLTF-ACV 2045

ASEAN leaders created the High-Level Task Force to craft the ACV 2045. We are putting in one comprehensive document the aspirations, visions, wants, and wishes of 10 different Members States. It is not a simple task of writing as we negotiate every word. ASEAN leaders instructed us to consult stakeholders. We consulted AMF so we can include the local government aspirations and visions, especially since it is local governments that will implement the ACV 2045. In all the strategic plans, local governments have a stake and a role to play. The ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan (ACSP) has two strategic goals that impact local governments directly. One of the strategic goals would be to develop resilient and smart cities and rural areas. We would also like local governments to be involved in people-to-people connectivity, particularly increasing the level of identifying as ASEAN among the people. In the ASEAN Economic Strategic Plan, there is plenty of room to work with on mainstreaming climate responsive elements and policies in all dimensions of economic development.

How can Indonesia contribute to the development and implementation of a strategic framework that aligns the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 with the principles of connectivity and resilience, particularly in balancing sustainable growth, community well-being, and environmental preservation? If you can highlight what are the key challenges and opportunities for strengthening collaboration as well as vertical integration between national and local governments?

Ambassador M.I. Derry Aman, Country Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to ASEAN

We encourage AMF and MGMAC to align themselves with the ACV 2045, the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN), and the ASEAN Village Network. Local governments can also contribute to strengthening ASEAN awareness which will create the ASEAN identity. Indonesia is in the position to highlight and put forward works of ASCN to any undertaking especially within this cooperation and framework of AMF and MGMAC. ASEAN Villages Network committed, together with the ASEAN Members States (AMS), that not only cities but rural areas of ASEAN should not be left behind.

One major challenge is coordination across different levels of government which is something that all AMS face as a challenge. We must also acknowledge that different regions, areas, cities, and provinces have resource disparities. As to opportunities, these are public private partnership (PPP) to enhance investment and integrated national planning to align local development with national strategies. Capacity building programmes can be supported by having partnership with the private sector. There is great opportunity within the ASEAN framework to engage partners. Joint programmes should achieve progress and create partnerships based on common interest.



How are local governments in the Philippines addressing the digital divide to ensure that all residents can benefit from the smart infrastructure initiatives?

Mr. Dakila Carlo Cua, Governor of Quirino Province and President of UCLG ASPAC

In the Philippines, our President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. very clearly laid out his plan and vision for the digitalisation of the entire government from national down to local governments, even to the village level. The vision is very clear and sound and everybody in government agrees and shares his aspiration. Availability of infrastructure is one of the key challenges in the Philippines. In Quirino Province, we are putting our own local government broadband or providing own digital infrastructure. Telecommunications providers will not always go to the last mile/rural areas because business is not there yet. This poses a challenge to local governments to be a catalyst to that change. Our President provided different mechanisms such as PPP and a vast menu of financing models for us to be able to put up infrastructure to address digital divide. Local government leaders in the Philippines believe that investing in digital infrastructure to address the digital divide is a sound investment. It is going to give a lot of economic benefit to our community. We support our President's national broadband plan and strategic framework.

How are governments addressing the unequal distribution of resources between urban and rural areas? What case study or best practice from your city is focused on improving urban-rural connectivity disparities?

Mr. Tran Sy Thanh, Chairman of Hanoi People's Committee, Viet Nam

At present, Hanoi is exhausting efforts in digitalisation. Over the past year, we try to transform the digitalisation process. 8.4 million people registered online so we collected those data to serve them better. People no longer need to bring their insurance card when going to the hospital because the card is integrated online. Student records are also managed online. There are only few cases where people need to bring actual documents when they want to register something. All in all, everything has been done digitally. Digitalisation has narrowed the gap between the urban and rural areas. We have also dedicated a large amount of budget in the implementation of green transition for public transport vehicles and agricultural production.

What innovative strategies has Viet Tri City implemented to enhance climate resilience and disaster preparedness?

Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Son, Chairman of Viet Tri City, Chairman of ACVN, Viet Nam

Viet Tri has been established as an industrialised city of Viet Nam to ensure environmental protection and sustainable development. The vision for the city until 2040 is to focus on environmental protection and develop as a green city. We have a comprehensive plan for green growth, which involves the different ponds and rivers and focuses on urban planning for our city. We will also invest on infrastructure to respond to disasters. Viet Tri City is working together with Viet Nam local governments to invest on disaster response and early warning system to reduce and mitigate risks.

Viet Tri has put effort in transforming to digitalised government. We are working with the people on increasing the use of technology into the local practices. We have also been sharing our best practices and lessons learned in the ASEAN region as well.

What unique perspectives and approaches do young women leaders bring to the development of connectivity and resilience strategies in ASEAN? What are the key factors that contribute to the success of young women leaders in driving connectivity and resilience initiatives? What future trends in connectivity and resilience are young women leaders focusing on, and how are they preparing to address these trends?

Dato' Seri TPr (Dr.) Maimunah binti Mohd Sharif, Mayor of Kuala Lumpur

Young women leaders bring unique perspective shaped by their collective experience that brings about a more emphatic and community-centred approach to problem solving. Women leaders from my generation have become particularly good at being inclusive. We understand that for a region as diverse as ASEAN to thrive, we need to provide solutions to daily challenges that are accessible to everyone.

Education is one of the enabling factors that can help to support young women leaders as they drive reform initiative in their respective local governments. However, when it comes to leadership, we have a very long way to go. In the case of Malaysia, I am glad to stand before you, the 15th Mayor of Kuala Lumpur. I am also the first woman Mayor of our capital city. Unfortunately, it has taken some 67 years for a woman to head the capital city. In the context of leadership at the local government level, only 10% of Malaysia's 155 local governments are headed by women. I believe the picture is not much any better in the rest of ASEAN. I call upon all women leaders, both past and present, to please consider seriously your role as mentor not only for young women but also for young men. Without a more nurturing system, leadership in ASEAN will continue to follow old patterns of leadership both within ASEAN and globally. In addition to education and mentorship, regional cooperation plays an essential role to ensure the success of future women leaders. These leaders must be able to foster regional collaboration through dialogue, shared projects, and cross-border initiative, ensuring that solutions are not just localised but contribute to positive regional impact.

One of the most pressing future trends is the digital revolution. If we are not careful, artificial intelligence (AI) will strengthen present day inequalities. Not only will women be left behind but also people with disabilities and the marginalised because their contribution are not part of the digital footprint that is shaping AI's learning processes. Another significant area of focus is climate adaptation and resilience. Young women leaders must promote strategies that build climate resilience into national and regional infrastructure, including green technologies and nature-based solutions that protect ecosystem while supporting livelihood. We must ensure that green and sustainable solutions are also gender neutral. Equitable infrastructure development is another focus area. Today's young leaders understand the need to ensure that new projects are designed with accessibility in mind so that everyone, including people with disabilities and those living in remote areas, can benefit from them.



SUMMARY OF THE PARALLEL SESSIONS

1 Parallel Session 1: Sustainable and Liveable City

Moderator:

Ms. Chencho Gyalmo Dorjee, Programme Manager of Smart Green ASEAN Cities (SGAC)

Panelists:

1. Mr. Somchaivang Dethoudom, Deputy-Director of Public Works and Transportation of Vientiane
2. Professor Oh Juhwan, Seoul National University
3. Mr. Viengthong Hatsachanh, Mayor of Luang Prabang City
4. Mr. Fahmi Aliman, Mayor of Southeast District Singapore
5. Mr. Sok Phea, Vice Governor of Sihanoukville
6. Dato' Razihan Bin Adzharuddin, Mayor of Kuantan City
7. Mr. Frederick W. Siao, Mayor of Iligan City
8. Mr. Kok Chin TAY, Chairman of Smart City Network

Rapporteur: Dato' Razihan Bin Adzharuddin, Mayor of Kuantan City

Summary:

- Deputy Director Somchaivang Dethoudom discussed Vientiane's development focuses on four areas: (1) maintaining a good natural environment with strong economic activities, (2) building a resilient city, (3) becoming a smart city, and (4) creating new development areas.
- Prof. Oh Juhwan presented Pyeongchang's initiatives as a smart health city featuring a health center that operates an online-to-offline service model and at-home healthcare facilitated through advanced technology.
- Mayor Viengthong Hatsachanh proposed four solutions on Luang Prabang's waste management crisis: raising service charges and wages for waste pickers, repairing and adding vehicles, improving landfill efficiency, and enhancing waste segregation at the source.
- Mayor Fahmi Aliman illustrated Singapore's liveable city framework that focuses on a competitive economy, a sustainable environment, and high-quality living.
- Mayor Dato' Razihan Bin Adzharuddin presented Kuantan's sustainability initiatives including solar parking, Kuantan art street, Gelora Park, and an electronic vehicle charging hub.
- Mayor Frederick Siao highlighted Iligan City's Innovation Districts that capitalise on local strengths such as education, technology, and tourism to stimulate economic growth and foster a culture of innovation.
- Mr. Kok Chin Tay elaborated on how the ASEAN Smart City Network aims to develop artificial intelligence-enabled smart provinces and cities, encouraging regions to use smart technologies and the 5P model for bankable projects.



2 Parallel Session 2: Green Tourism

Moderators:

Mr. Frédéric Vallier, Secretary General of AIMF and Ms. Duangmala Phommavong, Tourism Expert, Femme Francophone de l'AIMF 2021

Panelists:

1. Mr. Khumkhoun Bailatri, Deputy-Director of Department of Information, Culture and Tourism, Vientiane
2. Mr. Inthy Deuansavanh, Chairman Inthira Group
3. Mr. Bobby Hamenda, Special Officer Corporation Development of North Minahasa Regency
4. Mr. Ing Kimleang, Vice Governor of Siem Reap Province
5. Mr. Tran Song, Vice Chairman of Hue City People's Committee
6. Ms. Marilou F. Morillo, Mayor of Calapan City
7. Mr. Vilasa Chanthalangsy, Hotel and Restaurant Association of Lao PDR
8. Ms. Ika Kusuma Permana Sari, Director for Human Resources Development of Tourism, Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy of Indonesia

Rapporteur:

Ms. Marilou F. Morillo, Mayor of Calapan City

Summary:

- Local governments need to be fully engaged in supporting green tourism and its related activities.
- Eco - tourism sector will play a significant role for local governments.
- Some challenges remain to be addressed including environmental degradation, weak coordination between sectors, quality of tourism services, and required investments.



3 Parallel Session 3: Sustainable Economic Development

Moderator:

Dr. Marcelino Pandin, Senior Policy Advisor of UCLG ASPAC

Panelists:

1. Prof. Sitthixay Xayavong, Representative from National University of Lao
2. Dato' Abd Hamid Bin Hussain, Mayor of Sepang City
3. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wichai Kanchanasuwan, Deputy Mayor of Hat Yai City
4. Mr. Maung Maung, Vice Mayor of Nay Phi Taw City
5. Mr. Teng Leng, Director of International Relations of Temasek Polytechnic
6. Mr. Sandi Fahlepi, Acting Regent Mayor of Musi Banyuasin
7. Mr. Pongsak Yingchoncharoen, Mayor of Yala City
8. Prof. Dr. Suzuki Motoyoshi, Advisory of Social Economic Research Institute of Vientiane

Rapporteur:

Dato' Abd Hamid Bin Hussain, Mayor of Sepang City

Summary:

- Prof. Sitthixay Xayavong mentioned the challenges for start-ups in Lao, including lack of skill and low level of technology.
- Mayor Hamid Bin Hussain presented Sepang's initiatives on fast-tracking approval of business development and supporting small and medium enterprises through training and promotion.
- Deputy Mayor Wichai Kanchanasuwan identified policy, innovation, and community as elements to foster sustainable development.
- Vice Mayor Maung Maung expounded on Nay Phi Taw efforts towards green and resilient urban development through maintaining green spaces, promoting renewable energy, and encouraging sustainable public transportation.
- Director Teng Leng emphasised the importance of the close nexus of economic, manpower, and education policies, balance between domain and life skills, and partnership between academy, business sector, and local government.
- Acting Regent Mayor Sandi Fahlepi explained Musi Banyuasi efforts to manage natural resources as part of sustainable economic policy.
- Ms. Anshika Uthai elaborated on urban agriculture as part of Yala's green economy strategy.
- Dr. Suzuki Motoyoshi demonstrated how tourism infrastructure investment creates income.



Parallel Session 4: Environmentally Sustainable City

Moderator:

Ms. Norliza Hashim, Chief Executive Officer of Urbanice

Panelists:

1. Mr. Phouthala Souksakhone, Deputy Director of Environmental Promotion Division, Department of Environment, MONRE Lao PDR
2. Mr. Prasongsinh Chaleunsouk, Mayor of Kaysone Phomvihian City
3. Mr. Mohamad bin Hamim, Vice Mayor of Kuala Lumpur
4. Ms. Brigitte Hoermann, Cities Alliance
5. Ms. Marulina Dewi, Head of the Bureau for Cooperation Affairs Jakarta
6. Professor Hong Yun-Chul, Seoul National University
7. Mr. Nuon Samnavuth, Director of waste Management and Environment, Phnom Penh Capital Administration

Rapporteur:

Mr. Prasongsinh Chaleunsouk, Mayor of Kaysone Phomvihian City

Summary:

- Deputy Director Phouthala Souksakhone outlined strategies for sustainable urban development which include improving urban infrastructure, enhancing environmental laws, and promoting sustainability awareness.
- Mayor Pasongin Chaleunsouk discussed how the municipality engages in environmental initiatives, such as the Asian Environmentally Sustainable Cities Contest, and receives international grants for sustainable projects.
- Vice Mayor Mohammad Bin Hamim highlighted Kuala Lumpur's sustainable transportation efforts to reduce carbon emissions.
- Ms. Marulina Dewi provided a comprehensive overview of Jakarta's sustainable development initiatives in transportation, energy, waste management, and urban development.
- Dr. Brigitte Hoermann emphasised the importance of collaboration with stakeholders, cities, and local governments along the Mekong River to create liveable and sustainable cities.
- Professor Hong Yun Chul explained the benefits of implementing the Smart Health City concept, focusing on high technology.
- Mr. Nuon Samnavuth outlined the Phnom Penh Sustainable City Plan 2018-2030, which includes urban planning, urban vulnerability, energy, transport, built environment, manufacturing, and solid waste management.



5 Parallel Session 5: Climate Resilience

Moderator:

Mr. Omar Siddique, Head of Unit, Sustainable Urban Development, UNESCAP

Panelists:

1. Ms. Yenny Yuliza, Head of Development Planning Agency, Padang City
2. Mr. Boualy Phetsongkham, Mayor of Pakse City
3. Mr. Boonyalit Phanichrungrueng, Vice Mayor of Khon Kaen
4. Mr. Nguyen Thuc Hien, Vice Chairman of the People's Committee of Can Tho City
5. Mr. Benny Iskandar, Head of Development Planning Agency, Medan City
6. Ms. Edna Gacot-Lim, Municipal Mayor, El Nido, Palawan
7. Mr. Vanhthone Phonnasane, Deputy Director of Adaption Division, Department of Climate Change, MONRE
8. Mr. Derry Gunawan, Head of Department of the Public Housing and Settlement Area, Pontianak City

Rapporteur:

Mr. Boonyalit Phanichrungrueng, Mayor of Khon Kaen

Summary:

- Session highlighted of the ambitious targets on 'Transitioning away from fossil fuels, loss-and-damage-fund, and multilevel climate action.
- The Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnership (CHAMP) initiative from COP 28 showed the intent of the nations/the parties to the Paris Agreement to work with their local governments to increase the urban content of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2025.
- The Parallel Session 5 good practices included:
 - urban adaptive spatial planning for climate change adaptation and DRR plan alignment;
 - development of facilities and infrastructures to mitigate disaster impacts, and implementation of circular economy/waste management;
 - urban flooding strategy by building flood and landslide barrier along Mekong and Sedon riverside;
 - innovative solutions particularly on saving energy and reducing the greenhouse gas emissions by using solar panels and building more green spaces, and the transit-oriented development;
 - resource or financial mobilisation mechanism such as the carbon credit investment in sustainable landfill closure and community engagement for waste management by utilising public private partnerships.



REFLECTION AND UPDATE: THE 1ST DIALOGUE OF URBAN MEKONG CORRIDOR DIALOGUE



Cities and towns along the Mekong River, one of Asia's most vital transboundary waterways, face significant challenges including rapid population growth, rural-to-urban migration, and the escalating impacts of climate change. Addressing these issues requires a holistic approach that integrates economic development, environmental protection, and social equity.

The Urban Mekong Corridor Dialogue, a key component of the Urban Mekong Corridor Initiative (UMCI), serves as a platform to foster connectivity among the region's expanding urban centers, promoting inclusive and sustainable growth. The initiative tackles the pressing issues of urbanisation, ecological sustainability, and equitable development in the Mekong region.

Led by Cities Alliance in collaboration with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific (UCLG ASPAC), the UMCI launched its inaugural Urban Mekong Corridor Dialogue in Vientiane, Lao PDR, in February 2024. This event brought together high-ranking officials, intergovernmental organisation, civil society, and development partners, demonstrating a unified regional commitment to sustainable urban development.

The UMCI took center stage at the 2024 ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF), scheduled for 18-19 September in Vientiane, Lao PDR. A dedicated panel session showcased the UMCI's contributions to fostering inclusive green development in the region.

The UMCI panel featured governors, vice-governors, and mayors from 10 towns and cities along the Mekong Corridor, alongside representatives from intergovernmental organisations, civil society, the private sector, and international development partners. Moderated by Dr. Brigitte Hoermann of Cities Alliance, the session delved into critical topics, including:

1. Strategies to promote and implement inclusive green development in rapidly urbanising Mekong towns and cities.
2. Approaches that harmonise economic growth with environmental sustainability and climate resilience.
3. The integration of gender considerations into urban climate adaptation strategies, highlighting scalable success stories.
4. Collaborative actions by intergovernmental bodies, civil society, and the private sector to support the UMCI's goals.

Building on the momentum of the first Urban Mekong Corridor Dialogue, the UMCI panel discussion reinforced commitments to inclusive and sustainable urban development. By engaging high-level city leaders and diverse stakeholders, the session underscored the importance of regional cooperation in addressing the complex challenges of urbanisation and climate change along the Mekong Corridor.





THE LAUNCHING OF CITY ENABLING ENVIRONMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE GOVERNANCE (CEE-ECG) ASSESSMENT REPORT

The City Enabling Environment on Environmental and Climate Governance (CEE-ECG) Assessment Report was officially launched on September 18, 2024, during the AMF 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The event commenced with a keynote speech by Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary-General of UCLG ASPAC/AMF, who emphasised the inclusion of CEE Rating criterion 11. This criterion focuses on environmental and climate governance, offering Urban-Act pilot countries a vital benchmark. It provides critical insights into the legal, financial, and governance frameworks essential for addressing climate challenges and seizing opportunities to build urban climate resilience.

The baseline report, which assesses the enabling environment in five countries, was officially handed over to four distinguished representatives. These were Ambassador Elizabeth Buensuceso, Former Vice Minister and Eminent Person of the Philippines to the HLTF-ACV 2045; Ambassador M.I. Derry Aman, Permanent Representative of Indonesia to ASEAN; Mr. Omar Siddique, Head of Unit for Sustainable Urban Development at UNESCAP; and Mr. Heinrich Gudenus, Director of the Urban-Act Project at GIZ Thailand. This marked a significant step in fostering collaborative efforts to enhance urban climate governance.

The event proceeded with a panel discussion, which included insights from the Philippines' national perspective. Key contributor was from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), including Mr. Atty. Carlos M. Borja Jr., Chief of Legal Services Division of the Climate Change Division, and Mr. Jimmy Loro, Chief Advisor of South-South Collaboration on Climate Information Services (SSCIS), GIZ Philippines. The discussion highlighted several enablers and barriers to effective environmental and climate governance in urban contexts:

1. **Legal and Regulatory Frameworks:** While many cities have embraced national climate policies, stronger legal frameworks are essential to empower local governments. These frameworks should allow cities to independently implement local climate action plans that are well-integrated with national policies, free from excessive bureaucratic obstacles.
2. **Governance and Institutional Capacity:** Although national governments set the agenda, local governments must take the lead in implementing climate actions. The CEE-ECG stresses the importance of strengthening local governance structures, improving inter-agency coordination, and enhancing capacity-building initiatives to equip local authorities with the tools and expertise needed for impactful climate action.
3. **Financing and Resource Mobilisation:** Adequate funding is a prerequisite for climate initiatives. The report indicates that many cities face challenges in securing resources for resilience projects. Collaborative efforts are needed to expand access to financial mechanisms, such as municipal bonds, public-private partnerships, and global climate funds.
4. **Public Participation and Engagement:** Effective climate governance relies on active public involvement. The CEE-ECG underscores the importance of engaging diverse communities, including marginalised groups, women, and youth. By empowering citizens to participate in climate decision-making, cities can develop solutions that are both equitable and effective.



MEETING OF GOVERNORS AND MAYORS OF ASEAN CAPITALS (MGMAC)

19 September 2024

Lao National Convention Center

The MGMAC meeting was conducted in a half-day format with five segments: welcoming remarks, a presentation from Capital City regarding the results of the 2023 MGMAC Meeting, presentations from representatives from other capital cities on the five subtopics under the meeting agenda, a signing ceremony, and the handover ceremony to the host of MGMAC 2025.

The meeting started with a summary report from the head of the partnership office from Jakarta Capital City regarding the 9th AMF/MGMAC meeting held last year, in which eight (8) capital cities participated.

The leaders of 9 ASEAN capital cities presented 5 sub-topics under the theme: "Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience for the Sustainable Development of ASEAN Cities." In this meeting, a proposal was made to discuss the expansion of the existing networks of ASEAN capitals and the sharing of documentation to advise all ASEAN capitals regarding their plans.

During the meeting, the Vientiane representative shared important items related to the role of capital cities and provided additional clarification regarding plans to strengthen cooperation.

19 SEPTEMBER 2024, VIENTIANE, LAO PDR





Results, Lessons Learnt, Challenges, and Future Plans

Results:

- The City of Vientiane, in its capacity as the host, successfully organised the MGMAC 2024. This meeting has raised the profile and credibility of Vientiane as a key player in organising international meetings.
- Participating cities, including Vientiane, have gained significant experience and knowledge in organising large-scale international meetings and promoting cooperation with other ASEAN cities.
- Officials from different departments involved in organising the event have acquired valuable experience and insights in event preparation and management.

Lessons Learnt:

- The MGMAC, AMF and AIMF provided an opportunity for mayors, governors, and representatives of participating cities to meet and discuss urgent challenges. It created a platform to further strengthen connectivity and resilience in the development of sustainable ASEAN cities, sharing best practices and experiences.
- It promoted stronger ties and collaboration between cities, provinces, and municipalities involved in the forums, leading to improved partnerships and contributing to the development of more sustainable, resilient cities.
- Valuable lessons were drawn from the practical implementation of green tourism initiatives, with the emphasis on city development that prioritises environmental sustainability and collaborative efforts in waste management and recycling.
- The team from Vientiane Capital, as the host city, played a significant role in preparing and managing the international events, facilitating the exchange of ideas and ensuring the success of future global meetings.

Challenges:

- It is observed that organising the MGMAC, AMF, and AIMF meetings was quite complex due to the need for joint coordination. This resulted in delays and multiple adjustments, especially regarding event venue arrangements, seating arrangements, and shared responsibility for expenses. These factors contributed to the overall slow pace of the event's preparation.

Future Plans:

The Vientiane Capital will prepare the plan and expansion as follows:

- Expand educational content for practical use in the work of each relevant sector of Vientiane Capital.
- Prepare representatives of Vientiane Capital to participate in the MGMAC and AMF to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2025.
- Expand the cooperation between Vientiane Capital and other cities, especially the collaboration between Vientiane Capital and Hanoi City, to define the long-term cooperation direction from 2025 to 2030.
- Research and collect data on the potential and capabilities of cities participating in the cooperation with Vientiane Capital.
- Research the possibility of Vientiane Capital hosting the Asian Mayors Forum.
- Continue collaboration with UCLG ASPAC and the AIMF to compile reports for a unified and comprehensive document.
- Expand educational content in the organisation of this forum to ensure readiness in organising other forums in Vientiane Capital as a key player in organising events such as ceremonies, content, operational plans, accommodations, transportation, and welcoming procedures at the airport, and others.
- Prepare a comprehensive document and visuals for the movement related to organising the International Mayors Forum in Vientiane Capital.

ASEAN MAYORS FORUM

19 September 2024 | 9:00 – 11:05

Room No. 04, Lao National Convention Center

On 19 September 2024, ASEAN Mayors Forum organised a closed-door business meeting. The meeting agenda included local government perspective on ASEAN Community Post-2025, output of the parallel sessions, AMF activities in 2024 and plans for 2025, proposal for the ASEAN Urbanisation Forum, the AMF Vientiane Declaration 2024, host of the AMF 2025, and proposal for the name transformation of AMF.

Opening of the Business Session

Governor of Vientiane, Mr. Athsaphangthong Siphandone, emphasised the importance of connectivity that encompasses not only physical infrastructure but also includes digital connectivity, cross-border trade, and people-to-people exchanges. He believed that strengthening partnerships will allow local governments to leverage resources and expertise in sustainable economic development, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion.





ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Governor Dakila Carlo Cua of Quirino Province, who is also the President of UCLG ASPAC, chaired the meeting. He invited participants to comment and to adopt the agenda
- Decision: No comments were raised, and the agenda was adopted.

ITEM 2: REVIEW OF MINUTES OF THE ASEAN MAYORS FORUM 2023

- The President led the review of the minutes by delivering the key points taken and key takeaways as indicated in the meeting documents.
- President invited participants to comment and to approve the minutes.
- Decision: No comments were raised, and the minutes was approved.

ITEM 3: LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE ON ASEAN COMMUNITY POST-2025

- President invited the Secretary General Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, to deliver Item 3.
- Secretary General presented Item 3 as indicated in the meeting documents.
- President invited participants to comment on Item 3.
- Deputy Mayor of Hat Yai City, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wichai Kanchanasuwan, commented that policy should be formulated based on data so it will be sustainable.
- Decision: Amendment was accepted, and Agenda 3 was approved.



ITEM 4: ROUNDTABLE STATEMENT | OUTPUT OF THE PARALLEL SESSIONS OF ASEAN MAYORS FORUM 2024

1. Mayor of Kuantan, Dato' Razihan Bin Adzharuddin, presented the result of parallel session 1 on sustainable and liveable city.
 - 1.1. Recommendations: Three recommendations were presented: a) Continue knowledge exchange between cities; b) Leverage innovative financing to fund sustainable development; and c) Build awareness and capacity of local governments to create bankable projects and to derisk businesses to attract private financing.
 - 1.2. Key message: "Sustainable and liveable city is one that is suitable for living and provides convenience and happiness for the people."
 - 1.3. Follow-up actions: Two follow-up actions were presented: a) Increase knowledge exchange between cities to realise sustainable and liveable cities in the ASEAN region; and b) Increase awareness and capacity of local governments to build bankable projects that can attract private financing.
2. Mayor Calapan, Ms. Marilou F. Morillo, presented the result of parallel session 2 on green tourism.
 - 2.1. Recommendations: Two recommendations were presented: a) Strong commitment from all stakeholders to implement national green tourism and green growth policies; and b) Engagement of local communities, by giving dissemination and promotion to promote both green urban growth and green tourism.
 - 2.2. Key message: Stakeholders and local communities involvement and responsibility awareness will be significant to achieve sustainable green tourism.
 - 2.3. Follow-up actions: a) Monitor how local governments manage to implement national green tourism and green growth policies, b) Monitor and learn from citizen and community participation, and c) Provide more capacity building.
3. Mayor of Sepang, Dato' Abd Hamid Bin Hussain, presented the result of parallel session 3 on sustainable economic development.
 - 3.1. Recommendations: Three recommendations were presented: a) Engage communities to cultivate ownership of shared vision for local economic development; b) Create a conducive environment that supports the growth of local businesses through governance mechanisms, incentives, and capacity building; and c) Strengthen partnership with academic institutions, business sector, and other stakeholders.
 - 3.2. Key message: Sustainable economic development necessitates balance between economy, nature and society. Local governments play a crucial role in fostering sustainable economic development.
 - 3.3. Follow-up actions: Two follow-up actions were presented: a) Collect, process, and share data for evidence-based and inclusive policymaking; and b) Enhance local policies and regulations, making them responsive and adaptable to societal needs, to thrive the sustainable economic development agenda.





4. Mayor of Kaysone, Mr. Prasongsinh Chaleunsouk, presented the result of parallel session 4 on environmentally sustainable city.
 - 4.1. Recommendations: Three recommendations were presented: a) Enhance legal regulations for sustainable urban development, promote societal awareness of green initiatives, and discuss among relevant sectors to create environmentally sustainable cities; b) Foster partnerships with international organisations to secure funding for green infrastructure projects and to enhance public awareness on environmental sustainability; and c) Prioritise green incentives and policies to encourage sustainable practices and investments which includes providing fiscal and on-fiscal incentives, simplifying licensing processes, and promoting the use of renewable energy technologies.
 - 4.2. Key message: To achieve environmentally sustainable urban development, we must enhance legal regulations, foster societal awareness, and encourage sector-wide discussions. By partnering with international organisations for funding, promoting eco-friendly tourism, and preserving natural resources, we can maintain clean air and ensure economic growth without compromising environmental integrity. Prioritising green incentives, simplifying processes, and investing in renewable energy and public transportation will accelerate our transition to a “sustainable and vibrant city.”
 - 4.3. Follow up actions: Strengthen and update legal frameworks to support green initiatives. This includes creating incentives for businesses and individuals to adopt sustainable practices, enforcing stricter environmental standards, and promoting public awareness campaigns. By fostering collaboration among government, private sector, and civil society, we can build a robust foundation for long-term sustainability, ensuring that economic growth aligns with environmental preservation.
5. Mayor of Khon Kaen, Mr. Boonyalit Phanichrungruon, presented the result of parallel session 5 on climate resilience.
 - 5.1. Recommendations: Three recommendations were presented: a) Demonstrate commitment to implement and to localise the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) by ensuring sustained efforts and finding alternative investments in climate resilience. This calls for the active involvement of governments, private sectors, and communities, fostering collaborative efforts; b) Integrate disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) that incorporates socially inclusive and gender-sensitive approaches; and c) Promote better collaboration to allow local government to share resources and expertise by improving their collective response, establishing rapid response mechanism, and including disaster relief and early warning system to mitigate the impact of disaster.
 - 5.2. Key message: Align the DRR-CCA plan from the planning process to the implementation and monitoring aspect that in line with the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and ASEAN Community Vision 2045.
 - 5.3. Follow-up actions: Two follow-up actions were presented: a) Facilitate municipal cooperation or city-to-city across ASEAN cities, fostering knowledge exchange on successful climate resilience strategies; and b) Accelerate the support of financial access for local governments in implementing the climate resilience strategy. The development of innovative financing mechanism that are easily accessible to local governments such as carbon trading, global and regional climate funds and public private partnership.



ITEM 5: ASEAN MAYORS FORUM ACTIVITIES 2024 AND PLANS 2025

1. Senior Officer of ASEAN Connectivity Division, Ms. Benazir Syahril, reiterated thanks for the ASEAN Secretariat to be invited in the forum. Regarding development of ACV 2045, she mentioned how the ASEAN Secretariat shared the draft of ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan (ACSP) with the Mayor of Klang and will continue communication in ongoing process and share more details on ACSP. President asked deadline of submission of inputs. Ms. Syahril responded that there is no strict deadline since it is an ongoing process and working with ASEAN Sectoral Bodies for their input.
2. The Cambodian representative mentioned that strengthening local government is important due to gaps and misalignments between policy regulation and implementation at the local level. Local governments need to rely on data for policymaking and disaster response. Other key focuses include waste management in cities along the Mekong corridor, support for migrant rights, their movement processes, and skills development, as well as the unification of tourism regulations across ASEAN. Finding different ways, tools, and strategies to enhance collaboration and report to the national level in all ASEAN countries is essential to ensure that the national level is aware of local government objectives and aligned on development goals.
3. Secretary General asked if there is any offer to host the workshop on the localisation of the ACV 2045. President offered to host the workshop in Quirino Province.
4. Decision:
 - ASEAN Secretariat will share the draft of the ACSP for input of AMF.
 - Quirino Province will host the workshop on localisation of the ACV 2045.



ITEM 6:

PROPOSAL FOR THE ASEAN URBANISATION FORUM

1. Urbanice CEO, Ms. Norliza Hashim, presented the proposal for the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Forum (ASUF) with the theme on “Sustainable Cities, Shared Prosperity: Strengthening ASEAN Cooperation in Sustainable Urban Development”. ASUF is proposed to be held bi-annually.
 - 1.1. Background: ASUF is a multi-stakeholder forum dedicated to promote sustainable urbanisation in the ASEAN region. It serves as a platform to enhance connectivity, knowledge sharing, and learning opportunities for ASEAN Member States (AMS), ASEAN Cities and ASEAN Community. ASUF will build on the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the guiding framework of ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS) to foster constructive dialogue on priority areas for sustainable urban development across ASEAN. ASUF also aims to accelerate the localisation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda by improving collective knowledge, building a shared understanding on sustainable urban development and increase cooperation between stakeholders for the advancement of sustainable urbanisation in the region.
2. The event will bring together a diverse range of participants, including ministers and senior officials, international organisations, private sector representatives, academics, experts, civil society organisations, and media representatives. Its potential outcomes include a declaration or program of action, the establishment of partnerships, and the development of knowledge products. The format will feature high-level dialogues, roundtable discussions, and special sessions or partner-led sessions.
3. President referred to comment from representative from Cambodia on a face-to-face dialogue with ASEAN Member States (AMS). Secretariat will attempt to arrange dialogue between AMF and ASEAN leaders and requested Malaysia's support as 2025 Chair. Urbanice CEO responded that ASUF can be a platform that will allow that dialogue to happen. She expressed that they are looking forward to opportunities to assist AMF.

ITEM 7:

ASEAN MAYORS FORUM VIENTIANE DECLARATION 2024

1. General Secretary of the Association of Cities of Vietnam (ACVN), Dr. Ngo Trung Hai, suggested mentioning Urban Mekong Corridor in point 1 of the declaration.
2. Cambodia suggested including human resource development, agricultural development, and ASEAN products to attract more investments in point 4 of the declaration.
3. Luang Prabang suggested to look at directions and involvement of local governments in migration from rural to urban areas and think about employment. Capacity building or training is needed as an action plan to respond to migration.
4. Decision: No further comments were made, and Item 7 was approved.

ITEM 8:

ADOPTION OF THE HOST OF ASEAN MAYORS FORUM 2025

1. Urbanice CEO congratulated Vientiane for the successful 2024 AMF. For AMF 2025, they are considering greater Kuala Lumpur, including the 10 cities within 15km of Kuala Lumpur, to be part of the event. She remarked that they look forward to hosting AMF and welcoming delegates to Kuala Lumpur and Malaysia. They looked forward to the ASEAN theme of 2025, further discussions, and working with the AMF and ASEAN Secretariat for AMF 2025.
2. Decision: No further comments were made, and Item 8 was approved.



ITEM 9: OTHER MATTERS | ASEAN MAYORS FORUM - PROPOSING THE NAME TRANSFORMATION

In recognition of the evolving landscape of local governance and the increasing importance of mayors and governors, it is proposed that the **ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF)** undergo a name transformation to the **ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum (AGMF)**. This change reflects a broader and more inclusive representation of local government leaders, fostering stronger regional collaboration and supporting ASEAN's goals for sustainable urban development.



KEY REASONS FOR THE NAME CHANGE:

1. **Inclusive Representation:** The current name, **ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF)**, primarily focuses on city mayors, yet many ASEAN countries have governance structures where governors or similar positions play a crucial role in overseeing not just cities but entire provinces or regions. By expanding the forum to include governors, the **ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum (AGMF)** will better reflect the diverse governance frameworks within ASEAN and ensure all relevant local leaders are represented.
2. **Strengthened Regional Collaboration:** With the inclusion of governors, the forum will benefit from broader regional insights and perspectives, which will lead to more comprehensive discussions on key urban and rural challenges, such as economic development, climate resilience, and regional connectivity. This transformation will strengthen collaboration between governors and mayors, fostering joint efforts to address common challenges.
3. **Alignment with ASEAN's Broader Objectives:** The proposed name change aligns with ASEAN's vision for regional integration and community-building, particularly in advancing the **ASEAN Community Vision 2025**. As ASEAN moves toward a more integrated, resilient, and sustainable region, the AGMF will serve as a key platform for fostering multilevel governance and addressing both urban and regional issues holistically.
4. **Enhanced Networking and Partnerships:** The transformation into the **ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum** will facilitate stronger networking opportunities between cities, provinces, and regions. This broader platform can attract more development partners, international agencies, and private sector players, who are interested in engaging with a wider range of local government leaders for collaborative projects and sustainable development initiatives.
5. **Reflecting the Diversity of ASEAN Governance Systems:** ASEAN member states exhibit varied governance structures, where the role of governors in overseeing local jurisdictions is significant. The inclusion of both mayors and governors within the forum will better capture the diversity of local leadership models across the region, ensuring that the forum is inclusive of all key local governance actors.

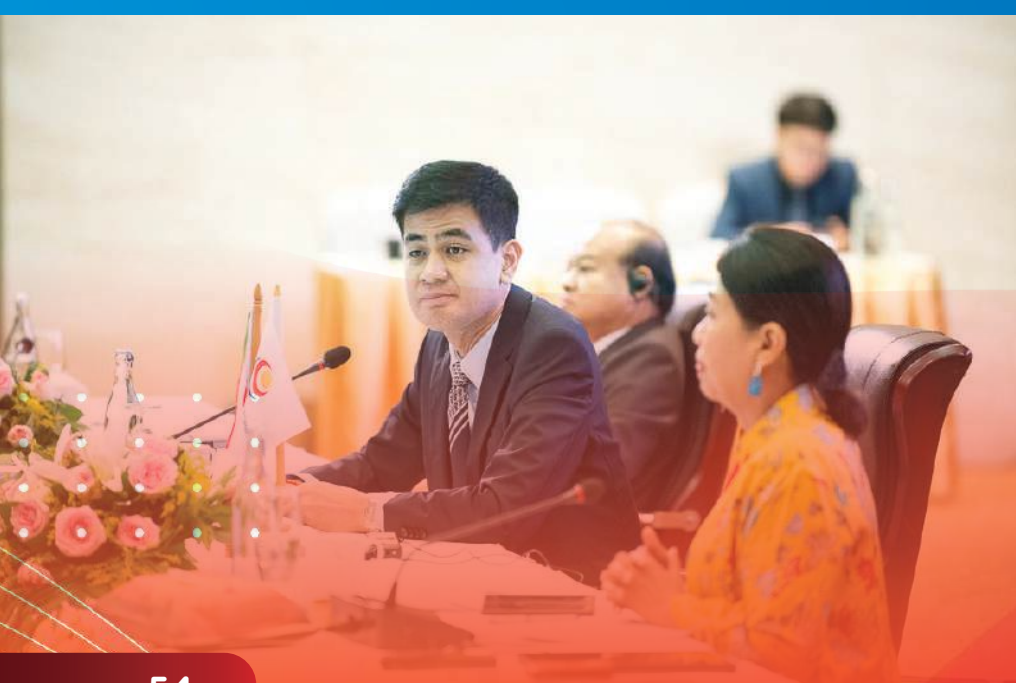
IMPACT OF THE NAME CHANGE:

1. The **AGMF** will have a wider scope, allowing for deeper discussions on cross-jurisdictional issues and regional development, extending beyond urban areas to include rural and provincial concerns.
2. By incorporating both mayors and governors, the AGMF will gain greater credibility and influence within ASEAN's decision-making processes, ensuring that local governments play a key role in shaping regional policies.
3. The AGMF will create new opportunities for capacity building, knowledge sharing, and best practices exchange between governors and mayors, leading to more effective governance solutions that benefit both urban and regional populations.

This proposed transformation from AMF to **AGMF** is a forward-looking step that will enhance the forum's role in driving inclusive, sustainable, and collaborative development across ASEAN.

AMF Secretariat will inform the ASEAN Secretariat regarding the change of name from ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) to ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum (AGMF) for perusal.





KEY POINTS OF THE MEETING WERE AS FOLLOWS:

1 Local government perspective on ASEAN Community Post-2025 will be amended to include point on policies should be formulated based on data.

2 AMF will provide input to the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan that will be shared by the ASEAN Secretariat.

3 Quirino Province will host the workshop on the localisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.

4 ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Forum (ASUF) will be hosted by Malaysia tentatively in August 2025 with proposed theme “Sustainable Cities, Shared Prosperity: Strengthening ASEAN Cooperation in Sustainable Urban Development”.

5 AMF Vientiane Declaration 2024 was amended to include inputs from participants and approved.

6 Kuala Lumpur will host the AMF and MGMAC 2025.

7 ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum (AGMF), the new name of AMF, was approved.



MEETING OF GOVERNORS/MAYORS OF ASEAN CAPITALS AND ASEAN MAYORS FORUM

(MGMTAC & AMF 2024)

19 SEPTEMBER 2024, VIENTIANE, LAO PDR



CLOSING CEREMONY

As part of the closing ceremony, Ms. Benazir Syahril, Senior Officer of the ASEAN Connectivity Division, presented the key takeaways from the AMF parallel sessions. These were as follows:

1. Local governments have been undertaking initiatives that leverage technologies and innovation, invest in human and nature, create conducive business environment, and address disaster and climate resilience.
2. There are opportunities for local governments to work with academic institutions and international organisations to achieve common goals and maximise resources and impact.
3. Data governance can enable evidence-based and inclusive local policies.
4. Working with urban and rural communities is essential to raise awareness and facilitate concerted efforts towards local and regional development.

She also noted the activities and plans of AMF for 2025 which include actively engaging the ASEAN Secretariat and High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community Vision 2045, hosting a workshop to brainstorm and localise ACV 2045 in 2025, and organising the ASEAN Sustainable

Urbanisation Forum (ASUF) hosted by Malaysia in 2025. The ASEAN Secretariat will work closely with Malaysia in convening the ASUF which will be held back-to-back with AMF/MGMAC in 2025.

The AMF 2024 Vientiane Declaration, adopted in the AMF meeting on 19 September 2024, was presented on stage by Governors and Mayors from ASEAN cities and local governments. This is one of the traditions of AMF to strengthen ownership of the Declaration. This outcome document will also be submitted to the ASEAN Secretariat.

The handover ceremony of the AMF flag from the 2024 host to the 2025 host also took place during the closing ceremony. Local leaders from Malaysia, including the Vice Mayor of Kuala Lumpur and Mayors of Kuantan and Sepang, and representatives from Malaysia's Ministry of Housing and Local Government, received the flag from local leaders from Laos including the Governor of Vientiane, and Mayors of Kaysone and Luang Prabang.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Athsaphangthong Siphandone, Governor of Vientiane Capital Administration, extended his sincere gratitude to all the delegates. He found the experiences and lessons shared useful and meaningful.



• Governor of Quirino Province/President of UCLG ASPAC
• Mr. Dakila Carlo Cua and Secretary General Dr. Bernadia Irawati
• Tjandradewi, presenting a token of appreciation to Governor
• Athsaphangthong Siphandone of Vientiane for successfully
• hosting the AMF and MGMAC.

SITE VISIT

1. THE ASEAN MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MEMORIAL PARK AND TREE PLANTING



On 19 September, the iconic Patuxay Monument in Vientiane served as the venue for a significant cultural and environmental event. Governors from ASEAN capitals came together to unveil a symbolic representation of ASEAN musical instruments, celebrating the region's rich cultural heritage. This momentous occasion also featured a tree-planting ceremony, blending cultural symbolism with a strong commitment to environmental sustainability. The event was part of the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) and Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC), which emphasised strengthening connectivity and resilience among ASEAN member states.

The gathering was graced by notable dignitaries, including Vientiane Governor Athsaphangthong Siphandone, other Governors and Mayors from ASEAN capitals and cities, as well as ambassadors from ASEAN member countries. Governor Athsaphangthong highlighted the significance of the tree planting as a gesture of gratitude for the successful outcomes of key regional meetings, such as the AMF, MGMAC, and the regional AIMF meeting for Southeast Asia. He emphasised that the activity not only enhanced the aesthetic and ecological value of Patuxay Park but also aligned with ASEAN's broader goals of reducing carbon emissions and promoting environmental sustainability.

The newly expanded section of Patuxay Park now serves as a vibrant space for cultural and environmental integration. It features a variety of native Lao trees alongside sculptures and symbols representing ASEAN musical instruments, fostering a deeper appreciation of the region's shared heritage. This initiative reflects ASEAN's commitment to cultural exchange, environmental stewardship, and regional cooperation, providing a tangible testament to the values and collaborative spirit that unite the ASEAN community.

2. PATUXAY MONUMENT



The distinguished delegates participated in a meaningful study visit to one of Vientiane's most iconic landmarks, the Patuxay Monument. This remarkable structure, embodying the spirit and historical journey of the Lao people, stands as more than just a picturesque destination—it symbolised the unity and resilience of Laos.

Often referred to as the "Victory Gate," Patuxay was constructed to honor those who fought for Laos' independence from French colonial rule. Completed in 1968, the monument seamlessly integrates Western and traditional Lao architectural styles, creating a unique and powerful emblem of the nation's sovereignty. Drawing inspiration from the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, it incorporates local cultural motifs, resulting in a landmark that resonates deeply with the Lao people.

The study visit provided ASEAN mayors and representatives with the opportunity to admire the architectural grandeur of Patuxay while delving into its historical and cultural significance. Through a guided tour, delegates gained insights into the monument's design and construction, exploring the symbolic meanings behind its statues, sculptures, and inscriptions that chronicle Laos' struggle for independence.

This visit also highlighted the importance of regional collaboration in preserving cultural landmarks and integrating them into urban planning strategies. The experience at Patuxay Monument fostered dialogue among ASEAN mayors about the collective responsibility to strengthen cultural ties, preserve shared histories, and promote cross-cultural understanding. The study visit served as a poignant reminder of the role such cultural landmarks play in nurturing a sense of identity and unity within ASEAN.

By emphasising the significance of preserving and celebrating these monuments, the ASEAN mayors reaffirmed their commitment to building cities that honor their rich heritage while addressing contemporary challenges and opportunities. The enriching experience at Patuxay Monument underscored the importance of heritage conservation as a cornerstone of sustainable urban development in ASEAN cities.

Ultimately, the visit to Patuxay Monument not only showcased the beauty of Vientiane's cultural landscape but also symbolised the region's shared values of resilience, cooperation, and respect for cultural diversity. It served as a powerful testament to the role of cultural heritage in shaping a sustainable and unified future for ASEAN.

3. THAT LUANG STUPA



Delegates of the AMF/MGMAC 2024 had the privilege of visiting one of Laos' most renowned landmarks, the That Luang Stupa. This study visit provided a profound insight into the cultural and historical importance of this revered structure, which holds significant value for Laos and the wider ASEAN community.

The That Luang Stupa, celebrated as a symbol of Lao sovereignty and Buddhist tradition, is distinguished by its striking golden exterior and its status as Laos' most sacred religious monument. Serving as a centerpiece of national pride, it also attracts pilgrims from around the globe. Originally constructed in the 3rd century, the stupa has stood as a lasting emblem of Lao unity, spirituality, and cultural identity.

During the visit, ASEAN Governors, Mayors, and other key delegates explored the rich history of the stupa, tracing its origins and understanding its relevance in contemporary times. Guided tours offered detailed insights into its architectural brilliance, the central role of Buddhism in the lives of Lao citizens, and the stupa's significance in fostering national identity.

The study visit also underscored the critical role of preserving historical landmarks as part of sustainable urban development. As ASEAN cities strive to enhance connectivity and resilience, the preservation of cultural heritage such as the That Luang Stupa serves as a valuable example of balancing modernisation with tradition.

Beyond the cultural and historical exploration, the visit created opportunities for ASEAN leaders to strengthen regional ties and discuss collaborative approaches to heritage conservation and sustainable urban growth. The exchange of ideas during this visit highlighted the shared responsibility of ASEAN cities in safeguarding cultural treasures while advancing development goals.

The That Luang Stupa remains a profound symbol of Laos' historical and spiritual legacy. This enriching experience reinforced the importance of cultural heritage in shaping resilient and connected cities across ASEAN. Participants departed with a deeper appreciation for the enduring impact of preserving such landmarks amid the challenges of urbanisation.



GUANGZHOU-UCLG ASPAC PROJECT AT XAYTHANY DISTRICT HOSPITAL “PLAYGROUND FOR CHILDREN: PLAYTIME FOR EVERY BRAVE HEART”

As the leader of the Standing Committee for Women and the Guangzhou International Prize for Urban Innovation (Guangzhou Award), the Guangzhou Municipal People's Government is dedicated to strengthening collaboration among UCLG ASPAC and partners to localise the SDGs. Guangzhou has effectively leveraged the Women's Standing Committee and the Guangzhou Award to assist local governments in advancing SDG goals, particularly in women's and children's development initiatives.

The Guangzhou-UCLG ASPAC Project on Xaythany District Hospital Playground for Children, titled “Playtime for Every Brave Heart,” is a joint initiative by the Guangzhou Municipal People's Government, UCLG ASPAC and Vientiane Capital Administration Government. This project focuses on creating a safe and engaging environment for children at the Xaythany District Hospital in Vientiane, Lao PDR, providing a space for play and emotional comfort during hospital visits.

The project addresses an important need: when children accompany their parents to hospital appointments, the lack of activities to occupy them can often lead to stress and anxiety. Positive distractions, such as playgrounds and toys, can significantly enhance children's perceptions of healthcare settings, thereby improving their overall experience. A hospital environment can be intimidating for children, but with dedicated spaces for play and recreation, children's emotional well-being and recovery can be supported.

The project established a children's indoor playground at Xaythany District Hospital, offering opportunities for learning, cognitive stimulation, and entertainment. The playground also serve as a tool for doctors to build better communication and relationships with young patients through toys and games, thereby improving the consultation process. By focusing on comfort, distraction, and engagement, the project enhances not only the children's experience but also the overall healthcare journey for their families.

This pilot project at Xaythany District Hospital Vientiane, aligned with the objectives of the Standing Committee on Women in Local Governments. By establishing a children's playground in the Vientiane Mother and Child Hospital, this project underscores UCLG ASPAC's commitment to promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

Through this project, UCLG ASPAC and Guangzhou has created a lasting impact on the lives of children and their families in Vientiane, ensuring that hospitals become places not only for healing but also for fostering resilience and emotional well-being. This playground will inspire further efforts to create child-friendly spaces in hospitals across the region, where children can feel safe, happy, and supported. At last, we thank the Vientiane Capital Administration, the Ministry of Health, and the hospital manager, for the dedication and hard work to make this project a huge success.



MEDIA COVERAGE

ARTICLES PUBLISHED ON GOOGLE ABOUT AMF 2024

To share the significance and outcomes of the 10th ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF), the organisers, supported by the host city, Vientiane Capital Administration, held a press conference immediately after the forum concluded.

The 10th AMF 2024 in Vientiane received widespread media attention, with coverage spanning local and national outlets in Lao PDR as well as international sources. Key factors contributing to this media exposure included the attendance of the Prime Minister of Lao PDR, Secretary-General of ASEAN, and all respected city and local government leaders of ASEAN, during the forum and the alignment of forum topics with pressing ASEAN issues. A comparison of the media coverage across international, national, and local online platforms is presented below.



NATIONAL:

<https://laotiantimes.com/2024/09/18/asean-mayors-governors-gather-in-laos-to-focus-on-connectivity-sustainability/>

<https://www.laoschairmanship2024.gov.la/event/meeting-of-governor-mayor-of-asean-capitals-2024-mgac-2024/>

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PRESS RELEASE

Lao PDR to Host ASEAN Mayors Forum and Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals 2024

Vientiane, Lao PDR | August 18-19, 2024 – Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is proud to announce that it will be hosting the Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals 2024 (MGMAC 2024) and the ASEAN Mayors Forum 2024 (AMF 2024). This event, taking place on August 18-19, 2024 in Vientiane Capital administration, will gather leaders from ASEAN cities and capitals under the theme "Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience for Sustainable Development of ASEAN Cities."

The Forum will provide a unique platform for governors, mayors, and municipal leaders from ASEAN member states to engage in dialogue regarding the region's urban challenges. This include climate resilience, smart city technology, and sustainable economic development. In the end, the event will solidify the commitment of ASEAN cities to foster regional growth, integration and cooperation.

Sharing his anticipation of the forum, Mr. Athsaphangthong Siphandone as Governor of Vientiane highlights the event's opportunity to showcase ASEAN local governments' commitment to urban development and connectivity. "May this forum be a platform for meaningful dialogue and impactful outcomes that will benefit all our cities and communities. I look forward to the successful and productive discussions ahead," he said.

Supported by United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC), as the AMF Secretariat, MGMAC 2024 and AMF 2024 will highlight key areas of urban governance, including sustainable and liveable cities, green tourism, and climate resilience. The event aims to foster collaboration and innovation among ASEAN cities and regions to create impactful solutions that will benefit urban communities throughout the ASEAN region.

Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary General of ASEAN also highlights the importance of urban cooperation in the region. "This is a crucial platform for exchanging ideas, and collaborating as our cities face common challenges and may it pave the way for a resilient, sustainable, and well-connected ASEAN."

The event will also highlight the rich culture and innovation of the Vientiane Capital Administration, participants can bask in the rich culture and innovation of Vientiane in the backdrop of fruitful discussions to foster a sustainable future of the ASEAN region.

Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC/AMF Secretariat, Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi noted the strategic role of this forum in ASEAN's regional growth. "This forum enables us to collectively explore and co-create solutions to build stronger, more resilient urban communities. I look forward to our discussions and the actions that will arise," she said.

This event will also conclude with a declaration that reaffirms the commitment of ASEAN local leaders to strengthen connectivity and resilience across ASEAN cities, thus ensuring a collective, inclusive and forward-looking approach to sustainable urban development.



AMF 2024 IN THE HEADLINES

In September 2024, Vientiane hosted the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF 2024), and the Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC 2024), bringing together leaders from ASEAN cities to discuss urban challenges under the theme “Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience for Sustainable Development of ASEAN Cities.” The forum culminated in the adoption of the Vientiane Declaration, emphasising commitments to sustainable urban development, improved connectivity, and climate resilience. Supported by United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC), the event aligned with ASEAN’s post-2025 vision, aiming to foster collaboration and innovation across the region.



www.laotiantimes.com

University of the Philippines Los Baños - Integrated Natural Resources and Environment Management (UPLB-INREM) participated in the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, highlighting the role of state universities in Climate Information Services (CIS). Dr. Rose Jane Peras emphasised UPLB’s research contributions to local policy development and proposed a community of practice for knowledge sharing among Local Government Units (LGUs). The Forum, themed “Enhancing Connectivity & Resilience for Sustainable Development of ASEAN Cities,” gathered leaders to discuss smart cities, green tourism, and climate resilience. ASEAN Secretary-General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn stressed innovation and collaboration for sustainable urban development.



www.uplb.edu.ph

In September 2024, Vientiane, Laos, hosted the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF 2024) and the Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC 2024), bringing together leaders from ASEAN cities to discuss urban challenges under the theme “Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience for Sustainable Development of ASEAN Cities.” Key topics included climate resilience, smart city technologies, sustainable economic growth, and green tourism. The forum culminated in the adoption of the Vientiane Declaration, addressing commitments to regional growth, cooperation, and integration. Supported by the United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC), the event aligned with ASEAN’s post-2025 vision, promoting collaboration and innovation to address common urban challenges.

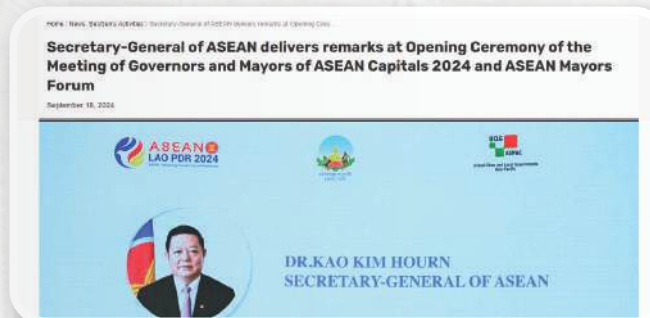


www.tourismlaos.org



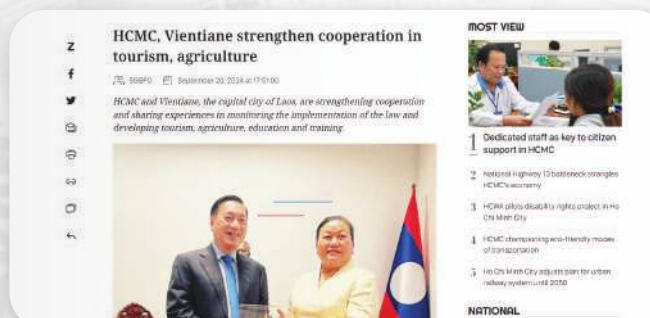
www.en.vietnamplus.vn

of sustainable urban growth. The meeting served as a key platform for strengthening connectivity and resilience in ASEAN cities.



www.asean.org

2024, the renaming of AMF to ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum (AGMF), and the announcement of Kuala Lumpur as the next host in 2025. The forum highlighted sustainable urban development, green tourism, and climate resilience as priorities for ASEAN cities.



www.en.sgpp.org.vn

The ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) and the Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC) took place in Vientiane, Laos, on September 18, 2024, focusing on urban sustainability, green tourism, economic development, and climate resilience. Vientiane Mayor Atsaphangthong Siphandone emphasised the role of these forums in fostering regional cooperation, while Lao Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone highlighted the importance

The ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) and the Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC) 2024 were held in Vientiane, Laos, focusing on enhancing connectivity and resilience for sustainable urban development. ASEAN Secretary-General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn said the role of cities in socio-economic progress and called for stronger collaboration, inclusion, and capacity building. Key outcomes included the Vientiane Declaration

During a visit to the People’s Council of Vientiane while attending the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF), and the Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC) in Laos, Vice Chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City People’s Council, Pham Thanh Kien, praised Laos’ progress under the leadership of the Lao People’s Revolutionary Party. He expressed confidence that Laos will continue to grow as a peaceful, independent, democratic, and prosperous nation.

ABOUT VIENTIANE CAPITAL ADMINISTRATION

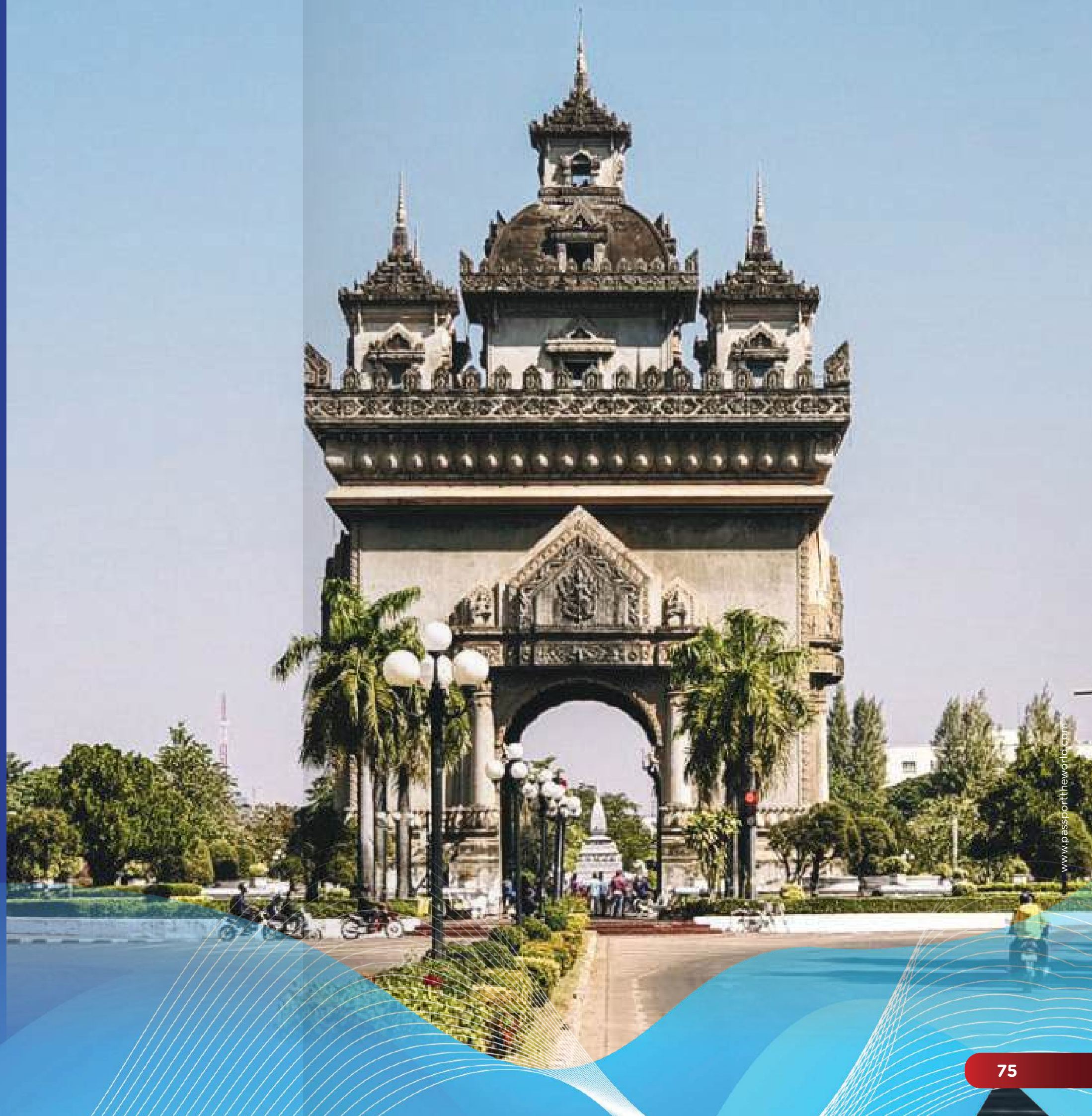
Vientiane Capital Administration serves as the central governing body for Vientiane, the capital city of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Positioned on the banks of the Mekong River, Vientiane is not only the political and economic hub of Laos but also a city of growing regional significance. The administration plays a pivotal role in managing the city's development, addressing urban challenges, and enhancing the quality of life for its citizens.

The Vientiane Capital Administration operates under the guidance of the national government, implementing policies and programmes that align with Laos' development goals. It oversees various municipal departments responsible for urban planning, infrastructure, public services, environmental management, and cultural preservation.

As the heart of the nation, Vientiane has experienced significant growth in recent years. The administration is tasked with managing this rapid urbanisation by fostering sustainable development. Vientiane serves as a gateway for trade and investment in Laos, attracting businesses and development projects from across Southeast Asia and beyond. The city's strategic location along the Mekong River positions it as a vital link in regional economic corridors, fostering connectivity with neighboring countries.

In addition to its economic role, Vientiane is a cultural treasure trove, home to iconic landmarks such as the That Luang stupa and Patuxai monument. The administration actively promotes cultural preservation and tourism, recognising the importance of Vientiane's heritage in shaping its identity and attracting international visitors.

The Vientiane Capital Administration also plays a crucial role in regional and international collaborations. As the host city for prominent events such as the AMF/MGMAC/AIMF, it showcases its commitment to advancing connectivity, resilience, and sustainable development. These platforms enable Vientiane to contribute to and benefit from regional dialogues on urbanisation and governance.



PHOTOS GALLERY





Vientiane Declaration ASEAN Mayors Forum 2024

WE, the Governors, Mayors, and representatives of local and regional governments of the Association of the South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), convened the ASEAN Mayors Forum 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 18th and 19th September 2024, with the theme "Enhancing Connectivity & Resilience for Sustainable Development of ASEAN Cities". Our meeting aligns with "ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience" as Lao PDR ASEAN Chairmanship Theme 2024.

REAFFIRMING our commitments from previous AMF declarations, namely the Surabaya Communiqué (2011), Makassar Declaration (2015), Taguig Action Agenda (2017), AMF Declaration (2019), Joint Declaration of ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Mayors (2019), Phnom Penh Declaration (2022), and Jakarta Declaration (2023);

EMPHASISING the crucial contributions of ASEAN cities and local governments in advancing ASEAN's integration frameworks, including the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, while aligning with global agendas;

SUPPORTING the development of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 (ACV) and the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan (ACSP) as continuations of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025. This includes leveraging the critical role of local governments in fostering a people-centred ASEAN that achieves sustainability in all its dimensions;

PROMOTING the meaningful participation and contribution of all stakeholders, including local communities, in the development of the ASEAN Community, and encouraging coordination and collaboration between the ASEAN Mayors Forum and ASEAN Smart Cities Network to align our initiatives and maximise our collective efforts to realise a resilient, innovative, dynamic, and people-centred ASEAN by 2045;

RECOGNISING the urgent need for connectivity and resilience of cities and local governments across ASEAN Member States, we hereby declare our commitments to:

1. Strengthen connectivity across ASEAN cities and local governments in support of the ASEAN Community by embracing technology, implementing smart solutions, reducing the digital divide, and promoting green tourism such as the Urban Mekong Corridor.

2. Embrace climate and disaster resilience by implementing integrated urban and territorial planning, promoting climate-sensitive urban development, incorporating gender-sensitive approaches, advancing renewable energy solutions, utilising nature-based strategies, expanding green spaces and greening initiatives, developing multi-hazard early warning system, and engaging international organisations.
3. Address cross-border challenges by actively participating in ASEAN meetings and processes, sharing knowledge and best practices, fostering participatory governance, and ensuring vertical integration between national and local governments to achieve cohesive strategies and coordinated efforts for more effective solutions.
4. Foster local economic growth by advocating for sustainable business practices, creating green jobs, enhancing urban-rural integration, addressing urban-rural migration and human resource development including skills development for migrants, promoting agricultural development, harmonising quality standards for ASEAN products across Member States to attract investment, improving connectivity, building resilient and inclusive communities, creating conducive business environment, and ensuring sustainable development across the region.
5. Harmonise local policies with regional aspirations by enhancing cooperation among ASEAN cities and local governments.
6. Support the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 by advancing the existing and future ASEAN's initiatives on smart and sustainable urban development, thereby fostering an integrated, interconnected, and resilient ASEAN Community.

ENCOURAGING ASEAN Member States to foster and enhance an enabling environment for the implementation of these commitments. This includes strengthening multi-level governance to expedite the achievement of sustainable development, and climate and disaster resilience, ensuring local governments have access to financing mechanisms, and considering the prospect of the ASEAN Member States will reach consensus in the future and then with the approval from the ASEAN Member States, a local government unit/division within the ASEAN Secretariat be established to enhance cross-sectoral cooperation.

LOOKING FORWARD to the ASEAN Mayors Forum to be held in Malaysia under the ASEAN Chairmanship of Malaysia 2025.

ADOPTED this Nineteenth Day of September, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four, in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic.

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.

AMF 2022 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.



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.



**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 Communiqué 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.



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.



**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. Further more, 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.

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