

UCLG ASPAC COMPETITION GUIDELINE

Photography
Essay for Youth and Journalist
Start-Up Pitching



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By showcasing exemplary practices, inspiring visual narratives, and compelling written perspectives, the side event of 10th UCLG ASPAC Congress provide a platform to inspire, exchange knowledge, and drive action towards sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

[Go to submission form here](#)

UCLG ASPAC Photo Competition

*Sustainable Global Self-sufficient Cities
and Regions for the Future*



UCLG ASPAC Photo Competition

Background

As a part of the 10th UCLG ASPAC Congress co-hosted by Goyang Special City, Republic of Korea, a Photo Competition will be held to: (i) promote the event, (ii) provide visual representation of urban sustainability; (iii) highlight local governance and community engagement; (iv) promote cultural and regional diversity; and (v) spark inspiration for future urban solutions. The competition is open to the publics and the participants are to submit their photos virtually/online. There will be five (5) categories in line with the theme and sub-themes of the Congress. A board of jury will review the open call submissions and select the winner for every category.

UCLG ASPAC invites publics to join the Photo Competition. Winners will be announced during the 10th UCLG ASPAC Congress in 24-26 September 2025.

Application / Submission Requirements

- All photos must be submitted via [submission form](#) **no later than Friday, 8 August 2025** at 23.59 PM (Jakarta Time/GMT+7).
- Each participant may submit a **max of 3 (three) photos only**.
- UCLG ASPAC staff members are restricted to participate in the competition
- Please provide the **description of each photo** (Max. 100 words/photo).
- Please enclose a **Short Bio** (Max. 450 words). This will not be provided to the Board of Jury.
- Photo description and participant bio must be in **English**.

[Go to submission form here](#)

Award

Each category will have one winner. Each winner will receive **500 USD** *(Taxes included)* and **certificate**.



THEME

The main theme of the 10th UCLG ASPAC Congress is

Sustainable Global Self-sufficient Cities and Regions for the Future

The photo competition will have five (5) categories with
1 (one) winner for every category following the sub-themes.

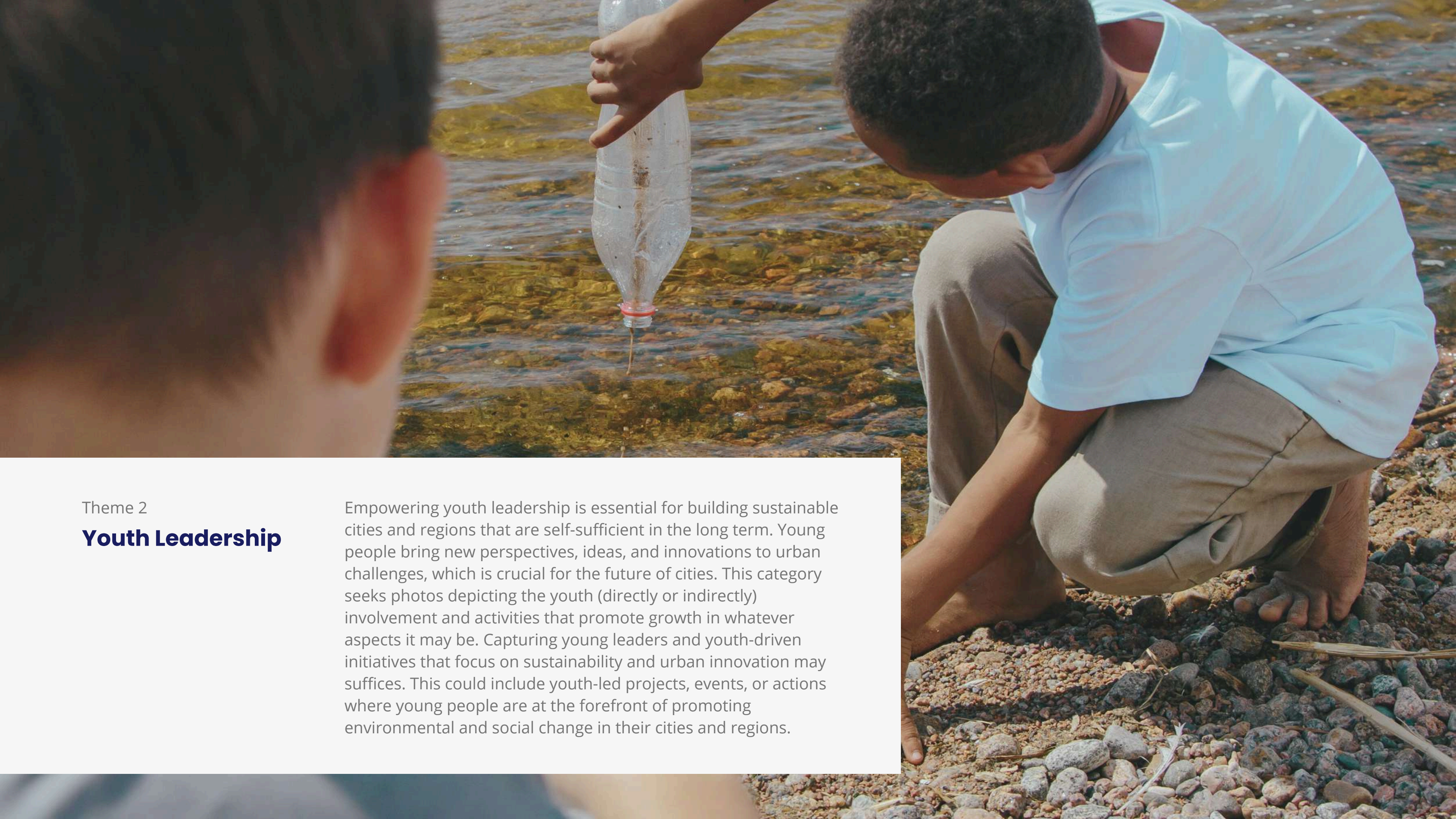


Theme 1

Job Creation

Job creation is a critical component of building self-sufficient cities. A city's self-sufficiency isn't just about environmental sustainability—it also includes economic resilience. Sustainable cities need to offer opportunities for green jobs and employment in sectors like renewable energy, waste management, eco-tourism, and sustainable agriculture. This category seeks photos depicting the process of job creation (from grassroots level to the strategies of economic development), work opportunities, and innovative projects that contribute to job creation in sustainable urban environments. This could include images of local markets, eco-friendly businesses, green job initiatives (such as renewable energy or sustainable agriculture), and community-led enterprises that create economic opportunities for the local population.





Theme 2

Youth Leadership

Empowering youth leadership is essential for building sustainable cities and regions that are self-sufficient in the long term. Young people bring new perspectives, ideas, and innovations to urban challenges, which is crucial for the future of cities. This category seeks photos depicting the youth (directly or indirectly) involvement and activities that promote growth in whatever aspects it may be. Capturing young leaders and youth-driven initiatives that focus on sustainability and urban innovation may suffices. This could include youth-led projects, events, or actions where young people are at the forefront of promoting environmental and social change in their cities and regions.

Theme 3

Energy Self-sufficiency

Energy self-sufficiency is a cornerstone of sustainable cities. Cities that are self-sufficient in energy are less reliant on external sources, reducing their vulnerability to energy crises and contributing to environmental sustainability through renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and geothermal power. This category seeks photos portraying the ability of cities and communities to be “self-reliant” and “self-sufficient” and/or activities the activities depicting that.





Theme 4

Family-friendly Cities

Family-friendly cities contribute to the overall sustainability and resilience of urban areas by ensuring that urban spaces are supportive of families. This includes affordable housing, accessible childcare, healthcare services, safe public spaces, and inclusive policies that support parents and children. This category could inspire participants to capture the family-oriented infrastructure and features that make a city more livable and sustainable for families. This could include accessible parks, community spaces, green playgrounds, public transportation that accommodates families, and infrastructure that supports parents and children.

Theme 5

Urban Growth

Urban growth needs to be managed sustainably to ensure that cities don't become overburdened by population increases. Sustainable urban growth involves smart growth strategies, urban planning that prioritizes green spaces, sustainable infrastructure, and resilience to climate change. This category seeks photos capturing sustainable urban development in the face of growing populations. This could include images of smart city solutions, green buildings, urban planning that integrates nature (like green roofs or vertical gardens), and how cities manage their growth while keeping sustainability in mind.



UCLG ASPAC Photo Competition

Photos Criteria

The applying participant declares and undertakes to verify that the submitted photo/s correspond to the stipulations of the Photo Competition rules and regulations, and meet the following criteria:

- All photographs submitted must be original works by the applying participant.
- No restriction of using any device for photography.
- If the submitted images include minors, or models/subjects incapable of explicitly consenting to being photographed, the applying participant may be required to provide a written consent of the subject's parents/custodians to use the image, according to circumstances.
- The photo/s must be free of any binding agreement with a third party that might hold UCLG ASPAC liable for payment to any individual or entity in connection with the images' copyright or their use.
- The submitted photo/s must not contain any symbol that represent any sensitive political issues.
- The photo/s should be in high quality (Min. 10 MB), to be submitted in JPG format.

Rules and Regulations

- The photo/s must be original, created, and/or taken by the participant.
- No restriction of using any device for photography
- The submitted photo/s must be free of any binding agreement with a third party that might hold UCLG ASPAC liable for payment to any individual or entity in connection with the images' copyright or their use.
- If the submitted images include minors, or models/subjects incapable of explicitly consenting to being photographed, the applying participant may be required to provide a written consent of the subject's parents/custodians to use the image, according to circumstances.
- The submitted photo/s must not contain any symbol that represent any sensitive political issues.
- The applying participants accept the stipulations of the Event rules and regulations wholly and absolutely.
- UCLG ASPAC reserves the right to review the suitability of the participants to the criteria and to rule in any dispute that may arise at any time on this issue.

UCLG ASPAC Photo Competition

Relevant Dates

- Application opens on **Wednesday, 7 May 2025** and closes at 23.59 on **Friday, 8 May 2025**, Jakarta time (GMT +7).
- Applying participants are responsible for determining the start and closing time of the competition in their time zone (insofar as they are outside Jakarta, Indonesia).
- The winner of every category will be announced during the 10th UCLG ASPAC Congress on **Wednesday-Friday, 24-26 September 2025**.
- UCLG ASPAC reserves the right to change these dates, and to publish the new dates on the UCLG ASPAC's website and/or social media.

General Comments

- By participating in the Photo Competition, the participants accept de facto all the rules and regulation clauses.
- UCLG ASPAC reserves the right to change the listed dates and/or the jury members at its discretion.
- The decision of the board of jury is final and irrevocable.
- Choice of law, jurisdiction, arbitration: – The clauses of these rules and regulations are subject to and interpreted under the Indonesia Law. Should any of the listed stipulations be canceled or declared impossible to enforce, all the other stipulations will remain unchanged and valid.

UCLG ASPAC Photo Competition

Intellectual Property Rights

- The participant applying for the Photo Competition will maintain ownership rights of all the intellectual property (including ethical rights) related to the photo/s, subject to the rules and regulations.
- By participating in this Photo Competition, the participants give UCLG ASPAC, and through it to any third parties involved in marketing (hereinafter “The Authorized Users”) their irrevocable, non-exclusive, international, royalty-free permission, within legal bounds, to change, edit, copy, duplicate and adjust the images to the format required for internet product pages and for marketing materials only, to advertise and use the photos and their content and components, including any name, place or portrait they may contain, in every type of media, including, but not limited to, digital and electronic media, computers and audio-visual media (present or future), in any language, worldwide, and in any way, without need to check, notify or receive approval, without any return or compensation. All the above for the sole purpose of promoting and/or advertising the event(s) of UCLG ASPAC. Other than the purposes listed above, and other uses intended to promote the event, and the activities of UCLG ASPAC, no commercial use will be made of the photographs, and all the commercial rights will remain in the possession of the participants.

Privacy Policy

By participating, the participant agrees that personal details provided as part of the application process, including name, mailing address and email, will be kept, processed and stored by the UCLG ASPAC team, and may be used for other purposes related to the congress. It is hereby stated that UCLG ASPAC may also use these data to verify the identity and personal details of the participating participants. If the applying participant has not provided full personal details during application, the UCLG ASPAC Team has the right to reject that participant’s application. The participant undertakes to negotiate fully and exclusively any lawsuit or claim of breach by a third party resulting from the publication of the submitted images.

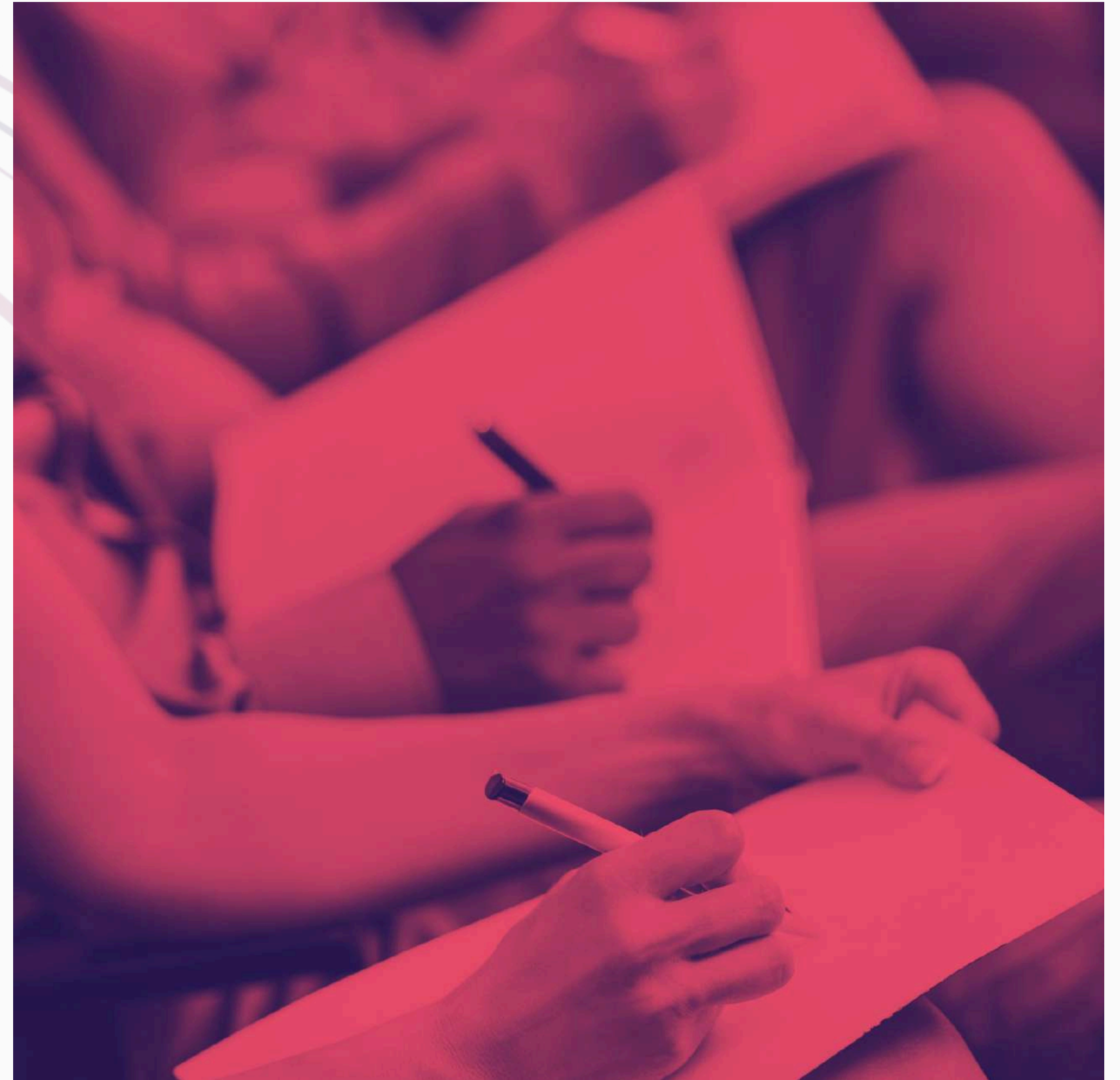
Contact Us

Should you have any questions and/or clarifications, please contact **info@uclg-aspac.org** with email subject: Photo Competition_Questions_[Name].

(E.g., Email Subject: Photo Competition_Questions_John Doe)

UCLG ASPAC International Essay Competition for Youth and Journalists

*Sustainable Global Self-sufficient Cities
and Regions for the Future*



Essay Competition for Youth and Journalists

About

Our world is facing unprecedented challenges. According to the United Nations (UN), more than half of the global population now resides in urban areas, and by 2050, this number is expected to rise to 68% (UN, 2018). This rapid urbanization places immense pressure on cities and regions, increasing demands for infrastructure, housing, employment, and resources. Concurrently, cities contribute significantly to global CO2 emissions, which continue to rise as climate change exacerbates the challenges facing urban centers. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), cities account for more than 70% of global energy consumption and CO2 emissions, making them pivotal to both the crisis and its solution (IPCC, 2022), and as a result, are on the frontlines of both the impacts and solutions to this crisis.

Simultaneously, the global economy is shifting, and with it, we are witnessing rising inequality, youth unemployment, and the need for more inclusive and equitable cities. Research from the International Labour Organization (ILO) highlights that global youth unemployment rates are dangerously high, limiting economic mobility and opportunity for younger generations (ILO, 2024). These realities underscore the urgent need for action, particularly at the local level, where governance can directly affect people's lives.

As the world faces these challenges, The 10th UCLG ASPAC Congress offers an unparalleled opportunity to explore how to create self-sufficient, sustainable cities and resilient regions that will thrive in the future. With the theme, "**Sustainable Global Self-Sufficient Cities and Regions for the Future**," the congress will not only to just discuss about change—but also to drive it.

In this regard, as part of the 10th UCLG ASPAC Congress in Goyang Special City, Republic of Korea, an International Essay Competition will be held to promote the event, encourage the thinking of self-reliant and self-sufficient communities, exchange knowledge and insights, while also spark inspiration for future urban solutions.

Essay Competition for Youth and Journalists

Main Theme

This essay competition is an activity within the 10th UCLG ASPAC Congress in Goyang Special City, Republic of Korea and adopts the main theme of **Sustainable Global Self-sufficient Cities and Regions for the Future.**

Sub-Topic

Essays will be written under the main theme of Sustainable Global Self-sufficient Cities and Regions for the Future and essayists can choose to elaborate on the 5 sub-topics such as:



Job Creation



Youth
Leadership



Energy
Self-sufficiency



Family-friendly
Cities



Urban
Growth

Essay Competition for Youth and Journalists

Categories of Essay Competition

The competition is open to 2 (two) categories of essayist:

Youth

from all nationalities aged 15-25

Journalist

Accredited/professional journalists internationally

Awards The following awards will be given in the Youth's category and Journalist's category respectively:

- A prize of USD 500, USD 300, USD 200 for the first, second, and third winner in the Youth category.
- A prize of USD 750, USD 400, USD 250 for the first, second, and third winner in the Journalists category.

Winners from the Youth and Journalists category will be invited to the Winners Gathering during the 10th UCLG ASPAC Congress Meeting to be held online

Terms and Conditions

1. Essays may be submitted by anyone up to 25 years old (as of September 26, 2025) for the **Youth Category**.
2. There is no minimum age requirement for the **Journalists Category**. However, only journalists accredited by their Press Card could join the essay competition.
3. Entrants can only choose **one** of the five themes mentioned above.
4. Essays must be original/originally written by the entrant. Therefore, all sources must be cited and referred to the respective part in the essay as all entries will be tested for plagiarism.
5. Only **one** essay entry is allowed.
6. Essays must be unpublished.
7. Contents of the essay **must adhere** to the '**One China Policy**' (no mention of Taiwan), and must not contain or represent any sensitive political issues.
8. If you have any questions, please refer to the FAQs section.

Essay Competition for Youth and Journalists

Application and Submission Requirements

1

Essays must be **max. 1000 words** in English. Essays must be typed, with your name, institution (such as university, if entrants are still attending university), chosen theme and essay title included at the top of the first page.

2

There are no rules regarding formatting (font style, size, line space, etc.). However, essays must be submitted in either MS Word (DOC/DOCX) or PDF format.

**Note: Your name and essay title are not included in the word count limit.*

3

Your essay entries must be submitted via **[submission form](#)** no later than Friday, **8th August 2025 at 23:59 PM** (Jakarta Time/GMT+7).

4

For journalists submitting their essay, please also attach a file of your Press Card.

Essay Competition for Youth and Journalists

Relevant Dates

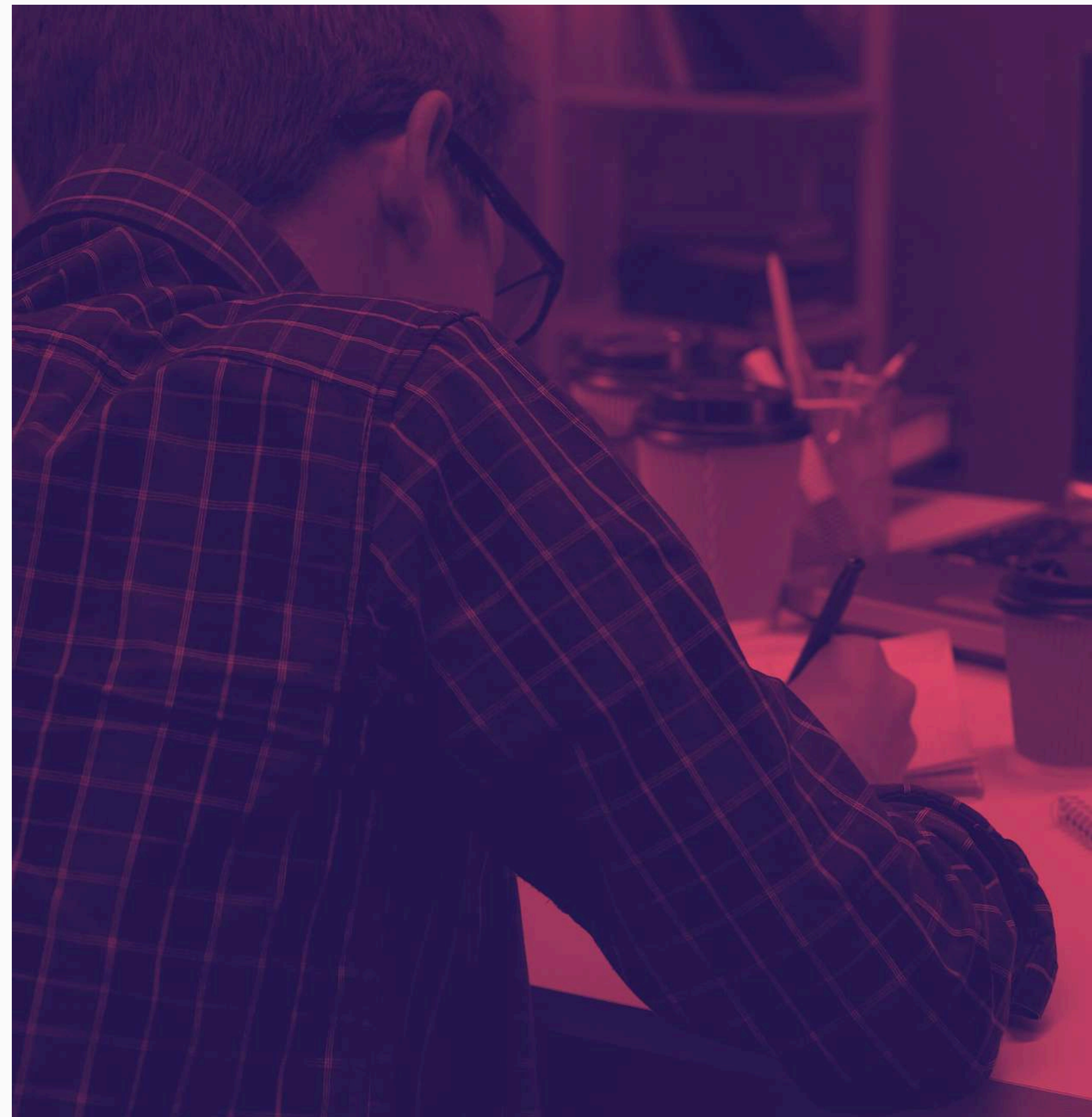
1. Submissions **opens on Wednesday, 7th May 2025** and **closes at 23:59 on Friday, 8th August 2025**, Jakarta time (GMT+7)
2. Entrants are responsible for determining the start and closing time of the competition in their respective time zones.
3. Winners will be announced during the 10th UCLG ASPAC Congress on Monday-Wednesday, **24 - 26 September 2025** and invited to join online.
4. UCLG ASPAC reserves the right to change these dates, and to publish the new dates on the UCLG ASPAC website and/or social media channels.

Intellectual Property Rights

By submitting your essay, you give permission to the organiser to publish it in any medium (such as the UCLG ASPAC website). Ownership of the essay remains with the entrant and will be visible.

Privacy Policy

By submitting and participating in this essay competition, the entrant agrees that all personal details provided as part of the submissions process, including name, mailing address and e-mail, will be kept, processed and stored by the UCLG ASPAC team, and may be used for other purposes related to the congress.



Essay Competition for Youth and Journalists

Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)

Q1 - Are there any exceptions to the age limit for participating in the contest?

A1 - No, you must be 25 years old or younger as of September 26, 2025, which is the last day of 10th UCLG ASPAC Congress. On the other hand, for Journalists Category there is no minimum age requirement.

Q2 - Is there a fee for participating in this contest?

A2 - No, participation is free of charge.

Q3 - Do I have to be citizens of Asia or Pacific countries to join the contest?

A3 - No, all nationalities can participate from anywhere in the world.

Q4 - My essay is a little over 1000 words. Is it acceptable?

A4 - No, essay must be max. 1000 words to qualify. However, your name and essay title are excluded from the word count.

Q5 - Are my name and essay title included in the word count limit?

A5 - No, the 1000-word count limit is for the body of the essay only.

Q6 - Do I need a cover page for my essay?

A6 - No, a cover page is not required. Please just include your name and essay title at the top of the first page of your essay.

Q7 - Can I give any title to my essay?

A7 - Yes, you can give your essay an original title as long as the content is in line with the theme.

Q8 - Is there a specific format for the essay (font style, size, line space, etc.)?

A8 - There are no particular rules regarding formatting. However, your essay file should be in either MS Word (DOC/DOCX) or PDF format.

Q9 - Is there a specific style for the essay?

A9 - No. Essays may be in any style (thesis or prose, academic or literary), as long as the content is in line with the theme.

Essay Competition for Youth and Journalists

Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)

Q10 - Can I quote from books or websites? If so, where should I write the reference?

A10 - If you use quotations, please include the reference at the bottom of the essay. The reference should not be included in the word count.

Q11 - Can I add photos, images, or my biography to my essay?

A11 - No. Please send your essay only.

Q12 - Can I submit my essay via postal mail?

A12 - No, we do not accept entries by postal mail. Please submit your essay to the [submission form](#)

Q13 - Can I submit a hand-written essay?

A13 - No. Please submit a typed essay in either MS Word (DOC/DOCX) or PDF format.

Q14 - Can I submit more than one essay?

A14 - No, only one entry per person is accepted.

Q15 - Can I submit my essay in my native language?

A15 - Essays are accepted in English only.

Q16 - Can we co-write and submit one essay as a team?

A16 - No. The essay must be written by one person. Co-authored essay are not accepted.

Q17 - I did not receive a confirmation email after submitting my essay. How can I make sure that my essay has been successfully submitted and received?

A17 - You will not receive a confirmation email after submitting your essay.

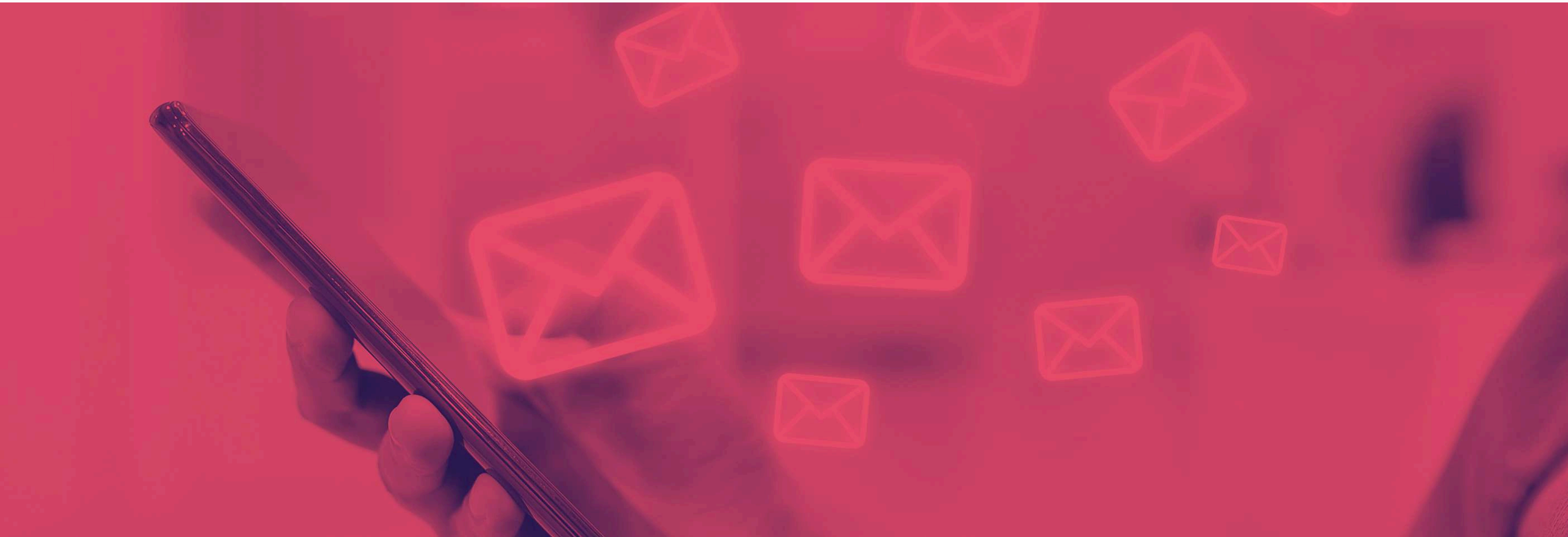
Q18 - Can I obtain a certificate of participation?

Yes, you can download your certificate of participation from the online registration page after submitting your essay. (Download is available until December 31, 2025.)

Essay Competition for Youth and Journalists

Contact Us

Should you have any questions and/or clarifications, please contact cemara.dinda@uclg-aspac.org with e-mail subject: Essay Competition_Questions_[Name]





UCLG ASPAC Startup Pitching Competition

Sustainable Global Self-sufficient
Cities and Regions for the Future

Introduction

The United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC) is the largest regional section of United Cities and Local Governments. Its members – representing local governments and their associations across Asia-Pacific – have set a high priority on implementing and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and have been working with partners from around the world to accelerate their localisation. UCLG ASPAC also serves as the knowledge management hub for local government issues in the Asia-Pacific region, promoting democratic local self-government and fostering cooperation among governments and international communities.

In alignment with this mission, and as part of the 10th UCLG ASPAC Congress co-hosted by Goyang Special City, UCLG ASPAC is proud to launch the Startup Pitching Competition — a dynamic platform to spotlight startups that are transforming urban futures through innovation. This competition invites early-stage and growth-stage startups whose solutions contribute to building more sustainable, inclusive, and self-sufficient cities and regions.

By connecting innovation ecosystems with city leaders, this initiative aims to accelerate the adoption of creative solutions that address real-world local challenges — from public service innovation and green infrastructure to civic tech and social inclusion.

Selected finalists will be given the opportunity to pitch live during the Congress, engage with local government representatives, receive international exposure through UCLG ASPAC's networks, and compete for funding, and collaboration opportunities. This competition also supports the broader goal of embedding youth innovation and entrepreneurial thinking into local policy spaces and governance systems.

Theme

Innovating Local Futures: Startups for Resilient, Inclusive, and Self-sufficient Cities and Regions

In support of the 10th UCLG ASPAC Congress' overarching theme — “Sustainable Global Self-sufficient Cities and Regions for the Future” — the Startup Pitching Competition centres on the role of innovation and entrepreneurship in shaping the next generation of urban solutions.

Startup Pitching Competition

Startups are invited to submit ideas and solutions that address one or more of the following key areas:

Smart and Digital Governance

Innovative solutions that improve public service delivery, citizen engagement, and government transparency through digital tools, platforms, or data systems.

Urban Climate Resilience and Adaptation

Startups addressing climate risks in urban areas, including flood mitigation, early warning systems, green infrastructure, and nature-based solutions.

Circular Economy and Sustainable Infrastructure

Solutions that reduce waste, promote reuse and recycling, and design infrastructure with long-term environmental and economic sustainability in mind.

Inclusive Public Services and Community Participation

Ideas that ensure access to essential services (health, education, housing, etc.) for all citizens, especially marginalised groups, while strengthening local participation.

Civic Tech and Youth-led Innovation

Technology or digital solutions developed by or for youth that enhance civic engagement, local problem-solving, and urban innovation.

Energy Self-sufficiency and Green Solutions

Startups focused on renewable energy, energy access, energy storage, or efficiency that reduce urban dependency on external sources.

Job Creation and Local Economic Resilience

Initiatives that promote entrepreneurship, skill-building, and employment opportunities within local economies, especially in green and future-ready sectors.

Family-friendly and Human-centred City Design

Innovations that make cities more liveable for families, such as accessible public spaces, childcare-friendly infrastructure, safe mobility, and community support systems.

Startup Pitching Competition

Award Prize and Rewards



Cash Prizes – Top performing startups will receive monetary awards as recognition for their innovation and impact.

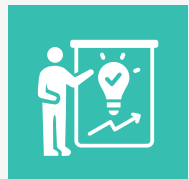
- **\$3,000 as 1st Prize**
- **\$1,500 as 2nd Prize**

All prizes are subject to local taxes and applicable deductions.



Sponsored Participation at UCLG ASPAC Congress 2025

- Fully or partially covered travel and accommodation for one team representative
- Access to all Congress sessions, networking events, and side forums
- Certificate of participation



Live Pitching Opportunity – Winner will present their solution in a live pitching session in front of mayors, local government leaders, representatives from international organisations and UN agencies, development partners, investors, and civil society.



Startup Showcase at Innovation Corner

- Each finalist will have their poster displayed during the Congress at the Innovation Corner Exhibition.
- This space is designed to draw foot traffic from Congress delegates and city officials seeking partnerships and new ideas.



Visibility and Promotion

- Featured on UCLG ASPAC's official website and social media platforms
- Included in a digital innovation catalogue shared with local governments and partners
- Potentially invited to speak in future events or knowledge sessions



Networking and Matchmaking

- Finalists will gain direct access to local government officials, development partners, and youth networks from across the Asia-Pacific region.
- Opportunity to explore partnerships or pilot projects in UCLG ASPAC member cities.

Startup Pitching Competition

Application & Submission Details

Submission Form

To participate in the Startup Pitching Competition, all applicants are required to complete and submit their application materials exclusively via the **official online form**. No submissions will be accepted via email or post.

Submission Link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UCLGASPAC_Competitions2025

Submission Deadline: Friday, 8 August 2025
at 23:59 PM (Jakarta Time / GMT+7)

Eligibility

- Startups, innovation teams, or early-stage ventures from the Asia-Pacific region.
- The team may be legally registered or in the process of formation, and must consist of 1 to 5 members.
- Preference will be given to youth-led teams (with at least one member under 35 years old).
- Only one application per team/startup is allowed.
- UCLG ASPAC staff members and their direct affiliates are not eligible to participate.

Language Requirements

- All written content, videos, pitch decks, and posters must be submitted in English.
- Submissions in other languages will not be evaluated.

Submission Reminders

- Ensure all file uploads are complete and all links are working before the deadline.
- Do not submit materials that are password-protected or require login access.
- Maintain original filenames or use the provided naming format for easier identification.

The background is a solid teal color. It features several sets of white, curved, concentric lines that sweep across the frame from the left and right sides towards the center, creating a sense of motion or a stylized wave pattern.

Components to be submitted

1

Startup Profile (*Written in the Form*)

- Startup Name
- Country and Local Government of Origin
- One-line Tagline or Mission Statement
- Thematic Focus: Select one or more relevant themes from the Congress (e.g., Smart Cities, Climate Resilience, Civic Tech, etc.)
- Brief Description (Max. 200 words): Introduce your innovation, its purpose, and target beneficiaries. Avoid technical jargon; be concise and accessible.

2

Pitch Video (*Uploaded as a Link*)

A short 2–3 minute video introducing your solution. Your pitch should include:

- Introduction of team and background
- The problem being addressed
- Your solution and how it works
- The impact or potential of the solution
- Why your solution matters to cities and local governments
- Optionally: visuals, user stories, early results

3

Video Format Requirements

- Upload to YouTube or Vimeo (set to “public” or “unlisted”)
- Paste the full video link in the form
- Ensure the video is accessible without login or password

4

Pitch Deck (PDF or PPT format, max. 10 slides)

Upload a structured and visually engaging presentation that covers:

- Problem statement
- Proposed solution
- Product or service overview
- Target users and market
- Impact or outcomes
- Business/sustainability model
- Team introduction
- Development/traction so far
- Scaling strategy or future plans
- Summary or call to action

File format: **PDF or PPT**

Max file size: **10 MB**

File name format:

StartupName_PitchDeck.pdf

5

Poster (PDF, JPG, or PNG)

A one-page A4 or A3-sized visual summary of your startup to be displayed at the Innovation Corner Exhibition during the Congress. It should include:

- Startup name and logo
- Problem and solution overview
- Visuals (photos, icons, infographics, etc.)
- Contact/social media details
- Optional slogan or tagline

Design tips:

- Keep it visual and readable from a distance
- Avoid excessive text
- Focus on clarity, impact, and attractiveness

File format: PDF, JPG, or PNG

Max file size: 10 MB

File name format: *StartupName_Poster.pdf*

6

Team Bio (Optional, Max. 450 words)

A short background description of your team, highlighting your motivation, relevant experience, and vision for the future. This will not be provided to the jury but may be used for promotional and networking purposes during the Congress.

Include in the form as a text input or document upload (if required)

Startup Pitching Competition

Key areas for screening and selection

The following seven (7) criteria will be used to determine the overall score of each submission.

- Relevance to Urban and Local Challenges
- Innovation and Originality
- Feasibility and Practicality
- Impact and Sustainability
- Scalability and Replicability
- Presentation and Storytelling
- Public Engagement (Social Media Voting)

Rules & Regulations

- All submitted ideas, materials, and content (including the video, pitch deck, and poster) must be original, created and/or developed by the applying participant or team.
- There is no restriction on tools or platforms used to create the pitch materials (e.g. camera type, editing software, pitch design tools).
- Submitted content must be free from any binding agreement with a third party that might hold UCLG ASPAC liable for compensation or copyright disputes.
- If submitted materials include identifiable individuals (e.g. in videos or images), especially minors or those unable to legally consent, participants may be required to provide a signed consent from the individuals or their guardians.
- Submitted materials must not contain content, symbols, or narratives that represent or promote any form of sensitive political issues, hate speech, or discriminatory messaging.
- The applying participants are considered to have fully accepted the terms and conditions of the event by submitting their entry.
- UCLG ASPAC reserves the right to assess the eligibility of each submission and participant, and to resolve any disputes that may arise regarding compliance, scoring, or result announcement at its sole discretion.

Intellectual Property Rights

- Participants applying for the Startup Pitching Competition will retain full ownership of all intellectual property (including moral rights) related to their submitted materials, including but not limited to: the pitch deck, poster, video, written content, and startup concept.
- By participating in this competition, participants grant UCLG ASPAC, and through it to any relevant partners or authorised third parties (hereinafter “The Authorised Users”), an irrevocable, non-exclusive, international, royalty-free licence to use, reproduce, edit, adapt, copy, and distribute submitted content solely for non-commercial purposes related to the promotion of the event and the organisation’s public activities.
- This licence includes the right to:
 - Edit and adjust video, poster, or deck formats for display on digital platforms
 - Translate or subtitle video content for regional audiences
 - Publish submitted content, including any names, logos, city identifiers, or visual likenesses, on all forms of media (including websites, social media, digital reports, printed material, or multimedia publications)
 - Share content with local government partners, development agencies, or knowledge platforms for promotional, educational, or advocacy purposes.
- This licence is granted without need for further approval, notice, or compensation, and applies across all languages and formats (digital or print), for the sole purpose of promoting:
 - The UCLG ASPAC Startup Pitching Competition
 - The UCLG ASPAC Congress 2025
 - UCLG ASPAC’s ongoing work in supporting innovation and sustainable local development
- No commercial use will be made of the submitted content without obtaining the prior written consent of the participant. All commercial rights remain solely with the submitting team or individual.

Privacy Policy

- By participating in the Startup Pitching Competition, the applicant agrees that all personal data provided during the application process — including but not limited to name, email address, phone number, and country of origin — will be collected, processed, and securely stored by the UCLG ASPAC team.
- These personal details may be used for purposes directly related to:
 - The administration of the Startup Pitching Competition
 - Communication and coordination regarding the UCLG ASPAC Congress 2025
 - Inclusion in non-commercial follow-up activities, event documentation, and innovation promotion efforts
- UCLG ASPAC may also use this information to:
 - Verify the identity and eligibility of applicants
 - Contact participants for clarification, updates, or notification of results
 - Share event-related opportunities or invitations in the future, provided they are relevant to the Congress or UCLG ASPAC's thematic work.
- Participants who fail to provide accurate and complete personal information may have their application disqualified at the discretion of the UCLG ASPAC team.
- Furthermore, the participant accepts full responsibility to resolve, directly and exclusively, any legal claims or disputes from third parties concerning the use, ownership, or distribution of the submitted materials (e.g., pitch decks, videos, posters), including any claims relating to data protection, copyright, or personal consent.
- All personal data will be handled in accordance with relevant privacy laws and will not be shared with third parties for commercial purposes.

Startup Pitching Competition

General Comments

- By submitting an application and participating in the Startup Pitching Competition, participants are considered to have fully accepted all rules, regulations, criteria, and terms stated by UCLG ASPAC, including those outlined under submission guidelines, eligibility, intellectual property, privacy, and evaluation.
- UCLG ASPAC reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to amend or revise dates, timelines, processes, or the composition of the judging panel, should circumstances require such changes. Any updates will be announced via UCLG ASPAC's official communication channels.
- The decisions of the jury and organising committee are final, non-negotiable, and binding. There will be no appeals process or reconsideration once results are announced.
- Legal jurisdiction and governing law: These rules and regulations shall be governed by, and interpreted in accordance with, the laws of the Republic of Indonesia.
- Should any provision be deemed invalid, unenforceable, or nullified under law, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

Contact

Should you have any questions or require further clarification regarding the Startup Pitching Competition, please contact: info@uclg-aspac.org

Please use the following subject line format in your email:
Startup Pitching_Questions_[Your Name or Startup Name]
(e.g., *Email Subject: Startup Pitching_Questions_SmartCity Lab*)

The UCLG ASPAC team will respond to all queries as promptly as possible.