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Abbreviations

- ACCC ASEAN Coordinating Council
- ACSP ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan
- AGMF ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum
- AIMF International Association of Francophone Mayors
- AIPA ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly
- AMF ASEAN Mayors Forum
- AMS ASEAN Member States
- APEKSI Asosiasi Pemerintah Kota Seluruh Indonesia (Association of Indonesian Municipalities)
- APPSI Asosiasi Pemerintah Provinsi Seluruh Indonesia (Association of Provincial Governments of Indonesia)
- ASCN ASEAN Smart Cities Network
- ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- ASP Annual Strategic Plan
- ASPAC Asia-Pacific (UCLG ASPAC context)
- AWP Annual Work Plan
- BPOM Badan Pengawas Obat dan Makanan (National Agency of Drug and Food Control Indonesia)
- CLARA Cities for Local Adaptation and Resilience in ASEAN
- CPR Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN
- EC European Commission
- ESG Environmental, Social, and Governance

Abbreviations

- EU/– European Union
- FCM Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- IKI International Climate Initiative (Germany)
- IPR Intellectual Property Rights
- MGMAC Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals
- MPAC Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity
- MRC Mekong River Commission
- NLC National League of Local Councils
- PDR People's Democratic Republic (used in Lao PDR)
- SAGC Smart and Green Cities
- SDC Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- SDG Sustainable Development Goals
- SEA Southeast Asia
- SGAC Smart Green ASEAN Cities
- UCLG United Cities and Local Governments
- UMCI Urban–Municipal Cooperation Initiative
- UN United Nations
- UNCDF United Nations Capital Development Fund
- UNESCAP United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



Foreword

It is my great pleasure to present the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) Annual Report 2024, which highlights the collective efforts of cities and local governments across ASEAN in fostering sustainable, resilient, and inclusive urban development. The AMF 2024, under the theme "Enhancing Connectivity & Resilience for Sustainable Development of ASEAN Cities", has remained a critical platform for strengthening regional collaboration and amplifying the voices of local leaders in shaping the ASEAN Community.

As cities navigate evolving challenges, the need for enhanced connectivity and resilience has never been more pressing. Local leaders play a vital role in driving economic growth, fostering social cohesion, and safeguarding the environment. AMF serves as a space for meaningful dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and partnerships, enabling cities to exchange best practices and implement innovative solutions to common urban issues.

This publication captures key discussions, shared initiatives, and best practices that have emerged through our engagements. By leveraging collective experiences, we strengthen cooperation and empower communities to drive positive change. I extend my deepest appreciation to the Vientiane Capital Administration for successfully hosting AMF 2024, as well as to the ASEAN Secretariat, relevant ministries, partners, and, of course, the city and local government leaders across ASEAN for

their commitment and contributions. Together, let us harness the transformative power of our cities to build a sustainable and prosperous future for all.

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi

Secretary General of the United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC) Secretariat of ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF)





1. Introduction

As ASEAN cities continue to evolve, they face a complex set of urban challenges that demand strategic solutions and collaboration. Rapid urbanisation, environmental concerns, and governance issues require innovative approaches to ensure sustainable and resilient urban development. Addressing these challenges necessitates strong coordination among local governments, stakeholders, and regional bodies.

The ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF), established in 2011, is a key platform that brings together mayors and local government leaders across the region to foster constructive cooperation in advocacy, capacity building, knowledge sharing, and project development. Recognised as an ASEAN-accredited entity in 2018, the AMF actively supports ASEAN's vision of an integrated and inclusive community, aligning with key regional agendas such as the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy, and the ASEAN Smart Cities Network.

At its core, AMF aims to amplify the role of local governments in ASEAN's development by facilitating policy discussions, strengthening governance frameworks, and bridging connections between local leaders, ASEAN, and international partners. Through dialogue and collaboration, participants exchange best practices in urban planning, environmental sustainability, economic development, disaster risk reduction, public health, and other priority areas identified by ASEAN.

The AMF is also instrumental in accelerating sub-regional integration by fostering cross-border partnerships and initiatives that enhance urban resilience and sustainability. It provides a space where local leaders can engage in meaningful discourse, drive collective action, and contribute to ASEAN's mission of *One Vision, One Caring and Sharing Community*.

By uniting efforts at the local and regional levels, the ASEAN Mayors Forum plays a crucial role in shaping the future of ASEAN cities—making them more resilient, inclusive, and livable for all.

VIENTIANE, LAO PDR



1.1 AMF Logo



The AMF logo incorporates three distinct colors-blue, red, and yellow-reflecting the ASEAN emblem. Red symbolises courage vitality, blue and represents harmony and stability, and yellow signifies prosperity. The design features two curved lines merging with a central oval, forming a dynamic globe that illustrates the interconnectedness of these elements in shaping a unified ASEAN Community.

1.2 AMF Objectives

The AMF strives to:

- Encourage stakeholders in all levels of government, legislature, and civil society to support the principles of fair public participation, good governance, the rule of law, and subsidiarity in their respective countries.
- Contribute to civic awareness and education through campaigns, media engagement, and knowledge sharing in the context of local governance in ASEAN.
- Advocate commitments to global agenda in complementarity with ASEAN purposes and principles enshrined in ASEAN Charter and other relevant declarations and issuances.
- Promote cooperation among local governments, recognising the role of cities, economic growth and environmental sustainability, in support of the ASEAN integration.



Activity Highlights

2.1 ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) 2024

Vientiane Capital Administration, Lao PDR, 18-19 September 2024

2.1.1 Overview

The ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) 2024, hosted by the Vientiane Capital-Administration, Lao PDR, took place from 18 to 19 September 2024, marking a pivotal moment for urban development in the region. Under the theme "Enhancing Connectivity & Resilience for Sustainable Development of ASEAN Cities", the forum convened mayors, governors, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, UN representatives, ASEAN Ambassadors, urban planners, related ministries, and key stakeholders. Their active participation highlighted the growing importance of city-level leadership in addressing urban challenges and contributing to regional integration and sustainable development.

Initiated by the Indonesian government in 2011 and overseen by UCLG ASPAC, the AMF has become a central platform for cities and local governments to address regional challenges. Accredited as an ASEAN entity in 2018, the AMF aligns with ASEAN's broader goals. Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC, which serves as the host of AMF Secretariat, emphasised the



forum's alignment with the 2024 ASEAN Chairmanship theme of "Connectivity & Resilience" and its support for ASEAN's Community Vision 2045. She highlighted the vital role that cities and local governments play in implementing fostering resilience, policies, addressing key challenges / such urbanisation, climate change, and socioeconomic disparities.

This year's forum theme resonated strongly with Lao PDR's Chairmanship of ASEAN, which focuses on strengthening regional connectivity and resilience amid a disruptive global landscape. H.E. Mr. Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR, underscored the significance of urban connectivity and resilience for

ASEAN's future. He emphasised that Lao PDR aims to transition from a land-locked to a land-linked country, serving as a hub for regional integration. This vision aligns with Lao PDR's goal of contributing to ASEAN's resilience and ability to respond effectively to future challenges.

ASEAN is developing its Community Vision 2045, where smart and sustainable urban development is a key strategic priority. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN, stressed the critical role of cities in driving socio-economic progress and addressing challenges. He noted

that investments in smart infrastructure, clean transportation, and technology-driven solutions are vital for building inclusive cities that benefit all. Platforms like the ASEAN Mayors Forum, ASEAN Smart Cities Network, and the Meeting of Governors/Mayors of ASEAN Capitals will be essential in fostering collaboration and promoting sustainable urban development beyond 2025.

During the meeting, AMF/MGMAC delegates participated in five parallel sessions focusing on 1) Sustainable and liveable cities, 2) Green tourism, 3) Sustainable economic development, 4) Environmentally sustainable cities, and 5) Climate resilience. These sessions offered valuable insights, including the need for local governments to leverage technology, invest in human and natural capital, and promote collaboration with academic institutions and international organisations. Data-driven governance and community engagement were also highlighted as critical to fostering resilience and sustainability in urban environments.

One of the forum's major outcomes was the adoption of the Vientiane Declaration 2024, which outlines shared commitments toward improving urban governance, promoting inclusivity, and building sustainable cities. The declaration reflects the collaborative spirit of the forum and its vision for ASEAN cities. Additionally, it was announced that the ASEAN Mayors Forum will be renamed the ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum (AGMF), recognising the evolving role of governors and mayors in shaping urban governance.



Governor of Vientiane Capital Administration, Mr. Athsaphangthong Siphandone, emphasised that local governments play a crucial role in building the **ASEAN** Community. Platforms like AMF and MGMAC provide opportunities for collaboration and innovation, enabling cities to address shared challenges and create vibrant, resilient urban spaces.

As ASEAN forges ahead with its Community Vision 2045, the close collaboration between local governments, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community Vision 2045 will be crucial. Local governments will continue to play a central role in shaping ASEAN's future, ensuring that the region's cities are inclusive, resilient, and equipped to face the challenges and opportunities of the future.





2.1.2 Plenary Session I Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience for Sustainable Development of ASEAN Cities



Connectivity is more than just technology. It requires transportation infrastructure, regulatory awareness, and cultural and social ties. Our goal is to improve public services, streamline registration across ASEAN, boost tourism, and strengthen cultural and social interactions

Mr. Athsaphanthong Siphandone Governor of Vientiane Capital Administration

Local governments play a key role in strategic plans, particularly in the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan (ACSP), which focuses on building resilient, smart cities and fostering people-to-people connectivity. 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.



Ambassador Elizabeth BuensucesoFormer Vice Minister and Eminent Person of the Philippines to the HLTF-ACV 2045

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. Reflecting the ASEAN Villages Network, it is not only cities but also rural areas of ASEAN that should not be left behind.



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

Mr. Dakila Carlo C

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.

Mr. Dakila Carlo CuaPresident of UCLG ASPAC and Governor of Quirino Province

All in all, everything has been done digitally. Digitalisation has narrowed the gap between the urban and rural areas.



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



The vision for the city until 2040 is to focus on environmental protection and develop as a green city. 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.

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

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.



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



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

Key Po

Quirino Province, together with Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), will host the workshop on the localisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.



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".

ints of eeting AMF Vientiane Declaration 2024 was amended to include inputs from participants and approved.

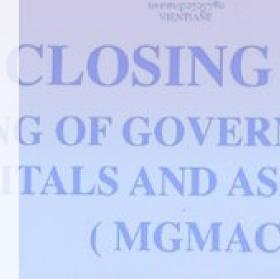
Kuala Lumpur will host the AMF and MGMAC 2025.

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

2.1.4 AMF 2024 DECLARATION

City and local government leaders have reaffirmed their commitment to regional collaboration by issuing the AMF 2024 Vientiane Declaration on 19 September 2024. ASEAN Mayors and Governors formally presented the declaration, which outlines key priorities to drive ASEAN cities and local governments toward smart, digital, and transformative growth.

Aligned with the ASEAN Community 2025 agenda, the declaration also emphasises the role of local governments in fostering sustainable urban development, with the goal of enhancing connectivity and resilience for the development of ASEAN cities. After its adoption, the AMF Declaration was submitted to the ASEAN Country Permanent Representatives (CPRs) and the ASEAN Secretariat for further consideration.



19 SEPTEMBER 20.













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.

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- 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 naturebased strategies, expanding green spaces and greening initiatives, developing multihazard early warning system, and engaging international organisations.
- 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.
- Harmonise local policies with regional aspirations by enhancing cooperation among ASEAN cities and local governments.
- 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.



2.1.5 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.





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.

Name Change **Key Reasons**

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.

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.

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.

Reflecting the Diversity of ASEAN Governance System

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 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. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.



2.2 Second Urban Mekong Corridor Dialogue:
Connecting Rapidly Growing Towns and Cities for Inclusive
Green Development
Physom Park Cambodia 5, 6 December 2024

Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 5-6 December 2024

The cities and towns along the Mekong River face pressing challenges such as rapid population growth, rural-to-urban migration, and the impacts of climate change. The challenges require a cross-border approach to urban planning that balances economic development with environmental sustainability and social equity. Addressing these issues calls for regional cooperation to ensure sustainable, long-term growth for the cities and towns along the river.

The Urban Mekong Corridor Initiative (UMCI) is the first platform dedicated to connecting the region's rapidly growing cities and towns, fostering inclusive green development. The initiative aims to tackle urbanisation, environmental sustainability, and social equity challenges, ensuring that the cities along

the Mekong River grow in a way that is both environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive.

The UMCI Dialogues, led by Cities Alliance in partnership with the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) and United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC), aim to promote regional collaboration and knowledge sharing. The initiative also focuses on integrating gender and climate considerations in urban planning, encouraging women's leadership in climate adaptation strategies. During the 2024 ASEAN Mayors Forum, the **UMCI** incorporated into the 2025 Action Plan, boosting its visibility and potential for future collaboration and support.



The Second Urban Mekong Corridor Dialogue

The Second UMCI, held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 5-6 December 2024, marked a significant step toward promoting sustainable and inclusive urban development along the Mekong River. Hosted by the National League of Local Councils of Cambodia (NLC) and Phnom Penh Capital Administration, the event gathered key leaders and stakeholders from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, and international development partners to tackle shared urban challenges.

The second dialogue focused on advancing solid waste and plastic management, and nature-based solutions. It was designed to further strengthen regional collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the capacity of cities to implement inclusive green growth initiatives.

Around 80 participants came to the meeting, including representatives from local governments in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam, as well as national ministries and local civil society organisations that foster collaborative efforts with local governments, regional governance bodies, and international development partners.

Collaborative Efforts and Shared Vision

The UMCI embodies a collective commitment to addressing the complex challenges of rapid urbanisation, environmental sustainability, and social equity in the region. The dialogue continued the efforts set forth by the first meeting in Vientiane, Lao PDR, highlighting the pressures from population growth, rural-to-urban migration, and climate change. The discussions emphasised specific environmental challenges, such as solid waste management in the Mekong Delta, where waste generation and collection rates pose major hurdles.

Participants explored strategies for advanced solid waste management and the integration of nature-based solutions (NbS), with the aim of creating actionable strategies for inclusive and green urban development. As the urban population in the Mekong River Basin is expected to reach 40 million by 2050, discussions on enhancing connectivity and regional collaboration were seen as essential to fostering sustainable growth, resource efficiency, and shared resilience.

Regional Challenges and Opportunities

One key management challenge highlighted in the dialogue is the availability of reliable data and information to support effective management of the Mekong River Basin. The Mekong River Commission (MRC) has been actively supporting its Member Countries in data collection but gaps remain, especially regarding hydropower operations and solid waste management. Accurate data on riverine macro and microplastics is crucial for informed decision-making. The MRC aims to integrate monitoring of these pollutants into its Core River Monitoring Network, with funding secured for 2025 and 2026, to enhance the capacity for sustainable monitoring of plastic waste.

Sustainable Waste Management and the Circular Economy

The dialogue also underscored the importance of a systems approach to waste management. Mr. Steve Long, UMCI Senior Advisor, emphasised that managing waste through reduction, reuse, and recycling is key to minimising environmental impact. The region's focus on circular economy principles can transform waste management challenges into opportunities for sustainable growth. This vision was reinforced by Mr. Lim Ymeng from Battambang Provincial Hall, who shared successful NbS practices, such as the "One House One Tree Initiative" and upgraded drainage systems, which align urban growth with environmental preservation.

Key Achievements and Progress

Since its inception, the UMCI platform has facilitated several milestones, including discussions for potential loans to support urban waste management projects and strengthened partnerships with the Mekong River Commission and Bloomberg Philanthropies. The dialogue also resulted in a transformative grant for Phnom Penh, enabling a consortium of local governments and civil society to deliver essential services to vulnerable communities.

As discussions continue, a clear focus on integrating gender and climate considerations in urban planning was evident. The dialogue explored practical strategies, such as circular economy practices and NbS, to address urban challenges, ensuring the region's cities become resilient, inclusive, and sustainable urban centers. The UMCI network has expanded, building regional solidarity and enhancing collaboration.



Conclusion

The Second Urban Mekong Corridor Dialogue was an incredibly fruitful and inspiring event marked by productive discussions, valuable insights, and strengthened partnerships.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the National League of Local Councils (NLC) and the Phnom Penh Capital Administration for their exceptional hospitality and flawless organisation. The event was greatly enriched by the cultural experiences shared, including the memorable dinner along the Mekong River. Thanks are also extended to our partners for their support and invaluable expertise in addressing the challenges of urbanisation and climate resilience.



(Lao PDR), inaugurated in September 2024.

The meeting also addressed the need to localise the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. This initiative emphasises the critical role local governments play in supporting ASEAN's strategic objectives, with Quirino Province leading the first session on this subject. Building on this commitment, the AGMF 2025 will include a citypairing session to enhance collaboration and resilience among ASEAN cities. These initiatives aim to ensure that local governments can effectively contribute to ASEAN's broader goals while fostering stronger regional partnerships.

Further, AGMF City Pairing Collaboration between local governments and the ASEAN Secretariat is essential for achieving the Community Vision 2045. Concerning inclusivity and resilience in ASEAN cities to address future challenges, an ASEAN City Pairing Session will be added to the AGMF 2025 agenda.

Suggestions from the meeting included establishing pilot projects to support small-scale development on relevant regional issues, enhancing the AMF Secretariat's positioning to advocate for a Local Government Unit within the ASEAN framework, compiling a publication of best practices for ASEAN cities, and implementing city-pairing activities to foster closer ties among local governments.

The SEA Committee meeting underscored the dedication of local governments to advance regional development and resilience. Through strategic partnerships, pilot initiatives, and city-pairing programs, SEA Committee members are aligned with ASEAN's vision of a secure, inclusive, and sustainable future for the region.



Survey results from the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency or *Badan Pengawas Obat dan Makanan (BPOM)* in 2014 showed that 35% of foods did not meet nutritional and health standard requirements in Indonesia. Good nutritional intake at schools is needed so that students have good growth, health, and intellectual abilities. As awareness of the importance of student nutrition and health increases, access to healthy and green schools is needed to promote healthy lifestyle patterns among students. Therefore, a healthy and green school campaign can be seen as an investment in improving students' healthy lifestyles.

A pilot project on women's and children's health supported by Guangzhou was implemented in 4 different elementary schools (SD Inpres Suwaan, SD Inpres Sarongsong 1, SD Negeri Maen, SD Negeri Tamba) and 1 junior school (SMP Negeri 2 Airmadidi) in North Minahasa Regency, Indonesia. The project provided healthy food stalls and clean water sources (wells) to support the healthy and green school project implementation.



Distributing healthy food stalls could be a great way to promote a nutritious lifestyle and cater to students seeking healthier eating options. Further, clean water is a vital natural resource needed for daily activities of schools in North Minahasa and supports the Green School Project. Sustainable management of food stalls and groundwater resources is essential to support daily school hygiene activities, ensuring its health sustainability for the school societies.

At the start of the project inauguration, and as part of the warm hospitality, participants were welcomed with an opening dance, followed by speeches from the schools and other distinguished guests. The inauguration concluded with a ribbon-cutting ceremony symbolising the school's commitment to the Healthy and Green School Project. The event ended with participants enjoying local delicacies from North Minahasa.

To further commemorate the inauguration of the Healthy Schools Project for the five targeted schools in North Minahasa, plaques and certificates were presented to the five headmasters during the opening session of the Likupang Tourism Festival 2024.

Integrating healthy and green practices into schools with healthy food stalls and clean water resources will teach the students the importance of environmental stewardship. From healthy food, to waste management, it sets an example for

generations to have a conducive environment, promote students' health and well-being and respect for our planet. The Healthy and Green School Project is not just about building better schools; it is about building a better future, and creating a world where students can thrive in a healthy environment into and grow conscientious, and responsible human beings.



2.5 The 8th ASEAN Entities Forum 2024

Fostering the Spirit of Collaboration and Partnership between ASEAN and its centres and entities

Jakarta, 14 May 2024

The 8th ASEAN Entities Forum was successfully held on 14 May 2024 at the ASEAN Headquarters in Jakarta, Indonesia. It brought together a diverse group of ASEAN entities, including representatives from business leaders, civil society organisations, and youth leaders from the region. The Forum, supported by the German Federal Government, focused on fostering a spirit of collaboration and partnership between ASEAN and its Centres and Entities.

The morning session was opened with a remark from the Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, who emphasised the role of ASEAN entities in transforming challenges into opportunities through collaboration. Further, the Secretary-General mentioned that the entities need to update one another since they carry the objective of ASEAN to the ground. The Secretary-General focused on 6Cs on the entity's collaboration: Commitment to ASEAN, Contribution, and Community carries lots of duties, Cooperation and Collaboration, Consensus on what makes ASEAN different from other organisations, and communication among partners and people.

The Forum continued with a remark from H.E. Amb. Bovonethat Douangchak, Chair of CPR, and Permanent Representative of Lao PDR to ASEAN on ASEAN Chairmanship 2024 Priority and plans for the upcoming year.

Director Mr Lee Yoong Yoong moderated the interface session and provided the entities with insights on the Lao-ASEAN Chairmanship theme, connectivity, and resilience. The distinguished speakers for the sessions are H.E. Dato' Astanah Abdul Aziz, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Political-Security Community, and H.E. Nararya S. Soeprapto, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Community & Corporate Affairs.



H.E. Dato Astanah Abdul Aziz emphasised that ASEAN places a strong focus on addressing the everyday conditions and recognition of its people. To become effective ASEAN entities, it is essential to refer to the ASEAN pillars as guidance. ASEAN provides a platform for entities to come together and coordinate with various stakeholders. Some entities have taken full advantage of these opportunities by maximising collaboration and taking extra steps to understand how member states can benefit from ASEAN mechanisms.

Meanwhile, H.E. Nararya S. Soeprapto highlighted that communication is fundamental to presenting perspectives and addressing issues. Entities must work more closely together to achieve the SDGs by being more topical and strategic in their engagement with ASEAN.

The afternoon session continued with presentations from three selected entities—the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR), the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), and the ASEAN Foundation—on finding common ground and building collaboration to tackle shared challenges. The showcased projects highlighted innovative solutions and successful initiatives across the region. These presentations demonstrated the tangible impact of joint efforts and inspired participants with fresh ideas.

The Forum concluded with an interactive networking session that allowed participants to get to know one another better, share experiences, and explore potential collaborations. These networking opportunities were valuable for establishing and strengthening partnerships.

Attending the ASEAN Entities Forum provided meaningful insights into the collaborative efforts required to address regional challenges. The Forum facilitated dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and partnership-building among diverse entities. Moving forward, the commitments and strategies discussed will be crucial in advancing regional integration, connectivity, resilience, and sustainable development. Overall, the Forum marked a significant step toward fostering a more integrated, resilient, sustainable, and inclusive ASEAN region.





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Insight on ASEAN

3.1 Supporting Malaysian-ASEAN Chairmanship 2025:

A Year of Unity and Progress

Vientiane Capital Adminitstration, Lao PDR, 18-19 September 2024

RS/MA

UCLG ASPAC, as the Secretariat of the AMF, took note of the transition of ASEAN Chairmanship from Lao PDR to Malaysia in 2025, symbolically marked by the passing of the gavel to Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim during the Closing Ceremony of the ASEAN Summit in Vientiane on 11 October 2024.

AMF 2

The AGMF congratulates Malaysia on assuming the Chairmanship and looks forward to exploring collaboration opportunities to support the success of ASEAN Chairmanship 2025 and contribute to the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.



The Logo and Theme for ASEAN Chairmanship 2025

Malaysia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs unveiled the official logo and theme for its Chairmanship. The theme, "Inclusivity and Sustainability", reflects Malaysia's aspirations for fostering a unified and prosperous ASEAN. The logo was inspired by Malaysia's national flower, the Hibiscus rosa-sinensis, and encapsulated ASEAN's identity and values.



The hibiscus design features five petals curving inward toward the ASEAN emblem, symbolising Malaysia's dedication to fostering peace, stability, and sustainable development across the region. At the centre, the ASEAN logo emphasises the concept of ASEAN centrality, reaffirming the bloc's pivotal role as a regional framework for unity and collaboration. The encircling petals represent the collective resolve to achieve long-term sustainability. The logo's colours—blue, red, yellow, and white—mirror the flags of ASEAN member states, further emphasising the spirit of unity. Malaysia's Foreign Minister also reiterated the country's unwavering commitment to ensuring that ASEAN remains a free, peaceful, and neutral entity amidst complex global dynamics.

Malaysia's upcoming Chairmanship marks its fifth time leading ASEAN, following previous tenures in 1977, 1997, 2005, and 2015. With a wealth of experience, the Malaysian government is well-prepared to guide the region effectively. The administration has demonstrated its readiness to host and manage ASEAN's key initiatives, ensuring a meaningful and impactful tenure.

As ASEAN Chair, Malaysia will oversee significant events and policy advancements, including the culmination of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. This milestone year provides an opportunity to reflect on the bloc's achievements since the Vision's inception and to outline strategic goals for the future.



The ASEAN Chairmanship is both a symbolic and practical platform for advancing regional cooperation. For Malaysia, it offers an opportunity to demonstrate leadership on the global stage while aligning member states toward shared goals. As Chair, Malaysia will steer ASEAN through a year of transformative initiatives, leveraging its experience and commitment to collaboration.

Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2025 holds the promise of unity, progress, and sustainability. Guided by its theme and symbolised by the Hibiscus-inspired logo, Malaysia is poised to lead initiatives that strengthen resilience, foster inclusive growth, and address emerging challenges. The smooth handover from Lao PDR reflects the continuity of ASEAN's shared vision, while Malaysia's preparedness and dedication position it as a capable and visionary leader.

As ASEAN enters this pivotal year, the Chairmanship underscores the importance of unity in diversity and the collective ambition of its member states to create a peaceful, stable, and prosperous region for all.





Workshop Highlights and Key Discussions

The workshop opened with remarks by H.E. Bovonethat Douangchak, Permanent Representative of Lao PDR to ASEAN, and H.E. Tiffany Anne McDonald, Ambassador of Australia to ASEAN. Facilitators from Ernst & Young (EY), led by Bingxun Seng, directed the discussions, which emphasised inclusivity and strategic alignment.

Discussions were enriched through interactive polls, Q&A sessions, and stakeholder contributions. Participants, including ASEAN Member States, private entities, and external partners, emphasised shared ownership and collaboration in advancing ASEAN's connectivity goals.

6 Strategic
Areas of
ASEAN
Connectivity

Sustainable Infrastructure

Focus on cross-border planning, investment in resilient infrastructure, and sustainable transport solutions

Smart and Sustainable Urban Development

Emphasis on climate resilience, rural transformation, and collaborative urban planning

Digital Innovation

Promotion of digital inclusion, cybersecurity, and crossborder data flow

Seamless Logistics and Supply Chain

Strategies to address infrastructure disparities, regulatory harmonisation, and supply chain resilience

Regulatory Excellence and Cooperation

Encouraging effective regulatory practices and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) compliance for regional trade and investment

People-to-People Connectivity

Strengthening education exchanges, mobility, and fostering a sense of ASEAN Identity

Statement from Ms. Noraini Roslani

Representing UCLG ASPAC/AMF, Mayor. Noraini Roslan highlighted the critical role of local governments in ASEAN's connectivity efforts:

- Involving them from the design stage of the Connectivity Master Plan ensures local needs and challenges are addressed.
 - Local governments are instrumental in improving infrastructure, economic transactions, and digital connectivity.
 - Connectivity also involves building community capacity, embracing new technologies, and educating the younger generation.
 - Engaging local governments would significantly contribute to ASEAN's vision of an integrated and resilient region.



Ms. Noraini Roslan KLANG Royal City Council Mayor

Looking Ahead

The workshop concluded with a session on strengthening partnerships and enablers for



ACSP implementation. Proposals included improving communication channels, aligning resources, and mobilising support from all stakeholders.

This collaborative workshop marked a significant milestone in ASEAN's journey toward a more connected and sustainable future. By addressing challenges and leveraging collective strengths, ASEAN is well-positioned to advance its vision for an integrated, resilient, and inclusive community.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in International Mayors Forum 2024 Jakarta, Indonesia, 2-4 July 2024

To achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there needs to be acceleration in progress within cities and urban areas or more commonly known as SDG localisation. SDG localisation is the process of transforming the SDGs into reality at the local level, in coherence with national development frameworks and in line with local communities' priorities. Localisation become such an important issue as it is a pathway to make a SDG's progress and also to turn global aspirations into a concrete results at the local level.

In 2023, the United Nations Sustainable Development Group identified "Six Key Transitions: Investment Pathways to Achieve the SDGs" which includes food systems, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, and climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. All these key transitions are essential for SDGs localisation, which need an enhanced cooperation between international organisations and local governments.

The International Mayors Forum was organised by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs together with the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, represented by the Special Region of Jakarta, and also in collaboration with the United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific and the Local 2030 Coalition. The event was held in Grand Hyatt, Jakarta from 2 to 4 July 2024. The International Mayors Forum 2024 become a platform for high-level political forum where all participants, such as international organisation's representative, regional and local governments, shared experiences and had dialogue that focused on the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the local level.





Hon. Ms. Noraini Roslan, Mayor of Klang, talked about the progresses, gaps and challenges of implementing SDGs in Klang.

ASEAN's Leader Representative at the International Mayors Forum 2024

Ms. Noraini Roslan, Mayor of Klang, Malaysia, attended the forum and discussed the progress, gaps, and challenges in implementing the SDGs at the local level. She highlighted Klang's urban sustainability performance based on the city's self-developed indicators, which have improved from 75% to 91%. Despite this progress, significant challenges remain, including non-revenue water loss, public transportation issues, and the water quality of the Klang River.

Data collection also remains one of the city's biggest challenges. She emphasised the need for a strong national-level institution to ensure accurate data within city boundaries for effective monitoring. As climate change becomes an increasing concern, the local government continues to work closely with manufacturers and industrial players to promote ESG practices.

To accelerate SDG implementation, Klang has introduced projects in housing areas focusing on waste separation and renewable energy use. By 2025, Klang aims to scale up this approach and implement 20 similar projects.



Ms. Tavida Kamolvej, Deputy Governor of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, Thailand, and Mr. Ngo Trung Hai, General Secretary of the Association of Cities of Viet Nam, spoke on Leveraging the Six Key Transitions: Investment Pathways to Achieve the SDGs Locally – Digital Government, Smart Cities and Inclusion. Ms. Tavida highlighted Bangkok's ambition to become a 'Smart City', focusing on communication literacy, technological digitisation, and maintaining necessary analog systems to better understand asymmetry, complexity, and uncertainty in the urban environment. She emphasised the importance of digitising services while also providing lifelong learning opportunities, ensuring public safety, addressing climate change, and promoting greener urban spaces. One notable initiative is the campaign to plant one million trees within four years to create a healthier city.



To make the city smarter and more responsive, Bangkok is improving local services through active citizenship and stronger accountability. Service performance is tracked in real time, and the resulting data is used for assessments and staff promotions. Ultimately, the goal is to make the SDGs 'owned' by everyone—accessible and understandable to all residents.

Mr. Ngo Trung Hai, General Secretary of the Association of Cities of Viet Nam, stated that cities across Viet Nam are prioritising sustainable and resilient urban and rural governance to ensure safe living and working environments for all, including both high-income and low-income populations. The government aims to ensure that vulnerable groups—such as the elderly, women, children, and people with disabilities—have access to affordable housing and basic services.

Currently, many people still live in small or substandard housing rather than in newly developed urban housing projects, which often cater to high-income residents. As a result, there is a need for affordable housing units to accommodate approximately two million people. To achieve this, the government plans to implement incentive policies, including landuse fee exemptions, infrastructure support around housing projects, and low-interest loans.

One key housing development project is in Ha Long City, where affordable housing has been developed with free land use for developers. To incorporate the smart city concept into housing development, it is essential to integrate natural, physical, digital, and service infrastructures through collaborative planning and implementation.

Mr. Ngo Trung Hai, General Secretary of Association of Cities of Viet Nam, talked about having a sustainable and resilient urban and rural governance to ensure safe living and working environments.





The fourth panel discussed about triple planetary crisis and the just energy transition.

Another ASEAN representative is Mr. Gregório da Cunha Saldanha, Mayor of Dili, Timor-Leste. He addressed the importance of energy transition for SDG localisation. Mr. Gregório da Cunha Saldanha stated that Timor Leste is strongly committed to addressing environmental issues. The government has established policies and frameworks to support local efforts, such as regulations aimed at reducing plastic waste and pollution and changing it into valuable resources. There is also a specific policy that focuses on controlling imports and transport of hazardous materials. Timor Leste

aims for its people's awareness and active participation in preserving environment as a pathway to social and economic development. In particular, Timor Leste promote the use of renewable energy sources, such as hydroelectric energy production, solar energy initiatives and biomass energy projects. The change to renewable energy is a vital tool for achieving sustainability and economic growth simultaneously.



Hon. Mr. Gregório da Cunha Saldanha, Mayor of Dili, Timor Leste addressed the importance of energy transition for SDG localisation.

The International Mayors Forum 2024 served as a crucial platform for highlighting the importance of SDG localisation. The forum showcased the progress and implementation of the SDGs in cities around the world. Notable leaders from ASEAN countries—such as Malaysia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam—shared their experiences, strategies, and challenges in advancing the SDGs at the local level.

Mayor Noraini Roslan highlighted Klang's progress in urban sustainability despite ongoing internal challenges. Ms. Tavida Kamolvej outlined Bangkok's vision of becoming a "Smart City", driven by active citizen participation. Mr. Ngo Trung Hai emphasised the need for sustainable and resilient urban and rural governance in Viet Nam, with a focus on affordable housing development. Meanwhile, Mr. Gregório da Cunha Saldanha underscored the importance of renewable energy sources in promoting environmental sustainability and economic development.

Overall, the discussions and dialogues at the International Mayors Forum 2024 demonstrated strong cooperation between international organisations and local governments in accelerating SDG localisation, reinforcing their shared commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda for SDGs.





The project established an indoor children's playground at Xaythany Hospital, District providing opportunities for learning, cognitive stimulation, and entertainment. The playground aimed to also support doctors in building better communication and relationships with young patients through toys thereby improving games, consultation process. By focusing on comfort, distraction, and engagement, the project aimed to enhance not only children's experience but also the overall healthcare journey of their families.

This pilot project at Xaythany District Hospital in Vientiane was successfully launched as part of the 2024 ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) / Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC) in Vientiane on 20 September 2024. By establishing a children's playground in the Vientiane Mother and Child Hospital, the project underscores our commitment to advancing the SDGs, particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

Through this project, we aimed to create a lasting positive 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. The playground is expected to inspire further efforts to create child-friendly spaces in hospitals across the region—places where children can feel safe, happy, and supported.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Vientiane Capital Administration, the Ministry of Health of Lao PDR, and the hospital management for their dedication and hard work in making this project a success.

AMF Digital Platform

4.1 AMF Mayoral Video



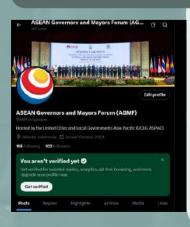
To highlight the participating mayors at AMF/MGMAC 2024, a dedicated video profile was produced. Together with other promotional materials such as advertisements, pamphlets, reports, and social media content, the video represents a key medium for introducing the mayors and enhancing the visibility of the Forum, while drawing broader attention to the AMF network. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UhD6VpppQ4&t=2s

4.2 AMF Webpage



A dedicated AMF page highlights the Forum's activities and initiatives, serving as a central hub of information. It features AMF's mission, history, and a variety of digital content, including articles, blog posts, and videos. As a multifunctional platform, it strengthens AMF's online presence, enhances brand visibility, engages cities, and supports the dissemination of relevant content. Overall, this page plays a vital role in advancing the Forum's objectives in the digital era. https://uclg-aspac.org/amf/

4.3 AMF Social Media



X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram serve as key social media platforms for AMF to strengthen its digital presence, broaden engagement with ASEAN cities and local governments, and advance its communication goals. These platforms enable real-time interaction, allowing AMF to respond to inquiries, provide support, and collect feedback, thereby fostering closer regional connections. In addition, they create opportunities for networking and collaboration among ASEAN's cities and local governments.

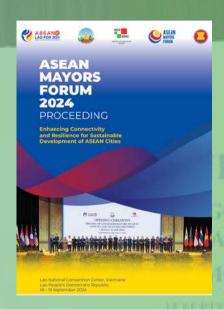
https://x.com/AMF_uclgaspac

https://instagram.com/aseangovernorsandmayorsforum

AMF Knowledge Management

5.1 Proceeding AMF 2024

A proceeding report of AMF 2024 was produced by the AMF Secretariat following the completion of the AMF meeting held in Phnom Penh on September 18-19, 2024. This proceeding highlighted the flow of the meetings, people involved, results and the conclusions of the meeting. Additionally, it works effectively to foster memorable experiences, trust, and increased AMF involvement in ASEAN cities and local governments. This proceeding has been printed and distributed both electronically and in print, to ASEAN Secretariat, participants, and members of UCLG ASPAC/AMF.



5.2 AMF-UNCDF Thematic Case Study Report

The cooperation between the UCLG ASPAC/AMF Secretariat and UNCDF aims to implement the Smart Green ASEAN Cities (SGAC) project. This ASEAN-wide initiative promotes sustainable urbanisation, reduces environmental impact, and enhances the quality of life for citizens across ASEAN cities. Its specific goal is to encourage the adoption of green and smart city solutions throughout the region.

As part of this effort, three thematic short case studies were developed to highlight smart and green urban development practices in ASEAN. Each case study featured two examples of city best practices from different ASEAN Member States to ensure regional balance and representation.

Scope of Study Term 1

- Climate-smart and Sustainable Infrastructure
- Waste Management
- Green Spaces and Urban Biodiversity

Scope of Study Term 2

- Air pollution and Clean Urban Transport Solutions
- Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
- · Water and Sanitation

5.3 AMF Proceedings



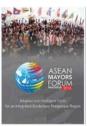




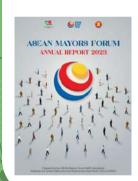




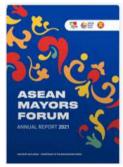




5.4 AMF Annual Reports











5.5 AMF Leaflet







7 AMF Timeline

1st ASEAN Mayors Forum, 24-25 October 2011

ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations Surabaya Communiqué

2nd ASEAN Mayors Forum, 9-11 September 2015

Adoptive and Intelligent Cities for an Integrated Borderless Prosperous Region Makassar Declaration 3rd ASEAN Mayors Forum, 26-27 July 2017

50 Years of ASEAN: Empowering Communities for a Stronger Region Taguig Action Agenda

4th ASEAN Mayors Forum, 7 July 2018

Building Sustainable and Smart Development in ASEAN Cities and Regions



ASEAN Mayors Forum Accreditation, August 2018

AMF received an accreditation from ASEAN

5th ASEAN Mayors Forum, 28 August 2019

Driving Local Actions for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

6th ASEAN Mayors Forum, 29-30 June 2021

ASEAN Mayors Forum Special Event (Plus China and India): Enabling Environment on Climate Resilience Cities Commitment to Tackle Climate Change

7th ASEAN Mayors Forum Consultative Meeting, 6-7 October 2022

Achieving Smart, Resilient, and Sustainable Urbanisation through ASEAN Cooperation in the New Normal

8th ASEAN Mayors Forum, 2-3 December 2022

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



AC & AMP

9th ASEAN Mayors Forum, 1-2 August 2023

ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth Catalysing Regional Growth through Sustainable Development in ASEAN cities Jakarta Declaration

10th ASEAN Mayors Forum, 18-19 September 2024

Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience for Sustainable Development of ASEAN Cities Vientiane Declaration

7.

AMF Partnership

7.1 ASEAN Secretariat

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



7.2 AIMF

The Association Internationale des Maires Francophones (AIMF) mobilises collective action to champion visionary and accountable policy frameworks that advance an urban environment defined by greater attention to human wellbeing, ecological integrity, and the quality of life. Within this sphere, AIMF engages in collaborative initiatives that both serve community interests and chart new directions aimed at fostering social cohesion, equity, and the appreciation of diversity.



7.3 APPSI

The Asosiasi Pemerintah Provinsi Seluruh Indonesia (APPSI) functions as an association providing a platform for fostering collaboration and strategic partnerships among provincial governments, with particular emphasis on mutually beneficial engagements. In addition, it seeks to promote constructive relations between provincial authorities and the central government, thereby enhancing the effective implementation of regional governance and autonomy. These combined efforts are directed towards advancing socioeconomic development and ensuring equitable well-being across society.



7.4 APEKSI

The Asosiasi Pemerintah Kota Seluruh Indonesia (APEKSI) is an association that represents and unites municipal governments across Indonesia, serving as a strategic platform for strengthening cooperation, policy dialogue, and knowledge exchange among cities. APEKSI plays a pivotal role in advocating the interests of city governments at the national and international levels, particularly in matters related to urban governance, decentralisation, and sustainable development.



7.5 European Union

The UCLG World Secretariat received a grant aimed at supporting the activities of the UCLG Network, enhancing the capacities of local authorities, and reinforcing the global standing of local governments. UCLG and the European Commission (EC) entered into a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA), through which the European Commission provided UCLG with an Operating Grant.



7.6 GIZ

GIZ is a leading international organisation in sustainable development and education, with over 50 years of experience. It provides expertise in economic growth, labour markets, energy and the environment, conflict resolution, and security, serving as a trusted partner for the German Government, the European Union, the United Nations, and numerous national governments and private sector actors worldwide.



7.7 IKI

The International Climate Initiative (IKI) is a key instrument of the German Government's global climate finance commitment. To date, it has supported more than 950 projects focused on climate action and biodiversity conservation.



7.8 SGAC

The Smart Green ASEAN Cities (SGAC) initiative is a regional programme that supports ASEAN Member States in tackling the challenges of rapid urbanisation. It promotes the adoption of sustainable and innovative solutions, with a strong emphasis on digitalisation and advanced technologies.



7.9 UCLG ASPAC

UCLG ASPAC allocates resources to convene the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) annually as part of its Southeast Asia Standing Committee. As the only local government organisation recognised by the United Nations, UCLG ASPAC hosts the AMF, which remains the sole local government platform accredited by ASEAN.



7.10 UNCDF

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) mobilises public and private finance to support the world's least developed countries and assists local governments in developing projects aligned with the SDGs. UNCDF supported the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) 2022 in Cambodia and contributed as a speaker in the session on financing. This support formed part of the Smart Green ASEAN Cities project.



INTORNATION BOOM

7.11 UNESCAP

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) fosters economic cooperation within the region and between Asia and the wider world, while also strengthening economic growth across Asia and the Far East. At the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) 2022 in Phnom Penh, ESCAP moderated the session on Enabling Environment: Urban Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction, highlighting how local government initiatives contribute to the global agenda on urban resilience and disaster risk reduction.



Conclusion



The ASEAN Mayors Forum 2024 in Vientiane reaffirmed the indispensable role of cities and local governments as key drivers of ASEAN's future. Through the Vientiane Declaration and the transition to the ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum (AGMF), local leaders collectively expressed their commitment to advancing sustainable urbanisation, inclusive governance, and climate resilience in alignment with the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.

This milestone gathering demonstrated not only the strength of regional collaboration but also the determination of ASEAN cities and local governments to translate global aspirations into local action. As the baton passes to Kuala Lumpur for AGMF/MGMAC 2025, the Forum remains united in its mission to build a connected, resilient, and people-centred ASEAN—one where local leadership forms the foundation of regional prosperity, solidarity, and sustainability.

Annexes

9.1 AMF Declarations











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);

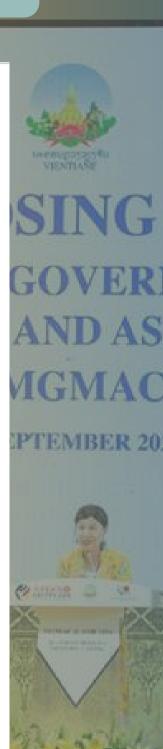
EMPHASISING the crucial contributions of ASEAN cities and local governments in advancing ASEAN's integration frameworks, including the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, while aligning with global agendas;

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.
- Harmonise local policies with regional aspirations by enhancing cooperation among ASEAN cities and local governments.
- 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.

9.1.1 Jakarta Declaration











Jakarta Declaration ASEAN Mayors Forum 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 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.

9.1.2 Phnom Penh Declaration











ASEAN Mayors Forum 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 thetheme "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 ASEANSecretariat, and hosted by the Phnom Penh Capital Administration, Kingdom of Cambodia, on 2^{red} and 3^{red} December 2022.

The Phnom Penh Declaration refers to and affirms the previous AMF outcome documents, including the Surabaya Communiqué 2011, Makassar Declaration 2015, Taguig ActionAgenda 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:

- 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.
- 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 theopportunity to engage in the development of the ASEAN Community Post-2025 Vision and ASEAN Connectivity Post-2025 Agenda.

- UNDERTAKE local actions founded on the complementarities of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 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.
- FACILITATE knowledge and technology transfer considering the local context and capabilities of cities and local governments.
- ENGAGE the youth and address youth unemployment through innovative programmes and projects.
- 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).
- ACKNOWLEDGE the important role of culture in sustainable development and promote policies and programmes that will support local culture and tourism sectors.
- IMPROVE enabling environment of cities and local governments, including access to finance, capacity building, and institutional framework.
- BUILD the technical capacities of city officials to ensure planning and implementation of sustainable urban development initiatives.
- ENSURE stability of local finance and the local economy in ASEAN cities and local governments.
- EMPOWER women towards greater contribution and involvement in local governance.
- INITIATE a collective action plan developed by ASEAN cities and local governments through AMF.
- PARTICIPATE actively in the upcoming ASEAN regional meetings and forums, including the AMF.
- 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.
- 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.

9.1.3 Bangkok Declaration



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONVINCED that local governments have to be at the forefront of climate action if we are to make transformative and far-reaching improvement on ecological system. We are mindful of the urgent need to scale up our work to protect vulnerable groups that have been affected by or exposed to the impacts of climate change and poor environmental conditions such as air pollution and rapid increase of marine debris. CONCERNED by the fact that our region is prone to natural disasters that can have catastrophic effects on people's lives and socio-economic development. We underlined the need to be better prepared for this challenge by enhancing the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) capabilities and expressed our support to the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region.

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

- 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;
- 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;
- Commit to building and strengthening our partnership to accelerate efforts, and to increase resources
 and commitments towards the implementation of this Declaration.

9.1.4 South Korea-Bangkok Joint Declaration



JOINT DECLARATION OF THE ASEAN-REPUBLIC OF KOREA MAYORS ON THE 30™ 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.

9.1.5 Taguig Action Agenda





TAGUIG ACTION AGENDA

Local Governments for a Stronger ASEAN

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

- 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;
- 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;
- 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 peoplecenteredness 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.

9.1.6 Makassar Declaration



Makassar Declaration on ASEAN Cities and Local Governments

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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:

- LOBBY for a stronger ASEAN Secretariat dealing with the local government issues, creating a specific unit to coordinate the regional action;
- 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 II "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.
- 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.
 - 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 9" of September 2015.

9.1.7 Surabaya Communique



Surabaya Communiqué 1st ASEAN City Mayors Forum, Surabaya, Indonesia, 24-25 October 2011

"ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations"

- 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.
- 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 21" 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 regionalties 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

9.2 AMF Acceptance Letter as ASEAN Entity



Ref. No.: CRD/Letter-General/2018/Vol.1/027

23 August 2018

Mayor Lani L. Cayetano

Interim Chairwoman of ASEAN Mayors Forum

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

Quezon City, Philippines 1110

THE PHILIPPINES

Dear Mayor Cayetano,

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

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

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

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

DATO LIN JOCK HOI



