

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



United Cities and Local Governments
Asia-Pacific



IGNITING A NEW DIRECTION

06 10th UCLG ASPAC Congress

18 Promoting Equal Leadership

34 New Members

FOREWORD



As UCLG ASPAC enters 2026, we do so with renewed clarity and confidence in the role of local and regional governments as shapers of sustainable development. The engagements of 2025—from Boracay to Goyang—affirmed that Asia-Pacific cities and local governments are advancing solutions grounded in cooperation and practical governance.

The launch of the Manifesto 2026–2030, anchored on the CORE principles of Collaboration, Openness, Resilience, and Empowerment, sets a focused road map for the years ahead. With the establishment of the CLG Institute, UCLG ASPAC strengthens its commitment to evidence-based decisions through researches that delivers lasting value for our communities.

Dakila Carlo Cua
President, UCLG ASPAC
(President, Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, Chairman, League of Provinces of the Philippines, and Governor, Province of Quirino, Republic of the Philippines)



When cities and regions thrive and prosper, so will the people. And we are glad that in 2025, we completed building foundation for local governments to move forward better, drive progress, and touch the lives of many.

Through our renewed Manifesto, UCLG ASPAC has refreshed its direction/path for five years ahead, ensuring our Organisation stay relevant to its core mission to support local governments, from enabling them to deliver essential services, foster civic engagement, to creating spaces for inclusion and innovation. Let us take the momentum to also refine our commitment to build forward stronger.

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi
Secretary General, UCLG ASPAC

TESTIMONIALS



This 10th UCLG ASPAC Congress,, is a place to find common solutions for multilayered and complex challenges facing humanity and to strengthen solidarity and cooperation. .. I believe this place will serve as a foundation for effective policies moving further beyond a simple declaration. Most importantly, the foundation of cooperation we are building through this Congress shouldn't be one-time stuff but should be the starting point of continuous solidarity.

Mr. Lee Dong-hwan
Mayor, Goyang City
Host City of the 10th
UCLG ASPAC Congress



“... it is very palpable that we, amongst Mayors and Governors, we all speak in unity, and this is a wonderful platform that under your leadership, the mayors and governors from the ASEAN member states come together and use the platform to share best practices and exchange ideas to also network and discuss about possible collaboration, especially leveraging digital technologies to improve lives of citizens. and for that, I want to thank you for leading and cheering the AGMF.”

Ms. Low Yen Ling
Senior Minister of State for the Ministry of Trade and Industry & Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, and Mayor of SouthWest District, Singapore
Delivered at the 2025 ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum



As a city that has long championed innovation and sustainability, Guangzhou is proud to stand with our partners in Boracay, Aklan, and UCLG ASPAC. We remain committed to supporting grassroots initiatives that bring the Sustainable Development Goals to life—especially in education, health, environment, and community resilience targeting women and children.

Mr. Changxiong Deng
Deputy Director General,
Guangzhou Foreign Affairs Office

UCLG ASPAC in Numbers and Commitments

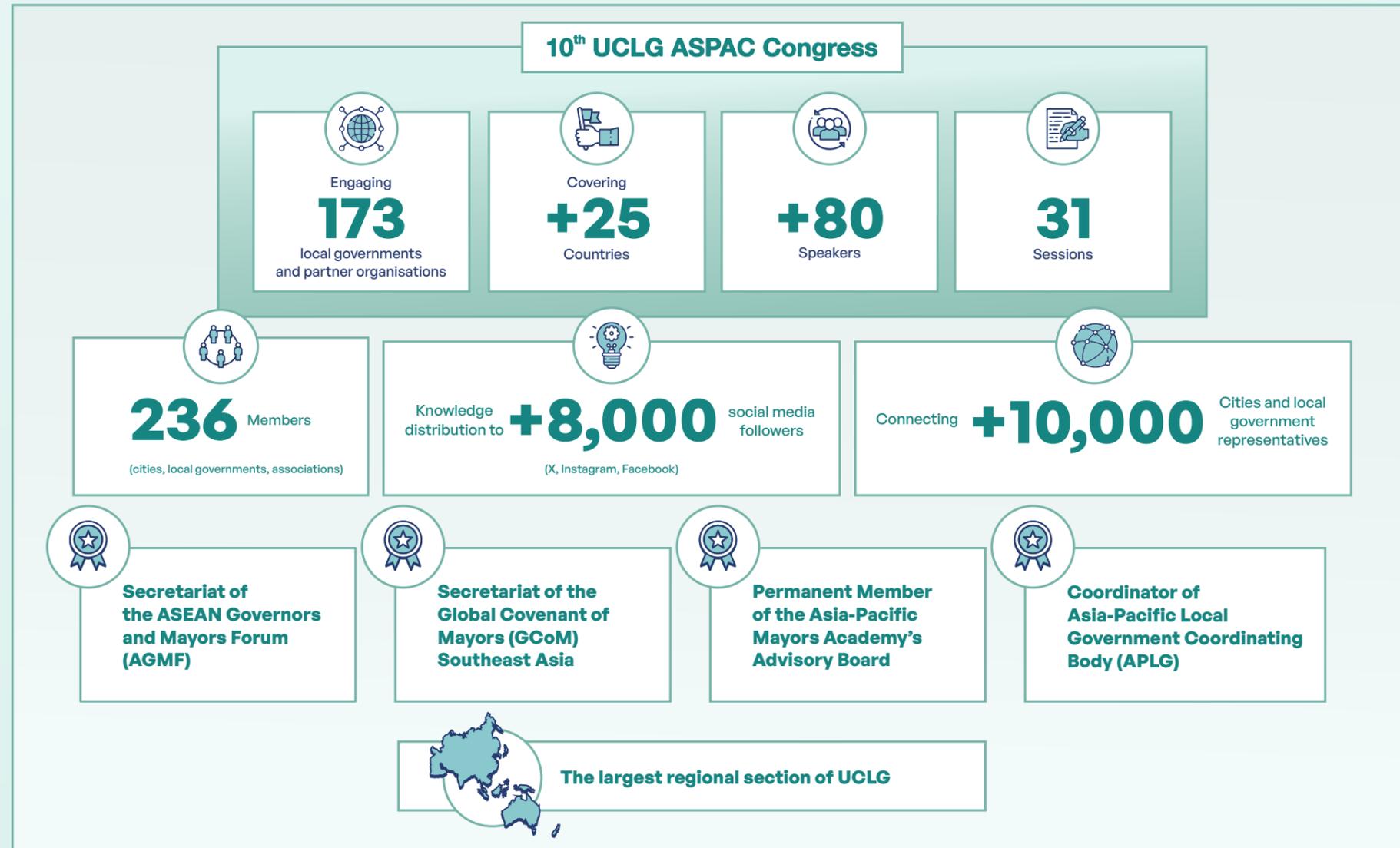


Table of Contents

6	10 th UCLG ASPAC Congress	26	Leaving Legacy in Sanitation
8	UCLG ASPAC Manifesto (2026-2030): Setting the Course on What's Next	30	Kalibaru Project: Support to Jakarta for Green Mussel Shell Waste Management
10	ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum 2025	32	Glimpse of Our Work Around the World in 2025
14	Launch of CLGI Asia-Pacific Secretariat Office: Strengthening Regional Urban Governance Leadership	34	New Members
16	Support to Local Governments towards Sustainable Development Goals	35	Knowledge Development Products
18	Promoting Equal Leadership	40	UCLG ASPAC Governing Body
20	Climate Bequest Opens New Paths for Cities	42	What's Next 2026



10th UCLG ASPAC Congress

- **Theme**
Sustainable Global Self-sufficient Cities and Regions for the Future
- **Date**
September 24-27, 2025
- **Host**
Goyang Special City, Republic of Korea, supported by Governors Association of the Republic of Korea (GARoK)



Highlights of the Congress

- 5 Topics** focusing on Job Creation, Youth Leadership, Energy Self-Sufficiency, Family-Friendly Cities, Urban Growth
- 31 Sessions** for Discussion, Networking, Knowledge Sharing
- 173** Local Governments and Partner Organisations
- 807** Delegates
- +80** Speakers
- +25** Countries



Results

- **Adoption of the Goyang Call for Action**
(Advance Economic Resilience and Job Creation, Foster Sustainable Urban Growth, Empower Youth Leadership, Accelerate Energy Self-Sufficiency, Promote Caring, Family-Friendly and Inclusive Cities)
- **Election of new leadership of UCLG ASPAC for 2025-2027**



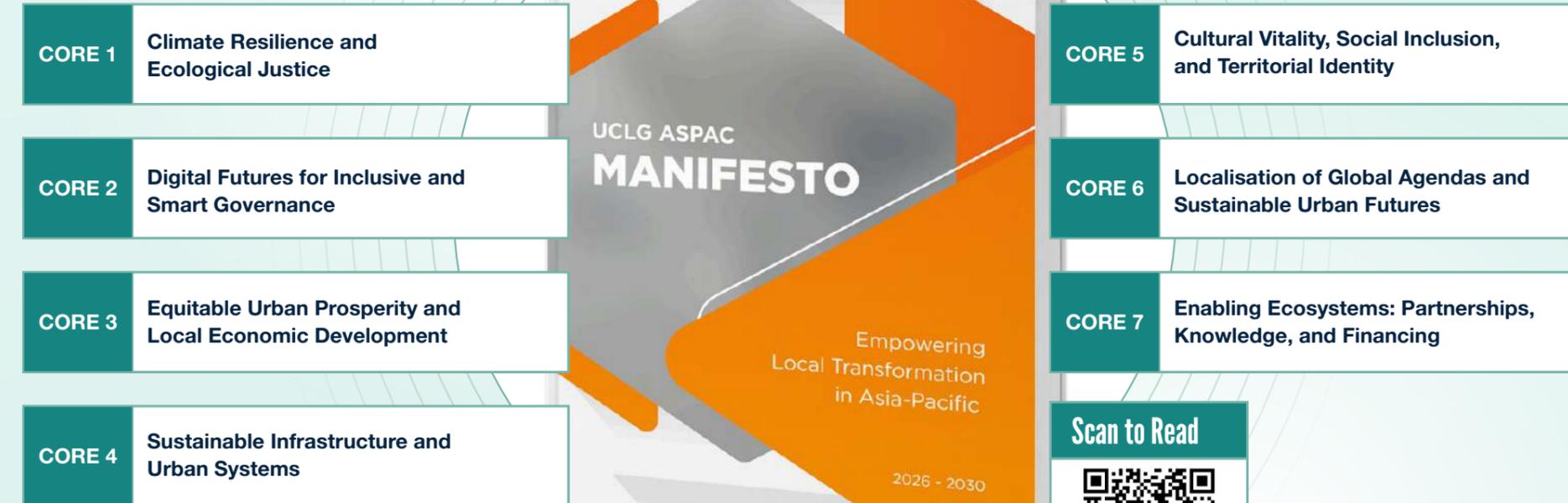
Key Features of the Congress

- **Launch of Cities and Local Governments Institute (CLGI)**
- **Launch of UCLG ASPAC Manifesto 2026-2030**
- **Graduation of Mayors Academy Class of 2025**



UCLG ASPAC Manifesto (2026-2030): Setting the Course on What's Next

The Manifesto defines seven strategic dimensions to drive impactful change:



Following intensive consultation with members, UCLG ASPAC Manifesto was designed embracing four guiding principles (CORE):

- Collaboration
- Resilience
- Openness
- Empowerment

Scan to Read



UCLG ASPAC Congress Winners Competition

The 10th UCLG ASPAC Congress also announced winners of various competitions it held:

Photo Competition



Watch Announcement here



Essay Competition Winners

Youth Category

1st Place: Lloyd Tendai Makonya (Africa)
"Inventing Tomorrow: How Intellectual Property Can Empower Youth in the Global South to Build Sustainable Cities"

2nd Place: Andre Jean Salazar (the Philippines)
"Unwritten Maps: The Modern Leadership of Youth with Purpose and Protest"

3rd Place: Win Pa Pa Hlaing (Myanmar)
"Jobs at the Heart of Development"

Journalist Category

1st Place: Attiya Munawer (Pakistan)
"A Wake-up Call"

2nd Place: Alifia Nuralita Rezqiana (Indonesia) for
"How the Poorest Smile the Brightest"

3rd Place: Alex Lew (Singapore)
"Empowering Cities Through Youth Leadership: Building Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Futures"

Startup Pitching Competition Winners

1st Place: BioPhil
Raheemah Hafsa Pangarungan, Marawi, the Philippines

2nd Place: PresStep
Goeij Angelatika Goeyanto, Depok, Indonesia



ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum 2025

Theme ASEAN Future Cities and Regions: Inclusivity and Sustainability

When August 12-14, 2025

Where Kuala Lumpur

More than **9,120 participants**

391 Mayors, Governors, and senior officials

Covering more than **60 countries**

Results: Calls from Distinguished Leaders



YB Nga Kor Ming, Minister of Housing and Local Government of Malaysia

Called for policies that balance growth with sustainability, emphasising investments in affordable housing, low-carbon public transport, and smart waste management.



Governor Pramono Anung of Jakarta

Emphasised the importance of translating shared regional goals into tangible, sustainable actions through technology and data-driven governance.



Dr. Bima Arya, Vice Minister of Home Affairs of Indonesia

Elaborated on how AGMF contributed to the long-term vision of ASEAN 2045 as a prosperous, digitally driven, and environmentally sustainable region.

Results:

○ Kuala Lumpur Sustainable Declaration on Localising ASEAN Community Vision 2045



Formalising the shared commitments:

- 1) Strengthen ASEAN Identity through Local Action
- 2) Advance Local Priorities under the ASEAN 2045 Pillars
- 3) Institutionalise Local Governments' Collaboration Mechanisms
- 4) Localise Climate Commitments and Accelerate Climate Actions
- 5) Promote and Advocate for Local-level Investments from International Institutions
- 6) Strengthen Local Partnerships for Inclusive Development

○ Manila as Host of AGMF 2026



○ Commitment to localising the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 at the local level



○ Unanimous Appointment of Dato' Seri Maimunah Mohd Sharif (Mayor of Kuala Lumpur) as the Special Envoy on ASEAN Cities and Local Governments

- Mandate:**
- A high-level advocate and representative of local governments in Southeast Asia in both regional and international arenas
 - Champion the integration of local perspectives into ASEAN policies and promote multistakeholder partnerships to strengthen city-to-city collaboration

Lessons from ASEAN Cities



Securing a Resilient and Sustainable Future for ASEAN

Ms. Low Yen Ling
Senior Minister of State for the Ministry of Trade and Industry & Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, and Mayor of South West District, Singapore
Call for action: A resilient ASEAN is achievable through collaboration at all levels—countries, provinces, and cities.



Green Energy Initiatives and Circular Economy for Waste Management

Mr. Datuk Haji Helmy bin Haji Othman
Mayor of Kuching North, Malaysia
Call for Action: Leveraging resources for green energy and innovative waste solutions toward zero waste.



Urban fragility and planning for climate resilience

Mr. Soukvisai Sisomvang
Mayor of Pakse, Lao PDR
Call for Action: Greater financial and technical support is needed to build resilience in Pakse.



Smart Technology for Public Services and Urban Resilience

Ms. Illiza Sa'aduddin Djama
Mayor of Banda Aceh, Indonesia
Call for Action: Emphasis on regional collaboration to strengthen smart, resilient urban systems.



Community-driven Waste Management

Mr. Fadly Amran
Mayor of Padang, Indonesia
Call for Action: Empowering communities and innovating waste management to progress toward zero waste.



Digital Transformation for Sustainability and Resilience

Mr. Faustino Olowan
Vice Mayor of Baguio, Philippines
Call for Action: Digital Transformation for Sustainability and Resilience.



Mr. Rico Tri Putra,
Mayor of Medan
City, shared about
the concept of
Medan's smart
city.



Vision and Strategies for a Resilient and Sustainable Border Province

Mr. Paitoon Mahachuenjai
Vice Governor of Nong Khai, Thailand
Call for Action: Nong Khai is committed to digital transformation and cross-sector partnerships for sustainability.



Cooperation for Greener, Smarter ASEAN Cities

Mr. Le Hong Son
Standing Vice Chairman, People's Committee of Ha Noi, Viet Nam
Call for Action: Ha Noi commits to working with ASEAN partners on digital transformation, green growth, and innovation.

Follow-up actions

Road to AGMF 2026



1

Courtesy visit to H.E. Ambassador Evangeline T. Ong Jimenez-Ducrocq, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to ASEAN (October 10, 2025)



2

Courtesy visit to H.E. Ambassador Sarah Al Bakri Devadason, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to ASEAN (November 14, 2025)



3

First Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Localising the ASEAN Community Vision (ACV) 2045 (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, November 24-25, 2025)





Launch of CLGI Asia-Pacific Secretariat Office: Strengthening Regional Urban Governance Research

UCLG ASPAC Co-President and The Governor of Jakarta, Dr. Pramono Anung Wibowo, officially launched the Cities and Local Governments Institute (CLGI) Asia-Pacific Secretariat, the research arm of UCLG ASPAC, on December 12, 2025. CLGI is also hosted by Jakarta Provincial Government, and its Secretariat Office is located next to UCLG ASPAC.



Vision

A future where local governments are empowered by evidence-based policies and practices to build vibrant and equitable communities.



Mission

To conduct cutting-edge research, strengthening local government capacity to transform research findings into effective policies, and fostering partnerships among governments, academia, and research institutes.



Key Activities

Research, advocacy, capacity building and training, advisory services, monitoring and evaluation, and networking and collaboration.



The Governor of Jakarta emphasised that hosting the CLGI Asia-Pacific Secretariat reflects the city's commitment to contributing knowledge and experience to the wider Asia-Pacific region. Jakarta's evolving governance landscape provides a practical learning environment for policy experimentation, institutional reform, and cross-city collaboration.

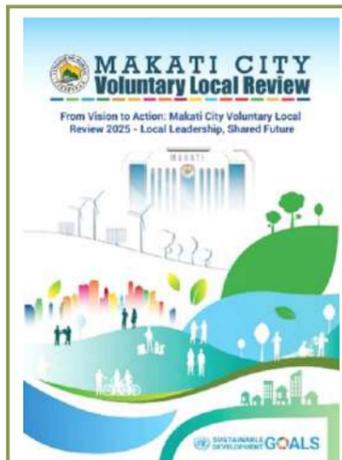


"Innovation in governance is not about jargon, but about redesigning systems so they actually deliver. Cities operate in real systems, where evidence matters, decisions carry weight, and public trust must be earned. CLGI Asia-Pacific exists to equip local leaders with the capacity to make informed decisions that improve everyday life."

With the Secretariat now officially operational, CLGI ASPAC will accelerate leadership programmes, policy dialogues, and regional knowledge exchange to strengthen the collective capacity of local governments to navigate uncertainty and deliver sustainable, people-centred urban development across Asia and the Pacific.

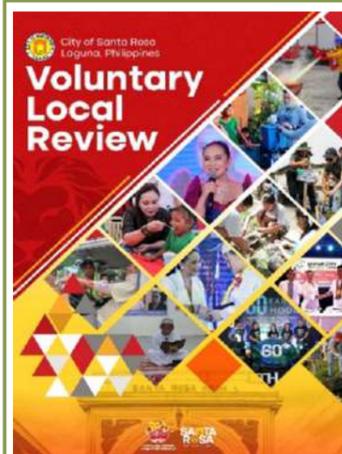
Support to Local Governments towards Sustainable Development Goals

VLR Development Support



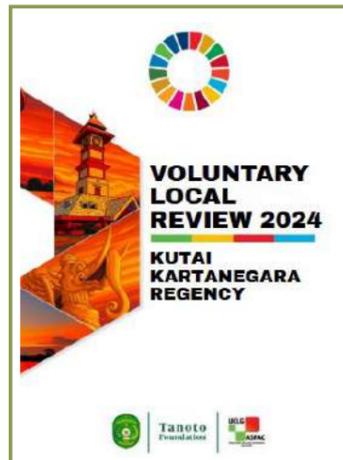
Makati

Focus:



Santa Rosa

Focus:



Kutai Kartanegara

Focus:



National Workshop on SDGs and VLR Jakarta, December 15-16, 2025

Collaborating Partners: National SDGs Secretariat of the National Development Planning Agency (Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan Nasional/Bappenas), Association of Indonesia Municipalities (Asosiasi Pemerintah Kota Seluruh Indonesia/APEKSI) and Association of All Indonesian Regency Governments (Asosiasi Pemerintah Kabupaten Seluruh Indonesia/APKASI)

The workshop (December 15-16, 2025) highlighted the need to align SDG indicators and metadata with national policies to maintain consistency between national and local development planning, particularly in the context of ongoing regulatory updates. The workshop also emphasised the value of collaboration between local governments, central government institutions, and non-government stakeholders in developing VLRs, underlining how partnerships with academia, the private sector, and philanthropic organisations can help address capacity gaps and support more inclusive SDGs implementation and the VLR process.

Makati City announced the beginning of their Voluntary Local Review (VLR) under the leadership of Mayor Mar-Len Abigail Binay on December 3, 2024. The city also organised a session on VLR in their Regional Conference on Planning and Development on December 2, 2025.

Amplifying local voices through APLG

UCLG ASPAC, the coordinator of APLG, gathered local governments to join forces and voice their local needs through APFSD, 81st ESCAP Commission, and consultation meeting.



The 12th APFSD (February 24, 2025), Bangkok

Mr. Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha, Co-President of UCLG ASPAC and Mayor of Dhulikhel Municipality, underscored the importance of the localisation of the SDGs and enhancing partnerships. Mr. Baikuntha Neupane, Mayor of Vyas Municipality, reported on the priority actions to accelerate progress on the SDGs under review and called for enhancing the capacity, facilitating access to finance, and increasing investment at the local level.



The 81st ESCAP Commission (April 21-25, 2026), Bangkok

APLG highlighted the need to involve LRGs in localising the recommendations of the Commission, encouraged the establishment of regional peer-learning on the VLR and Voluntary Subnational Review (VSR), advocated the replication of SDG 11 roadmaps, urged the development of national multilevel governance frameworks on the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) ensuring roles, funding and representation for LRGs, and called for direct access windows to LRGs in climate and development financing systems.

Hybrid Consultation Meeting and Focus Group Discussion



When: • December 18, 2025, Jakarta

Result: • Knowledge sharing on existing knowledge platform.
• Agreed functions in APLG Platform: Regional Advocacy, Research, Learning, Knowledge, and Cooperation.

Promoting Equal Leadership

UCLG ASPAC continued promoting equal leadership, through capacity building for women in local governments, creating relevant module, and championing the works of women leaders. The effort was strengthened through collaborations with partners.



Implementation

1 GRPB Training

- **Date:** August 12, 2025
- **Collaborating partners:** FCM, Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC), and City Hall of Kuala Lumpur or Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL)
- **About:** Introduce core GRPB concepts, demonstrate real-world applications across ASEAN cities, and equip participants with basic gender analysis tools to support inclusive planning and budgeting.

2 Engagement with Standing Committee on Women in Local Governments (SCWLG)

- Under the framework of UCLG ASPAC-FCM Collaboration, SCWLG agreed to develop GEDSI Strategy 2025-2030.

3 Women in Local Leadership Networking Session and Exchange

- **Date:** September 26, 2025 in Goyang.
- **Goal:** To deepen understanding of GRPB and to share practical approaches for advancing gender equality in local governance.

UCLG ASPAC – FCM: Partnership for Local Innovation Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL)

Goal

Improve the quality of life for women and girls in the Asia-Pacific region and promote Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) in local governance, with a strong focus on women's leadership.



UCLG ASPAC - Guangzhou Partnership

Under the collaborative programme funded by the Guangzhou Municipal People's Government, UCLG ASPAC, together with the Provincial Government of Aklan, and the Local Government Unit of Malay, inaugurated the Hydroponic Garden Project at Balabag Elementary School, in the Philippines, on June 11, 2025. The project focuses on integrating sustainability into the core of the education system, blending with academic disciplines such as science, health, nutrition, and entrepreneurship. The partnership has been built to promote the health and well-being of women and children. This was conducted as part of the UCLG ASPAC Executive Bureau Meeting hosted by Boracay, Aklan Province, the Philippines.

Championing Women Leaders' Work

UCLG ASPAC has continued to promote the works of women leaders. Throughout 2025, UCLG ASPAC highlighted the works of 12 women mayors through its monthly eNewsletter.



Focus of Work:



Health



Climate resilience



Education



Livelihood



Youth and women empowerment

Climate Bequest Opens New Paths for Cities



Climate Resilience and Innovation Forum (CRIF) 2025 was organised marking the completion of the Climate Resilience and Inclusive Cities (CRIC) Project.

When
May 21-23, 2025

Where
Jakarta and Banyumas

Attended by more than 300 participants



Launch of Climate Action Plan Guideline



Handover of 10 City's Climate Action Plan



Knowledge Exchange



Adoption of Jakarta Call of Action



CRIF Highlights:



322 participants (approx. 60% male, 40% female)



Engaged Mayors, Governors, Local and National Government Officials, Experts, and Civil Society Groups.



Focus: Empowered cities and local governments through peer learning, knowledge exchange, collaborative innovation.

Insights from Distinguished Leaders



H.E. Mr. Denis Chaibi, EU Ambassador

In Europe, cities are at the forefront of our climate response... They are the ones who change the mindset of the citizen. ... This is why the CRIC project is crucial: it empowers cities to lead this change and make climate action a normal part of planning.”



Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Mayor of Kuala Lumpur

We must integrate climate data into every aspect of our urban planning because planning without climate foresight is simply planning for failure.”



UCLG ASPAC, Secretariat of The Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM), awarded badges to leading Southeast Asian Cities as recognition for their local climate leadership: Kuala Lumpur, Hang Tuah Jaya, Jakarta Special Capital Region, Pontianak and Segamat district.



Tree Planting in Jakarta and Site Visit to Banyumas

Participants joined a tree planting activity in Lapangan Banteng Park, Jakarta, as part of UCLG ASPAC's Greening Initiative, symbolising a collective environmental stewardship. This was followed by a visit to Tebet Eco Park to view nature-based solutions in action. The participants also visited Banyumas Regency to learn about solid waste management.

Climate Resilience and Inclusive Cities (CRIC)

CRIC is a joint project co-funded by the European Union to assist Indonesian and other Asian cities on how they could respond to climate change while promoting inclusiveness and sustainability.



Project duration
5 years
(2020-2025)

Project Website: resilient-cities.com
X: [@cricproject](https://twitter.com/cricproject)
Youtube: [@CRIC_Project](https://www.youtube.com/@CRIC_Project)

Project Highlights and Results:



10 pilot cities (Bandar Lampung, Banjarmasin, Cirebon, Gorontalo, Kupang, Mataram, Pangkalpinang, Pekanbaru, Samarinda, and Ternate)



100% of pilot cities successfully decreed their Climate Action Plans (CAPs), and **80%** have already anchored these plans within their 2025-2029 Medium-Term Development Plans (Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Menengah Daerah).



From awareness to legal mandate
CRIC initiative transitioned 10 Indonesian pilot cities to science-based climate action plans.



The 10 pilot cities moved from **awareness to high-level strategic planning**, although the transition from documents to physical infrastructure were still hindered by a lack of investment-ready Feasibility Studies (FS).



Organised 3 Panel of Experts events (Kochi, Bali, Makassar) and **1 Climate Panel Discussion** (Surabaya)



+130 capacity building activities



Demonstrated a shift from planning to implementation. Building on the completed Climate Action Plans, city leaders highlighted concrete follow-up actions and priority investments. For instance: Kupang is implementing a decentralised waste management system across its six districts, with residents encouraged to use digital application to report and track waste collection. Samarinda has also made significant progress in waste and sanitation programs, while investing heavily in inclusive planning and baseline data collection to inform public policy.

This process is further strengthened through alignment with national frameworks, with coordination and guidance on international cooperation for local resilience from the Ministry of Home Affairs and National Development Plan Agency (BAPPENAS), reinforcing vertical coherence between local action, national policy, and regional cooperation.



Finalised 5 climate mitigation and 4 adaptation modules (jointly developed by CCROM and Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF))



Worked with 5 international partners:
Pilot4Dev, Université Gustave Eiffel, ACR+, ECOLISE, and All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG)



Produced thematic tools and training materials:

- Water, sanitation, and waste for Banjarmasin
- Waste management for Mataram
- Early warning system for Ternate
- Sanitation and water scarcity management for Gorontalo and Kupang



"The process of preparing the CAP document provided very valuable experience, especially in understanding the flow of planning, data processing, and systematic information presentation... Various new skills were obtained, particularly data analysis... The experience in calculations also strengthened the understanding of the importance of transparency and data traceability."

Source: Lena Maryana, ST., MM – DLH Kota Bandar Lampung (Professional Reflection, Feb 2026).



"My involvement since 2022 was not just an academic task, but a learning journey... I learned to translate academic language into grounded language that can be understood by regional stakeholders... I learned to maintain a balance between scientific idealism and policy reality."

Source: Dr Eng. Fritz Akhmad Nuzir, S.T., M.A. – Director of SDGs Center UBL (Lesson Learnt, Feb 2026).



"This process changed my perspective: climate action is not a standalone environmental agenda, but must be integrated with regional planning... I learned to analyse wet and dry climate patterns... linking climate data with the socio-economic conditions of the community."

Source: Siti Dea – POKJA Member, Kota Cirebon (Experience Document, Feb 2026).

Urban-Act

A Collaboration toward Low-Carbon and Resilient Cities

About

The Urban-Act: Integrated Urban Climate Action for Low-Carbon and Resilient Cities is a visionary initiative to support the transformation of urban development in China, Indonesia, the Philippines, India, and Thailand towards low-carbon and climate-resilient urbanisation.

Project's pilot cities

China: Xi'an, Xiamen, Jiaxing
 India: Coimbatore, Panaji, Shimla
 Indonesia: Padang, Medan
 Thailand: Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen, Phuket (Vichit)
 The Philippines: Antipolo, Bacolod, Tagbilaran

Project Consortium

The Urban-Act Project is co-financed by the German the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN) and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and consortium partnership with UCLG ASPAC, UNESCAP, IREUS Stuttgart University, and TU Dortmund University.

What we do UCLG ASPAC is the project's regional and country implementing partners for Indonesia

What We Do

Regional Components

#1 Regional Learning and Pairing Session on Waste Management

Date: August 12-14, 2025

Outcomes:

- Strengthened city-to-city learning
- Documented lessons for a forthcoming learning note
- Actionable ideas for cooperation



#2 Regional Learning and Pairing Session on Nature-based Solutions and Urban Mobility

Date: September 24-26, 2025

Outcomes:

- Recommendations from experts (Heritage/old-town mobility management, Public transport enhancement, Improvement of infrastructure, NbS benefits)
- City-pairing and discussion: Antipolo and Tagbilaran (Phil) – Goyang (RoK), Bacolod (Phil) – Shenzhen (Chn), Khon Khaen (Thai) – Seoul (RoK), Chiang Mai (Thai) – Shenzhen (Chn)



National Coordination



#1 FGD for Development of Padang CAP

Date: July 2, 2025

Results: Constructive inputs: The Agriculture Agency proposed programmes on organic farming, irrigation system management, integrated agriculture, as well as farmer capacity building and incentive schemes. The Transportation Agency underscored the importance of policy support for transitioning from fossil-fuelled vehicles to electric buses through Trans Padang, alongside the development of sustainable transport infrastructure. The Communication and Information Agency emphasised the integration of climate action into the broader city development agenda, particularly through smart city initiatives.



#2 FGD for Development of Padang CAP

Date: Date: October 21, 2025

Outcomes:

- Community inputs from women representatives and local people with disabilities, as well as from urban village heads.
- Priority actions from three vulnerable urban villages: Kuranji, Padang Sarai, and Batipuh Panjang.



Webinar on Strengthening the Waste Management Framework for Local Governments in Indonesia

Date: December 19, 2025

Outcomes:

- Insights from the Ministry of Public Works on regional readiness, technical standards, and waste management project frameworks.
- Knowledge exchange from Malang Regency on the development and operation of the Integrated Resource Recovery Centre (IRRC) facility, the project of UCLG ASPAC, UNESCAP and the Ministry of Environment of Indonesia implemented in Malang Regency and Jambi City in 2016.



Leaving Legacy in Sanitation

Year 2025 marked the completion of UCLG ASPAC work particularly under the framework of Municipalities Network Advocacy on Sanitation in South Asia (MuNASS) Programme. Extended to the project's second batch, MuNASS had achieved remarkable achievements, making its impact still resound even after the project completed.



Goal

Strengthen municipalities and municipal associations' capacity in designing and implementing effective sanitation policies and sustainable financing strategies, particularly in Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) in Nepal and Bangladesh



Collaborating Partners

Municipal Association of Bangladesh (MAB) and the Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN), technical support by SNV-Netherlands for Bangladesh and the Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO) for Nepal



Funding Support

the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)

MuNASS #1 Phase



- MAB and MuAN established Policy Advocacy Units for Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) & FSM that also includes Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) units.
- MAB played a critical role in the endorsement of the National action plan for the Institutional and Regulatory Framework (IRF) for FSM, National Strategy for WASH-2019 and a Pro-poor strategy for WASH.
- Deeper engagement in 10 municipalities (5 in each country) for policy adoption, institutional reforms, and budgetary allocation for Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs). They have also developed the Sanitation Flow Diagram (SFD) that can be used a tool for planning and advocacy.
- All five municipalities in Bangladesh secured a budget for FSTP construction from the national government and all five municipalities in Nepal allocated a budget for FSTPs in their budgets.
- 644 municipalities in Bangladesh and Nepal received orientation about the FSM; Formal commitment by MAB leaders for inclusive sanitation through the Khulna Declaration in April 2019; endorsement from Prime Minister of Nepal (H.E. K. P. Sharma Oli), by signing a pledge for a commitment on FSM, and a commitment from the minister of Water Supply in Nepal, Mrs. Bina Magar, who signed the 9 Points Kathmandu Declaration on FSM.

MuNASS #2 Phase



- Supported the institutionalisation of CWIS and fecal sludge management (FSM) frameworks at the municipal and national levels.
- Developed 65 Shit Flow Diagrams (SFDs) in Nepal and integrated data into the N-WASH system for SDG 6.2 monitoring.
- Enhanced technical capacity in over 10 pilot cities and 293 municipalities across Nepal and sensitisation on CWIS in 330 municipalities in Bangladesh.
- Mobilised women leaders through activation of Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) units and promoted safe sanitation for women and girls.
- Promoted regional knowledge exchange through congresses, workshops, and learning events, from UCLG ASPAC Executive Bureau meeting, Congress and Regional Summits to World Water Forum, Asian Mayors Academy, Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD), ASEAN Mayors Forum, and FSM 7.



The Third Urban Mekong Corridor Initiative Dialogue: Connecting Rapidly Growing Towns and Cities for Inclusive Green Development

UCLG ASPAC continued its support for sustainable urban development in the Mekong Region through the convening of the 3rd Urban Mekong Corridor Initiative (UMCI) Dialogue, held on December 3rd and 4th, 2025, in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Hosted by the Mekong River Commission (MRC) Secretariat and Vientiane Capital Administration, and co-organised with Cities Alliance, with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Dialogue further strengthening regional collaboration and shared learning among Mekong cities.

The 3rd Dialogue brought together more than 120 participants, including Governors and Mayors, representatives of national and local governments, academics, civil society organisations (CSOs), development and financial partners from across the Mekong region, who engaged in open and constructive exchanges on circular economy approaches, solid waste management, and nature-based solutions (NbS) for water and heat, alongside people-centred strategies to strengthen community resilience in rapidly urbanising cities.

Enabling Conditions for Inclusive Green Urban Development

Discussions underscored that while cities across the Mekong region have been experimenting with innovative solutions, their impact depends on strong partnerships, enabling policy environments, and access to sustainable finance.

Official launch: The Urban Mekong Corridor: Strengthening Regional Cooperation on Waste and Plastic Pollution in the Mekong River System

As a report jointly developed by Cities Alliance and the Mekong River Commission, it underscored how unmanaged urban waste directly affects river health, livelihoods, and regional resilience, and called for stronger alignment between urban waste management systems and regional environmental governance frameworks.

People, Place, and Nature at the Centre of Urban Resilience

Discussion on the second day shifted attention to people-centred and place-based approaches, recognising that inclusive urban development depends on empowering communities, addressing social inequalities, and working with nature.

- **Recognising the Role of Civil Society and Women's Leadership**

Day 2 opened with the 2025 UMCI-CSO Awards Ceremony, which celebrated the vital contributions of civil society and women-led grassroots organisations in advancing inclusive and resilient cities. This was followed by a dedicated session on Women in Migration Corridors: Leadership from the Ground Up, highlighting women's leadership at national, local, and community levels.

- **Building Community Resilience Through Nature-Based Solutions**

Attention then turned to nature-based solutions as practical tools for addressing flooding, urban heat, and environmental degradation. Examples from across the Mekong region showed how integrating nature into urban planning can deliver multiple benefits, including cooler neighbourhoods, improved water management, and stronger community cohesion.



Conclusion: Forging a Common Vision for Inclusive and Green Urban Development

The 3rd UMCI Dialogue provided an important space for cities and partners across the Mekong Corridor to reflect, learn, and align on shared priorities. Through open exchange and collective reflection, the Dialogue underscored the central role of community engagement and the integration of nature-based solutions into urban planning in shaping inclusive and resilient urban development grounded in local realities. As Mekong cities continue to navigate rapid urban transformation and migration pressures, the insights and partnerships emerging from the Dialogue will guide local action and strengthen regional cooperation in the lead-up to the 4th UMCI Dialogue in 2026, scheduled to be held in Vietnam.



Kalibaru Project: Support to Jakarta for Green Mussel Shell Waste Management

UCLG ASPAC's support to Kalibaru Hub Project, a collaborative initiative with the Jakarta Provincial Regional Development Planning Agency, and the Resilient Cities Network (RCN), officially concluded with a warm and inspiring closing session on May 20, 2025.



Focus: Empowering the Cangkring Group

A key achievement of the project was the empowerment of the Cangkring Group, a community-based organisation initiated by residents to manage green mussel shell waste—a by-product of mussel farming, which is the community's primary livelihood. Through the programme, the Cangkring Group received technical training in shell waste processing, including how to turn waste into environmentally friendly building materials such as bricks and paving blocks. They also received support in organisational management, product marketing, and community-based environmental awareness.



Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration

The project stands as a prime example of cross-sectoral collaboration. UCLG ASPAC connected best practices and provided technical support. RCN brought in a resilience-based approach to help cities cope with the impacts of climate change. Planning Agency (Bappeda) of DKI Jakarta served as the policy coordinator and facilitator for the City Government's cross-agency synergy, ensuring the project outcomes could be integrated into the city's long-term development plans.



Commitment to Sustainability

The Cangkring Group highlighted their determination to continue expanding the social impact of this initiative and serve as a model for other coastal communities.

"Kalibaru Hub is not just about waste management; it's about how communities can rise and lead change in their own neighbourhoods," said Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC. RCN was also pleased to see the initiatives taking place at Kalibaru and hoped it continued with a more robust and sustained collaboration with all stakeholders.

Empowering Youth Engagement in Local Government

UCLG ASPAC continued promoting the importance of youth involvement in local government's activities throughout 2025, holding the core principle that inclusiveness is essential for sustainable urban development.

UNESCO APCAD Youth Camp



When:
July 3-8, 2025 (Gwangju)

What We Do:

- Facilitated and mentored 20 youths in "Youth Participation Strategies for Sustainable Cities" session.
- Supported participants in developing their team projects, particularly during collaborative sessions at Chonnam National University.

Knowledge Sharing with Students



When:
July 25, 2026 (Jakarta)

What We Do:

- Knowledge sharing with students from Daegu Health College, Daejeon Health College, Gwangju Health College, and Kyungpook National University.
- Highlighting the role of youth in advancing SDG 3, and how young people could act, such as promoting healthy lifestyles online, supporting health education, and becoming mental health advocates.

Jeonju Future Cities Forum 2025



When:
September 18-19, 2025 (Jeonju)

What We Do:

- Co-organised the event taking theme "Global Cities, Connecting the Future".
- On "Global Cities Shaped by Youth" session shared UCLG ASPAC's youth policies and success stories from Seoul, Surabaya, Manila, and Kathmandu.
- Introduced the concept of Agilience— agility plus resilience.

Glimpse of Our Work Around the World in 2025

UCLG Annual Retreat and Campus
17-21 February 2025
Barcelona, Spain

World Forum on Local Economic Development (Exbu 1)
1-4 April 2025
Seville, Spain

Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction
2-6 June 2025
Geneva, Switzerland



UCLG ASPAC continued its commitment by including tree-planting activities.



10th UCLG ASPAC Congress
24-26 September 2025
Goyang, Republic of Korea

Metropolis 40th Anniversary and Congress
29 September - 1 October 2025
Seoul, Republic of Korea

International Mayors Forum
13-16 October 2025
Toyota, Japan

CRIC Panel of Experts on Sustainable Financing
4-6 February 2025
Kochi, India

3rd Dialogue of Urban Mekong Corridor Initiative
3-4 December 2025
Vientiane, Lao PDR

12th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
24-28 February 2025
Bangkok, Thailand

81st Commission Session of ESCAP
21-25 April 2025
Bangkok, Thailand

5th International Forum on Low Carbon Cities and the 2025 Regional Partners Forum on Sustainable Urban Development
25-27 August 2025
Bangkok, Thailand

Southeast Asia Seminar on "Cultural Rights & Their Defenders"
30-31 October 2025
Bangkok, Thailand



Governor Suzuki of Shizuoka, spoke at the UCLG Council Meeting in Xi'an, as a new member.

MuNASS Final Conference
13-14 January 2025
Bandung, Indonesia

Kalibaru Hub Project Closing and Matchmaking Event
20 May 2025
Jakarta, Indonesia

CRIC Final Conference or Climate Resilience and Innovation Forum (CRIF) 2025
21-23 May 2025
Jakarta, Indonesia
Banyumas, Indonesia

International cooperation training for Indonesian local governments
21-22 May 2025
Jakarta, Indonesia

Training Workshop on Strengthening Local Government in the Implementation of SDGs and Development of Voluntary Local Review (VLR) in Indonesia
15-16 December 2025
Jakarta, Indonesia

Local Climate Governance Forum: APLG Consultation Meeting & Coastal Giant Seawall Impact Focus Group Discussion
18 December 2025
Jakarta, Indonesia

ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum
12-14 August 2025
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Open Government Partnership Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting
5-7 February 2025
Manila, the Philippines

The First Session of 2025 UCLG ASPAC Executive Bureau Meeting (incl. Localising ASEAN Community Vision 2045)
9-12 June 2025
Aklan Province, the Philippines

Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) Board Meeting
9-11 July 2025, Cebu
7-9 October 2025, Pasay the Philippines



Highlights



Mayor Lee Jang-woo of Daejeon Metropolitan City as the First President of UCLG from Asia-Pacific section.



Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC, as one of the proud recipients of Women in SDGs Action Award 2025 by Bisnis Indonesia



New Members

UCLG ASPAC Secretariat warmly welcomes new members in 2025.



Aklan Province

Governor:
Jose Enrique M. Miraflores
Website:
aklan.gov.ph



Isma Rural Municipality

Mayor:
Mr. Bhagat Singh Khadka
Website:
ismamun.gov.np



Malang Regency

Regent:
Drs. H. M. Sanusi M.M.
Website:
malangkab.go.id



Raghuganga Rural Municipality

Chairman:
Mr. Bhab Bahadur Bhandari
Website:
raghugangamun.gov.np



Budhanilkantha Municipality

Mayor:
Mr. Mitharam Adhikari
Website:
budhanilkanthamun.gov.np



Kendari Municipal Government

Mayor:
dr. Hj. Siska Karina Imran, SKM
Website:
kendarikota.go.id



North Sulawesi Province

Governor:
Mayjen TNI (Purn) Yulius Selvanus, SE
Website:
sulutprov.go.id/



Shizuoka Prefectural Government

Governor:
Mr. Yasutomo Suzuki
Website:
www.pref.shizuoka.jp



Hefei Municipal

Mayor:
Mr. Yunfeng Luo
Website:
www.hefei.gov.cn



Kurunegala Municipal Council

Mayor:
Mr. Ananda Sahabandu
Website:
kurunegalamc.dolgnwp.lk



Palu City

Mayor:
Hadianto Rasyid, SE
Website:
palukota.go.id

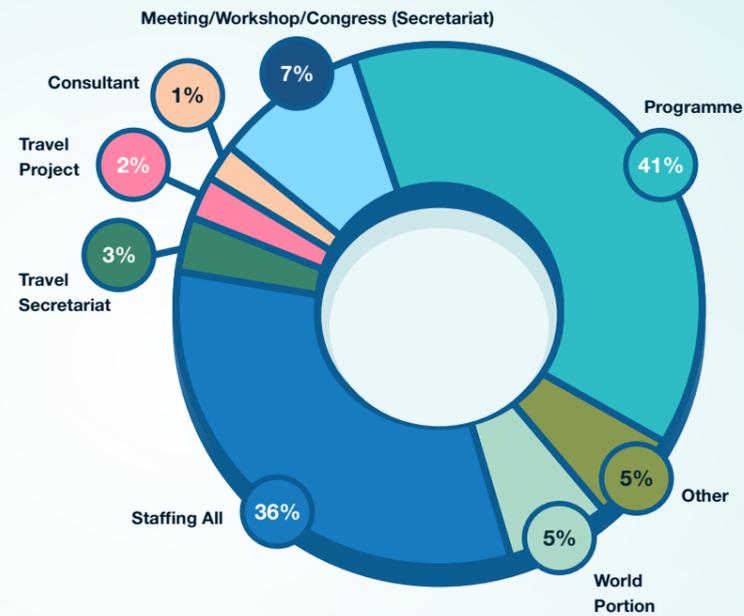


Southeast Sulawesi Province

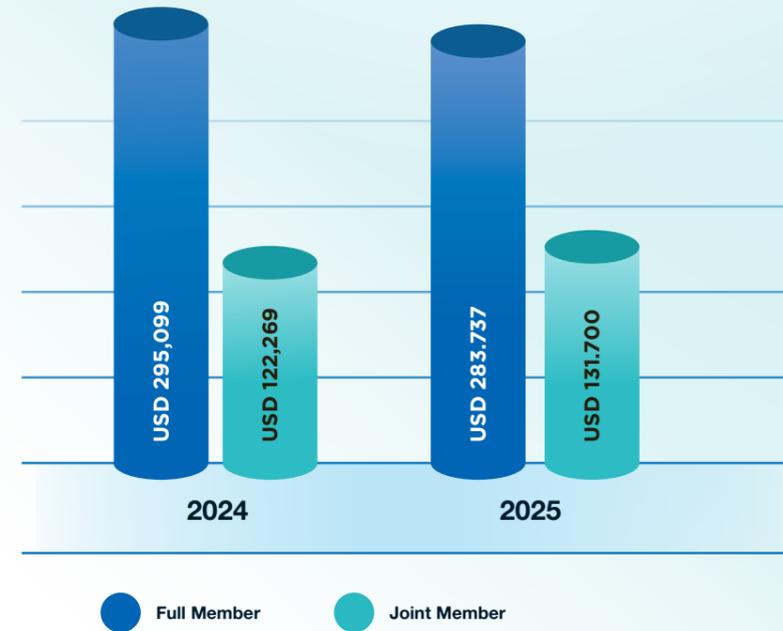
Governor:
Mr. Andi Sumangerukka
Website:
www.sultraprov.go.id

Financial Highlight

UCLG ASPAC Total Spending Fiscal Year 2025



Membership Fees



Acknowledgment

JAKARTA – Our Host City for providing office space for the UCLG ASPAC Secretariat, including electricity and water.

Organisations and Local Governments for hosting and partially financing Statutory Meetings and programme activities.

Human Resources

UCLG ASPAC implemented various programmes to support the strengthening and development of the Secretariat Team Members.



Wellness Programme

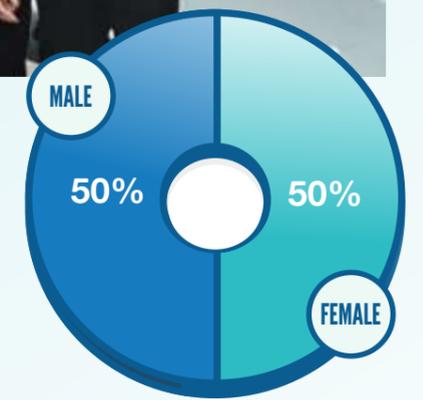
UCLG ASPAC Secretariat offered skill development, health insurance, fitness membership subscription, catering gym and workout programme, group exercise classes, and sport club membership facilities to UCLG ASPAC Secretariat Staff.

Staff Retreat 2025

Held in January 15 to 17, 2025 in Bandung City, the retreat successfully aligned the shared vision and equipped the Secretariat Team with a clear path forward to deliver draft of the Manifesto 2026 – 2031.

Internship, Secondment, Staff Recognition

UCLG ASPAC hosted internships and secondment programme. UCLG ASPAC also gave recognition to staff members with more than three years of working record.



*Employee by gender, as of December 31, 2025

Working with City Representatives and Youth

Secondees



Chang-An, Kwon (ANDRA)
Daegu Metropolitan City



Zhangjin Xin (GEORGE)
Guangzhou Municipal
People's Government



Assa Biandry
Public Administration
Universitas Gadjah Mada



Attaria Shovia Ilmawan
Indonesian, Faculty of Humanities
Universitas Indonesia



Dhafa Ardian Bramastyo
International Relations
Universitas Indonesia



Heo Hwan (Kevin)
Nursing
Jeonbuk National University



Jeong Yoon Kang (Ayla)
English Language and Literature
Jeonbuk National University



Kanaya Aliyanadira Hidayat
Urban and Regional Planning
Universitas Diponegoro



Kathleen Fransisca
Urban Resilience for
Sustainability Transition
(Masters)
Universitat Internacional de
Catalunya, Barcelona



**Muhammad Satrio
Wibowo**
Management in
International ICT Business
Telkom University



Sachi Emelin Carissa
Geography
Universitas Indonesia



Siti Aqila Nursilmina
Regional and City Planning
Universitas Diponegoro



Vanessa Manuela Patty
Law
President University

Interns



Adam Raihan
Sociology
Universitas Indonesia

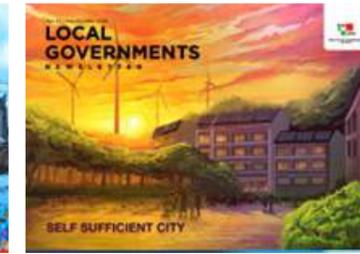


Afina Perdana Murti
Urban and Regional Planning
Universitas Diponegoro

Knowledge Development Products

Throughout 2025, UCLG ASPAC produced and disseminated various knowledge development products to its network.

Newsletter



Annual Report



E-learning



E-Newsletter



Publication



Website



Social Media



Instagram

2025:
3,459
45.82%
2024:
2,373



Facebook

2025:
2,500
6.51%
2024:
2,347



X

2025:
3,293
-0.06%
2024:
3,295



Total Increase: 15.43%

UCLG ASPAC Governing Body

2025-2027*



PRESIDENT

DAKILA CARLO CUA

Representing Southeast Asia sub-region

President, Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)
Governor, Quirino Province

CO-PRESIDENT



DONGHWAN LEE

Representing East and Northeast Asia sub-region
Mayor, Goyang Special City



BHIM PRASAD DHUNGANA

Representing South and Southwest Asia sub-region 2025-2026
President, Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN)
Mayor, Neelakantha Municipality



REHETTE STOLTZ

Representing Pacific sub-region
Acting President, Local Government New Zealand
Mayor, Gisbourne District Council



LAXMI DEVI PANDEY

Representing South and Southwest Asia sub-region 2026 – 2027
President
National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal (NARMIN)
Mayor
Hupsekot Rural Municipality



LI XIAOQIN

Representing Women in Local Government
Vice Chairwoman
Standing Committee of Guangzhou Municipal People's Congress
President
Guangzhou Institute of Socialism



DR. H. PRAMONO ANUNG

Governor
Jakarta Capital City Government
Host of UCLG ASPAC Secretariat



ASHOK KUMAR BYANJU SHRESTHA

Mayor
Dhulikhel Municipality
Immediate Past President



CHEN HAOSU

Founding President
The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

EAST & NORTHEAST ASIA



LU XIANGDONG

Vice President
Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC)



WAN-AN CHIANG

Mayor
Taipei City



PARK HEONG-JOON

Mayor
Busan Metropolitan City



KANG IM JUNE

Mayor
Gunsan City



WU XIANDE

Mayor
Fuzhou Municipal People's Government



YOO JEONGBOK

Chair
Governors Association of The Republic of Korea (GAROK)
Mayor
Incheon Metropolitan City



YAO GAOYUAN

Mayor
Hangzhou Municipal People's Government



NAKANO YUSUKE

Mayor
Hamamatsu City



WEN JIANFEI

Mayor
Yiwu Municipal People's Government



DONGHWAN LEE

Mayor
Goyang Special City



KIM JEONG-GI

Acting Mayor
Daegu Metropolitan City



YE NIUPING

Mayor
Xi'an Municipal People's Government

SOUTHEAST ASIA



ANDI HARUN

Mayor
Samarinda City



STEPHANY UY-TAN

City Councillor
Catbalogan City



DIZA HAZRA ALJOSHA

Vice Mayor
Jambi City Local Government



M. TOHA TOHET

Regent Mayor
Musibanyuasin Regency



SAY KOSAL

President
National League of Local Councils



JOUNE JAMES ESAU GANDA

Regent Mayor
North Minahasa Regency



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

City Mayor
City Government of Makati

SOUTH & SOUTHWEST ASIA



DR. RANJIT S. CHAVAN

President
All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIILSG)



BHIM PRASAD DHUNGANA

President
Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN)



BAIKUNTHA NATH NEUPANE

Mayor
Vyas Municipality



LAXMI DEVI PANDEY

Chairperson
National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal (NARMIN)
Mayor
Hupsekot Rural Municipality

SECRETARY GENERAL



BERNADIA IRAWATI TJANDRADEWI

Secretary General

UCLG ASPAC comprises four sub-regions and all members are represented in the General Assembly, the supreme organ that is responsible for the overall policy, direction, and oversight of the Section. The Council is the principal policy-making body. It decides UCLG ASPAC's policies in a collegial way and ensures that general policies adopted by the General Assembly are implemented. The Executive Bureau is responsible for initiating proposals and carrying out the decisions of the Council. The Presidency, comprising the President and co-Presidents, represents all four sub-regions, the Associate and International Members, as well as ex-officio namely the Host, Immediate Past President, Founding President, and Women in Local Government. The President is the principal representative of UCLG ASPAC. The co-Presidents assist the President in carrying out his/her responsibilities and when necessary assume the role of President. The Secretary General directs the daily activities of UCLG ASPAC and carries out the decisions of the General Assembly, the Council and the Executive Bureau. The Secretary General manages the General Secretariat as well as the activities and programmes under the guidance of the Presidency and the responsibility of the Executive Bureau.

*) as of December 31, 2025

What's Next 2026



**23
February 2026**

Local and Regional Governments
Assembly
Bangkok
UCLG ASPAC



**23-27
February 2026**

UCLG Annual Retreat
Barcelona
UCLG



**24-27
February 2026**

13th Asia-Pacific Forum
on Sustainable Development
Bangkok
UN ESCAP



**1-3
April 2026**

Global South Conference on
WASH Financing & Sustainability
Kathmandu
SOPHEN



**8-10
April 2026**

Executive Bureau of UCLG
Mexico City
UCLG



**20-24
April 2026**

82nd Commission Session of ESCAP
Baku
ESCAP



**22-24
April 2026**

8th Board Meeting of the Fund
for Responding to Loss and
Damage (FRLD)
Zambia
UNFCCC



**7-9
May 2026**

First Session of 2026
UCLG ASPAC Executive Bureau
Kendari
UCLG ASPAC, Kendari



**17-22
May 2026**

Thirteenth Session of
the World Urban Forum (WUF13)
Baku
UN-Habitat



**2-3
June 2026**

Policy Forum on Development
(PFD) Regional Meeting
Jakarta



**14-16
June 2026**

World Cities Summit
Singapore
CLC, URA



**21-24
June 2026**

2026 Innovate4Cities
Conference (I4C26)
Nairobi
GCoM, UN-Habitat



**22-25
June 2026**

UCLG World Congress
Tangier
UCLG, Tangier City



**1-3
July 2026**

9th ESCAP Committee on
Environment and Development
Bangkok
ESCAP



**6-16
July 2026**

High Level Political Forum 2026
New York
ECOSOC



**8-10
July 2026**

9th Board Meeting of the Fund
for Responding to Loss and Damage
(FRLD)
Philippines
UNFCCC



**15-17
September 2026**

2026 ASEAN Governors
and Mayors Forum
Manila
UCLG ASPAC



**7-9
October 2026**

10th Board Meeting of the
Fund for Responding to
Loss and Damage (FRLD)
the Philippines
UNFCCC



**October/November
2026**

2026 UCLG ASPAC Council
Haikou
UCLG ASPAC, Haikou



**25-27
November 2026**

3rd World Mayor Forum
and 7th Asian Cities Summit
India
AIILSG

We would like to thank our members and partners for contributing photos and materials used for this publication. We want to hear from you!

Please send your feedbacks and suggestions to communication@uclg-aspac.org

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EDITOR: Fulvia

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