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United Cities and Local Governments  
Asia-Pacific

# LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

NEWSLETTER



## BUILD FORWARD STRONGER

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(Knowledge, smart practices)

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Municipal Digitalisation



Dear valued members and partners,

In a few weeks, we are reaching the end of 2020. Although our focus now is still battling the pandemic, I really hope that we can take some time to reflect back on what we have done to decide our next steps. For city leaders, reflection always helps to refine our actions for the development of our city and people.

We are surely grateful for the progress of the ongoing vaccine clinical trials. Hand-in-hand with the positive spirit to solve this challenge, I would like to invite you all, my fellow city leaders, to start thinking towards recovery.

By thinking towards recovery, we will start looking at the potentials that emerge amidst the pandemic and thinking of ways to explore and develop further. Take for example, digital technology, tangible or intangible local resources, and food resilience. Let's start to see them not only as solutions for now, but also as newly found potentials to be developed further.

Responding to the new normal situation, I can tell that collaboration will be the next trending topic. It will soon find its new shape, adjusting to the new normal situation. Local governments who are ready to grab the opportunities will surely reap the results, which will reflect on local development.

This is also the strongest motivation to take up the relevant theme for our upcoming congress 2021 in Zhengzhou, China: "From Steady Recovery to Sustained Prosperity in Post-COVID-19 Asia Pacific." We aim to link and open up opportunities for collaboration in the new normal.

At this opportunity, I would like to thank members and partners who remain committed to the sustainable urban development despite the challenge. This credit also belongs to the Secretariat Team, who has consistently delivered their very best to our members, including these times.

This is not the battle we can afford to lose. With our strong partnership, we can go through this.

**Tri Rismaharini**  
Mayor, Surabaya  
President, UCLG ASPAC



Dear readers,

Entering the second half of 2020 and still amidst the pandemic challenge, I am glad to see the progress made by our organisation.

I would like to thank the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), local government of Wellington, as well as members who attended our first ever virtual Executive Bureau Meeting on 24-25 August 2020 discussing "Getting to the New Normal: The Role of Local Government in Building Sustainable Communities in a Post-COVID-19 World." The meeting concluded with the adoption of the Wellington Declaration and had fruitful discussions.

One of the discussions is the 8<sup>th</sup> UCLG ASPAC Congress. It was agreed that the biggest gathering of local governments in Asia and the Pacific would be conducted from 24 to 28 April 2021 in Zhengzhou, China, and take up theme "From Steady Recovery to Sustained Prosperity in Post-COVID-19 Asia-Pacific." This event will provide positive and enabling environment for local governments to link up and collaborate.

The Executive Bureau also approved the proposal of new membership from Bandar Lampung, Tulsipur, Dhankuta, Birgunj, Sejong, Guiyang, and Wuxi. I congratulate these cities. I would also like to give my highest appreciation to members for their unwavering commitment for sustainable development in the midst of the COVID-19 challenge.

As year 2020 will soon conclude, our Organisation is also moving forward to a new direction. It is also the reason we included discussion on Manifesto as part of the agenda in our Executive Bureau Meeting. Thanks to the enthusiasm of our members, discussion is now still progressing. I would also like to make a call to all of our members to use this opportunity to shape the future of our Organisation.

Let us make use of this opportunity to develop and grow together!

**Dr. Bernadiah Irawati Tjandradewi**  
Secretary General, UCLG ASPAC

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# BUILD FORWARD STRONGER

**THE COVID-19 pandemic presented unprecedented challenges to local governments. City and local government resilience and responses are truly tested. Cities that continuously improve their resilience have proved that they can better cope with the challenge. The other way around also applies.**

In whatever stage cities now are, the need to build forward stronger is inevitable. This means recovering from the current condition and improving resilience for upcoming challenges.

Build Forward Stronger, the current jargon referring to the already prominent terminology Build Back Better (BBB), is “an approach to post-disaster recovery that reduces vulnerability to future disasters and builds community resilience to address physical, social, environmental, and economic vulnerabilities and shocks.” (Building Back Better, *recoveryplatform.org*).

Emerging after the Tsunami striking the Indian Ocean in 2004, the BBB concept was developed in regards to the devastation and large-scale reconstruction effort undertaken afterwards. Although the current pandemic does not challenge the physical infrastructure, contextualised BBB concept still helps cities and communities build their resilience better in order to bring benefits to face future shocks/disasters. Cities can apply BBB framework to all aspects and sectors of their post-disaster recovery phase.

## CONTEXTUALISING THE INTERNATIONAL BUILD BACK BETTER FRAMEWORK

In the Nepali context, COVID-19 affected the economy, food security, livelihood, education, and social protection, among many other areas hardly hit by the pandemic. A contextualised BBB framework was developed which incorporated areas of economic and social recovery, and considered disaster risk reduction and enabling factors for effective implementation.

BUILD BACK BETTER			
ECONOMIC RECOVERY	SOCIAL RECOVERY	DISASTER RISK REDUCTION	EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION
MACRO-ECONOMIC RESPONSE	PROTECTING HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES	PSYCHOLOGICAL RECOVERY	INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM
SME RECOVERY	SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY	INTERGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION	LEGISLATION AND REGULATION
JOB RECOVERY			MONITORING AND EVALUATION

## BBB IN LIVELIHOOD RECOVERY

BBB views the recovery process as an opportunity. BBB seeks to “promote disaster-resilient livelihoods that are sustainable in the long term and able to withstand the risks from disaster events.”

By incorporating BBB, interventions conducted by local governments during livelihood recovery may include:

Introducing a business continuity system with the goal to enable businesses (be it small, medium, and large in scale) to quickly resume operation after a crisis.

Building financing mechanisms that allow affordable, low-interest financing available for affected businesses.

## BBB IN CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

BBB is also applicable in cross-cutting issues of the recovery phase.

- Environment. Integration of sustainable environmental and natural resource management recovery activities. For example, developing forestry and/or agro-forestry initiatives such as fruit or commercial tree farming as alternative sources of income.
- Gender. BBB seeks to bridge the gender-resilience gap in the recovery phase, considering how women are vulnerable to the impact of shocks. Gender-specific support has the capacity to improve future resilience.
- Governance. BBB seeks to introduce business continuity for government systems and public services.
- Economy. Building mechanisms that provide affordable, low-interest financing for affected businesses.

## KEY PROPOSITIONS

There are 10 key propositions developed together with the BBB concept that are still relevant within current situation:

- Governments, donors, and aid agencies must recognise that families and communities drive their own recovery;
- Recovery must promise fairness and equity;
- Governments must enhance preparedness for future disasters;
- Local governments must be empowered to manage recovery efforts, and donors must devote greater resources to strengthening government recovery institutions, especially at the local level;
- Good recovery planning and effective coordination depend on good information;
- The UN, World Bank and other multilateral agencies must clarify their roles and relationships, especially in addressing the early stages of a recovery process;
- The expanding role of NGOs and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement carries greater responsibilities for equality in recovery efforts;
- From the start of recovery operations, governments and aid agencies must create the conditions for entrepreneurs to flourish;
- Beneficiaries deserve the kind of agency partnerships that move beyond rivalry and unhealthy competition;
- Good recovery must leave communities safer by reducing risks and building resilience

## BUILD FORWARD STRONGER – CASE STUDY

Viet Nam has been applauded by many for its responses and resilience in facing the pandemic. The country's system was built from their experience during the onset of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) which helped them face the current pandemic.

Source: Building Back Better in Post-Disaster Recovery, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. ([https://www.recoveryplatform.org/assets/tools\\_guidelines/GFDRR/Disaster%20Recovery%20Guidance%20Series-%20Building%20Back%20Better%20in%20Post-Disaster%20Recovery.pdf](https://www.recoveryplatform.org/assets/tools_guidelines/GFDRR/Disaster%20Recovery%20Guidance%20Series-%20Building%20Back%20Better%20in%20Post-Disaster%20Recovery.pdf))  
Build Back Better from COVID-19, World Vision Policy Brief on Building Back Better from COVID-19 submitted to Government of Nepal National Planning Commission (25 May 2020)



# VIET NAM: BUILD FORWARD STRONGER, FROM SARS TO COVID-19

## CASE STUDY AND LESSONS LEARNED: HOW THE APPROACH HELPS THE COUNTRY FACE THE PANDEMIC

**Borders:** South China Sea and Gulf Tonkin (East), China (North), Laos and Cambodia (West)

**Population:** 91.81 million

**VIET NAM** is one of the most populous countries in Asia and Pacific region. Considering its population and direct border with mainland China (northern side), Viet Nam has shown astounding result of containing the pandemic spread. With population of approximately 91,81 million, WHO mentioned that Viet Nam only reported 1,343 confirmed cases (3 January - 30 November 2020) compared to Thailand that reported 3,977 cases (3 January - 30 November 2020) with population around 69,837,760 and Singapore with 58,213 (3 January - 30 November 2020) with population of only around 5,860,342.

**Building on their experience in facing SARS in 2003 and avian influenza (2004-2010), Viet Nam has proven that applying the BBB approach enables local government and its people to take immediate actions in containing the pandemic.**

## FROM SARS TO COVID-19: TIMELINE, ACTIONS, BBB APPROACH

### 2003

15 March: Identified by WHO of having local transmission of SARS, second country after China (began in Guangdong Province)

28 April: WHO removed Viet Nam from list of countries with local transmission of SARS after a continuous 20-day period of absence of new cases. Prior to 8 April, Viet Nam reported a total of 63 SARS cases and five deaths.

([https://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2003/pr\\_sars/en/](https://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2003/pr_sars/en/))

**2000-2016: Increased public health expenditures per capita an average rate of 9.0 percent per year**

### 2009

Maintained robust systems to collect and aggregate data from public health entities. It shifted to a nearly real-time, web-based system in 2009.

### 2013

Established national emergency operations centre.

### 2014

Joined the Global Health Security Agenda, a group of 67 countries committed to strengthening global efforts in prevention, detection, and response to infectious disease threats.

### 2016

Hospitals were required to report notifiable diseases within 24 hours to a central database, ensuring that the Ministry of Health could track epidemiological developments across the country in real time.

In collaboration with the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC), Viet Nam piloted an “event-based” surveillance programme.

Established four regional emergency operations centres (continuation of 2013).

### 2018

“Event-based” surveillance scaled up nationally. It empowered members of the public, including teachers, pharmacists, religious leaders, community leaders, and even traditional medicine healers, to report public health events. The goal was to identify clusters of people who have similar symptoms that might suggest an outbreak is emerging.

### 2019

There were 23 alumni in Viet Nam. This network of emergency operations centres ran exercises and trainings to prepare key stakeholders in government for outbreaks, and it managed preparedness and response efforts related to measles, Ebola, MERS, and Zika.

## ACTIONS TAKEN IN TACKLING SARS:

Prompt identification of persons with SARS, their movements and contacts;

Effective isolation of SARS patients in hospitals;

Appropriate protection of medical staff treating the patients;

Comprehensive identification and isolation of suspected SARS cases;

Exit screening of international travellers;

Timely and accurate reporting and sharing of information with other authorities and/or governments.





## COVID-19 OUTBREAK TIMELINE IN VIET NAM (2020):

- 23 JANUARY** ○ First case of COVID-9 detected
- 30 JANUARY** ○ Formed a national steering committee to coordinate Viet Nam's "whole of government" strategy
  - The Ministry of Science and Technology hosted a meeting with virologists to encourage the development of diagnostic tests.
  - Vinh Phuc, a northern province about an hour's drive from Hanoi, provincial leaders locked down a commune named Son Loi, isolated patients and their close contacts in quarantine camps for at least 14 days, and activated community-wide screening at the first evidence of community spread
- FEBRUARY** ○ Early February 2020, publicly funded institutions in Viet Nam developed at least four locally made COVID-19 tests that were validated by the Ministry of Defense and the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology.
- 6 MARCH** ○ Second wave of cases were discovered (imported from new hotspots including Europe, Great Britain, and the United States).
- 1 - 2 APRIL** ○ Government tracked and isolated 200 people who had close contact, lived on the same street, or were on the same flight from London as the patient.
- 1 MAY** ○ Applied national lockdown
- 29 MAY** ○ Confirmed just 270 cases despite extensive testing, with no community transmission since April 15
  - Reported 327 cases

## COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS TO COMBAT THE VIRUS:

### QUICK STRATEGIC TESTING

- Taking action right after first report of COVID-19 infection coming out of China by monitoring border areas, quarantining communities where the infection was detected.
- After China reported the first coronavirus death on 11 January, health checks at airports were implemented. Those with a fever, cough, chest pain or breathing difficulties were isolated for testing. Confirmed cases, fellow passengers and crew and all their contacts were quarantined for 14 days.
- On 15 January, Country's Health Ministry held a meeting with the WHO and the US CDC.

### AGGRESSIVE CONTACT TRACING

- A mandatory 14-day quarantine for everyone arriving in the country enacted and all international flights cancelled. People showing COVID-19 symptoms were closely monitored in medical facilities and their contacts were traced.
- Neighbours were encouraged to report if they knew of someone returning from another country.
- Using the Ministry of Health's records of infected, suspected and exposed cases of COVID-19 with rapid mobilisation of health professionals, public security personnel, the military, and civil servants.
- Introduction of NCOVI, a mobile app allowing the public to declare their state of health on a daily basis. A person could also make health declaration for family members who are not smartphone users.
- Collaboration of the Ministry of Health with tech-firms to "develop an online reporting system in which suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19, as well as people who were in close contact with them, were entered into a database available in real time to the government in Hanoi."
- Applying 4-tier contact tracing: Tier 1: confirmed cases; Tier 2: close contacts of confirmed cases; Tier 3: close contacts of tier 2 cases; Tier 4: isolation of entire communities

### EFFECTIVE PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND CAMPAIGN

- Broadcast the seriousness of COVID-19 through a pop music video that went viral. The video uses a catchy song to communicate the importance of hand-washing. It is memorable, effective and has been enthusiastically shared with the rest of the world.
- Launched a fundraising campaign to buy medical and protective equipment for people working closely with COVID-19 patients. By 5 April, more than 2.1 million donations had been sent via a text message platform.
- The Ministry of Health informs the public of positive cases and potential exposures, and has provided guidelines for disease prevention on its websites.
- Public and private telecom companies have collectively sent 3 billion messages on COVID-19 prevention to mobile phone users.

### SWIFT DEVELOPMENT OF TESTING KITS

- COVID-19 test kit was developed by scientists within a month and could diagnose suspected infections in just an hour.
- Using WHO-approved techniques, these test kits make it possible to isolate infected people and track down their contacts.

### COLLABORATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR

- Factories shifted their focus to producing medical supplies, helping the health system avoid shortages of personal protective equipment and ventilators.
- Philanthropists have installed "Rice ATMs" to feed vulnerable people amid economic slowdown.

### RESULTS

**Viet Nam reported 1,343 confirmed cases with 35 deaths (from 3 January-3 November 2020).**

([covid19.who.int](https://covid19.who.int), accessed on 1 December 2020)

Source: <https://theaseanpost.com/article/vietnams-exemplary-response-covid-19>  
<https://tuoitrenews.vn/news/society/20200310/vietnam-launches-apps-for-health-declaration/53404.html>  
<https://blogs.worldbank.org/health/containing-coronavirus-covid-19-lessons-vietnam>  
<https://theaseanpost.com/article/vietnams-exemplary-response-covid-19>



# TOURISM AND SMALL MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESSES IN ASIA-PACIFIC AMIDST COVID-19: POLICY BRIEF, INSIGHTS

**TOURISM** and its supporting industries are hardly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The industry significantly contributes to the economy. In the context of Asia-Pacific, the region has approximately 470 international airports, and its travel and tourism sector employs 57.5 million and contributes USD1.5 trillion to GDP. Statistics of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation also shows the instrumental role of the industries that in 2017, APEC economies recorded the highest growth in terms of tourist arrivals globally, with a collective 464.7 million international tourists—about 33 percent of global tourism arrivals. The pandemic, however, has pushed the industries to slow down, limit activities, and even close down. The severe impact that Asia-Pacific has to deal with is well captured by World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) mentioning “Asia and the Pacific is expected to be the most badly hit region, with lost income and jobs of \$1.1 trillion and 69.3 million.”

Governments are now starting to identify ways to recover the local economy while many are still struggling to contain the virus. WTTC has presented a policy brief that local governments can use as a reference to recover the economy (at the Policy Actions for COVID-19 Economic Recovery (PACER) Dialogues organised by the Asian Development Bank).

## IMPACTS ASSESSMENT, GOVERNMENTS’ ROLES

○ Demand-side | Key factor is boosting travellers’ confidence. While getting into the new normal condition may mean easing out travel restriction, number of visitors will not fully recover yet. Governments can play its role by helping to stimulate demand, encouraging longer stays per visitor to offset lower demand and at the same time carefully consider effects of regulations on business operations.

○ Supply-side | Since travel and tourism value chain includes extensive cross-cutting industries, such as airlines, hotels, cruises, tour operators, digital platforms, restaurants, airports, car rentals, governments can support by injecting liquidity, providing wage subsidies, helping businesses manage debt, providing SMEs with access to affordable credit and temporarily reducing operating costs.

## FOUR-PHASE RECOVERY PROCESS

POLICIES TO SUPPORT RECOVERY MAY BE IMPLEMENTED IN FOUR PHASES:

- 1** Managing and Mitigating the Crisis (i.e. waive fees, taxes; provide financial assistance to safeguard workers’ incomes and support skills training, promote business registration)
- 2** Restarting the Travel and Tourism Sector (i.e. increase public financing for travel and tourism projects that upgrade public facilities and services, promote public-private-community dialogue to build consensus on how to better deliver shared objectives to boost sustainability, implement health and safety protocols across subsectors)
- 3** Reaching Recovery (i.e. promote domestic travel, create policies to enable appropriate pricing, packaging, and flexible reservations and cancellations)
- 4** Redesigning for the “New Normal” (i.e. use data and research to gain insights on shifting trends and expectations, collaborate with all actors, promote technologies, transparent communication and respect for privacy particularly digital identities)

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR GOVERNMENTS IN LEADING THE RECOVERY



### SUPPORTIVE REGULATION

Governments can facilitate recovery, enhance resilience and ensure healthier travel and tourism for the long run; find balance in generating public funds and enabling the sector to drive growth and generate jobs.



### EFFECTIVE COORDINATION

Governments can ensure broad involvements of relevant actors and stakeholders in the implementation of regulations and policies (ministries, state-owned-enterprises, private sectors, government agencies, international organisations, industry associations). Collaboration between multiple governments and private sectors is also important, particularly in relation to data collection.



### PEOPLE-CENTRIC APPROACHES

Governments need to apply people-centric approach considering the nature of tourism industries. Included are giving protection to residents, tourists, and employees equally. Identification and engagement with stakeholder groups is important to disseminate information, share best-practices, as well as provide reassurances.

Source: [https://www.apec.org/Press/Blogs/2020/0609\\_Tourism](https://www.apec.org/Press/Blogs/2020/0609_Tourism)  
<https://development.asia/policy-brief/policy-options-accelerate-travel-and-tourismrecovery-southeast-asia>

## INSIGHTS FROM GOVERNMENTS IN ASIA-PACIFIC: RECOVERY STEPS, INITIATIVES

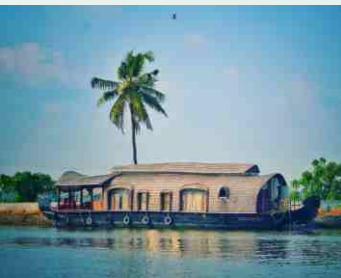
### CHINA – KOREA



Travel Bubble is an initiative to open green corridors with other countries through agreements to open their borders to visitors from a partner economy or economies. Travel bubbles can be designed for business travel only or also include leisure travel. Travel bubbles specify provisions on health protocols to be followed when leaving and entering the territory. Access can be reciprocal or only in one direction. Agreement can be formed between two or more partners.

The first travel bubble in Asia and the Pacific was between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea on 1 May 2020. The agreement is limited to business travellers only, who need to be invited by a company in the other country. Their health is also monitored for two weeks and tested for the virus 72 hours before departure. Upon entry into the other country, travellers are tested again and quarantined for up to two days. The two countries are currently discussing expansion of this initiative. In June, travel bubbles for business travellers were introduced between China and Singapore as well as between Japan and Vietnam. (<https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/633726/reviving-tourism-amid-covid-19-pandemic.pdf>)

### KERALA (INDIA)



In the post COVID market, the state's tourism will focus on highlighting its traditional healing and wellness system, Ayurveda, in addition to ecotourism and adventure tourism to attract more domestic tourists. To stimulate the local economy and businesses, the state has announced the launch of financial package of INR 455 cr COVID assistance package to the tourism industry (INR 355 cr in the form of Working Capital Assistance and INR 100 cr as Tourism Employment Support Scheme).

Under the Tourism Employment Support Scheme, the government will provide short-term loan assistance (with ranges from INR 20,000 to INR 30,000) to all employees through the Kerala Bank at 9% interest rate per annum. Tourism department will absorb 6% of the interest for 18 months and the 3% will be borne by the borrower. There will be a 4 months moratorium for these loans.

In the Working Capital Assistance Scheme, the government has prepared a scheme with the State Level Bankers Committee to provide working capital assistance ranging from INR 1 lakh to 25 lakh. The small enterprises will be eligible for Working Capital Loan between INR 1 lakh and INR 3 lakh, the large operators can avail a loan ranging from INR 5 lakh to INR 25 lakh. (<https://travel.economicstimes.indiatimes.com/news/destination/states/kerala-announces-455-cr-financial-package-to-the-tourism-sector/77609765>)

This initiative gained positive response from actors of the industry in the country that the industry feels that the model can inspire other states in the country. Kerala Tourism Minister, Kadakampally Surendran, said that Kerala is making use of its expertise on crisis management, gained during 2018 floods and the Nipah epidemic.

### VIET NAM



"Vietnamese People Travel in Viet Nam," a stimulus programme (from 1 June - 31 December 2020) to promote domestic tourism and encourage people travel in the new normal context. Included in the programme are various promotional activities, guidelines on reopening of tourism activities with safety measures, attractive travel products which include reasonable prices from tour operators, stimulus programmes of travel businesses, lower ticket prices by air carriers and transport companies. There is also a national tourism stimulus programme to create jobs and restart the recovery of the tourism industry initiated by local government of Hanoi capital city in collaboration with authorities from other provinces and cities. (<http://hanoitimes.vn/vietnamese-people-travel-in-vietnam-program-kicks-off-312047.html>)

### SRI LANKA



Government of Sri Lanka launched "Sri Lanka Tourism Operational Guidelines with Health Protocols." The government stimulates the "demand" in the tourism industry by requiring the tourists/visitors to stay for minimum five days and even longer with series of health protocols. The guidelines also regulate the roles of relevant actors/sector such as airport, accommodation, tourist facilities and services, travel agents, tour operators and crews, tourist attractions, provincial councils, tourism bodies, local authorities, security personnel, and tourist police.

([https://www.srilanka.travel/pdf/SL\\_Tourism\\_Operational\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://www.srilanka.travel/pdf/SL_Tourism_Operational_Guidelines.pdf))

### JAPAN



Government of Japan promotes domestic travel by developing Go-To Travel Campaign. The campaign aims to promote local tourism and bring business back to local tourism and hospitality operators by providing subsidies. The "Go-To Travel Campaign" is a programme in which travellers will receive up to 50% subsidies on transportation, hotels, restaurants, landmarks, and shopping costs, anywhere in Japan. The campaign is eligible for all residents in Japan. It includes package plans (combination of accommodation and transportation for domestic travel), accommodations only, and a day trip (round trip ticket, meal or sightseeing experience plan). Subsidy will be given up to 50% of the travel cost with certain cap in amount. The Go-To travel Campaign is part of the Go-To Campaign, a programme comprising four types of campaigns including "Go-To Eat Campaign," "Go-To Event Campaign" and "Go-To Shopping Street Campaign." The campaign period is planned for six months with the "Go-To Travel Campaign" started from 22 July. (<https://www.realestate-tokyo.com/living-in-tokyo/travel/go-to-campaign/>)

### THAILAND



Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) announced "BEST" as the new normal of Thai Tourism; a programme that stands for Booking (in advance), Environmental (enthusiast), Safety (comes first), and Technology (enhanced tourist experiences). In the implementation, TAT will also apply evaluation for mainstream and niche markets, presentation of medical certificate, promotion of "neighbour" tourism among provinces with no reported cases, requirement to install a tracking application on their smartphone, focus on high-end international tourists with the image of Thailand as a world-class health tourism destination and provide subsidy to hotels and tour operators for affordable travel.

(<https://news.cision.com/tourism-authority-of-thailand/r/tat-unveils-strategy-for-new-normal-tourism-recovery,c3132416>)

### HONGKONG



The Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) rolled out HK\$400-million plan for promotional campaign to boost local consumer confidence and enhance Hong Kong's tourism prospects in overseas tourism markets. The plan covers local and overseas travel agencies, hotels, airlines, tourism sites, retails, catering and convention and exhibition sectors. For local consumers, the campaign supports local restaurants to provide limited discounts or two-for-one special offers to consumers. HKTB also applies various exemptions and waives, such as license renewal fees for shops under the Quality Tourism Services Scheme administered by HKTB, discount of half-the application fee for newly joining merchants, waive all charges for local business attending HKTB tourism marketing events overseas and provide subsidies for flight and accommodation expenses.

(<https://www.chinadailyhk.com/article/124486#:~:text=The%20Hong%20Kong%20Tourism%20Board,been%20declared%20a%20global%20pandemic.>)

One practice by Hong Kong Tourism Company is promotion of online walking tours focusing on local history and culture (with support from government's subsidy and private donations).

(<https://www.hindustantimes.com/lifestyle/hong-kong-tourism-company-moves-walking-tours-online-for-free-amid-covid-19-pandemic/story-QKpxwJSpqTRBKUoDh2wO.html>)

## LOCALISE SDGs: BUILDING CAPACITY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

THE COVID-19 pandemic has paralysed the whole world and affected all development sectors. LOCALISE SDGs programme noted that in the context of Indonesia, the pandemic has affected the four pillars of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely social, economic, environment and culture pillars.

Responding to this, LOCALISE SDGs programme, on the second semester of 2020, organised various virtual webinars to build capacity of local governments through discussions of issues affecting relevant sectors. The virtual discussions, conducted almost weekly, not only informed the pandemic affected issues and local governments' efforts to the public, but also bridged communications among local governments in order to accelerate social, economic and environmental recovery plans.

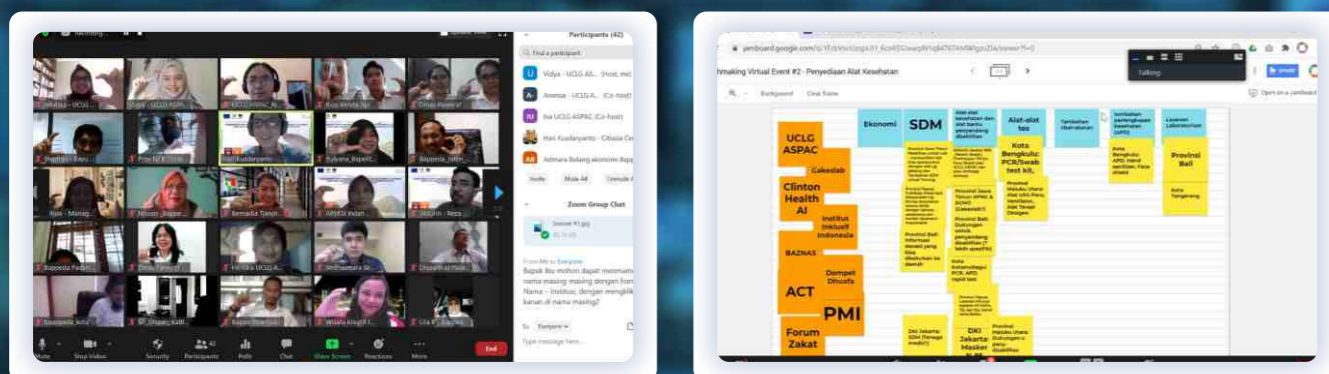
Webinars included virtual match-making events, bringing up various themes such as alternative financing (non-local budget), recovery of tourism sector, telemedicine, budget reallocation, food security, digital economy and health protocol for implementation at local level.

Both webinars and virtual match-making events encouraged local governments to collaborate with various parties, such as in the topics of tourism, economy, health sectors, among many others, referring to the direction of the Indonesian Ministry of Home Affairs on the short-term target achievements in the 2021 Regional Development Work Plan, which is closely related to the implementation of the SDGs. These activities will also be followed up with coaching clinic and technical assistance for selected local governments.

LOCALISE SDGs, launched in 2018, is a joint-programme of UCLG ASPAC and Association of Indonesia Municipalities (APEKSI) with funding support from the European Union (EU). The programme has been working with local governments in 16 provinces and 14 cities in Indonesia. The programme aims to strengthen the local governments and its associations' capacity to implement SDGs as well as building a strong network with both local and international governments as well as other development actors. The series of virtual activities were conducted as part of the LOCALISE SDGs programme to support local governments to recover and to also prevent the spread of COVID-19 and contribute to SDGs implementation.

## LOCALISE SDGs WEB-SHARES TIMELINE:

	<b>10 JUL 2020</b>	"Regional Budgeting Schemes and Alternative Financing Opportunities to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals during the COVID-19 Pandemic" (Series 1)
	<b>23 JUL 2020</b>	"Regional Budgeting Schemes and Alternative Financing Opportunities to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals during the COVID-19 Pandemic" (Series 2)
	<b>6 AUG 2020</b>	"Strategies and Efforts of Local Governments in Restoring the Tourism Industry Towards Adaptation to New Normal"
	<b>19 AUG 2020</b>	"Role of Local Government/CSO/Mass Media in Conducting Effective Public Campaigns to Enforce Health Protocol"
	<b>2 SEPT 2020</b>	"Encouraging Local Governments to Use Telemedicine Technology in Providing Health Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic"
	<b>17 SEPT 2020</b>	"Regional Economic Recovery through Modernisation of Traditional Market Management"
	<b>1 OCT 2020</b>	"Maintaining Regional Food Security during the Pandemic Period"
	<b>15 OCT 2020</b>	"Encouraging Effective Data Synchronisation for a Just Social Safety Net"
	<b>27 OCT 2020</b>	"Responsible Management of Medical Waste during Pandemic"



### HIGHLIGHTS:

-  **Providing Technical Assistance for East Kalimantan Province, South Sulawesi Province, Padang City, Sawahlunto City and Gorontalo City**  
*(based on their expressed needs, interests and commitment from the Tourism Agency and Cooperatives and SMEs Agency to be fully engaged in the technical assistance process and to apply the technical support provided)*
-  **Production of one-minute educational video on COVID-19 protocols to support Bengkulu and Tanjung**  
*(based on their specific need of COVID-19 health protocol education at ports and ferries)*
-  **MoU signing between UCLG ASPAC and the Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas)**  
*(focusing on the localisation of the SDGs and integration of SDGs in local plans)*
-  **Formation of the Handbook for Local Governments on SDGs and COVID-19**



# LEAD FOR SDGs: LOCALISATION AND SUPPORT DURING THE COVID-19 IN PAKISTAN

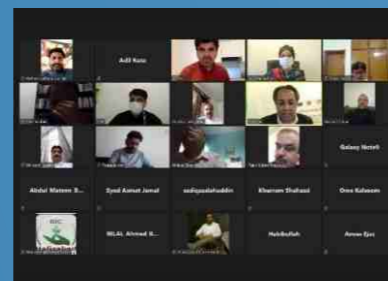
**LOCAL** Empowerment, Advocacy and Development (LEAD) for SDGs programme, co-financed by UCLG ASPAC and the European Union (EU) being implemented in Pakistan. Overall goal of the LEAD programme is **to contribute in the localisation and achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in Pakistan**. This intervention is being implemented in partnership with the Association for Development of Local Governance (ADLG), Local Council Association of Balochistan (LCAB) and Local Councils Association Sindh (LCAS).

With the COVID-19 pandemic, LEAD for SDGs in Pakistan continued its commitment to support local governments; from series of webinars to development of awareness material.

## SERIES OF WEBINARS:

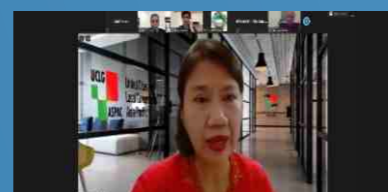
### LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO RESPOND TO COVID-19 OUTBREAK IN PAKISTAN

13 May 2020 – LEAD programme organised a webinar to facilitate the immediate exchange of information regarding experiences, efforts and challenges of the local governments in responding to the COVID-19 outbreak in four provinces of Pakistan. Participants of the webinar released Memorandum of Actions to ensure an effective role and efficient contribution of LG to respond to COVID-19 as well as in the local development relevant to SDGs implementation in Pakistan.



### IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON SDGs IMPLEMENTATION IN PAKISTAN

8 June 2020 – A webinar was organised to discuss the long- and short-term implications of COVID-19 on SDGs implementation plan. Agenda of the webinar was comprised of three sessions i.e. 1. Learning from regional experience, 2. Understanding the impact of COVID-19 at national and provincial levels and 3. Opportunities and challenges, followed by an open discussion, Q&A, recommendations and chat-based feedback shared by the participants.



### SDGs LOCALISATION: PROVINCIAL SDGs FRAMEWORKS AND ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION

7 July 2020 – The webinar aimed at sharing updates on the progress of localisation of SDGs and implementation of Provincial SDGs Framework in Balochistan particularly and progress sharing on SDGs provincial framework in other provinces. The Government of Pakistan, under the umbrella of Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, launched its National SDGs Framework early 2018. The Framework serves as a sound guidance for the provinces to determine their priorities (based on their local needs), localise SDGs by translating national targets into provincial, and ultimately at the district levels.



### FIRST-EVER PROVINCIAL ALLIANCES ON SDGs LAUNCHED IN SINDH AND BALOCHISTAN UNDER LEAD FOR SDGs PROGRAMME

6 & 13 August 2020 | The virtual meeting was organised to launch the first-ever Provincial Alliances on SDGs in Sindh and Balochistan provinces of Pakistan. The objective is to provide a platform to multi-stakeholders for public-private partnership in support of SDGs implementation at sub-national and local level through fostering policy dialogue, advocacy, research and analysis, and information/experience sharing. The members recommended a flexible structure for the alliance to provide opportunity for all stakeholders dialogue and engagement with the provincial and local governments which should enhance the alliance's outreach and give membership to youth and all genders, and engage the media. The alliance members from Sindh and Balochistan acknowledged the significance of the provincial alliances for coordination between various stakeholders, stock-taking and consolidation of on-going efforts, cooperation to develop public-private partnerships and communicate on SDGs and assured their full cooperation and support to achieve alliance objectives.

### MOVING FORWARD - PROVINCIAL ALLIANCE ON SDGs IN BALOCHISTAN

9 September 2020 | A one-day workshop was organised at Quetta that aimed to discuss the structure and future course of action of the provincial alliance on SDGs in Balochistan. The meeting was attended by 27 members including ex-mayors and district chairmen, NGO representatives, bar association, media, local council association, UN agencies and private sector. The alliance members unanimously decided to nominate LEAD for SDGs Programme, an EU funded project, to act as the first secretariat of the alliance. A 10-member working committee was also created to steer the alliance objectives and actions.

### POLICY DIALOGUES ON EMPOWERED LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs IN BALOCHISTAN PROVINCE

A Policy Dialogue on Empowered and Effective Local Government System and Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals has been organised in Balochistan Province by the LEAD programme. The dialogue aimed to discuss how local governments could play an effective and relevant role in helping realise the SDGs at local level; to share the lessons learned from the 2010 Local Government Act and local government tenure (2014-2019); and to recommend legal reforms to the parliamentarians and government institutions. The dialogue was attended by over 40 stakeholders including parliamentarian, ex-mayors and district chairmen, civil society, media, UN agencies and representatives from other EU funded programmes.

## COVID-19 AWARENESS BROCHURE

The brochure consists of COVID-19 initial symptoms, precautions and ways to enhance immunity against the disease. Dissemination of the brochure was ensured through LCAs (LEAD project Implementing Partners) at larger level.





## IUC ASIA: EXPANDING CAPACITY TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

**THE** International Urban Cooperation (IUC) Asia programme, a commitment of UCLG ASPAC with the funding support from the European Union (EU), will soon come to an end. Ms. Nyimas Ida Apriani, a representative from the Environmental and Sanitation Agency of Palembang City, Indonesia shared how the climate change has dramatically affected Palembang City and how IUC Asia has helped the city to tackle those challenges.

**Q** **What are the most prominent environmental challenges that Palembang has been facing in terms of climate change and its dire effects?**

**A** Palembang mostly consists of flat surfaces, and thus there is bigger potential for detrimental flooding. There are two possible causes: ocean tides that affect the volume of the main river flowing right through the middle of Palembang and natural causes (cyclones, forest and land fire). On top of these, Palembang's vulnerability level is also determined by the socio-economic aspects of residents, infrastructure availability, among many others. We also have less optimised adaptive capacity to climate change, probably due to the awareness of the danger of climate change and global warming has only recently arisen. All in all, we are facing both internal and external challenges in terms of climate change and its effects.

**Q** **How does Palembang tackle the aforementioned challenges? What are the existing strategies? How have the communities and other stakeholders been involved in them?**

**A** Palembang City Government has acquired data and identified locations that are most prone to high level of inundation. With the help of Public Work and Spatial Planning City Agency of Palembang, we allocated a number of water pumps in those areas. In terms of forest fires, we are working with village supervisory non-commissioned officers (Babinsa) to spread awareness about the danger of burning method for land clearing or waste management. For cases of natural disasters, so far, we would watch the weather/climate trends of these natural events, which areas are the hotspots, and socialise some anticipatory warnings. However, structured anticipation efforts have yet to be established in our city.

**Q** **How does being the signatory of Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) Southeast Asia and the pilot city of IUC Asia help Palembang City in further addressing its city climate issues?**

**A** We are very grateful that Palembang has the privilege to be one of IUC Asia's pilot cities. Firstly, IUC Asia opens the opportunity for Palembang City to establish and build networks with other cities, from Indonesia and beyond; to get to know them and be known. It enables us to interact, connect, and ultimately learn from their stories and best practices; to participate in various kinds of enriching activities.

For example, when we participated in the Knowledge Management Forum held in Tangerang City, Indonesia, we learned that Balikpapan developed a more comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CAP) than ours. On other occasion, we also learned that Malang City has incorporated its climate actions into Environmental Impact Assessment (AMDAL) documents, which then still remains as a homework for Palembang. This kind of instances were only available to us through IUC Asia programme.

Secondly, through the programme, we are able to significantly enhance the quality of Palembang City Government's human resources. The assistance from CCROM-IPB, IUC Asia's technical partner, especially in the development of Palembang's CAP, enriches our outputs that include information from other scientific method and data collection.

**Q** **IUC Asia Programme will come to an end in a few months. What is Palembang looking forward to in terms of prospective international cooperation?**

**A** In the near future, Palembang is hoping to be further involved in any kind of international cooperation/programmes/events/activities to upgrade the capacity of human resources within Palembang City Government. Moreover, we also hope that future international cooperation can support Palembang to carry out and implement existing plans that has been developed in the CAP, namely financial support.

**Q** **Is there any local initiative in Palembang City related to climate and environment that can act as a best practice for other cities?**

**A** We excel in the system of community-based waste management – all of the initiatives are enacted by the people and the city government simply facilitate. Its performance is excellent that it got replicated in several different areas in Palembang City. In CAP development, we also managed to cooperate and coordinate well with different stakeholders: civil society organisation and private sectors (PT. PLN, Pertamina, etc.) for climate adaptation and mitigation. Lastly, Climate Village Programme (Proklim), a nationally-initiated programme by Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry, has been successfully enacted in Palembang City. A number of slum areas and informal settlements have been notably improved.

“

I am happy to learn that IUC Asia is working on a Circular Cities Project which aims to foster city-to-city cooperation between cities in Penang and several European cities. Cooperation is within the framework of the IUC Asia project of the European Union, and Penang Green Council has been appointed as the lead stakeholder in the stakeholder consultations for this project which is financed by the European Union (EU). I am also confident that our Malaysian stakeholders today will immensely benefit from the knowledge transfer by our EU experts, networking and deliberating on how we can collectively design and collaborate on these timely Circular Cities pilot projects.

YAB Chow Kon Yeow, Chief Minister of Penang, Malaysia

”

# IUC ASIA: CITIES' MILESTONES, PROGRAMME'S ACHIEVEMENTS

The International Urban Cooperation (IUC) Asia, a programme funded by the EU, draws to a close by November 2020. UCLG ASPAC, serving as the HelpDesk of IUC, will continue providing its support to cities on climate change issue. Up to October 2020, the programme recorded milestones achieved by the pilot cities in their CAP development:

## INDONESIA

### Set mitigation target\*

Makassar	: ~20.00%	Malang	: 11.00%	Denpasar	: 7.50%
Palembang	: 15.00%	Depok	: 11.00%		

\*) by 2030 against BAU baseline scenario

- Determined priority mitigation actions within the energy, transportation, and waste sector, such as but not limited to: Mass Public Transportation, bike and pedestrian path, 3R (Reuse, Reduce, Recycle), composting, and Land Fill Gas (LFG) Capture.
- Determined priority locations and set adaptation goal to reduce the numbers of vulnerable villages in prioritised area (e.g. Palembang: 50% by 2030) using Climate and Vulnerability Risk Assessment result.
- Determined adaptation actions to address drivers of vulnerability, such as but not limited to: improving spatial plan, improving climate-proof infrastructure (e.g. waste management, rainfall harvesting, restoration ecosystem), and community empowerment.

## MALAYSIA

### Set mitigation target

Muar	: 63%*	Penampang	: 45%*
Hang Tuah Jaya	: 45%*	Tawau	: 45%*

\*) reduction in emissions intensity of GDP by 2030 relative to the base year 2010 emissions level

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hang Tuah Jaya           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reduce property damage due to monsoon and flooding by 50% by 2030 (compared to 2010 levels).</li> <li>To reduce the number of days of water rationing caused by drought by 50% by 2030 (compared to 2017 level).</li> <li>To reduce the number of dengue cases by 50% by 2030 (compared to 2017 level).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Muar           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reduce property damage due to monsoon and flooding by 50% by 2030.*</li> <li>Reduced the occurrence of human-induced forest fire by 30% by 2030.*</li> <li>Cut the number of dengue cases by 50% by 2030.*</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Penampang           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reduce property damage due to rain storm and flooding by 50% by 2030.*</li> <li>Completely eliminated unregulated hill cutting and deforestation by 2030.</li> <li>Reduced downtime of utilities caused by tropical storms by 30% by 2030.*</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tawau           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced property damage due to rainstorm and flooding by 50% by 2030 compared to 2010 levels.</li> <li>Reduced the number of dengue cases by 50% by 2030 compared to 2017 levels.</li> <li>Reduced downtime of utilities caused by tropical storms by 30% by 2030 compared to 2017 levels.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|--|---|---|---|

\*) compared to 2017 levels

\*) compared to 2017 levels

## VIET NAM

- Pilot cities' progress on their CAPs development will take form by the end of November 2020.

# THE 8<sup>TH</sup> UCLG ASPAC CONGRESS AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “FROM STEADY RECOVERY TO SUSTAINED PROSPERITY IN POST COVID-19 ASIA PACIFIC”



**DISCUSSION** to advance prosperity of cities has become the main focus of the 8<sup>th</sup> UCLG ASPAC Congress. This is particularly relevant as local governments prepare for the recovery phase post the COVID-19 pandemic. Glimpse the information below to plan out your attendance, involvement in the discussion sessions, network, and follow ups.

## TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

City-to-City Cooperation

Building Resilient Cities and Communities

Green Recovery and Digitalisation in New Normal

Mobility and Connectivity

## WHAT ZHENGZHOU OFFERS AND COLLABORATION POTENTIALS:

Comprehensive transportation hub, city of highway, railway, aviation and communications.

The only double-cross centre of ordinary and high-speed railway networks of China.

Zhengzhou Xinzheng International Airport has opened 34 all cargo air routes and 208 passenger air routes; the freight volume in the international region ranks first in China, basically forming a hub of air route network across Europe, America and Asia, covering major global economies, and becoming an important air gateway for the central region to the outside world. In 2019, China Europe train (Zhengzhou) started 1000 shifts (638 departures and 362 returns), an increase of 33 per cent, with an annual cumulative value of \$3.354 billion and cargo weight of 541,400 tons.

Act as an important industrial city in the central part of China. At present, there are seven main industries such as automobile, equipment manufacturing, coal, electricity, aluminium, food, textile and clothing, electric information, among many others.

Establishment of strategic industries: electronic information, automobile and equipment manufacturing industry, new material industry, biology and pharmaceutical industry.

Upgrade of traditional industries: modern food processing industry, aluminium and aluminium intensive processing industry, home and brand apparel manufacturing industry.

# FIRST EVER UCLG ASPAC VIRTUAL EXECUTIVE BUREAU MEETING AND INTERNATIONAL FORUM

UCLG ASPAC, in close collaboration with Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) and Wellington City Government convened its Executive Bureau (ExBu) Meeting 2020 firstly virtually from 24 to 25 August 2020. The virtual discussion took theme 'Getting to the New Normal: The Role of Local Government in Building Sustainable Communities in a Post COVID-19 World'.



## EXECUTIVE BUREAU MEETING

The 2020 Executive Bureau Meeting was held on 25 August 2020. It was chaired by Mayor Tri Rismaharini, President of UCLG ASPAC and supported by Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General. Co-Presidents and ExBu members joined the firstly held virtual ExBu meeting. Below are highlighted points in the meeting:

### HIGHLIGHTS

 **200**  
Participants

 **75**  
Cities and  
Local Governments

 **15**  
Speakers

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Building resilience post COVID-19 is inevitable.
- In facing challenges, particularly the unprecedented like COVID-19, local governments cannot do everything alone. Local governments need good enabling environment, including legal mandate, and resources to meet the increasing demand.
- This pandemic has shown that leadership is key factor that enables cities to tackle challenges.
- There is a need to keep the central and local strategies fine-tuned and enhanced in multiple ways.
- Collaboration with various parties plays an essential role. Included are support from private sectors and local people and collaborative engagement between the governance system with people.
- In the future, it is also essential to ensure that existing infrastructure is able to deliver services recovery and to integrate resilience.
- Asia-Pacific region needs to improve its approach in facing challenges, particularly on rapid response to address the initial spread of a pandemic.
- Cities need to create jobs for the post COVID-19 recovery, build local economy and support small business.
- There is a need for strengthened cooperation internationally built on existing frameworks for emergency preparedness.
- Act in coordination to secure the vulnerable sectors to build resilience on disaster risk.

### MANIFESTO 2020-2025

Priority areas of Manifesto include smart and sustainable city; responsible and safe and responsible tourism; green manufacturing; renewable energy; circular economy; incubation support for start-ups in health, food and green technology, food security and distribution; and health governance. Mayor Kim Hong-jang, Mayor of Dangjin Metropolitan City highlighted the importance of SDGs localisation. Mayor Tri Rismaharini shared her thought to rethinking the perspectives to handle the next 5 years manifesto to anticipate the pandemic like this. The ExBu agreed to set up the new Committee for the Manifesto Development.

### UCLG ASPAC CONGRESS 2021

Adoption of decision to hold the 8<sup>th</sup> UCLG ASPAC Congress in Zhengzhou (China) from 24 to 28 April 2021, taking the theme "From Steady Recovery to Sustained Prosperity in Post-COVID Asia-Pacific." Procedure for election of President, Co-Presidents, ExBu and Council members was presented.

### NEW COMMITTEES PROPOSED

New Committees proposed: Committee on Pacific Sub-Region (LGNZ expressed its willingness to lead) as well as Disaster Risk Reduction Resilience Committee as mentioned by Vice Mayor of Padang City. The ExBu members requested LGNZ and Padang City to submit their detailed proposals on those two proposed Committees.

### OTHER BUSINESSES

Various issues under "Other Business" included capacity building programme, scholarship, and joint-programme by Xi'an, which will include areas such as economic revival post-COVID-19 pandemic, inclusive public space, tourism and culture, and heritage preservation and management. Jakarta Deputy Governor for Culture and Tourism, Mr. Dadang Solihin, informed the ExBu regarding the renewal of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UCLG ASPAC and Ministry of Home Affairs of Indonesia on 9 July 2020 and the plan to relocate the Secretariat office to a larger space, still within the current premises of Jakarta Capital City Government as the Host of the Secretariat. Co-President representing the Pacific, Mr. Dave Cull, former President of LGNZ, proposed that the newly elected President of LGNZ, Mr. Stuart Crosby would be his successor and be appointed as the ad interim of Co-President of UCLG ASPAC. The ExBu accepted his proposal. Votes of appreciation to Mr. Dave Cull for his dedication and commitment during his term as Co-President were given by Mayor Iriga, current treasurer of UCLG World, President and Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC.

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

There were also Committee Meetings held preceding the Forum and Executive Bureau from 20 to 21 August 2020, including the Culture Committee, Standing Committee of Women in Local Governments, South East Asia Standing Committee, South and South West Standing Committee, Belt and Road Local Cooperation Committee, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Cooperation Committee.

# SUB-REGIONS

## EXECUTIVE BUREAU MEETING ATTENDEES WERE ALSO UPDATED WITH REPORT FROM RESPECTIVE SUB-REGION

### SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST ASIA

South Southwest Standing Committee meeting sharing of members' activities, their work plans, and suggestions for strengthening the committee and proposed priorities to UCLG ASPAC Manifesto 2020-2022. The participants placed recommendations for making the committee more effective and functional by developing a proper work plan, holding regular meetings of the committee, sharing successful stories of local governments and its research, documentaries, and publications for learning, knowledge and replication of good practices for other members in the region. There was also a request for capacity building for Local Government Associations (LGAs) on themes relevant to local governments that LGAs could further help in capacitating their members in their respective countries.



### SOUTHEAST ASIA

The UCLG ASPAC Southeast Asia Standing Committee convened virtually to discuss its activity report from 2019, work plan for 2020-2021, and priority areas for the Manifesto 2020-2025. UCLG ASPAC President and Surabaya Mayor Mrs. Tri Rismaharini called on ASEAN Mayors to work together for the recovery of cities in the ASEAN region. She noted that the AMF is a platform for leaders to collaborate in order to address urbanisation challenges. Surabaya has been the first city to host the AMF in 2011 which created the Surabaya Communique and initiated the foundation for strong regional partnership among city leaders.



### EAST ASIA

The city of Hangzhou, under the framework of Belt and Road Local Cooperation (BRLC) Committee, has launched the UCLG ASPAC BRLC Scholarship Programme. The goal is to promote mutual understanding, cooperation and exchanges in various fields between local governments and associations of members. The scholarship provides opportunities candidates from BRLC members to continue their higher education in one of Chinese universities that are in partnership with BRLC, namely Zhejiang University, Hangzhou Normal University and Zhejiang International Studies University.



### PACIFIC

Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) announced the newly elected President Mr. Stuart Crosby, replacing Dave Cull. Mr. Stuart Crosby served as Vice President of LGNZ for the last three-year term and Mayor of Tauranga City from 2004 to 2016. Currently, he is a councillor at Bay of Plenty regional Council. "My aims as president are twofold; to drive sector excellence, and to advocate for legislation and policy that enables every community to stand on their own feet and succeed," he said. Mr. Stuart Crosby is supported by Mr. Hamish McDouall, as vice-president of LGNZ. He is also the Mayor of Whanganui District Council and a member of LGNZ's National Council.



# NEW MEMBERS

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU!



### BANDAR LAMPUNG CITY

**Mayor** : Drs. H. Herman HN, MM  
**Website** : <https://bandarlampungkota.go.id/>

Bandar Lampung City is the largest city located in Lampung Province (Indonesia), it is also one of the largest and most populous cities in Indonesia, beside Java Island, making Bandar Lampung posed as the centre of trade, services, and economy in Lampung province.



### BIRGUNJ METROPOLITAN CITY

**Mayor** : Vijay Kumar Sarawagi  
**Website** : <https://birgunjmun.gov.np/en>

As the main entry to Nepal, this vibrant and busy commercial city is also big on the tourism industry. Most of the trades with India and other countries in the world are done through the customs post located in Birgunj.



### SEJONG SPECIAL SELF-GOVERNING CITY

**Mayor** : Mr. Lee Choon Hee  
**Website** : <https://www.sejong.go.kr/>

Located in the heart of Korea, Sejong City has four key values: autonomous decentralisation centered on citizens, A world-class city with high quality of life, Sustainable and innovative growth, and Balanced development for mutual growth.



### TULSIPUR SUB METROPOLITAN CITY

**Mayor** : Mr. Ghanshyam Pandey  
**Website** : <https://tulsipurmun.gov.np/en>

Tulsipur is a Sub-Metropolitan City It acts as the major transit point of southern and western Dang, Salyan District, Rolpa District, and Rukum district, Tulsipur also serves as a transportation hub.



### DHANKUTA MUNICIPALITY

**Mayor** : Mr. Chintan Tamang  
**Website** : <https://dhankutamun.gov.np>

Dhankuta Municipality has been a hub of its own typical tradition and indigenous identities. Dhankuta Municipality was declared the Capital of Avocado on 22 June 2018, in addition to Clean City of Nepal as it is excellent in waste management.



### GUIYANG MUNICIPAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT

**Mayor** : Mr. Chen Yan  
**Website** : <http://english.guiyang.gov.cn/>

Guiyang is driven by the "four wheels of growth", namely the national hi-tech industrial development zone, economic development zone, free trade zone, and airport economy zone. Guiyang is actively innovative. The main business income of big data companies in the city is expected to reach 120 billion yuan, an increase of 20 percent.



### WUXI MUNICIPAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT

**Mayor** : Mr. Du Xiaogang  
**Website** : <http://en.wuxi.gov.cn/>

Wuxi is noted for its modern industry and commerce, along with its resorts around Tai Lake. As a thriving economic center in the past with its productions and an export hub for silk, rice, and textiles, now Wuxi also emerged as a major producer of software, electrical motor, solar technology, and bicycle parts.

## UCLG ASPAC WEB-SHARE SERIES: DISSEMINATING INSIGHTS AND FACILITATING COLLABORATION

**7 MAY 2020**

Web-Share #7: "Public Transport and Public Space in the future (Post-COVID-19)"

**15 MAY 2020**

Web-Share #8: "Digital Economy Potencies during the Pandemic (IND)"

**29 MAY 2020**

Web-Share #9: "Local Revenue-Challenges and Strategies to Restructuring Budget Post COVID-19"

**12 JUNE 2020**

Web-Share #10: "Local Commitment in Achieving SDGs Post-COVID-19 Pandemic"

**25 JUNE 2020**

Web-Share #11: "Government Strategy in Achieving Short-Term Target of SDGs amidst COVID-19 Pandemic"

**26 JUNE 2020**

Web-Share #12: "Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (Leadership during COVID-19)"

**1 JULY 2020**

Web-Share (Special): "Korea - Indonesia Local Government Cooperation: Post COVID-19 Challenges and Strategies"

**3 JULY 2020**

Web-Share #13: "Empowering Youth on resilience (Post-COVID-19 Challenges and Strategies)"

**10 JULY 2020**

Web-Share #14: "Regional Budgeting Schemes and Alternative Financing Opportunities to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals during the COVID-19 Pandemic" (Series 1)

**23 JULY 2020**

Web-Share (Special): "Socialisation of Cooperation between Ministry of Home Affairs of Indonesia with UCLG ASPAC during period 2020-2023"

**23 JULY 2020**

Web-Share #15 "Regional Budgeting Schemes and Alternative Financing Opportunities to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals during the COVID-19 Pandemic" (#2) (IND)

**13 AUGUST 2020**

Web-Share #16 with Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur: "COVID-19 and SDGs: Local Governance in the New Normal"

**25 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Web-Share #17: "COVID-19 Local Practices, a lesson learnt from Korean Cities (Daegu, Seoul, Jeonju, Jeju, etc.)"

**28 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Web-Share #18: "Two Years of Tsunami and Natural Disaster in Palu: Local Economic Development in Rehabilitation" (IND)

**23 OCTOBER 2020**

Web-Share #19: "COVID-19 Local Practices, Lessons Learnt from South Asian Local Government and Associations for Building Recovery Strategy"

UCLG ASPAC expresses its gratitude to the cities of Guangzhou, Haikou, Xian, Yiwu, and Zhengzhou for expressing their city solidarity through donation of masks and medical supplies. We have disseminated them to Bandung, Barisal, Bogor, DKI Jakarta, Iriga, Lahore, Makati, Padang, Pangkal Pinang, Surabaya, Wakatobi, Yogyakarta, Association of the Indonesia Municipalities, local government associations and community groups in Indonesia.

## DAEJEON TECHNOLOGY POTENTIAL: HEADING TOWARDS A SMARTER CITY

**DAEJEON**, a centre of science in Korea, has earned its name as "Korea's Silicon Valley". With several important research institutes based in the city, such as Daedeok Research and Development Special Zone, Daejeon has recorded great portfolio in the field of science and technology. Among many are development of telephone technology 'Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA)' and human-shaped robot 'HUBO.' Currently, Daejeon is also working on science based projects envisioning for the future of the city, a "Smarter Daejeon City".



### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) AND BIG DATA FOR A FUTURE SMART(ER) CITY

#### DAEJEON, AI MODEL CITY

Envisioning its city to become a model of "Smarter City", Daejeon plans to optimise the AI technology and apply 'Daejeon AI Fine, Intelligent, Rich, and Excellent (FIRE)' strategy. Daejeon expects to develop AI infrastructures, innovate local finance, and improve the urban living. To realise this, city of Daejeon has prepared plans that include:

- Establishment of AI Research Institution in Daedeok Science Complex
- Establishment of Public Data Centre
- Nurturing AI-talented students in local universities
- Making innovation in manufacturing system through application of AI in bio-tech, drone, and robot production

#### REGENERATING CITY USING BIG DATA

The advanced technology application also drives Daejeon to optimise 'Big Data' for sound decision making to regenerate the city. Currently, Daejeon is working on creating index for population, economy, and environment, as well as developing forecast-models to enable local government of the city to acknowledge potential and/or emerging issues immediately and make timely decisions. In the long run, Daejeon plans to continuously optimise Big Data for political decision-making.



## FOR CITIZENS' SMART LIVING - SMART CITY CHALLENGE

The city of Daejeon also plans to improve urban experience for local people in five different fields, enabling them to live "smarter life":

<b>SHARED PARKING</b>	A parking control system including discount-coupon, payment, opening civil parking lots, and shared parking information
<b>MONITORING ELECTRICAL FIRE</b>	Installing Internet of Things (IoT) sensors on panel boards to prevent the electrical fire by previously monitoring the symptoms
<b>AUTOMATIC DRONE SAFETY NET</b>	Making drone station which includes automatic drone that can do take-off and landing by itself, arrive on-site in 2 minutes, and detect fire
<b>FINE DUST DENSITY MEASURING NET</b>	IoT Network based on Low-Power Wide-Area (LPWA) and 650 Fine Dust Density Measuring Net gather the concentration of fine dust densely and specifically, and inform the responding rules
<b>CLOUD DATA HUB</b>	Gathering Semantic-Data from main data managed in the city, providing proper city operation data

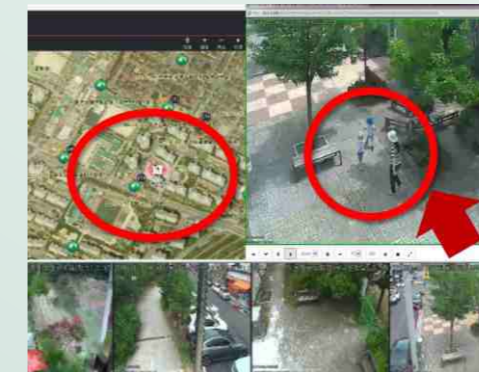
## SMART CITY SAFETY NET SERVICE

Part of the "Smart City" plan is to develop 'Smart City Safety Net Service'. This service is particularly essential in the case of emergencies. It will help local government to take immediate actions and responses.

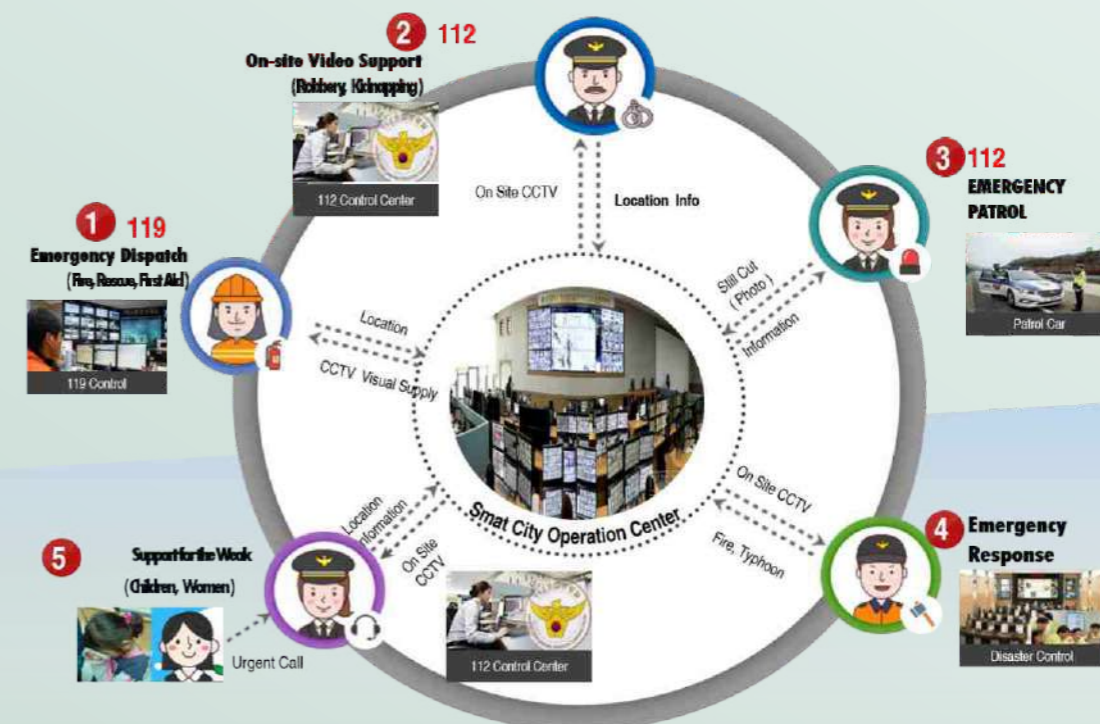
Police Station/Fire Station sends the location of the emergency (i.e. accident)

Control Room in the Smart City Control Centre sends the on-site Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) video to relevant departments/stations depending on the location

Designated departments (i.e. police station) can take immediate actions for resolution based on information from CCTV video



This scheme can also apply to any emergency happening to vulnerable groups such as children or living-alone women. Also when a sexual offender wearing an electronic anklet makes prohibited act, the control room sends the real-time CCTV video to the designated police station so they can rapidly arrest the offender. From this Safety Net Service, in 2019, data shows 3.7 percent of arrests increased, and 16 seconds of emergency patrol time decreased compared to the previous year. In the upcoming UCLG World Congress in 2022, Daejeon plans to propose a 'sustainably growing city model' by sharing the successful smart city examples.



# GYEONGGI PROVINCE HOSTS DMZ FORUM TO PROMOTE PEACE ON KOREAN PENINSULA

GYEONGGI Province held DMZ (demilitarised zone) Forum 2020 from September 17 to 18 to explore ways in which to promote inter-Korean peace and cooperation as well as the peaceful use of the DMZ. Due to the COVID-19 situation, this year's forum was held online (www.dmzforum.or.kr).



Coinciding with the second anniversary of the 2018 Pyongyang Joint Declaration, the event was held under the theme of "DMZ Wants Peace." Gyeonggi Province Governor Lee Jaemyung, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize-winning Liberian Peace Activist Leymah Gbowee, and Harvard University Professor Joseph Nye, who served as the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs under the Clinton administration, participated in the forum and gave keynote speeches.

In addition, 90 panelists – including scholars, experts, and peace NGO representatives from Korea and abroad – took part in 16 sessions to discuss ways in which to promote the spirit of peace on the Korean Peninsula. Among the participants were Moon Chung-in, Special Advisor for Foreign Affairs and National Security to Korean President Moon Jae-in, and Kathleen Stephens, former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea.



The forum consisted of a planning session that focused on the historical value and preservation of the DMZ; a peace movement cooperation session involving related NGOs; a special session for discussions on the peaceful use of the Han River estuary; and an invitational session to examine inter-Korean science and technology cooperation.

In his keynote speech, Governor Lee Jaemyung said, "Gyeonggi Province is the largest local autonomy in Korea and also where part of the DMZ is located. As such, Gyeonggi is the place most affected by inter-Korean relations." He added, "Through inter-Korean exchanges, we intend to restore trust and establish peace, thereby taking the path of prosperity. I believe this is good for both South and North Korea. In that sense, I would like to take this opportunity to propose several cooperation projects with the North."

The five South-North cooperation projects proposed by the governor are: 1) joint quarantine and medical cooperation; 2) cooperation in Imjin River water system management; 3) joint inter-Korean investigation of and research on border area projects; 4) joint forest restoration and comprehensive rural development projects; and 5) launch of a flood recovery support project for North Korea.

Governor Lee asserted, "Gyeonggi Province is ready to talk anytime, anywhere. North Korea's participation is indispensable in realising the aforementioned proposals."

# LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES: PAVING THE WAY FOR MUNICIPAL DIGITALISATION

WITH the need to adopt innovative measures to ensure continued delivery of public service amidst the ongoing pandemic, the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), in partnership with Gracia Telecommunications Corporation, has launched its Local Government Unit (LGU) Digitalisation Programme.

## BRIDGING THE GAPS IN EDUCATION

Local governments now face the challenge of providing learners with education continuity. Due to the prevailing threat of contracting and spreading the virus, conventional physical classes have been prohibited throughout the Philippines.

To address this, the LMP has launched the "Gracia Care Educational TV" Project which entails a multi-platform distance learning initiative. Through the advanced use of satellite-based broadcasts, education can be made available even to the most remote areas in the country. Live or recorded lessons can be broadcast throughout provinces without internet connectivity to provide teachers and students a safer learning environment.

The project has been initiated at the Province of Ilocos Sur and talks with provincial governors are ongoing for a country-wide implementation.

## SAFER CASHLESS TRANSACTIONS

Bank notes and bills have become primary carriers of the virus. Now more than ever, it is the public's interest to transition to contactless and cashless payment systems. It is for this reason that the LMP has launched its Automated Payment Machines (APMs)— unmanned and stand-alone e-commerce terminals capable of handling financial transactions.

The goal is to provide consumers a safer alternative in conducting daily transactions, such as bills payments and money transfers and remittances, by removing the physical exchange of money. These machines are being installed at municipalities with the target of covering the entire country by the first quarter of next year.

It is LMP and Gracia Telecom's goal to pave the road for the digitalisation of Philippine municipalities and to bridge the gaps in public service through advancements in communication.



APM Install – Presentation and demonstration of Automated Payment Machine, Province of Ilocos Sur, 27 August 2020



Educ TV Demo – Presentation and demonstration of test broadcast at the Province of Rizal, 15 August 2020



# MAKATI'S PROACTIVE STRATEGIES AMIDST COVID-19

**MAKATI**, a city in the Philippines, is one of the country's frontrunners in innovation and digital governance. Even before the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country, Makati Mayor Abby Binay had instituted programmes to mitigate risks and provide assistance to residents and front liners.



One of the pioneering initiatives of Makati is the pooled testing method, wherein swab samples are taken from a group of people at the same time instead of testing them separately.

Apart from being chosen as the pilot site for the implementation of this science-based method, healthcare workers conduct round-the-clock swabbing services for front liners, persons under investigation, and persons under monitoring.

Another innovation is the locally developed COVID-19 tracker that can be used for case investigation, patient symptom observations, and contact tracing. It shows the number of cases, deaths, recoveries, and trends for in-depth analysis.

The city also provides free flu and pneumonia shots to City Hall employees and residents, particularly senior citizens, to minimise COVID-19 complications and prevent hospitalisation.

The Ospital ng Makati (OsMak) has encouraged patients to use e-Consult or tele-consult instead of going to the outpatient department to further prevent the spread of the virus. Free medicines are also delivered to homes of senior citizens.

Makati has also converted the Friendship Suites into an isolation facility and built four emergency quarantine facilities at Pembo Elementary School and two negative pressure tents at OsMak. All hospitals and quarantine facilities are regularly disinfected and equipped with modern medical equipment. The city also provides admission kits and free meals to patients and shoulders the cremation of the deceased.

All of these high-impact initiatives, combined with strict implementation of ordinances, are aimed at protecting the lives of citizens, particularly front liners. In these challenging times, leaders should focus on risk management and civic engagement because these are essential in rebuilding sustainable cities.



# XI'AN: BUILDING AN INTERNATIONAL METROPOLIS WITH PROFOUND HISTORY AND CULTURE



**XI'AN** has well-reserved and extensive historical relics and vibrant modern construction. Becoming the capital of Shaanxi province, Xi'an has attracted increasing number of visiting tourists. Previously known as Chang'an, the ancient capital of more than 10 dynasties in China, Xi'an is charming as reflected from the four letters "X", "I", "A" and "N" making up the word "Xi'an".

"X" stands for diversity and inclusiveness. Xi'an, a city with over 3,100 years of history, has also facilitated the integration of high-quality development of culture and tourism and strives to build the Silk Road Culture Centre, International Culture and Tourism Centre, and a World-class Tourist Destination City to inherit Chinese culture and enhance international cooperation.

"I" stands for "international", the brand-new image of Xi'an as an international metropolis opening up to the world. Xi'an has conducted mutually beneficial cooperation with countries and cities all over the world, and has successively held several international cultural and tourism the Silk Road International Film Festival, Xi'an International Fashion Week, Euro-Asia Economic Forum, Silk Road International Exposition, and World Culture and Tourism Forum.

"A" stands for "Active", implying that the ancient city of Xi'an is brimming over with vigor and vitality. Xi'an is dedicated to building a green and ecological city. Its 82 parks, including Park of

Xingqing Palace and Xi'an Chanba National Wetland Park, are accessible to the public, offering the first choice for citizens and tourists to exercise and recreate.

"N" means New, stands for "New Xi'an". Xi'an has vigorously promoted the two strategies of "culture +" and "tourism +", accelerated the deep integration of cultural tourism, events, technology and commerce, and strived to forge tourism cultural intellectual property to enhance the influence of cultural tourism brands. New business cards such as "City of Books", "City of Music", and "City of Museums" have become more eye-catching, and the quality of the city is in perfect harmony with cultural tourism. Xi'an received a total of 293,703,100 (Jan-Nov 2019) tourists from home and abroad, a year-on-year increase of 21.45 percent. The total tourism revenue reached 301.891 billion yuan, a year-on-year increase of 25.03 percent.

While accelerating its pace to build an international metropolis, Xi'an is willing to expand cooperation with other famous historical and cultural cities. Joint efforts should be made to ensure culture being the 4<sup>th</sup> pillar to promote the sustainable development of the world.

# DHANKUTA MUNICIPALITY: FROM ORANGE TO AVOCADO, HEADING TO BE A LEADER OF ENTREPRENEURIAL AGROFORESTRY

**DHANKUTA** was unanimously declared by the Municipal Assembly as the 'Avocado Capital' on 22 June 2018 and the plans keep rolling out ever since. Once famous for exporting toothsome orange, Dhankuta Municipality has now taken a lead in this entrepreneurial and commercial avocado cultivation.



## The Story Behind the Switch

Dhankuta was actually creating its niche market of orange among consumers in the eastern Terai and also in adjoining Indian markets of Bihar and West Bengal. Mayor Chintan Tamang of Dhankuta Municipality shared "Due to several reasons like climate change and the likes, our orange production in the district depleted and we sought experts' advices to replace the possible loss," said Tamang, who has officially hired an agricultural expert.

## Turning Into Avocado, from Farming to Festival

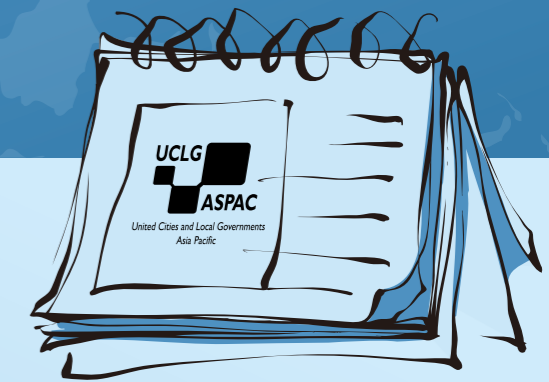
The Municipality finally encouraged locals to plant avocado saplings. For two and half years, the fruit has been rapidly promoted.

In the early stage, the Municipality imported 4,000 avocado saplings and distributed them to local farmers. Later on, the Municipality established its own avocado nursery and started distributing avocado seedlings. In order to help farmers about basic knowhow of cultivating avocado, the Municipality published a book, authored by an agriculture expert Jiwan Rai, detailing commercial avocado farming.

"We have distributed around 25,000 avocado saplings to 500 farmers of all 10 wards of our municipality," informed Bikas Adhikarti, the Economic Development Section Officer of the Municipality. Soon after distributing thousands of avocado saplings, the third Municipal Assembly of the Dhankuta Municipality brought a new avocado-friendly plans and policies.

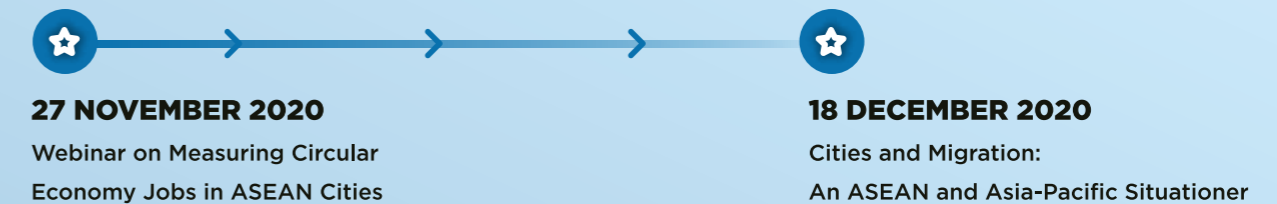
Dhankuta Municipality does not stop at the level of having avocado as commercial farming or "Avocado Capital" declaration in June 2018. On 24 November, 2018, Dhankuta hosted an avocado festival which it claims as the 'first' avocado festival in the whole of Asia. The first ever avocado festival brought in 50 avocado farmers showcasing their 30 species of avocado produced in the district.

"In the upcoming year, we are preparing to host national-level avocado festival," said Mayor Chintan Tamang.



## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

### 2020



### 2021



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

Please send your feedbacks and suggestions to [communication@uclg-aspac.org](mailto:communication@uclg-aspac.org)

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