

# Asian-Pacific City Summit Newsletter

## No.24 January 2014 Edition

### I. The 11<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific City Summit in Kumamoto City

The 11<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific City Summit was held in Kumamoto City, Japan from Thursday, October 31 to Saturday, November 2, 2013. The Summit was hosted by Kumamoto City under the theme of "Initiatives for Livable City Development – Realizing a community where citizens can live and work safely and comfortably –," with 110 participants from 24 cities.

In principle, Mayors' Summit of Asian-Pacific City Summit has been held every other year since 1994 for the solution of urban problems which occur along with the advancement of urbanization. Working-Level Conference has been held in the year following each Mayors' Summit.



The 11<sup>th</sup> Mayors' Summit opened in the evening of October 31 with a welcome reception at Bugyomaru of Kumamoto Castle, one of the three preeminent castles in Japan. The conference took place on November 1, and participants joined the city tour on November 2.

At the conference on November 1, Mr. Yoshinobu Fukasawa, Director of UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific – Fukuoka presented a keynote speech, followed by a special keynote speech by Mr. Julián Castro, Mayor of San Antonio City, Texas, USA. Subsequently, 19 cities reported their efforts for livable city development and exchanged opinions. The summit ended successfully with an adoption of the joint declaration, which set the common goal of creating a community where people of Asian-Pacific region experience more livability (See "Kumamoto Declaration" on page 3).

In 2014, the 10<sup>th</sup> Working-Level Conference will be held in Bangkok, Thailand. In 2015, the 12<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific City Summit will be held in Vladivostok, Russia.



#### Participants

- Member Cities (16 cities)
  - Auckland City, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, Busan Metropolitan City, Fukuoka City, Gwangyang City, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Ipoh City, Kagoshima City, Kitakyushu City, Kumamoto City, Miyazaki City, Nagasaki City, Oita City, Pohang City, Singapore, Vladivostok City
- Non-Member Cities (8 cities)
  - Friendship / Sister Cities of Kumamoto City etc.

## II. The 11<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific City Summit Keynote Speech (Summary)

### "UN-HABITAT & Creating a Livable City"

Yoshinobu FUKASAWA, Director of UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific - Fukuoka



The UN-HABITAT supports governments in provision of adequate shelter for all and sustainable urban development through implementation of projects in a great number of countries, particularly in developing countries. We extract knowledge out of the experience of such projects, and assist countries in urbanization.

The world's current urban population is 3.5 billion and in 10 years by 2025, it will increase to 4.5 billion. It is projected to reach 6.7 billion by 2050. The world has to properly address issues such as a massive and rapid increase of urban population, sprawls, vulnerability to disasters and climate change, poverty and slums, widening income gap, youth unemployment, and so on.

Looking back on the conventional urban planning, there are some cases where zoning does not always bring good results. For instance, road spaces or open spaces are necessary for cities to remain flexible and to accommodate changes, but there are cases where the importance of such spaces has been neglected and they are used in an inappropriate way.

However, if cities are properly planned, well governed and adequately financed, urbanization can be a vehicle for development and transformation. Local authorities are expected to tackle urbanization on the front line, and in turn utilize it to guide their cities to the right directions.

Many of the cities here today are facing decreasing urban population and super aging society, and experiencing deterioration of urban centers and sprawl in the surrounding area.

In this context, all of us should aim to create compact cities that are integrated and connected. The important factors of such cities include higher density, mixed land use, minimum mobility demand, walkable city, and energy efficiency.

There are various measures to achieve a compact city, and the UN-HABITAT is recently promoting a two-layer urban policy approach composed of national urban policies with a spatial framework and planned city extensions from a regional point of view.

The UN-HABITAT is focusing on planned city expansions, and proposed the planning guidelines with numerical targets in factors such as appropriate population density, adequate land for the street network, mixed land-uses, and social mix. In addition, we would like to stress the importance of precautionary approach to future and municipal finance.

The international community has been discussing the Post 2015 Development Agenda, goals to be worked on after 2015. Regarding the Agenda, the UN-HABITAT has proposed quantitative targets "to promote cities that are environmentally safe, socially inclusive, economically productive and resilient."

It would be appreciated if you could use such information as food for thought for a livable city.

We would like to encourage all of you to participate in the World Urban Forum to be held in Medellin, Columbia in April 2014 and to have an active discussion for HABITAT III, the United Nations Conference for Human Settlements to be held in 2016.

### III. The 11<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific City Summit Joint Declaration

#### Kumamoto Declaration

Through the sharing of presentations and opinions at the 11<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific City Summit, we recognized that though the main policies of each participating city often differ due to their own particular stages of development and originality, the effort to realize a livable environment together with the local citizens forms the basis of city administration. Moreover, because the fields that play a part in livable city development are diverse, we are aware that its promotion requires city empowerment, the cooperation between related organs and institutions as well as teamwork between cities.

With this awareness, we recognize that all cities participating at the 11<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific City Summit are engaged in a variety of 'hard' technical initiatives such as compact urban development, enhancement of infrastructure and housing, disaster prevention, as well as committed to non-technical or 'soft' initiatives such as regional community revitalization, health promotion, child support, education and cultural creation.

Thus, with clear advances in livability across the entire Asian-Pacific region as a common goal, we hereby declare the following:

1. In order to create livable cities, participants shall share knowledge and expertise while pursuing the exchange of human resources and technology on both 'hard' and 'soft' fronts.
2. In order to create livable cities and encourage this goal, cooperation amongst various administrative bodies is only the first step; participants shall initiate collaborations with universities, research institutes, industries and citizens.
3. Aiming for balanced development across the Asian-Pacific region and parallel to the creation of livable cities, participants shall develop exchange programs in a variety of fields including environmental, welfare for aging society, economy, culture, and tourism to deepen and advance the relations of all member cities.

November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013  
Kumamoto City, Japan

### IV. News from a Member City (Singapore)

At the 11th Asian-Pacific City Summit in Kumamoto City, Centre for Liveable Cities, the representative from Singapore introduced us to the past and present scenarios of Singapore and their efforts of transforming the city-state into one of the most liveable cities in the world by urban planning over several decades. We also heard their underlying principles and approaches that have brought about the current status.

During the presentation, Centre for Liveable Cities shared information about their publication work. This includes "Urban Solutions," the magazine which they publish twice a year, and the article entitled "The CLC FRAMEWORK for Liveable and Sustainable Cities" (*Urban Solutions*, Issue I / July 2012, pp. 58-63) – shares Singapore's approaches to achieving liveability. The article is rewarding to the readers, especially to urban leaders and working-level officials. Please check the article from the following URL.

<http://www.clc.gov.sg/publications/urbansolutions.htm>

★To all the contact persons of our member cities: We are waiting for articles from you.

Please feel free to send us information on hot topics and new projects of your city and your efforts to address urban issues that might be helpful to other cities.

(Newsletters are posted on the Asian-Pacific City Summit website and sent to member cities and other addresses via email.)

### Future Asian-Pacific City Summit Conferences

Date	Name of the Conference/ Theme	Host City
July 2014 (Scheduled)	The 10 <sup>th</sup> Working-Level Conference Theme: Balanced Life and Sustainable Living (Tentative)	Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (Kingdom of Thailand)
2015 (Scheduled)	The 12 <sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific City Summit (Mayors' Summit) Theme: Youth Policy in the Cities (Tentative)	Vladivostok City (Russian Federation)

The Asian-Pacific City Summit has been building cooperative relations and networks among cities through Mayors' Summits, Working-Level Conferences and other activities, working toward solutions for urban problems in the Asia-Pacific region.

Asian-Pacific City Summit Member Cities 30 Cities from 13 Countries

Auckland City (New Zealand)	Kagoshima City (Japan)
Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (Thailand)	Kitakyushu City (Japan)
Brisbane City (Australia)	Kuala Lumpur City (Malaysia)
Busan Metropolitan City (Korea)	Kumamoto City (Japan)
Changsha City (China)	Manila City (The Philippines)
Dalian City (China)	Miyazaki City (Japan)
Fukuoka City (Japan)	Nagasaki City (Japan)
Guangzhou City (China)	Naha City (Japan)
Gwangyang City (Korea)	Oita City (Japan)
Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)	Pohang City (Korea)
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (China)	Saga City (Japan)
Honolulu City (USA)	Shanghai City (China)
Ipoh City (Malaysia)	Republic of Singapore
Jakarta Capital City Government (Indonesia)	Urumqi City (China)
Jeju Special Self-Governing Province (Korea)	Vladivostok City (Russia)

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