



# Asian-Pacific City Summit Newsletter

## No. 39 September 2017 Edition

### Contents

|   |   |
|---|---|
| I. UN-Habitat ROAP-Fukuoka Signs MOU to Co-host Summit .....  | 1 |
| II. The 12 <sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific City Summit .....  | 1 |
| III. News from UN-Habitat ROAP-Fukuoka (The fourteenth installment)<br>“UN-Habitat ROAP-Fukuoka: A 20-Year History” ..... | 5 |

### I. UN-Habitat ROAP-Fukuoka Signs MOU to Co-host Summit

On July 19, Fukuoka City and UN-Habitat ROAP-Fukuoka announced that they will be co-hosting the 12<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific City Summit, to be held in the summer of next year. The two bodies signed an MOU to this end, with UN-Habitat Executive Director Joan Clos as a witness.

Executive Director Clos was celebratory about the announcement, quoted saying that "For us it is a pleasure to collaborate with your city in celebrating this [summit.] We are very pleased that Fukuoka is showing this commitment and leadership in working towards an improvement of urbanization, [and that we] continue to have your support."

Fukuoka City and UN-Habitat ROAP-Fukuoka are already engaged in preparations for the summit.



From left: Takashima Soichiro, Mayor of Fukuoka City, Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, and Koresawa Atsushi, Regional Director for UN-Habitat ROAP-Fukuoka.

### II. The 12<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific City Summit

#### 1. Date (subject to change)

August 1 – 2, 2018

\*City tour on Friday, August 3

#### 2. Hosts & Supporters

○Organizers: Fukuoka City, UN-Habitat ROAP-Fukuoka

○Supported by: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport & Tourism, United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)



### 3. Program (TBD)

#### 【July 30 – August 1 (Morning)】

**Global Symposium on International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (TBD)**

**Meeting on Spatial Planning Platform for the Asia-Pacific Region (TBD)**

#### 【Wednesday, August 1 (Afternoon)】 Summit Day 1

- **Opening Ceremony**
- **Address by the Host:** Mayor of Fukuoka City
- **Address by UN-Habitat** (Introducing activities of UN-Habitat on implementing SDGs and NUA)
- **Keynote Speech I:** Global trends in implementing SDGs
- **Keynote Speech II:** Corporate initiatives regarding SDGs
- **Welcome Reception**
  - Welcome address by the Mayor of Fukuoka City: Urban Development and New Challenges of Fukuoka City)
  - Ohori Park Fireworks Show (20:00~21:30)
  - Closing address by the Regional Director of UN-Habitat ROAP-Fukuoka.

#### 【Thursday, August 2】Summit Day 2

- **UN-Habitat Session**
  - Presentation given by the Regional Director for ROAP-Fukuoka
 

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|---|--|---|
| { | International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IG-UTP)<br>Introducing UN-Habitat initiatives available to each city | } |
|---|--|---|
  - Presentation of best cases in the Asia-Pacific Region  
(Five cities in the IG-UTP: Fukuoka, Surabaya, Shenzhen, Ahmedabad, and Melbourne)
- **Lunch & Bilateral Meetings**
- **Parallel Sessions**
  1. Towards Sustainable and Competitive Global Cities  
(Smart City, Big Data Utilization, Sharing Economy, Aging Society)
  2. How Do Cities Address Issues Arising from Accelerated Urbanization?  
(Resources & Energy, Infrastructure & Transport Policy, Master Plan)
  3. Resilient Cities that Minimize Damage Caused by Disasters  
(Providing & Receiving Assistance System)
- **Networking/Matchmaking Event among Companies and Participants**
- **Closing Ceremony**
  - Report on Parallel Sessions (by moderators)
  - Joint Declaration
- **Photo Session**
- **Farewell Party (Fukuoka City Museum, or other locations)**

#### 【Friday, August 3】Summit Day 3

- **City Tour**

\*The program above is subject to change.



#### 4. Purpose of the Summit

Urbanization is advancing throughout the world. It is expected that about 70% of the world's population will live in cities by 2050, and as a result, cities will face numerous challenges. The role of cities has become more crucial.

The importance of sustainable urbanization is also promoted by the United Nations, such as in the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", a plan of action for people, planet, and prosperity, and the New Urban Agenda (NUA)", a global framework for resolving issues regarding urbanization and human settlements.

On this occasion, Fukuoka City and UN-Habitat ROAP-Fukuoka will co-host the Asian-Pacific City Summit under the theme of "Sustainable Cities and Communities". In light of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the centerpiece of the 2030 Agenda, we will seek to solve urban issues through measures such as inter-city collaboration.

#### New Challenges of the Asian-Pacific City Summit

##### UN × SDGs × Cities United to Solve Urban Issues

###### ○ Exchange advanced information and knowledge on SDGs

Fukuoka City will co-host the Summit with UN-Habitat, the UN agency working for community development. Participants will be able to get the latest information from experts on SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. This includes specific and valuable insight which cannot be gained at other international conferences, through discussions with experts and leaders of other cities.

###### ○ Offer new approaches for urban development towards sustainable cities

In order to address increasingly complex urban issues, participants will be able to obtain specific ideas and solutions for future urban development through detailed discussions on the latest technology and urban development with experts in these areas. Participating mayors will give presentations on best practices of urban development towards sustainable cities.

###### ○ Disseminate good practices and state-of-the-world technologies to international society

Good practices for urban development solutions in Asia, initiatives of each city and the results of the Summit will be disseminated to the world, and the UN Headquarters, through the versatile global network of UN-Habitat ROAP-Fukuoka.



## Concurrent International Conferences held by the UN, MLIT, and Fukuoka City

### ○ Synergy effect created via three international conferences held concurrently

Coinciding with the Asian-Pacific City Summit, two international conferences regarding urban development are scheduled to be held. The United Nations, national governments, and representatives of cities will gather to discuss sustainable development from their respective viewpoints. Participants will be able to bring more meaningful urban solutions back home.

#### 1. Global Symposium on International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (TBD)

Organizer: UN-Habitat Target: National Governments

Contents: Review the implementation progress of the Guidelines, Promote the global implementation of the Guidelines

#### 2. Meeting on Spatial Planning Platform for the Asia-Pacific Region (TBD)

Organizer: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT, Government of Japan)  
UN-Habitat ROAP-Fukuoka

Target: Asia-Pacific Region (national/local gov't, international organizations, private companies)

Contents: Share information on spatial planning, support for the formulation of plans

## New Matchmaking Opportunities for Cities, Companies, and National Governments

### ○ Offer matchmaking opportunities with Japanese companies with advanced techniques and expertise

In order to solve urban issues, cities, companies, and national governments need to work together. Asian-Pacific City Summit will provide opportunities to solve issues facing each city through networking and matchmaking for Japanese companies with advanced technique and expertise, participating cities, and national governments.

### ○ Offer opportunities to start new projects for urban development solutions through the Summit

To address issues which one city cannot solve alone, organizations such as JICA and the World Bank will provide the latest information on their ongoing projects and support systems to solve urban issues in the future. Long-term initiatives are necessary in devising urban development solutions. Going forward, the Asian-Pacific City Summit will follow up with participating cities to see what their solutions are, after the 12th Summit's conclusion.

## Events During the Summit

### ○ A fireworks event, which attracts one of the largest spectator audiences in Fukuoka, will be held on August 1. It will be one of the most lively days of the year for our city. Participants can also enjoy the show from a VIP room.

### ○ City tour programs are being planned so that participants will be able to visit not only Fukuoka, but also other parts of the Kyushu region (Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine, Mt. Aso, hot springs, etc.)

\*The above content is subject to change.

## UN-Habitat ROAP-Fukuoka -20 Years of History-

### ■ 2017 Marks Our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

In August of 2017, UN-Habitat ROAP-Fukuoka celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The office here in Fukuoka began operation on August 1, 1997, via an agreement signed the same year on April 28 with our partners at the Fukuoka Prefectural Government, Fukuoka City Government, the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation, and the Cooperating Committee of the UN-Habitat Fukuoka Office. Since then, we have launched 434 projects across the 28 countries of operation in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Over the past two decades, the Region, including Japan, has seen a wide array of natural disasters and strife. However, despite these tragedies we have also learned valuable lessons about how to build safer and more resilient cities, and execute on better-prepared urban development. In this period, the geopolitical situation across the world has also shifted greatly, and while for example one of our first major goals revolved around the improvement of slums that arose with urbanization, we now face new issues such as climate change, and how to channel the inertia of urbanization into economic growth. A key part of the latter project is something the entire world is currently facing: the importance of a sustainable pattern of urban development that maintains the delicate balance between growth and nature, culture, and history.

With our valued partners, we have renewed our MOU 4 times over these past 20 years, and to commemorate this anniversary, we reaffirmed our commitment through a signed pact. We believe that this signifies confidence in our continuous and firm partnership.



July 19, 2017 UN-Habitat and Fukuoka Partners show commitment

### ■ ROAP-Fukuoka's Activities in the Asia-Pacific Region

The first several years of operation following our start in 1997 were more difficult than we could have imagined. In the beginning, we assumed that projects carried out by the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the UN Development Programme (our primary donors at the time) would increase, but due to factors like the 1998 Asian financial crisis, we were ultimately unable to move forward as we originally wanted.

The scope of ROAP-Fukuoka activities really began to expand in 2004. We received a request from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to oversee a plan to build some 250 school facilities, from kindergartens to universities, in (at the time) post-war Iraq. Following that, a number of large natural disasters occurred in the Asia-Pacific Region, the first of which was the 2004 Sumatra-Indian Ocean earthquake. After this was:

- The October 2005 earthquake in Kashmir, Pakistan
- The May 2006 Yogyakarta earthquake in Java, Indonesia
- In May 2008, Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and earthquake in Sichuan, China
- The October 2008 earthquake in Quetta, Pakistan



- The severe 'zud' winter season across Mongolia from 2009 to 2010
- Flooding during Pakistan's rainy seasons from 2010 to 2012
- The November 2013 super typhoon 'Yolanda' which struck the Philippines
- The March 2015 cyclone 'Pam' which caused great damage to Vanuatu
- Finally, the earthquake in Nepal in April of the same year.

ROAP-Fukuoka has gone into these disaster-struck areas to support relief and recovery efforts, in cooperation with the relevant national and local governments, as well as the people who live there.

The Asia-Pacific Region is also stage to many civil conflicts. East Timor saw itself become independent through an armed struggle, and while civil wars in Nepal and Sri Lanka have reached a form of conclusion, the armed conflicts in Afghanistan and Pakistan continue to this day. As a result, there has been a great loss of life and an uptick in migration, resettlement, and repatriation.

Japan has seen its share of natural disasters as well, including northern Kyushu and Fukuoka. Following the March 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, a number of UN-Habitat employees joined the volunteer relief efforts in support of NGOs working in the area. As a part of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs' support projects, ROAP-Fukuoka visits disaster-struck areas one year after the event has occurred. We have visited 11 such areas to help contribute to their recovery work and offer support.

Our work in Afghanistan is the largest of its type among ROAP-Fukuoka projects, making up roughly half of our branch's budget. The Afghan government is one of our important partners, and as of 2017 they became an official member of the UN-Habitat Governing Council.

After Afghanistan, our next-largest projects are in Sri Lanka and Myanmar, and have been carried out there since 2009. With support from various donor countries as well as the Indian government, we rebuilt many houses for the Tamil people. In Myanmar, our efforts were focused on recovery after Cyclone Nargis in 2008, and following this, we are involved in the maintenance of homes for minority communities in Myanmar.



(Afghanistan)

### ■ Bringing the Power of Fukuoka Citizens to the Asia-Pacific Region

When ROAP-Fukuoka engages in disaster relief initiatives or projects to improve living conditions, we bring with us environmental expertise and techniques from firms in Fukuoka both public and private, to help solve problems that these countries face. Our Expert Group Meetings, which



July 19, 2017 Panel Discussion with Executive Director Clos and Fukuoka Citizens

began in 2010, have produced a variety of worthwhile results in its brief history. Ranging from road paving techniques good for run-off using recycled coal ash, to the use of a water purifying agent made from natural sources, a rainwater tank that cleans water as it stores, repair techniques for slopes affected by landslides, and of course the Fukuoka Method for waste disposal facilities, which is both cheap and environmentally-friendly.



At our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary symposium which was held on July 19, Executive Director Clos stressed the importance of everyone, including local residents, working together to build and maintain 'sustainable cities and communities'.

## ■ Towards a Sustainable Form of Urban Development

The 17 'Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) which were decided as part of the September 2015 "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" went into effect as of January 1, 2016. These goals are designed to ensure that everyone stays on course for sustainable development, as the name suggests. These new objectives are applicable to all people universally, and we encourage countries to concentrate their energies on fighting inequality, dealing with climate change, and working to make sure no one in poverty is left behind.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



SDGs apply to all countries regardless of their level of wealth. Of course, all nations seek prosperity in one way or another, but these goals are set for the purpose of protecting the planet we live on. We understand that countries will encourage economic growth to fulfill broad needs such as education, health, social benefits, or employment opportunities, and at the same time will need a strategy for environmental protection as well.

UN-Habitat intends to lead the effort on realizing Goal #11, "Sustainable Cities and Communities" while working to advance other related SDGs along with it, but as a general policy, we also promote the New Urban Agenda throughout our work.

Here, we would like to once again emphasize that we believe responsible urban development is a global obligation, and make clear that sensible territorial/urban planning is the basis of any good development. As another layer to this, we also want to stress how key it is for national and local governments to collaborate and share policy, working together from a clear plan, concrete legal framework, and financial means to ensure the best results possible—it is this, we believe, that will ultimately lead to designs that promote economic growth and added value for any city.

Looking back on 20 years at ROAP-Fukuoka, we intend to use this opportunity to once again steel ourselves for the future, and continue working to achieve improved, sustainable urban development in the Asian-Pacific Region.

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

Please feel free to send us information on hot topics and new projects from 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             | Host City           |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| August 1-2, 2018<br>*City tour to be take place on August 3 | 12 <sup>th</sup> Mayors Conference | Fukuoka City, Japan |

The Asian-Pacific City Summit has been building cooperative relations and networks among cities through Mayors Conferences, 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 (New Zealand)                             | Kagoshima City (Japan)                       |
| Bangkok (Kingdom of Thailand)                      | City of Kitakyushu (Japan)                   |
| Brisbane (Commonwealth of Australia)               | Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)                      |
| Busan Metropolitan City (Republic of Korea)        | Kumamoto City (Japan)                        |
| Changsha (People's Republic of China)              | City of Manila (Republic of the Philippines) |
| Dalian (People's Republic of China)                | Miyazaki City (Japan)                        |
| Fukuoka City (Japan)                               | Nagasaki City (Japan)                        |
| Guangzhou (People's Republic of China)             | Naha City (Japan)                            |
| Gwangyang (Republic of Korea)                      | Oita City (Japan)                            |
| Ho Chi Minh City (Socialist Republic of Vietnam)   | Pohang (Republic of Korea)                   |
| Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (PRC)      | Saga City (Japan)                            |
| City of Honolulu (United States of America)        | Shanghai (People's Republic of China)        |
| Ipoh City (Malaysia)                               | Republic of Singapore                        |
| Jakarta Capital City Govt. (Republic of Indonesia) | Urumqi (People's Republic of China)          |
| Jeju Special Self-Governing Province (ROK)         | Vladivostok (Russian Federation)             |

#### 【Editorial/Publication】

Asian-Pacific City Summit Secretariat

International Affairs Department, General Affairs & Planning Bureau, Fukuoka City

1-8-1, Tenjin, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka City, 810-8620 JAPAN TEL: +81-92-711-4028 FAX: +81-92-733-5597

E-mail: [apcs@city.fukuoka.lg.jp](mailto:apcs@city.fukuoka.lg.jp) Website: <http://apcs.city.fukuoka.lg.jp/en/>

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