



Asian-Pacific City Summit Newsletter

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I. The 12th Asian-Pacific City Summit Website

The website for the 12th Asian-Pacific City Summit, to be held in Fukuoka City from August 1 to August 3, 2018, has just launched. News, the Summit program, as well as the latest details about the conference will be regularly posted to the site.

Asian-Pacific City Summit Website: <http://apcs.city.fukuoka.lg.jp>



NEWS



II. News from UN-Habitat ROAP-Fukuoka (The sixteenth installment)



The Ninth Session of the World Urban Forum: Sustainable Cities for All



Promotion on the side of a commercial building

The World Urban Forum (WUF) is a biennial event organized by UN-Habitat. It was most recently held in the capital of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, from February 7 to 13, 2018. This is the first session to have been held in Asia since the Fourth Session of 2008, which took place in Nanjing, China.

The theme of the 9th Session was “Cities 2030, Cities for All: Implementation the New Urban Agenda”, which as the wording suggests, has to do with the “New Urban Agenda”, a set of guidelines adopted at the November 2016 Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador (refer to December 2016 Edition for details). As the first major international conference after Habitat III, WUF9 served as a chance to see just how far along implementation of the NUA was progressing, enhance cooperation between states and organizations on achieving the SDGs, and share information on initiatives each entity was pursuing.

The Forum began its 7-day course with an opening ceremony headlined by remarks from Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia. With approximately 22,000 attendees in the main venue, and 165 participating countries and regions, this was the most attended Forum in the event’s history. Aside from the main venue, there were also exhibits which drew in local visitors, satellite venues placed around the city’s sightseeing spots, a model house built to show an example of sustainable living, locations where anyone could find books pertaining to the theme of WUF9, and numerous other group-organized events. WUF9 banners and billboards were posted at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, rail stations, and the main venue, and inter-city bus lines also ran vehicles with the WUF9 logo. To put it another way, the entire city was enveloped in WUF9, and drew in a great deal of local interest in addition to the international appeal.



Civic participation exhibition in a city park



At the Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, Mayor Takashima introduces Fukuoka initiatives

During WUF9, representatives from each country or region gathered for the Ministers Roundtable and World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, and for the latter Mayor Takashima Soichiro of Fukuoka City presented on Fukuoka’s initiatives for sustainable urban development.



Visitors enjoy the exhibit space

With around 560 side events apart from the Plenary Assembly, parallel sessions were held one after another on various topics. There were many groups which held their own talk sessions in small spaces in the exhibition booth area, and Forum participants made their way from session to exhibit according to their interests.

In effect, WUF9 was the first proper announcement of Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif's appointment as the new Executive Director of UN-Habitat. Without simply focusing on top-level talks with the attending national governments, she engaged in energizing activities to promote sustainable development to many kinds of people, such as speaking with exhibitors, trying the new bicycle share service in Kuala Lumpur, and connecting with people at satellite venues. As the

former mayor of Penang Island, it was obvious she had experience with urban planning and practical execution, and her style of putting those involved on the ground and citizens first, as well as conveying her ideas in a tangible format, was very impressive. In an interaction with Mayor Takashima, she was invited to participate in the Asian-Pacific City Summit in August, and the strong will for cooperation between mayors to solve urban problems was made very clear.

During WUF9, numerous problems relating to cities were discussed and debated: Deterioration of the natural and residential environment due to rapid urbanization, recovery from natural disasters, disaster-resilient urban development, counter-measures against climate change, land property issues, the sound execution of urban planning, education and human resource training for a sustainable society, civic and private-sector participation in government administration, urban development with the elderly and disabled in mind, inequality and poverty, re-settlement of evacuees, development of environmental technology for a sustainable society, problem-solving platforms, among others.

As part of the closing ceremony on the final day of the Forum, the Kuala Lumpur Declaration was presented, emphasizing the importance of expanding the scale of NUA implementation in a way that works for each city, in order to accelerate the realization of SDGs as a whole. Also, the Declaration issued a call to the participants, stating that all of mankind, all people on the earth, must not accept discrimination or prejudice—that we must mobilize all available means and resources to create a future where one can live in peace and health, and in a society sustainable against disaster.

As for our work after this event? "What's next?" We need to figure out how we can make use of the information and opinion sharing conducted at the Forum to further advance sustainable urban development.



Participants even used the hallways of venues as a discussion space



UN-Habitat Executive Director Sharif presenting the Kuala Lumpur Declaration at the closing ceremony



The Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum is scheduled to be held in 2020, in Abu Dhabi of the United Arab Emirates.

Details on the Kuala Lumpur Declaration are available at the link below:

<http://wuf9.org/kuala-lumpur-declaration/>

Future Asian-Pacific City Summit Conferences

Date	Name of Conference	Host City
August 1-2, 2018 *City tour to take place on August 3	12 th Asian-Pacific City Summit	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 (Japan)
Bangkok (Kingdom of Thailand)	Kitakyushu (Japan)
Brisbane (Commonwealth of Australia)	Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)
Busan Metropolitan City (Republic of Korea)	Kumamoto (Japan)
Changsha (People's Republic of China)	Manila (Republic of the Philippines)
Dalian (People's Republic of China)	Miyazaki (Japan)
Fukuoka (Japan)	Nagasaki (Japan)
Guangzhou (People's Republic of China)	Naha (Japan)
Gwangyang (Republic of Korea)	Oita (Japan)
Ho Chi Minh City (Socialist Republic of Vietnam)	Pohang (Republic of Korea)
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (People's Republic of China)	Saga (Japan)
Honolulu (United States of America)	Shanghai (People's Republic of China)
Ipoh (Malaysia)	Republic of Singapore
Jakarta Capital City Govt. (Republic of Indonesia)	Ürümqi (People's Republic of China)
Jeju Special Self-Governing Province (Republic of Korea)	Vladivostok (Russian Federation)

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