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Localising the SDGs: Towards 2030

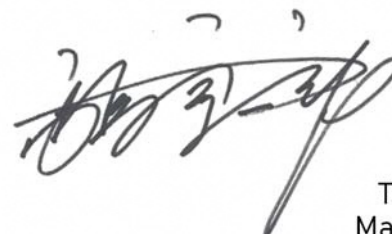


Established by the City of Fukuoka in 1994, the Asian-Pacific City Summit (APCS) is a platform for international leaders. The Summit functions as an opportunity for city leaders from the Asia-Pacific region to gather under one roof to create cooperative relationships. It is an ideal opportunity to build and expand networks for further urban development by sharing best practices for solving urban issues and actively exchanging opinions.

The 12th APCS was held in the city of Fukuoka in August 2018 under the SDG-related theme of *Sustainable Cities and Communities*. The event was attended by over 400 guests, including the representatives of 32 cities from 16 countries, international organisations such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, and private enterprises with technology suited to solving urban problems.

This year, the APCS celebrates its 13th summit and will once again be held in Fukuoka, jointly hosted by the Fukuoka City Government and the United Nations Human Settlement Program (UN-HABITAT) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)-Fukuoka. Based on the idea that solving urban problems contributes to solving global problems, the Summit will spark active discussions on its theme: *Localising the SDGs: Towards 2030*.

I sincerely look forward to seeing you at the summit in Fukuoka this autumn.




TAKASHIMA Soichiro
Mayor of Fukuoka City

01 The 13th Asian-Pacific City Summit

Outline

Dates: Monday, 9 – Wednesday, 11 November 2020
Venue: Hilton Fukuoka Sea Hawk, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka City
Hosts: Fukuoka City Government
UN-HABITAT ROAP-Fukuoka
Theme: Localising the SDGs: Towards 2030



At the 12th APCS, it was confirmed that cities are an essential element needed to achieve the SDGs, and their roles and responsibilities are vast.

Furthermore, it has been pointed out that the progress towards the SDGs is falling behind. To achieve the SDGs by 2030, it is not only national and international efforts that are necessary; city authorities, who enact the policies that affect citizen's lives the most, play a vital role.

It is for that reason that the 13th APCS will hold discussions under the theme of *Localising the SDGs: Towards 2030*. The event will be a platform for city authorities from around the Asia-Pacific region to share the initiatives suited to their local characteristics that are ideal for solving the SDGs, and also hold active discussions on how to further develop these ideas.

Programme (scheduled)

Day 1: Monday, 9 November	Day 2: Tuesday, 10 November	Day 3: Wednesday, 11 November
Opening Ceremony Keynote Speeches UN-Habitat Session Networking Break Bilateral Meetings Photo Session Welcome Reception	Parallel Sessions Themed Speeches Plenary Session Closing Ceremony Networking Breaks Bilateral Meetings Hakata Old Town & Art Museum Farewell Party	Thematic City Tours: -Startup Business Facility -Smart City Zone -Flood Control Facility -Water Control Center -And other sites Sumo Wrestling

Participants (scheduled)

- APCS member cities: 32 cities from 15 countries
- Observer cities for the 13th APCS: cities with projects suited to solving urban problems
- Government organisations: governments from around the Asia Pacific region
- International organisations: UN-HABITAT, World Bank and more
- Private sector: companies with projects suited to achieving the SDGs
- Academia: universities with academic knowledge and projects for achieving the SDGs

The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

The first High-Level Political Forum related to the SDGs took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The high-level forum was held to review the initiatives taken over the past four years since the adoption of the SDGs, and also to increase momentum towards their achievement.

Secretary General of the UN António Guterres stated in his speech, “we are far from where we need to be”, expressing his concern over the slow progress towards the SDGs. The 190 member states also pointed out in their joint declaration that we need to act with urgency and be concerned about the delays in progress in eradicating poverty, empowering women, combatting climate change and many other areas.

(24–25 September 2019 | New York, U.S.A.)

Voluntary Local Review Declaration

On the occasion of the UN General Assembly, the City of New York held a signing ceremony at the United Nations Headquarters for the Voluntary Local Review Declaration, a declaration made by cities around the world to review the SDGs. A total of 22 cities including New York, Los Angeles, Barcelona, Helsinki and Buenos Aires took part in the signing ceremony, agreeing to solve problems in order to achieve the SDGs through closer city collaboration based on the declaration.

The main commitments laid out in this declaration are as follows:

- (1) identify how existing plans align with the SDGs;
- (2) provide forums on the SDGs; and
- (3) submit a voluntary local review to the UN.

(25 September 2019 | New York, U.S.A.)

COP25

The 25th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25), a conference which works towards global countermeasures to combat climate change, was held in Spain's capital city of Madrid from 2 December 2019. There were vast rifts between the countries at the conference due to their stances on the carbon market mechanism mentioned in the implementation guidelines of the Paris Agreement. The mechanism allows nations to calculate the greenhouse gases that have been reduced by other countries as part of their own offset emissions, and despite negotiations continuing for two days longer than initially scheduled, the conference ended without the participants reaching an agreement, with the issue being carried forward to COP26.

Furthermore, although delegates agreed to increase the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that needed to be cut to stop global temperatures from increasing above the 1.5–2°C target stated in the Paris Agreement, the obligation to increase the target amount was not put down in writing.

(2–15 December 2019 | Madrid, Spain)

The 10th Session of the World Urban Forum

The Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF) was held in the United Arab Emirates capital of Abu Dhabi. The WUF is an international forum convened once every two years by UN-HABITAT, and its tenth session was the first to take place in the Middle East.

The theme of this year's forum was *Cities of Opportunities*, and each country and organisation in attendance was able to strengthen their partnerships with a variety of participants in order to achieve the SDGs, and also share information on issues and better initiatives.



Event Outline

Despite concerns over the novel coronavirus and its influence on pre-event registration and attendance, more than 13,000 people from all corners of the globe (roughly 168 countries) participated in the forum. The total number of events reached 500, and over 600 speakers from a variety of organisations gathered at the forum.

This time, the number of female speakers at WUF outnumbered their male counterparts, making it a forum that was able to achieve progress towards gender equality.



The Fukuoka Method in the Limelight

One of the 80 side-events at WUF introduced projects that used the Fukuoka Method landfill technique. The technique has been adopted around the world, such as in Malaysia and Kenya, and progress is now underway to start using the method in Ethiopia and Myanmar.

At the forum, meetings were held between cities, the UN-HABITAT ROAP-Fukuoka and Professor Emeritus Matsufuji of Fukuoka University. Discussions took place to give a synopsis of the Fukuoka Method, and to discuss the possibilities of using the technique in other cities.



Cities at the Heart of Sustainable Development

At the closing ceremony, the Abu Dhabi Declared Actions were adopted, setting out the roles that are expected of international organisations, governments, the private sector and others. Great importance was also placed on the roles of cities in this declaration. You can find more information on the Declared Actions on the site below.



https://wuf.unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/WUF10_final_declared_actions.pdf

Check YouTube to see highlights of the forum and clips of the opening and closing ceremonies.

Highlight Reel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JA04q_VT5l8&t=161s

Flag Raising Ceremony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUR6BahQrFM>

Opening Ceremony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuJ3EOziUz4&t=751s>

Closing Ceremony: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8m_2MaxYkcA&t=5004s

The Eleventh Session of the World Urban Forum will take place in Katowice, Poland.

FUKUOKA100

100 actions to create a healthy society during the era of the 100-Year Life



FUKUOKA 100 is the branch term that refers to 100 actions that will be taken in anticipation of the 100 Year Life to achieve a sustainable social system where each and every person can live with a healthy body and mind. In other words, the FUKUOKA 100 projects is based on the concept of creating a healthy social model, where both the individual and society as a whole can be happy.

The project sets out to achieve 100 actions by 2025, and since the project's establishment in July 2017, we have already achieved 56 of these actions.

The actions feature a wide range of activities, from utilising cutting-edge technology, such as AI and IOT, to collaboration projects between industry, academia and government. We would like to present two actions closely related to local communities.

Fukuoka Health Laboratory

The Fukuoka Health Laboratory tests, appraises, and certifies products and services that promote natural and fun healthy living (that habitualise healthy living) with the help of local citizens. When a product is appraised through social experiments and seen to be able to habitualise healthy living, the Fukuoka Health Laboratory certifies it as a "Product that Can Promote Natural Healthy Living While Having Fun". This certification supports the spread of these products and services through providing PR opportunities, and it also supports their implementation into society to extend the healthy lifespan of citizens.



One service certified by the Fukuoka Health Laboratory

The Bench Project

Fukuoka is striving to become a city where every single citizen is able to go out easily by promoting the Bench Project, a project that places benches in everyday locations around the city such as bus stops. The benches are not just placed on paths and city facilities, but by providing a subsidy system to purchase the benches for (bus stops and other busy areas on) private land, Fukuoka City is promoting the benches with the cooperation of local communities and companies.



Photographs of the benches around Fukuoka City Hall and the Bench Project logo

Spread the word

We look forward to receiving your article contributions for the APCS newsletter. Send in information on your city's new topics, projects or initiatives in your city that offer hints on solving urban challenges.

The Asian-Pacific City Summit official newsletter is uploaded on the official APCS website and sent to member cities and others on our mailing list via email.

Upcoming Asian-Pacific City Summits

Date	Summit Name	Host City
9–11 November 2020	13 th Asian-Pacific City Summit	Fukuoka City, Japan
TBD* 2022	14 th Asian-Pacific City Summit	TBD*

*The location for the 14th Asian-Pacific City Summit will be discussed during the plenary session at the 13th Summit before being announced.

Asian-Pacific City Summit Member Cities

The Asian-Pacific City Summit is a platform to build networks and collaborate on solving the urban challenges faced throughout the Asia-Pacific region by hosting mayor summits and working-level conferences.

Commonwealth of Australia

Brisbane

Kingdom of Cambodia

Phnom Penh

People's Republic of China

Changsha, Dalian, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Urumqi

Republic of Indonesia

Jakarta

Japan

Fukuoka, Kagoshima, Kitakyushu, Kumamoto, Miyazaki, Nagasaki, Naha, Oita, Saga

Malaysia

Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Yangon

New Zealand

Auckland

Republic of the Philippines

Manila

Republic of Korea

Busan, Gwangyang, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, Pohang

Russian Federation

Vladivostok

Republic of Singapore

Kingdom of Thailand

Bangkok

United States of America

Honolulu

Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Ho Chi Minh City

15 countries
32 cities

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