

## Parallel Session C

### “New Trends in Urban Policy Development Responding to the New Normal”

#### 1. Outline

Date:	13:00-15:00 JST, Wednesday, 27 October 2021
Format:	Online
Language:	Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean

#### 2. Participant Information

City	Name	Post
Fukuoka	Mitsuyama Hiroaki	Deputy Mayor
Dalian	Hu Bingxia	Vice President of Dalian People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries
Oita	Kudo Akira	Deputy Mayor
Kuala Lumpur	Datuk TPr. Sulaiman Bin Mohamed	Executive Director (Planning)
Pohang	Kim Byeong-sam	Deputy Mayor
Chiang Mai	Vorapan Suvonthanatip	Advisor to the Mayor
Dubai	Dawoud Abdul Rahman Al Hajri	Director General

	Name	Organisation
Moderator	Aizawa Nobuhiro	Associate Professor, Faculty of Social and Cultural Studies, Kyushu University
Assistant	Iemoto Satoshi	Principal Researcher, Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan

#### 3. Summary of Remarks on Parallel Session

##### 1) Summary of Cities Presentations

Moderator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The COVID-19 crisis has brought major changes in the lives of people as well as restrictions on their mobility. It is necessary to create new forms of urban life that make full use of modern and advanced technologies, rather than seeing them as mere changes. Cities need to play a role as leaders in this process.</li></ul>
Fukuoka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fukuoka City is a compact city, with railroad stations, ports and airports located within a 2.5 km radius. It has a population that continues to grow by around 15,000 people every year - the highest number and rate of population growth among Japanese cities. The city's tax revenues have</li></ul>

	<p>reached record levels for seven consecutive years until 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fukuoka City has taken advantage of its excellent urban functions and convenient transportation services to further strengthen the functions of the city center, promote tourism and MICE, and create a start-up city. As the COVID-19 crisis drastically changes the direction of cities and urban development, Fukuoka City would like to take on the challenge of creating new values that are not bound by conventional ideas and methods. Fukuoka City would like to introduce its actions from two perspectives: 1) From centralization to decentralization; and 2) Social implementation with cutting-edge technologies.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) From centralization to decentralization                 <p>It is necessary to take measures at the national level to correct the concentration of Tokyo in one place, at the city level to create a symbiosis between nature and the city, and at the architectural level to create safe, secure and attractive spaces for urban development. Fukuoka is currently developing a city from three perspectives that can be chosen by companies and people, with specific measures for it including the relaxation of building height restrictions at the national level, to ensure a green environment using open and semi-outdoor spaces at the city level, and to relax building floor-area ratios based on the concept of a city that can cope with infectious diseases at the architectural level.</p> </li> <li>2) Social implementation with cutting-edge technologies                 <p>Fukuoka City is promoting the "FUKUOKA Smart East" project, aiming to solve social issues and improve convenience for citizens. Fukuoka City is carrying out a variety of demonstration experiments with the involvement of local residents in the vast green field of the city. In addition to security field such as cameras and sensors using AI and IOT, the energy field using solar power generation and renewable energy, and personal mobility such as automatic driving and kick board, Fukuoka City is also considering a platform for creating further values and services by linking various data obtained from each service.</p> </li> </ol> </li> </ul>
Moderator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fukuoka City has been successful in implementing a variety of programs in a balanced manner. It was an excellent example.</li> </ul>
Dubai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating a happy and sustainable city requires a big approach and continuous adjustments to the challenges it faces. The bigger the vision, the bigger the results. The five challenges that Dubai faced under the COVID-19 crisis are as follows.</li> </ul>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Maintenance of daily life and safety Dubai took measures to prevent infection by restricting gatherings in entertainment facilities etc. and promptly implemented measures tailored to regional characteristics by using digital technology. It enabled quick decision-making regarding lock-down and digital confirmation by mapping the number of infected persons and the state of the hospital. Parallel to the COVID-19 countermeasures, Dubai formulated the “Dubai 2040 Plan” which focuses on citizens.</li> <li>2) Enhancing its status as a global base for tourism and logistics Dubai implemented five economic stimulus measures totaling US\$1.9 billion to support the residents to continue to reside.</li> <li>3) Avoiding confusion in public services The city's digital application “Dubai Now” was updated to enable online vehicle registration, driver's license registration as well as online education. The “Dubai 2040 Plan” also aims to attract investments in science and technology, engineering and other fields, and promote education with the aim of growth in new fields.</li> <li>4) Personnel reallocation in public social services More than 700 city officials engaged in infectious disease control operations and issued 65 notices and 7 guidelines. In addition, more than 3,000 places were disinfected.</li> <li>5) Securing its status as an urban logistics hub The “Dubai 2040 Plan” includes decarbonization of transportation as a measure against climate change and it is planned to expand to the entire city in the future. It is one of the few cities that continuously invests in logistics of sea, air and railway which are the main sectors. Food safety, which is also linked to the mobility strategies, is another priority.</li> </ol>
Moderator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was an important and instructive and wonderful content to promote global and local initiatives at the same time.</li> </ul>
Dalian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a major direction for our future, Dalian analyzed future developments based on the advanced experiences in China and overseas and formulated the “Dalian 2049 City Vision Plan” last year with the strategic and clear goal setting, aiming to become a high-tech innovation center city.</li> <li>• The plan includes three sub-goals: international, regional, and urban level. The International Shipping Center and Business Center will be established at the international level, the Innovation Center and</li> </ul>

	<p>Corporate Venture Capital Center will be established at the regional level, and the Bay Area will be fashionable and attractive at the urban level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are five development strategies under three sub-goals. Strategy 1 is to promote multilateral cooperation; Strategy 2 is to promote innovation; Strategy 3 is to promote cultural aspects; Strategy 4 is to promote ecological and environmental aspects; and Strategy 5 is to optimize urban space etc., to ensure that the plan is realistic.</li> <li>• The plan is divided into three phases: short-term (until 2020), medium-term (until 2030) and long-term (until 2049). In the short term, the priority targets are the developments of urban spaces and facilities amongst others.</li> </ul>
Moderator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was an example of how the metropolis could be restructured with a focus on culture, taking a long period of time, although the level was very high and there were some difficult aspects of what kind of approach would be taken.</li> </ul>
Oita	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oita has developed as an industrial city. In recent years - with the advent of a society with a declining population and large suburban stores - large-scale commercial facilities that had been located in the center of the city withdrew and hollowing out of the center began. However, in order to make effective use of such land and to revitalize the city center again, the city has collaborated with a world-renowned architect to establish the “Festival Square” as a new public space for the city. Today, Oita City would like to introduce the city's efforts to utilize this square.</li> <li>• The square was completed in 2019, the same year the Rugby World Cup was held in Japan. Five games, including the quarterfinals were held in the city and commemorative events were held in the square. However, since March 2020, due to the spread of COVID-19, scheduled events have been cancelled one after another.</li> <li>• In addition to the good location of the city center, the outdoor space that can be kept closed and crowded is utilized to respond to many requests to continue holding events while taking measures against infectious diseases. The Festival Square is also equipped with fiber optical cable and Wi-Fi, which has allowed citizens to telework in this place. The COVID-19 crisis has triggered changes in citizens' behaviors and values. However, we will continue to take on new challenges and aim to revive them based on the Festival Square.</li> </ul>
Moderator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was a wonderful example of how public space could be utilized, such as changing the Festival Square into a co-workspace.</li> </ul>
Pohang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pohang's industrial center shifted from traditional manufacturing</li> </ul>

	<p>industries to digital future energy and bio industries due to the COVID-19 crisis. In order to respond to such changes in society as a whole, the city has set up three new development strategies: 1) Development of future industries; 2) An overall smarter city; and 3) Transformation into a citizen-centered urban environment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Development of future industries <p>Pohang is developing the industry of secondary batteries which is a major component of electric vehicles and the hinterland of the port in the city has been designated as a special zone, successfully attracting more than 2 trillion won (KRW) in investments. Pohang is also promoting the formation of hydrogen fuel cell clusters. Based on the bio-research infrastructure of the Pohang Institute of Technology and other institutions, Pohang is taking steps to become a new mecca for the bio-health industry.</p> </li> <li>2) Smarter overall city <p>The city is promoting the “Smart City Challenge” and “Smart Grid City projects” to solve various urban problems such as traffic safety and environmental pollution by using ICT-based digital technology and is also promoting the smartification of primary industries in rural areas.</p> </li> <li>3) Transformation into a citizen-centered urban environment <p>The city is working on the “Greenway Project”, which was designed as a place of relaxation for citizens by constructing forests and waterways in the city, in order to transform the urban environment, which had been an industrial center, into a green city centered on citizens.</p> </li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on the above experience, Pohang will propose human resource development and research support for new industrial fields in response to change, construction of a new industrial platform among cities, and digital exchange in the Asia-Pacific region.</li> </ul>
Moderator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was a wonderful message to make a livable city for the citizens such as greening the gray areas in the era of the changes brought on by the COVID-19 crisis.</li> </ul>
Chiang Mai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cooperation, mutual understanding and self-control of the local community are important in the COVID-19 crisis. There are two major measures that Chiang Mai has taken.</li> <li>• The first measure is to set up the COVID-19 infection testing facilities that do not require a reservation in three or more locations in the city, the ability to receive the results in about 15 minutes and to receive treatment at the nearest hospital if one tests positive.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The second measure is the development of an application called “CM-CHANA” which is very useful for health care and a campaign to attracting tourists. The former is an application that tourists must install and register when they visit Chiang Mai a by allowing tourists to track where they stop by. The latter is a campaign for tourists called "Charming Chiang Mai," which requires certain conditions for participation including two vaccinations. The campaign will allow travelers to choose from three different travel packages depending on the number of days and the area they are staying in.</li> </ul>
Moderator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The content of the presentation was about the efforts to building a resilient city through various innovations, such as tourism promotions, including countermeasures against infectious diseases.</li> </ul>

## 2) Summary of Remarks during QA and Discussion

Moderator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are various issues in cities and it is difficult to solve them as a city alone. Therefore, we would like to discuss concrete examples of what kind of partners we have worked with and examples of demonstrated leadership.</li> </ul>
Pohang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pohang has been designated as a special R&amp;D zone by the central government and has received a lot of support for the city`s efforts in new industrial fields.</li> <li>In addition to domestic companies related to R&amp;D, Pohang has partnered with many overseas companies, particularly in the secondary battery and bio-health industries and plans to sign MOUs in the future.</li> </ul>
Chiang Mai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First of all, it is necessary to work closely with the central government. Also, at the local level, the city is building cooperative relationships with the governor of a prefecture, local universities, and local communities.</li> </ul>
Fukuoka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technology alone is meaningless, and the most important point is the understanding of citizens and working together with them on social implementation. Although the proposal itself was made by the private sector, it is also important to gain the understanding of citizens in order to finally implement the technology in society.</li> </ul>
Dubai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dubai believes that citizens should be involved, so it should be a people-centric plan, and Dubai 2040 Plan is working on improving bicycle paths and housing near metro stations. Under the concept of the "20-minute city", Dubai is making efforts to make residential areas within a 20-minutes range. Many PPP projects have been launched and private companies are participating in the project. Both the public and private sectors will benefit.</li> </ul>
Dalian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With the aim of improving people's quality of life (QOL) in the midst of</li> </ul>

	<p>harmonious urban development, Dalian has adopted the model in which companies actively participated and built the entire systems. The “Dalian 2049 City Vision Plan” is a problem-solving project and is collaborating with a wide range of partners, including people in business and other fields.</p>
Oita	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oita City is located on the eastern edge of Kyushu, so it is far from the capital city, Tokyo. Oita City is looking for ways to cooperate with the Shikoku region, as it is planning to build the “Toyo-Kaikyo route” which will connect Oita to Shikoku and Shikoku to Tokyo through Osaka. Oita City also believes that it is important to team up with the prefectural government for this proposal.</li> </ul>
Moderator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is important to restructure and redesign urban spaces as an effort to lead to the next step under the COVID-19 pandemic. What are the success stories and factors behind this success?</li> </ul>
Fukuoka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition to improving ventilation, contactless equipment and the communication environment, Fukuoka City has adopted new rules such as reducing the volume ratio of buildings to ensure a certain level of social distance and has been actively working on initiatives as a city.</li> <li>• Fukuoka City has been actively promoting by providing incentives to deregulate the floor-area ratio for buildings in the city that take countermeasures against COVID-19 such as ventilation, non-contact equipment and an enhanced communication environment.</li> <li>• Various changes have been made on the urban level, such as progress of teleworking at homes and accommodations, and the decentralization of working locations.</li> </ul>
Chiang Mai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chiang Mai has been a cultural city up until now. However, the COVID-19 crisis has made us keenly aware of the need to improve technology and promote securing educational opportunities and connections among people.</li> </ul>
Dalian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The experience of the COVID-19 crisis led to the development of new methods for using building space. The Dalian airport has its own rules and the lines between international and domestic flights are completely separated. As such, tourists, crew members and staff can safely take different routes.</li> <li>• Dalian would like to learn from Fukuoka City when considering the spatial design of not only airports but also offices and schools in preparation for a new pandemic even in the post-COVID-19 era.</li> <li>• In urban development, Dalian is considering that it is important to take an approach that utilizes digital technology such as 5G as well as space utilization. Digitalization will play an important role not only in</li> </ul>

	<p>industrial development but also in urban management.</p>
Oita	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although Oita City has not yet reached the next step at this time, we have compiled a collection of case studies of measures to cope with new lifestyles, referring to infection prevention measures taken by private companies and disseminating them to relevant stakeholders in the city.</li> </ul>
Pohang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In line with the central government's guidelines, Pohang is gradually moving forward with initiatives for usual conditions. Pohang had a strong image of the steel industry but it changed the existing railway space of 10km into a smart greenway and created a walking path along the coast.</li> <li>• It is an important role for the city to provide a new space for healing and relaxation for its citizens who have been exhausted by the COVID-19 crisis.</li> </ul>
Moderator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizens are made up of various groups including professional and social groups. Which of these groups suffered the most serious impact because of the pandemic and needed support? Which groups were difficult to support and what kind of support did the city provide? We would like to deepen the discussion on what the cities have been doing to prevent population outflow as a leader of local administration.</li> </ul>
Fukuoka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restaurants and the travel industry have been hit hard and these groups have been provided support by the government. On the other hand, as a local government, Fukuoka City believes that the most important thing is to continue educating children. Although it is very important to have experiences that can only be gained in a short period of time at school, Fukuoka City has not been able to hold any school events in the past two years. At the very least, we are trying to continue the "learning process" by distributing tablets and providing online education.</li> </ul>
Chiang Mai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chiang Mai recognizes that the elderly, children and employees are the most socially vulnerable groups.</li> <li>• As a concrete measure, Chiang Mai has established a center to distribute necessary items to this demographic and has provided support through donations and food banks.</li> </ul>
Oita	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oita City recognizes that the low-income families and single-person households are the most vulnerable groups. For these people, Oita City has been working on relief measures such as rent subsidies and exemption from water and sewerage charges.</li> <li>• It is difficult to hold school events such as enrollment ceremonies, graduation ceremonies, sports day and school excursions. However, the city is making efforts to reduce the scale of these events and hold them in different locations so that the environment for children can be as close</li> </ul>

	<p>to normal as possible. The same is true for the coming-of-age ceremony to celebrate those who have turned 20 years old.</p>
Dalian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating a shield through vaccination is an important and effective measure. Dalian has made it possible for citizens to receive vaccinations free of charge. Hotels and restaurants have been affected most seriously, so these groups can be given priority inoculations. The same applies to port facilities, airports, medical services and education.</li> <li>• Dalian also provides low-interest loans to small and medium-sized companies and some companies are exempted from all utility and rent charges.</li> <li>• As information disparities arise among elderly people with low smartphone use, Dalian is also working on measures to ensure that elderly people can enjoy proper services even during the COVID-19 crisis.</li> </ul>
Pohang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pohang has taken special measures to provide relief to the self-employed and socially vulnerable people who had difficulty in continuing their business operations due to the COVID-19 crisis. Hence, they were able to receive the city`s support quickly.</li> <li>• Pohang will continue such efforts in the future.</li> </ul>
Moderator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following two points are important to summarize the discussion of our Parallel Session C. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Flexibility <p>The strength of a city's leadership is demonstrated by the flexibility to respond to dynamic changes, even as the situation changes every moment.</p> </li> <li>2) Long-term vision <p>It is difficult to have a long-term vision under unpredictable circumstances. However, developing a long-term plan is very encouraging for citizens and it is an element that assures them that they can be relied on even in the new normal.</p> </li> </ol> </li> </ul>

## **4 . Parallel Session Report**

### **1 ) Current situation and issues surrounding cities**

- I ) The spread of COVID-19 caused major transformation in the way we work and the way we live. Immobility has become the new standard of life while cities have long focused and tasked to enhance connectivity and mobility. We now need to articulate, fine-tune and reimagine how cities should be organized, connected and governed, how spaces should be redesigned in this new normal to meet new demands of our citizen and their settlement.
- II ) Looking ahead, we need to turn this crisis into a moment of leapfrogging development. It is already a major challenge to protect life, health, and work of its citizen in times of crisis. But a bigger challenge is that we could not miss this rare opening of opportunity, to drastically redesign and to rework the cities which has hitherto been impossible. We need to act fast and aggressively.

### **2) New perspectives and ideas**

- I ) The abrupt immobility has paradoxically accelerated the speed of innovation, especially in communication and logistical technology. For urban development, this has become a strategic tool for “leapfrogging”, bypassing regulatory hurdles, and cities have shown its strength in swiftly partnering with these emerging businesses to rebuild the city back better.
- II ) Immobility also unexpectedly encourages redeveloping urban space to meet the new norms of the livelihood. Redesigning public space into more open and more green has become the new norm of inclusive communication with its citizens. Green has regained its importance in when inter-city movement is restricted but safe intra-city movement is needed.
- III ) The more uncertainty looms large, the more cities find its importance in setting the direction of development, not only in finding solutions to tangible problems but also to reimagine the future of cities and citizenship and to foster local identity and ownership.

### **3) Direction of initiatives**

- I ) “Resilience” is now at the heart of urban development. Here, resilience does not only mean high-quality infrastructure, but rather resilience of health, livelihood, and work. It is more of an integrated system that empowers flexibility to allow rapid transformation to reach new equilibrium in post-crisis society. Our cities have been the leader in showing flexibility by balancing/investing on mobility of goods when mobility of people is in decline.
- II ) “Partnership” is how leaders reap the benefit of cutting-edge technology. Success lies in broadening and deepening the scope of partnership with business, academia and citizens.
- III ) “Diversity” is the new norm of urban space which shapes how we work and how we live in cities. It is this diversity and among them we emphasize the importance to support

children and the youth who are the torch bearer of future in the new normal age. Their well being are tied to livability and resilience of the city and its future.