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GLOBAL MAYORS AND CITY LEADERS SHARE VISION OF FORGING AN INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT FUTURE FOR ALL

26 September 2023 --- Around 50 mayors and city leaders convened at the 12th World Cities Summit (WCS) Mayors Forum held in Dongdaemun Design Plaza (DDP), Seoul, Republic of Korea, to exchange ideas and share their experience in forging inclusive and resilient cities.

2 Over the course of three days, from 24 – 26 September, participants from around the world, including senior leaders from the industry and international organisations, and Young Leaders both Singapore, Seoul and other cities engaged in lively and fruitful discussions on the theme “**Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Forging an Inclusive and Resilient Future**”.

3 In his speech, Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for National Development and Minister-in-charge of Social Services Integration, Singapore, and the Chair of the WCS Mayors Forum, highlighted the importance in finding the right balance amongst competing needs and demands in cities, especially with the widening gap in income and opportunities exacerbated by the pandemic. He encouraged Mayors and city leaders to make deliberate efforts to pro-actively identify vulnerable groups who need more support, understand the challenges that they face, and put in place policies to facilitate better access to opportunities.

4 Minister Lee also emphasised the importance of partnering citizens, communities and various stakeholders as valuable resource for effective and sustainable initiatives. He urged city leaders to encourage active citizenry and empower the community to make their cities more liveable and to tackle issues like climate change.

5 Mr Oh Se-hoon, Mayor of Seoul, the host city of the WCS Mayors Forum, said shared his vision for Seoul to be a inclusive city. “We pledge to prioritise the vision of “Going together with the Socially Neglected” in all our policies as a commitment to the citizens of Seoul. Furthermore, we hope to actively participate in cultivating the sprit of “Going Together with the Socially Neglected” globally, fostering an international virtuous cycle of coexistence and growth,” said Mayor Oh.

6 Mayors and city leaders reached the following conclusions after the four discussion sessions:

a) Social inclusion and empowerment, particularly for underprivileged and vulnerable groups, are integral to building liveable and sustainable cities. Mayors and city leaders possess the capacity to lead transformational change through effective policies and actions to forge an inclusive and resilient future.

b) A strong identity is a key foundation for socially resilient cities. Culture and heritage form the unique identity of any city, giving it character and a sense of rooted-ness. Hence, amidst rapid urbanisation, it is important for cities to conserve both tangible (cultural sites and landmarks) and intangible (morals and beliefs) culture and heritage to mould a strong and inclusive sense of identity for cities of the future.

c) Mayors and city leaders recognise the important role of cities to drive solutions for a sustainable and climate-resilient future through innovation and creativity, especially to mitigate climate change, keep to net-zero commitments and plan disaster-resilient infrastructure. As such, mayors and city leaders should take the lead to strengthen and steward policy initiatives aimed at creating a conducive environment for ground-up innovation and participation; this can build inclusive solutions to future challenges.

World Cities Summit 2024, Singapore, 2 - 4 June 2024

7 The next WCS Mayors Forum will reconvene in Singapore, as a key highlight of the World Cities Summit 2024, from 2 - 4 June 2024. The Summit will bring together city and government leaders, businesses and experts at the forefront of urban issues to discuss how cities can thrive as smart, resilient and regenerative ones now and in the future, to deliver high quality of life for their residents.

8 The city of Vienna will host the WCS Mayors Forum in 2025 as the Lee Kuan Yew World Cities Prize laureate of 2020.

More details on the World Cities Summit may be found on our website <https://www.worldcitiessummit.com.sg/>

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About the World Cities Summit

The biennial World Cities Summit (WCS) is an exclusive platform for government leaders and industry experts to address liveable and sustainable city challenges, share integrated urban solutions and forge new partnerships. Since its inauguration in 2008, WCS has been attended by over 250 global cities and supported by leaders from government, business, international organisations and academia. Jointly organised by Singapore's Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC) and the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), the next WCS will be held in 2024, in conjunction with our key partner, the Asia Infrastructure Forum. Highlights of the Summit include the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize and the WCS Mayors Forum. For more information, visit www.worldcitiessummit.com.sg.

WCS Mayors Forum

The WCS Mayors Forum is an exclusive by-invitation-only, global platform for mayors and city leaders to discuss pressing urban challenges and share best practices. Since its inception in 2010, the annual Forum has grown into a calendar highlight for global mayors and city leaders. The Mayors Forum is one of the key highlights of the biennial World Cities Summit held in Singapore and is jointly organised by Singapore's CLC and URA.

About the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize

Inaugurated in 2010 and named after Singapore's first Prime Minister, the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize is a biennial international award that honours outstanding achievements and contributions to the creation of liveable and sustainable urban communities around the world. The lecture and forum discussions will focus on four key pillars of every city's success: liveability, vibrancy, sustainability and quality of life. Past prize Laureates include Bilbao City Hall, Spain (2010), New York City, United States of America (2012), Suzhou City, China (2014), Medellín, Colombia (2016), Seoul, South Korea (2018), and Vienna, Austria (2020). For more information, visit www.leekuaneyeworldcityprize.com.sg

2018 Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Laureate: Seoul, Republic of Korea

Seoul was awarded the 2018 Prize for its successful transformation from a bureaucratic top-down city into the inclusive, socially stable and highly innovative city it is today. As shown in Seoul's successful and impactful high quality projects to repurpose urban infrastructure, the city has proven itself as an excellent example where leadership, commitment to citizen engagement, data-supported problem-solving decisions, and creative designs can transform the built environment, add vibrancy and improve quality of life.

2020 Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Laureate: Vienna, Austria

Vienna was awarded the 2020 Prize as it is recognised for reinventing itself for success in the 21st century without losing its distinctive identity as a capital of culture, music, and history. In particular, Vienna has taken on a leading role in addressing the global challenges of climate change. This remarkable success is achieved through steadfast dedication to constant and consistent improvements that are skilfully woven together to sustain the highest quality of life for all its inhabitants now and into the future.

ANNEX A: List of attending cities at WCS Mayors Forum 2023

1. Antwerp
2. Balanga
3. Bandar Seri Begawan
4. Battambang province
5. Bilbao
6. Bintan
7. Bogota
8. Brisbane
9. Budhapest
10. Can Tho
11. Christchurch
12. Da Nang
13. Dhaka South
14. Dipolog City
15. Dublin
16. Gaborone
17. Hebron
18. Ho Chi Minh
19. Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA)
20. Iskandar Puteri
21. Johor Bahru
22. Kandal province
23. Kota Kinabalu
24. Madinah
25. Makassar
26. Metron Manila
27. Odense
28. Pasir Gudang
29. Phnom Penh
30. Pokhara
31. Riyadh
32. Sanya
33. Sao Paolo
34. Seberang Perai
35. Seoul
36. Sibu
37. Singapore
38. Soacha
39. Suzhou
40. Taipei
41. Tallinn
42. Taoyuan
43. Tehran
44. Tirana
45. Vienna
46. Wellington
47. Yala

ANNEX B: Participating Organisations

1. Amazon Web Services
2. Arup Singapore Pte Ltd
3. CITYNET
4. Connected Places Catapult
5. Dassault Systemes
6. Dassault Systemes Korea
7. EY
8. Hyundai Motor Group

9. International Finance Corporation
10. Keppel
11. KEPPEL LAND LIMITED
12. Mastercard
13. People's Association, Singapore
14. Ramboll
15. Singapore Management University
16. The Seoul Institute
17. The World Association of the Major Metropolises – METROPOLIS
18. UNDP
19. Urban Redevelopment Authority, Singapore