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GLOBAL MAYORS AND CITY LEADERS TO DISCUSS BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT FUTURE

15 September 2023 --- The 12th World Cities Summit (WCS) Mayors Forum will be held in Dongdaemun Design Plaza (DDP), Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 24 to 26 September 2023. The city of Seoul was named the 2018 Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Laureate and will host the event. The event will bring together about 200 participants from around the world, including mayors and city leaders from around 50 cities and regions, and senior leaders from the industry and international organisations.

2 The Forum will be chaired by Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for National Development and Minister-in-Charge of Social Services Integration, Singapore. He will deliver the opening and closing addresses on 25 and 26 September 2023. The host city will be represented by Mr Oh Se-hoon, Mayor of Seoul, who will be delivering his opening remarks on 25 September 2023.

Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Forging an Inclusive and Resilient Future

3 The theme for the WCS Mayors Forum 2023 is **Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Forging an Inclusive and Resilient Future**. As cities strive towards urban development and economic success, it is imperative that we maintain inclusivity in our society, leaving no one behind, particularly the underprivileged. Through interactive sessions, participants will engage in in-depth discussions on four subthemes:

- a) How can Mayors forge inclusive societies and empower communities?
- b) The Soul of the City: how can Mayors conserve culture and heritage?
- c) How can Mayors accelerate de-carbonisation and strengthen climate resilience?
- d) How can Mayors facilitate and promote innovation and creativity?

More information on the theme and subthemes may be found in [Annex A](#).

4 Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for National Development and Minister-in-charge of Social Services Integration, Singapore, and Chair of WCS Mayors Forum 2023, said, "WCS Mayors Forum 2023 in Seoul marks the first Mayors Forum to be held outside of Singapore since the pandemic. While the worst of COVID-19 is now behind us, many cities around the world are still grappling with long-term challenges, including inflation, and the consequential effects of the pandemic, which have exacerbated disparities within our communities. The theme of this year's Forum is a call to action for cities to think about how we can build cities that promote inclusivity and innovation, while safeguarding our culture, heritage and even existence for future generations. The Mayors Forum is a unique opportunity for cities from around the world to gather, to engage in a robust exchange of knowledge and ideas, and to address the challenges ahead in a collaborative spirit."

5 As an annual convening for city leaders from around the world, this year's Forum will be attended by cities which include:

- From Asia – Bandar Seri Begawan, Dhaka, Ho Chi Minh City, Johor Bahru, Makassar, Manila, Medan, Phnom Penh, Sanya, Seoul (host city), Singapore (organiser), Suzhou, Taipei City, Taoyuan City
- From Europe – Antwerp, Bilbao, Odense, Tallinn, Vienna
- From Africa – Gaborone City

- From the Americas – Bogota, Sao Paulo, Soacha
- From Oceania – Brisbane, Christchurch, Wellington
- From the Middle East – Al-Madinah, Hebron

6 Notable speakers and participants include:

- Ms Ana Cristina da Cunha Wanzeler, Vice-Secretary of International Affairs, Sao Paulo
- Mr Austin Abraham, Mayor, Garborone
- Dato' Dr Badrul Hisham, Chief Executive of Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA)
- Mr Chiang Wan-an, Mayor of Taipei City
- Mr Daithí de Róiste, Lord Mayor of Dublin
- Mr Desmond Choo, Mayor, North East District, Singapore
- Ms Els Van Doesburg, Vice Mayor, Antwerp
- Mr Erion Veliaj, Mayor, Tirana
- Ms Ji Jing, Vice Mayor, Suzhou (2014 Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Laureate)
- Ms Low Yen Ling, Mayor, South West District, Singapore
- Mr Mihhail Kõlvart, Mayor, Tallinn
- Mr Peter Hanke, Executive City Councillor of Finance, Business, Labour, International Affairs and Vienna Public Utilities, Vienna (2020 Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Laureate)
- Mr Phan Van Mai, People's Committee Chairman, Ho Chi Minh City
- Mr Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, Mayor, Dhaka South City Corporation
- Ms Tory Whanau, Mayor, Wellington

Other notable speakers and attendees may be found in [Annex B](#).

Programme Highlights

7 The host city, Seoul, has planned for two site visits for participants to experience first-hand Seoul's urban transformation, especially in urban revitalisation and reinvention, as well as resilience through the city's identity – a combination of traditional, modern and future. Venues include the Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Art, showcasing urban and architectural projects concerning land environment and culture, and the Cheonggyecheon Museum detailing the restoration of Cheonggyecheon (Cheonggye stream), which runs past the Mayors Forum venue at Dongadaemun Design Plaza (DDP). Please see details in [Annex C](#).

8 The Seoul-Singapore Exhibition will showcase existing and planned policies and projects from the two cities, which focus on the central theme of building an inclusive and resilient future. The efforts of both cities will be showcased through an integrated exhibition which provides the visitor an immersive walk-through experience. The Singapore section of the exhibition features various projects under the sub-sections "Inclusive Singapore" (Queensway Canopy), "Distinctive and Endearing Singapore" (Business Improvement District (BID) programme), "Adaptable and Resilient Singapore" (Punggol Digital District), and "Sustainable City" (SG Green Plan).

9 The Centre for Liveable Cities will launch the 23rd edition of Urban Solutions at the WCS Mayors Forum. This bi-annual publication aims to equip and inspire city leaders, practitioners and allied professionals to make cities more liveable and sustainable. Urban Solutions #23 is themed "Inclusive Smart Cities", as aligned with the WCS Mayors Forum 2023 theme. Details of the publication is in [Annex D](#).

More details on the WCS Mayors Forum 2023 may be found on our website <https://www.worldcitiessummit.com.sg/wcs-mayors-forum-2023>. The programme outline for World Cities Summit Mayors Forum 2023 is in [Annex E](#).

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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.

ANNEX A: THEME AND SUBTHEMES

The theme for the WCS Mayors Forum 2023 is “Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Forging an Inclusive and Resilient Future”, and will guide the discussions for both the Mayors Forum and the Young Leaders Dialogue.

Subtheme 1: How can Mayors forge inclusive societies and empower communities?

Inclusion and empowerment are integral to building “a society for all”, including the underprivileged and vulnerable groups. This is particularly critical in the post-pandemic world where systemic inequalities of societies have been exacerbated by the consequential effects of the pandemic. This session will discuss how mayors can lead transformational change through effective policies and actions to achieve social integration and harmony, equality of opportunities and access, citizen participation and community empowerment, and tolerance and respect for diversity.

Subtheme 2: The Soul of the City: how can Mayors conserve culture and heritage?

Like the soul of the city, culture and heritage form the unique identity of a city and its people, giving the city its character and a sense of rooted-ness. Culture and heritage could be tangible like cultural sites and landmarks of historical significance, and intangible like morals and beliefs. As the city develops, it is important to conserve such culture and heritage of the city for the current and future generations to learn and cherish. This session will discuss the good practices and initiatives that cities can adopt to conserve their culture and heritage amid rapid urbanisation.

Subtheme 3: How can Mayors accelerate de-carbonisation and strengthen climate resilience?

Concrete climate action is urgently needed as cities are faced with unpredictable weather patterns and rising sea levels. More cities have announced their net-zero commitments and are pushing for renewables and innovative solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, drive energy transition and achieved de-carbonisation targets. The planning of efficient, reliable, and disaster-resilient infrastructure is also crucial to strengthening the climate resilience of cities. This session will discuss the strategies and innovations that cities can implement to build a resilient, net-zero future for all.

Subtheme 4: How can Mayors facilitate and promote innovation and creativity?

Cities are engines of growth that can drive innovations and solutions to address future challenges and aspirations. Active participation from all segments of society and individuals are important to realise the full potential of the cities and its people. Creating a conducive environment with the supporting policy initiatives is fundamental to encouraging inclusive and ground-up innovation and participation. This session will discuss the policies and initiatives that cities can undertake to facilitate and promote innovation and creativity, to develop solutions for a sustainable and resilient future.

ANNEX B: OTHER NOTABLE SPEAKERS AND ATTENDEES

- Mr Duong Tan Hien, Vice Chairman of People's Committee of Can Tho City
- Mr Felipe Morales, Advisor on infrastructure and mobility issues at the Mayor's Office of Bogota
- Mr Iñigo Zubizarreta, Mayor's Special Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda and International Affairs, Bilbao (Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Laureate 2010)
- Mr János Kendernay, Mayor's Senior Advisor, Budapest
- Mr Juan Carlos Saldarriaga Gaviria, Mayor, Soacha
- Mr Mohammad Ramdhan Pomanto, Mayor, Makassar
- Datuk Madam Noorliza binti Awang Alip, Mayor, Kota Kinabalu
- Mr Peter Rahbæk Juel, Mayor, Odense
- Mr Su Jun-pin, Deputy Mayor, Taoyuan
- Mr Tran Phuoc Son, Vice Chairman of City People's Council, Da Nang

ANNEX C: SITE VISITS

Site Visit 1: Identity of a City: Tradition, Modern and Future



2023 SBAU

SBAU (Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism) will introduce urban and architectural projects concerning land environment and culture. SBAU 2023 also aims to develop a roadmap for Seoul as an ultra-densely populated and ecologically friendly city under the sub-theme “City of Mountain Ranges, Waterways and Wind Breezes-Drawing of Seoul’s Next 100 years”.

Seoul Museum of Craft Art

The Seoul Museum of Craft Art(SeMoCA) is the first public museum of craft art in Korea, it studies and shares information, records, people and environments concerning craft art. The museum is situated on a site of rich history where a detached palace was constructed as a royal residence and SeMoCA also preserves modern history by having renovated the buildings of the former High School that taught secondary education for over seven decades.

Site Visit 2: Resilient and Smart City Seoul



Cheonggyecheon Museum

The museum details the history of Cheonggyecheon, the restoration project, and the future roles that Cheonggyecheon will play as Seoul makes a leap to become an environmentally-friendly resilient city.

Seoul Sewage Science Museum

Located at the site of Korea’s first sewage disposal plant, the site consist of water reclamation centre, and an interactive smart exhibition that displays the history, technology, and future of domestic and overseas sewerage

ANNEX D: URBAN SOLUTIONS #23

	<p>Urban Solutions issue 23: Inclusive Smart Cities</p> <p>Cities are increasingly leveraging technology to tackle urban challenges, optimise city services and infrastructure, and improve the overall quality of life. This edition of the Urban Solutions will showcase how smart cities can be inclusive across the economic, social and spatial domains.</p>
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ANNEX E: PROGRAMME

Day/Time	AM	Lunch Break	PM	Evening
Day 1 – 24 Sep 2023 (Sun)	Closed-door programme(s)			
Day 2 – 25 Sep 2023 (Mon)	Seoul-Singapore Exhibition (Open to media)			
	Site Visit 1 (Identity of a City) (Open to media)	Networking Lunch	Mayors Forum (Session 1) (Open to media only for opening speeches)	Welcome Cocktail & Mayoral Dinner
	Young Leaders Dialogue			
Day 3 26 Sep 2023 (Tue)	Seoul-Singapore Exhibition (Open to media)			
	Mayors Forum (Session 2) (Open to media for closing speeches)	Closing Lunch	Site Visit 2 (Resilience and Smart City Seoul) (Open to media)	

*Programme may be subject to change.