



WORLD CITIES SUMMIT 2024
Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Rejuvenate, Reinvent, Reimagine
2 – 4 June 2024, Singapore

CONCEPT NOTE

ABOUT THE WORLD CITIES SUMMIT (WCS)

The biennial World Cities Summit (WCS) is a global platform for government leaders and industry experts to address liveable and sustainable city challenges, share integrated urban solutions and forge new partnerships. Since 2008, WCS has seen the participation of over 250 cities from around the world, represented by leaders from government, business, international organisations and academia. Jointly organised by Singapore's Centre for Liveable Cities and the Urban Redevelopment Authority, the 9th edition of WCS in 2024 will be held in conjunction with our key partner, the Asia Infrastructure Forum. Highlights of the Summit include the WCS Mayors Forum and the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize (LKYWCP) Award Ceremony and Banquet.

ABOUT WCS 2024

The theme of WCS 2024, ***Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Rejuvenate, Reinvent, Reimagine*** conveys the need for cities to rejuvenate, reinvent and reimagine to become smart, resilient and regenerative cities of the future.

As the convening platform for global mayors, business leaders and knowledge experts to exchange and co-create city solutions for liveable and sustainable cities, WCS will engage cities, businesses and experts at the highest levels to discuss how cities can emerge stronger through prolonged and unpredictable disruptions.

EVENT FORMAT

WCS 2024 will be a 3-day event comprising the main conference and other key events such as the WCS Mayors Forum, WCS Young Leaders Symposium, the Lee Kuan Yew World Prize Award Ceremony and Banquet, and an exhibition.

Delegates will engage with the theme across five thematic tracks: **Cities for People, Resilient & Regenerative Cities, Smart Cities, Sustainable Financing of Cities and Future Cities**. Each track comprises plenaries and in-depth discussion sessions, special convenings and roundtables, organised with strategic partners to ensure a rich and diverse discussion.

::: CONFERENCE PROGRAMME:::

WCS Opening Plenary

Liveable & Sustainable Cities: Rejuvenation, Reinvention, Reimagine

Cities are dynamic, human ecosystems. While cities across the world are subject to disruptions, stresses and financial constraints, they also have great capacity to evolve and adapt. The WCS Opening Plenary discusses the opportunities and approaches to achieve smart, resilient and regenerative cities.

::: WCS THEMATIC TRACKS :::

CITIES FOR PEOPLE

What makes a good city?

A "good city" is not just a collection of buildings and infrastructure, but a place where people can live fulfilling lives with access to necessities, opportunities and a sense of community. City leaders must be committed to continually rejuvenate their cities and plan for the long-term, while remaining flexible and responsive to the changing needs of residents.

Plenary I:

How can cities rejuvenate for the better?

Developing and mature cities alike need to constantly revitalise themselves to maintain liveability. Yet, it can be hard to make changes, especially in older cities, when things are already built or running in a certain way. This plenary discusses how successful urban renewal can be achieved if planning and governance are organised in ways that prioritise well-being and inclusivity across communities and generations.

Plenary II:

Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Lecture and Forum

The Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Lecture celebrates the 2024 Prize Laureate's and Special Mentions' achievements in the creation of liveable, vibrant, and sustainable urban communities with a high quality of life. The 2024 Prize Laureate and Special Mentions will share their urban development experiences, highlighting their unique contexts, challenges faced, and urban solutions deployed.

RESILIENT & REGENERATIVE CITIES

How can cities lead climate actions towards 2050, and what lies beyond?

The world is on a critical path towards limiting warming to 1.5°C while facing climate tipping points and major disruptions. With cities accounting for 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions, cities play a key role in climate actions. It is vital for cities to lead with resilient and regenerative approaches, taking in account low-carbon transition, nature, well-being and community involvement.

**Plenary I:
How do cities adapt and thrive
in an era of climate emergency?**

Cities play a crucial role in limiting greenhouse gas emissions from building and infrastructure systems. What are some steps that cities can take to overcome obstacles and accelerate the transition to a more resilient future?

**Plenary II:
How do cities accelerate towards
urban regeneration in harmony with nature?**

Regenerative design moves beyond the standard of green and sustainable practices, and embodies the concept of 'giving back more than it takes' Can cities embrace this ethos and related principles in their planning and governance to promote resource sufficiency, human well-being, and the stewardship of natural ecosystems?

SMART CITIES
How should technology shape human-centric cities of tomorrow?

Artificial intelligence, advanced smart grid systems, the advent of the Metaverse – there has been an unprecedented surge in smart technologies in recent years. How can the transformative potential of these smart tools be unlocked to reinvent liveable cities for all?

**Plenary I:
How do we create human-centric smart cities?**

Cities should not be 'smart' for smart's sake. This plenary explores how technologies can be harnessed to overcome social challenges and build trust, inclusivity, safety and accessibility for people.

**Plenary II:
What makes a city truly smart?**

Cities are complex adaptive systems. Technologies need to be sensitively designed and implemented to synergise long-term infrastructure development with responsive urban governance and management. This plenary discusses how developing a science of cities, backed by data and scientific analysis, can enhance understanding, and support, how cities work.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCING OF CITIES
How do we close the urban infrastructure gap through Sustainable Finance?

Countries have agreed to fund climate-related loss and damage to assist vulnerable communities. However, there continues to be a large gap in the financing of sustainable urban infrastructure. How can cities move from the rhetoric of ESG strategies to action and implementation?

Plenary I:

Financing Trends and Innovations in Reaching Net Zero

Over the next decade, infrastructure financing is expected to undergo transformative shifts with the development of new financing tools. The intersection of digitalisation and technology will be crucial in sustainable finance and infrastructure development. How can we enable sustainable investments and what are some of the challenges of infrastructure digitalisation? This plenary will explore financing trends and innovations, including the role of digitalization in achieving net zero; and highlight the pivotal role that financial institutions play in shaping a low-carbon economy, such as through the provision of green frameworks and transition financing.

Plenary II:

Innovative Approaches to Optimise Cities' Potential for Sustainable Finance

Closing the financing gap sustainably requires cities to explore and urgently adopt innovative approaches, such as blended finance and land value capture.

How can we optimise cities' potential for sustainable finance? This plenary seeks to discuss innovative approaches that optimise cities' potential for sustainable finance while incorporating ESG into risk management and infrastructure planning, to improve the cities' credit worthiness and drive sustainable financing of infrastructure.

FUTURE CITIES

What are the new frontiers for urban life?

New cities are being built from scratch, while other cities are developing new regions and districts on greenfield sites.

How can planners, developers, businesses and the community take the opportunity to jointly develop "cities of the future" on a clean slate, with revolutionary urban and social paradigms that support the liveability of cities across generations?

Plenary I:

What are the paradigm shifts needed to build future cities?

The world is facing resource constraints, climate stresses, and new divides are forming along values and generational lines. This plenary discusses how new approaches in the way we live and work. Further deep dive into how play, learn, move, consume and interact are needed to build liveable cities now and for future generations.

Plenary II:

From Vision to Reality: Developing Future Cities

This closing plenary explores how partnerships with businesses, communities and people should be included in planning processes and governance approaches in the development of future liveable cities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON WORLD CITIES SUMMIT

Components of the World Cities Summit

- **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, vibrant and sustainable urban communities. The 2024 Prize Laureate will be presented the award at the Prize Award Ceremony and Banquet. The Laureate and Special Mentions cities will also share their achievements and experiences at the Prize Lecture.
- **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. WCS Mayors Forum 2024 will comprise a programmed lunch and the Mayors Forum discussion.
- **WCS Young Leaders Symposium:** World Cities Summit Young Leaders are a select group of change-makers from diverse sectors who shape the global urban agenda.
- **WCS Thematic Tracks:** Delegates will engage with the 3R theme via five thematic tracks: Cities for People, Resilient & Regenerative Cities, Smart Cities, Sustainable Financing of Cities and Future Cities. Thematic tracks will comprise Plenaries and sessions of different formats, organised with different strategic partners.
- **Plenaries:** Insights sharing by leaders in the governments, international organisations and industry sectors on cross-disciplinary policies, management strategies and solutions
- **Sessions:** Deep dives within each thematic track, featuring panel discussions, special convening sessions and by-invite-only roundtables.
- **Co-Located Events:** Co-located events are organised by our partners and can range from closed door meetings and workshops to public lectures and complement the main programme of the WCS.
- **WCS Science of Cities Symposium:** Targeted at academics, the SoC Symposium convenes international researchers, city, and industry leaders to share their scientific insights and methodologies on tackling urban challenges.
- **WCS Exhibition:** WCS 2024 provides a platform for cities, corporates and others to profile themselves on a global stage through physical booths and pavilions within the exhibition area. Key highlights include the Singapore whole-of-government pavilion, booths by Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize laureate cities and CLC partners, as well as other booths and pavilions by participating cities and corporations.

ABOUT ASIA INFRASTRUCTURE FORUM

The Asia Infrastructure Forum (AIF) is the foremost platform for infrastructure players and thought leaders to discuss key issues such as the future state of infrastructure, sustainable financing, technological innovation and collaboration.