



ASEAN  
SUSTAINABLE  
URBANISATION  
FORUM  
KUALA LUMPUR



ASEAN  
GOVERNORS  
& MAYORS  
FORUM

MGMAC

2025 Meeting of  
Governors and  
Mayors of  
ASEAN Capitals

# A SUBSTANTIVE REPORT ON THE CONVERGENCE OF URBAN LEADERSHIP

ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Forum (ASUF), ASEAN  
Governors and Mayors Forum (AGMF), and Meeting of  
Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC)

**10–15 August 2025**  
**Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre**

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ASEAN Future Cities and Regions – Inclusivity and  
Sustainability

**Prepared by**



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## Acknowledgements

This substantive report acknowledges the pivotal role of the host nation, Malaysia, under its 2025 ASEAN Chairmanship, for convening a landmark series of events: the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Forum (ASUF), the ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum (AGMF), and the Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC). The success of this gathering, held from 10 to 15 August 2025 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, was made possible through the dedicated collaboration of the key co-organizers, including URBANICE Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur City Hall, United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC), and UN-Habitat. Their collective efforts facilitated a historic convergence that brought together over 9,120 participants from 10 ASEAN Member States and global partners, demonstrating a shared commitment to an inclusive and sustainable urban future. The contributions of all delegates, including representatives from national governments, local authorities, youth, women, the private sector, academia, and civil society, are duly recognized for their role in shaping the outcomes of this significant convening.







## Foreword by the Minister of KPKT

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT) of Malaysia, as the host ministry, championed the ASUF 2025 as a strategic platform for advancing both the national urban agenda and regional integration efforts. The Minister of Housing and Local Government underscored this commitment by pledging to build at least 1,000 new parks by 2035 and to implement a circular economy blueprint to reduce solid waste, all of which directly align with the forum's core themes of inclusivity and sustainability. This event served as a practical demonstration of how local action, driven by government and facilitated by collaboration, can achieve transformative outcomes that resonate at both the national and regional levels.

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*The Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT) of Malaysia, as the host ministry, championed the ASUF 2025 as a strategic platform for advancing both the national urban agenda and regional integration efforts.*

”

**YB MR NGA KOR MING**

Minister of Housing and Local Government, Malaysia;  
and President of UN-Habitat General Assembly





## Foreword by the CEO URBANICE Malaysia

URBANICE Malaysia, as the leading host organization, played a crucial role in the successful co-location of the three forums. We welcomed the convergence of local and regional perspectives, advocating for the showcasing of scalable, ground-up innovations and the establishment of regional networks to carry the forum's momentum forward. The announcement that the future ASEAN Smart and Sustainable Centre will be hosted by URBANICE Malaysia stands as a testament to the organization's institutional capacity and a clear indicator of Malaysia's long-term commitment to leading regional urban development efforts.

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*The announcement that the future ASEAN Smart and Sustainable Centre will be hosted by URBANICE Malaysia stands as a testament to the organization's institutional capacity and a clear indicator of Malaysia's long-term commitment to leading regional urban development efforts.*

**TPr Ts NORLIZA HASHIM**  
CEO of URBANICE Malaysia

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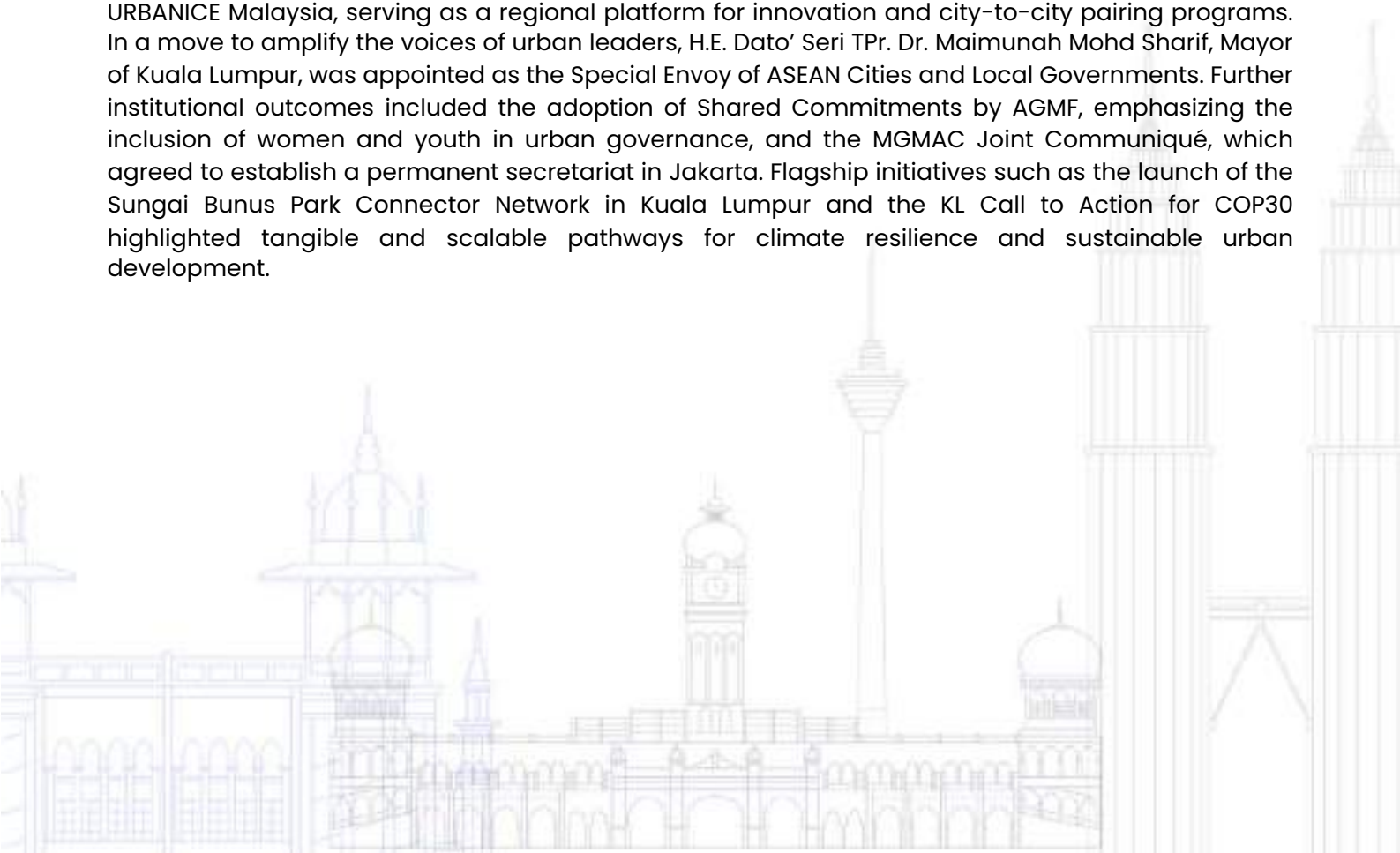


## Executive Summary

The ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Forum (ASUF) 2025 marked a historic convergence of three major urban platforms under Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship, bringing together the ASUF, the ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum (AGMF), and the Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC). This landmark event drew over 9,120 participants from 66 countries, including over 300 mayors and governors, solidifying its status as a pivotal moment in regional urban policy. The forum's central thesis was that cities are not just sites of development but are positioned as the primary engines and co-authors of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. A series of significant declarations, institutional outcomes, and flagship initiatives emerged from the event. The Kuala Lumpur Sustainable Declaration on Localising the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 was formally adopted, outlining six shared commitments that will be submitted as a key input to the 47th ASEAN Leaders' Summit in October 2025.

This declaration operationalizes the regional vision by establishing a City Focal Point System and promoting Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) to monitor progress at the municipal level. Furthermore, the forums established new institutional mechanisms to enhance multi-level governance: the agreement to establish a permanent MGMAC secretariat in Jakarta, the appointment of a Special Envoy of ASEAN Cities and Local Governments, and the announcement of the ASEAN Smart and Sustainable Centre hosted by URBANICE Malaysia. These initiatives are poised to amplify the voice of cities, institutionalize city-to-city collaboration, and serve as platforms to accelerate scalable urban innovations. The forum's findings underscore a collective resolve to embed inclusivity, resilience, and sustainability into the heart of the ASEAN development agenda, recognizing that a truly integrated and people-centered community must be built from the ground up.

The forum also led to the establishment of the ASEAN Smart and Sustainable Centre, to be hosted by URBANICE Malaysia, serving as a regional platform for innovation and city-to-city pairing programs. In a move to amplify the voices of urban leaders, H.E. Dato' Seri TPr. Dr. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, was appointed as the Special Envoy of ASEAN Cities and Local Governments. Further institutional outcomes included the adoption of Shared Commitments by AGMF, emphasizing the inclusion of women and youth in urban governance, and the MGMAC Joint Communiqué, which agreed to establish a permanent secretariat in Jakarta. Flagship initiatives such as the launch of the Sungai Bonus Park Connector Network in Kuala Lumpur and the KL Call to Action for COP30 highlighted tangible and scalable pathways for climate resilience and sustainable urban development.





# 01

## INTRODUCTION

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background and Context

Urbanization has emerged as a strategic lever for regional integration and resilience in Southeast Asia. Recognizing this, the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Forum (ASUF) was created to provide a dedicated platform for dialogue and collaboration on urban issues. The 2025 event in Kuala Lumpur represented a significant evolution of this platform by strategically converging it with the ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum (AGMF) and the Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC). This co-location was a deliberate effort to overcome traditional policy silos by uniting high-level national and regional policy discussions with the on-the-ground expertise of local leaders. The forum's theme, "ASEAN Future Cities and Regions: Inclusivity and Sustainability," reflected the recognition that urban centers are central to achieving ASEAN's long-term vision of a prosperous and resilient community.

The ASUF, AGMF, and MGMAC 2025 forums, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, represented a critical convergence of local, national, and regional leaders. The event, held under the overarching theme of ASEAN Future Cities and Regions: Inclusivity and Sustainability, brought together an unprecedented number of stakeholders to reaffirm a shared commitment to building cities and regions that are inclusive, resilient, innovative, and sustainable. This landmark gathering, a cornerstone of Malaysia's 2025 ASEAN Chairmanship, which adopted the theme Inclusivity and Sustainability, served as a strategic platform for localizing the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and its four strategic pillars. Building on a legacy of preceding declarations, including the Surabaya Communique (2011) and the Vientiane Declaration (2024), the Kuala Lumpur forums were designed to translate high-level policy into tangible, on-the-ground action. This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the forum's outcomes, detailing how its key achievements and thematic discussions directly contribute to the realization of ASEAN's long-term vision for a resilient, innovative, dynamic, and people-centered community.



## 1.2 Objectives and Scope

The objective of this report is to provide a comprehensive, expert-level account of the substantive proceedings and outcomes of the ASUF, AGMF, and MGMAAC. It moves beyond a simple summary of events to offer a strategic analysis of how the forums' outputs align with the core pillars of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. The scope encompasses a detailed review of all key sessions—from the stakeholder assemblies to high-level plenaries and grassroots dialogues—and a thorough examination of the landmark declarations and initiatives that emerged. The report is designed to serve as a definitive record of the event's intellectual and political contributions to regional urban governance.

The forum was designed with several key objectives. First, it aimed to elevate city leadership in ASEAN policymaking, acknowledging that local governments are at the forefront of implementing national and regional agendas. Second, it sought to facilitate the localization of global frameworks, specifically the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the New Urban Agenda (NUA), the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS), and the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN). Finally, the overarching goal was to advance inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urban development by fostering cross-sectoral collaboration and shared solutions.



## 1.3 Methodology and Structure

This report is based on a synthesis of official daily journals, the Kuala Lumpur Sustainable Declaration, and other strategic documents provided. The narrative is structured to follow a logical progression, beginning with the foundational context and proceeding to a granular analysis of each major event component. The report's structure, from the executive summary to the conclusions, mirrors the user-provided outline, ensuring comprehensive coverage of all requested topics.

### 1.3.1 Reflections on the Journey: From Concept to Convening

The convening of the ASUF, AGMF, and MGMAC was not a mere logistical exercise but a deliberate and significant act of urban diplomacy. For the first time, these three distinct platforms were unified under a single theme, creating a consolidated and authoritative space for dialogue on sustainable urbanisation. This co-location allowed for a more integrated approach, directly addressing the longstanding challenge of fragmented policy by creating a unified channel for communication and coordination. The forum's focus on the social return on investment (SROI) underscores this deeper purpose, reframing the gathering as a platform for yielding exponential social value through strategic urban diplomacy, participatory design, and regional collaboration.

This shift from transactional, project-based development to the creation of a transformational ecosystem positions cities not as mere recipients of policy, but as its co-authors, and marks a new paradigm for regional urban governance within ASEAN. The appointment of a Special Envoy for ASEAN Cities and Local Governments, and the establishment of a permanent secretariat for MGMAC in Jakarta, are the institutional manifestations of this strategic shift, formalizing the channels for city-level concerns to directly inform and influence regional policymaking.



## 1.4 Theme and Sub-Themes

The central theme, "ASEAN Future Cities and Regions: Inclusivity and Sustainability," was explored through four interconnected sub-themes :

- 1

**Climate Resilient Cities**

Focused on strategies for urban climate adaptation, disaster preparedness, and reducing environmental impact.
- 2

**Inclusive, Healthy and Caring Cities**

Addressed social equity, public health, and urban design that caters to all populations, including women, youth, and the elderly.
- 3

**Digital Transformation and Innovative Cities**

Explored the use of technology and data to improve urban governance and service delivery.
- 4

**Collaborative Pathways: Policies, Partnerships and Financing**

Investigated new models for multi-stakeholder collaboration, policy integration, and innovative financing to fund sustainable projects.

## 1.5 Participant Overview

The forum saw an unprecedented level of participation, with a total of 9,120 attendees from 66 countries, including ASEAN Member States and global partners. Among the delegates were a significant number of local government officials, with over 186 from ASEAN countries alone, including key leaders from Jakarta, Manila, Bangkok, and Kuala Lumpur. The diversity of the participants was a hallmark of the event, with representation from national governments, local authorities, youth groups, women's organizations, the private sector, academia, and civil society, all contributing to a rich, multi-faceted dialogue.

## 1.6 Social Return on Investment (SROI)

A core concept embedded in the forum was the pursuit of a social return on investment (SROI). This framing moved beyond traditional metrics of success, which often focus on financial or infrastructural gains, to evaluate the event's broader social impact. The forums and meetings demonstrated how strategic urban diplomacy and participatory design could yield exponential social value, proving that the true return lies in creating transformational ecosystems rather than merely executing transactional projects. The forum's proceedings established a precedent where cities are no longer considered the endpoints of national policy, but rather the co-authors of ASEAN's future, a shift that is critical for achieving the aspirations of Vision 2045.



## In Numbers



**9,120**  
Total Attendees

Coming from...

**66** Countries

**10**

ASEAN Countries

**56**

Other Countries

Totaling

**2,360**

Delegates Including ASEAN countries  
(exclude Malaysia)

### In-person participation Gender

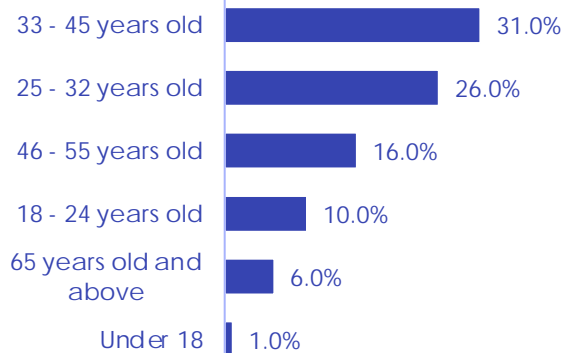


**44%**  
Female



**56%**  
Male

### In-person participation by Age



**2,324**  
Attendees are  
Representing

**201**

Local Governments from across the  
world including ASEAN countries

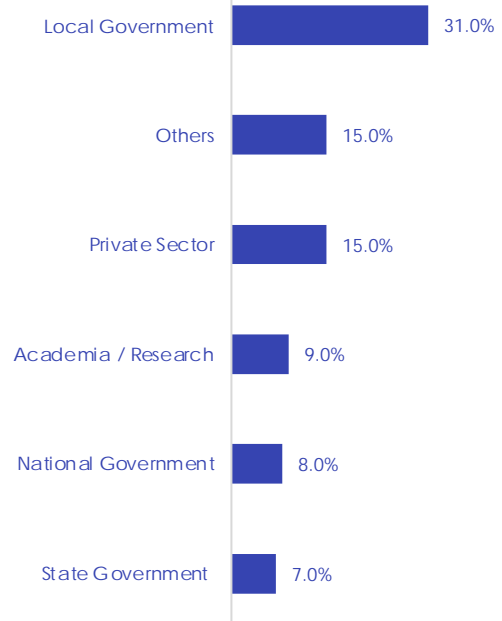
**186**

Local Governments from ASEAN  
Countries

**15**

Local Governments from Other  
Countries

### In-person participation by Representative





## In Numbers





# 02

PART 1:  
**THE FOUNDATIONAL PILLAR:  
LOCALISING THE ASEAN  
COMMUNITY VISION 2045**



## 2.0 PART 1: THE FOUNDATIONAL PILLAR: LOCALISING THE ASEAN COMMUNITY VISION 2045

The primary objective of the 2025 forums was to provide a practical framework for the localization of the ACV 2045. This was accomplished through the adoption of a key unifying outcome document. The Kuala Lumpur Sustainable Declaration on Localising the ACV 2045. The Kuala Lumpur Sustainable Declaration on Localising the ACV 2045 was adopted as a collective pledge to advance inclusive and resilient urban development. Its significance lies in its explicit purpose: to be formally submitted to the 47th ASEAN Leaders' Summit, ensuring that priorities identified at the city level are directly integrated into regional policymaking. The declaration outlines six shared commitments that serve as a roadmap for cities and local governments. These commitments include:

1

**Strengthening ASEAN Identity through Local Action**, which encourages the integration of ASEAN themes and values into local educational, civic, and cultural programs.

2

**Advancing Local Priorities Under the ASEAN 2045 Pillars** by establishing a City Focal Point System. These focal points will coordinate voluntary, non-binding joint actions and monitor local contributions to all four ASEAN Community Vision Pillars, submitting progress reports to the AGMF and MGMAC secretariats.

3

**Institutionalising Local Governments' Collaboration Mechanisms** by building upon existing platforms like the AGMF and MGMAC to enhance structured city-to-city engagement. This includes promoting mutual learning on sustainability practices, such as Zero Waste practices, and encouraging cities to conduct Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) to localize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and contribute to ASEAN's regional monitoring processes.

4

**Localising Climate Commitments and Accelerating Climate Actions** by reaffirming the critical role of cities in supporting enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) 3.0, consistent with the outcomes of COP28.

5

**Promoting and Advocating for Local-level Investments from International Institutions**, which calls for stronger engagement with partners like the UN system, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and various climate finance mechanisms.

6

**Strengthening Local Partnerships for Inclusive Development** by encouraging collaboration with the private sector, civil society, and community-based organizations in the co-creation of local solutions.

## 2.1 Strategic Framework Alignment

This report is based on a synthesis of official daily journals, the Kuala Lumpur Sustainable Declaration, and other strategic documents provided. The narrative is structured to follow a logical progression, beginning with the foundational context and proceeding to a granular analysis of each major event component. The report's structure, from the executive summary to the conclusions, mirrors the user-provided outline, ensuring comprehensive coverage of all requested topics.

### 2.1.1 ASEAN Community Vision 2045



The ASUF 2025 was explicitly aligned with the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, which was adopted at the ASEAN Summit in May 2025. This new vision extends ASEAN's strategic planning horizon to 20 years, signalling a long-term commitment to a resilient, innovative, dynamic, and people-centered future. The forum's thematic discussions and concrete outcomes directly contributed to the strategic goals of all four pillars of this vision. The forum's outcomes directly intersect with each of the four pillars of Vision 2045:



### ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC):



The discussions on inclusive governance, city networks, and disaster resilience directly support the APSC's goal of ensuring a rules-based and secure environment. The forum's emphasis on urban diplomacy and city-to-city cooperation strengthens the region's collective capacity to respond to emerging challenges and reinforces ASEAN's centrality in the regional architecture.

The KL Call to Action for COP30, for example, positions cities as critical actors in global climate diplomacy, an issue increasingly seen as a security concern. The discussions on Reimagining Urban Governance Through Integration and Inclusion and Safer and Inclusive Cities directly contribute to the APSC's strategic goal of upholding the rule of law and good governance. By focusing on community policing, civic tech, and legal frameworks for women's empowerment, the forum localized the APSC's broader mandate of fostering a rules-based, inclusive, and cohesive community.

### ASEAN Economic Community (AEC):



The forum's Business Assembly and special sessions on financing models and the creative economy directly support the AEC's aspiration to be a highly integrated, cohesive, and dynamic economy. Discussions on sustainable tourism, smart infrastructure, and digital governance are key drivers of economic growth, while the focus on MSMEs and leaving no place behind ensures that this growth is inclusive and resilient.

The forum's business and professional assemblies, along with the special sessions on financing, are highly relevant to the AEC's agenda. The Business Assembly and RT Session 3 on leveraging tourism and the creative economy directly support the AEC's ambition to be a competitive, dynamic, and people-centered economy. Discussions on financing models, public-private partnerships, and ESG metrics for SMEs contribute to the AEC's goal of engendering a climate-responsive community with enhanced connectivity and sectoral cooperation.

## ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC)



The Youth, Women's, and Professional assemblies, along with the Grassroots Dialogue, are tangible manifestations of the ASCC's commitment to realizing the full potential of ASEAN citizens and improving their quality of life. The focus on "Inclusive, Healthy and Caring Cities" and the special address on the "THE C.H.A.S.E. CITY" concept directly contribute to the ASCC's strategic goals of promoting social justice, youth empowerment, and cultural identity.

The discussions on smart and sustainable urban development and digital transformation are a clear continuation of the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan. Sessions such as High-Level 1, High-Level 3, and Special Session 9 on ASUS, ASCN, and digital transformation underscore the direct alignment between the urban agenda and the goal of seamless logistics, sustainable infrastructure, and digital innovation.



## ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC)



The entire forum served as a nexus for the Connectivity pillar. Discussions on smart mobility, digital transformation, and city-to-city cooperation provided a clear roadmap for advancing regional connectivity. The establishment of a permanent MGMAAC secretariat in Jakarta and the creation of the ASEAN Smart and Sustainable Centre are institutional mechanisms that will further strengthen these linkages, both physically and digitally.

The Sungai Bonus Park Connector Network serves as a physical example of this connectivity at the local level, linking biodiversity with mobility and community well-being.

## ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan

The forum's proceedings underscored the crucial role of urbanization as a primary driver of regional connectivity. The discussions centered on how integrating smart mobility and resilient infrastructure within and between urban centers can create a more seamless and competitive ASEAN. The strategic goals of the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan, such as fostering continuous digital innovation and enhancing seamless logistics, were foundational to the forum's special sessions and dialogues.



## 2.1.2 Localising ASEAN Community Vision 2045

A key takeaway from the High-Level Dialogue on "Charting the Local Path to ASEAN 2045" was the recognition that cities and local governments are the closest level of governance to the people. This proximity places them in a unique and critical position to translate high-level regional aspirations into community-level actions. The **Kuala Lumpur Sustainable Declaration** solidified this principle by committing to the establishment of a "City Focal Point System" and calling for local governments to prepare Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) to monitor their contributions to Vision 2045.

## 2.1.3 ASUS and ASCN Implementation

The forum provided a dedicated space to discuss the implementation of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS) and the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN). Malaysia's launch of the **ASEAN Smart and Sustainable Centre**, hosted by URBANICE Malaysia, was a direct outcome of these discussions. This center is intended to be a living hub for city-level innovations and digital governance, supporting scalable projects and city-pairing programs aligned with the ASUS and ASCN priorities.

## 2.1.4 Climate and Disaster Resilience

Climate and disaster resilience was a cross-cutting theme throughout the forum. The MGMAC City Network was highlighted for its work on adaptation and zero-waste initiatives. A major outcome was the launch of the **Kuala Lumpur Call to Action for COP30**, a proposal to integrate the New Urban Agenda into the UNFCCC processes. This demonstrates a strategic effort to position cities not as passive victims of climate change but as central actors in global climate diplomacy.

## 2.1.5 Financing Models

The discussions on financing models advocated for a shift from traditional funding mechanisms to more innovative approaches. Sessions explored the potential of blended finance, green bonds, and community-based funding, with a strong call to action for international institutions to direct investments to the local level. This emphasis on strengthening the creditworthiness of cities and providing them with access to new financial instruments directly addresses the challenge of funding the green transition at the municipal level.



## 2.2 Matrix Mapping of Urban Development Issues in ASEAN Cities Aligned with ASEAN Community Vision 2045

ASUF 2025 is not just a forum—it’s a launchpad for regional transformation. By anchoring discussions in the matrix mapping of urban challenges and the pillars of ACV 2045, ASEAN urban leaders can forge a shared path toward resilient, inclusive, and future-ready cities. This is the moment to turn vision into velocity, and to ensure that the cities of tomorrow reflect the aspirations, identities, and innovations of the people who call them home. This comprehensive matrix serves as a strategic blueprint to align urban development challenges in ASEAN cities with the five pillars of ACV 2045: Political-Security, Economic, Socio-Cultural, Connectivity, and Institutional Strengthening. It not only identifies thematic intersections but also reveals transformative opportunities for regional cooperation, innovation, and inclusive growth.

Urban Issue	Political-Security	Economic	Socio-Cultural	Connectivity	Institutional Strengthening
<b>Rapid Urbanization</b>	Risk of informal settlements, land disputes, and urban unrest	Strains infrastructure financing, informal economies, and productivity	Challenges in social cohesion, migrant integration, and housing equity	Overburdened transport, water, and digital systems	Requires metropolitan governance reforms, spatial data systems, and inter-municipal coordination
<b>Affordable Living and Housing</b>	Enhances tenure security, reduces vulnerability to eviction and unrest	Stimulates construction, local materials, and job creation	Promotes dignity, inclusion, and intergenerational stability	Supports transit-oriented development and compact city planning	Demands integrated housing policies, land banking, and PPP frameworks
<b>Urban Mobility and Congestion</b>	Affects emergency response, public safety, and urban resilience	Reduces logistics efficiency, increases fuel costs, and limits economic access	Impacts access to education, healthcare, and social services	Requires multimodal systems, ITS, and regional transport integration	Calls for cross-sectoral transport authorities and smart mobility governance
<b>Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)</b>	Strengthens civil protection, early warning systems, and urban safety nets	Protects assets, reduces economic shocks, and attracts climate finance	Builds community preparedness, solidarity, and adaptive capacity	Enables resilient infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and green corridors	Embeds climate-proofing in urban planning, budgeting, and institutional mandates
<b>Waste Management and Circular Economy</b>	Reduces health risks, urban blight, and environmental insecurity	Unlocks green jobs, resource recovery, and innovation	Enhances public hygiene, civic pride, and behavioral change	Supports smart bins to-energy, and <b>ci</b> logistics	Requires , waseten-forcement rcualgaencies, financing tools, and regional waste governance
<b>Public Health and Pandemic Preparedness</b>	Ensures health security, crisis governance, and trust in institutions	Maintains workforce productivity and economic continuity	Guarantees universal health coverage, mental health, and social protection	Leverages telemedicine, health data platforms, and regional surveillance systems	Builds cross-border health protocols, emergency coordination, and resilient health systems
<b>Digital Infrastructure and Smart Cities</b>	Safeguards digital rights, cybersecurity, and data sovereignty	Drives innovation, e-commerce, and digital entrepreneurship	Enables e-learning, civic tech, and digital inclusion	Requires interoperable broadband, IoT ecosystems, and smart grids	Establishes data governance, AI ethics, and digital capacity-building
<b>Inclusive Governance and Community Participation</b>	Reduces conflict through transparency, accountability, and participatory planning	Empowers MSMEs, informal workers, and local entrepreneurs	Strengthens civic identity, youth leadership, and co-production	Utilizes e-governance, mobile platforms, and participatory budgeting tools	Enhances local government capacity, stakeholder engagement, and decentralisation
<b>Urban Finance and Sustainable Investment</b>	Funds safety infrastructure, social housing, and climate adaptation	Mobilizes green bonds, blended finance, and municipal credit	Ensures equitable access to services and infrastructure	Channels investment into connectivity upgrades and smart infrastructure	Builds fiscal frameworks, PPP regulations, and financial resilience
<b>Environmental Quality and Air Pollution</b>	Mitigates health risks, urban unrest, and cross-border pollution tensions	Enables carbon markets, eco-tourism, and green industries	Improves liveability, child health, and public awareness	Deploys sensor networks, open data dashboards, and regional air quality monitoring	Strengthens emissions standards, enforcement mechanisms, and regional cooperation



## 2.3 Vision for Future Cities and Regions

The forum concluded with a forward-looking dialogue on a "Vision For Future Cities and Regions: Opportunities to Transform." This session explored urban foresight and scenario planning, emphasizing the need for future cities to be green, tech-driven, and culturally rooted. Key interventions highlighted the importance of detailed roadmaps and KPIs to bridge development gaps and ensure fairness across different regions. The following table provides a clear visual representation of how the forum's rich discussions are not isolated but are strategically aligned with ASEAN's long-term vision.

Forum Session/Assembly Name	Relevant Sub-Theme	Corresponding ASEAN 2045 Pillars
<b>Women's Assembly</b>	Inclusive Cities	Socio-Cultural, Political-Security
<b>Youth Assembly</b>	Digital Transformation; Inclusive Cities	Socio-Cultural, Connectivity
<b>Business Assembly</b>	Collaborative Pathways; Inclusive Cities	Economic, Socio-Cultural, Connectivity
<b>Professional Assembly</b>	Collaborative Pathways; Digital Transformation	Political-Security, Socio-Cultural
<b>High-Level Dialogue 1</b>	Collaborative Pathways; Connectivity	Political-Security, Connectivity
<b>High-Level Dialogue 2</b>	All four sub-themes	All four pillars
<b>High-Level Dialogue 3</b>	Digital Transformation; Collaborative Pathways	Economic, Connectivity
<b>High-Level Dialogue 4</b>	Climate Resilient Cities; Inclusive Cities	Political-Security, Connectivity
<b>High-Level Dialogue 5</b>	Collaborative Pathways	Economic, Connectivity
<b>High-Level Dialogue 6</b>	All four sub-themes	All four pillars
<b>Special Session 1</b>	Inclusive Cities; Collaborative Pathways	Socio-Cultural, Political-Security
<b>Special Session 2</b>	Inclusive Cities; Collaborative Pathways	Socio-Cultural, Economic
<b>Special Session 3</b>	Inclusive Cities; Collaborative Pathways	Socio-Cultural, Economic
<b>Special Session 4</b>	Inclusive Cities	Socio-Cultural, Connectivity
<b>Special Session 5</b>	Climate Resilient Cities	Political-Security, Connectivity
<b>Special Session 6</b>	Inclusive Cities; Digital Transformation	Socio-Cultural, Economic
<b>Special Session 7</b>	Collaborative Pathways; Climate Resilient Cities	All four pillars
<b>Special Session 8</b>	Climate Resilient Cities; Inclusive Cities	Political-Security, Socio-Cultural
<b>Special Session 9</b>	Digital Transformation	Economic, Connectivity
<b>Special Session 10</b>	Collaborative Pathways; Inclusive Cities	Political-Security, Socio-Cultural
<b>Special Session 11</b>	Collaborative Pathways	Economic, Connectivity
<b>Special Session 12</b>	Climate Resilient Cities; Collaborative Pathways	Economic, Connectivity
<b>Special Session 13</b>	Climate Resilient Cities	Political-Security, Connectivity
<b>Grassroots Dialogue</b>	Inclusive Cities; Collaborative Pathways	Socio-Cultural, Economic
<b>RT Session 1</b>	Collaborative Pathways	Economic, Connectivity
<b>RT Session 2</b>	Climate Resilient Cities	Political-Security, Connectivity
<b>RT Session 3</b>	All four sub-themes	All four pillars
<b>High-Level City Talk 1</b>	Climate Resilient Cities; Collaborative Pathways	All four pillars



# 03

**MAPPING AND ALIGNMENT REPORT:  
ASEAN SUSTAINABLE  
URBANISATION FORUM 2025 AND  
THE ASEAN COMMUNITY VISION  
2045 – 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY 11 AUGUST 2025**



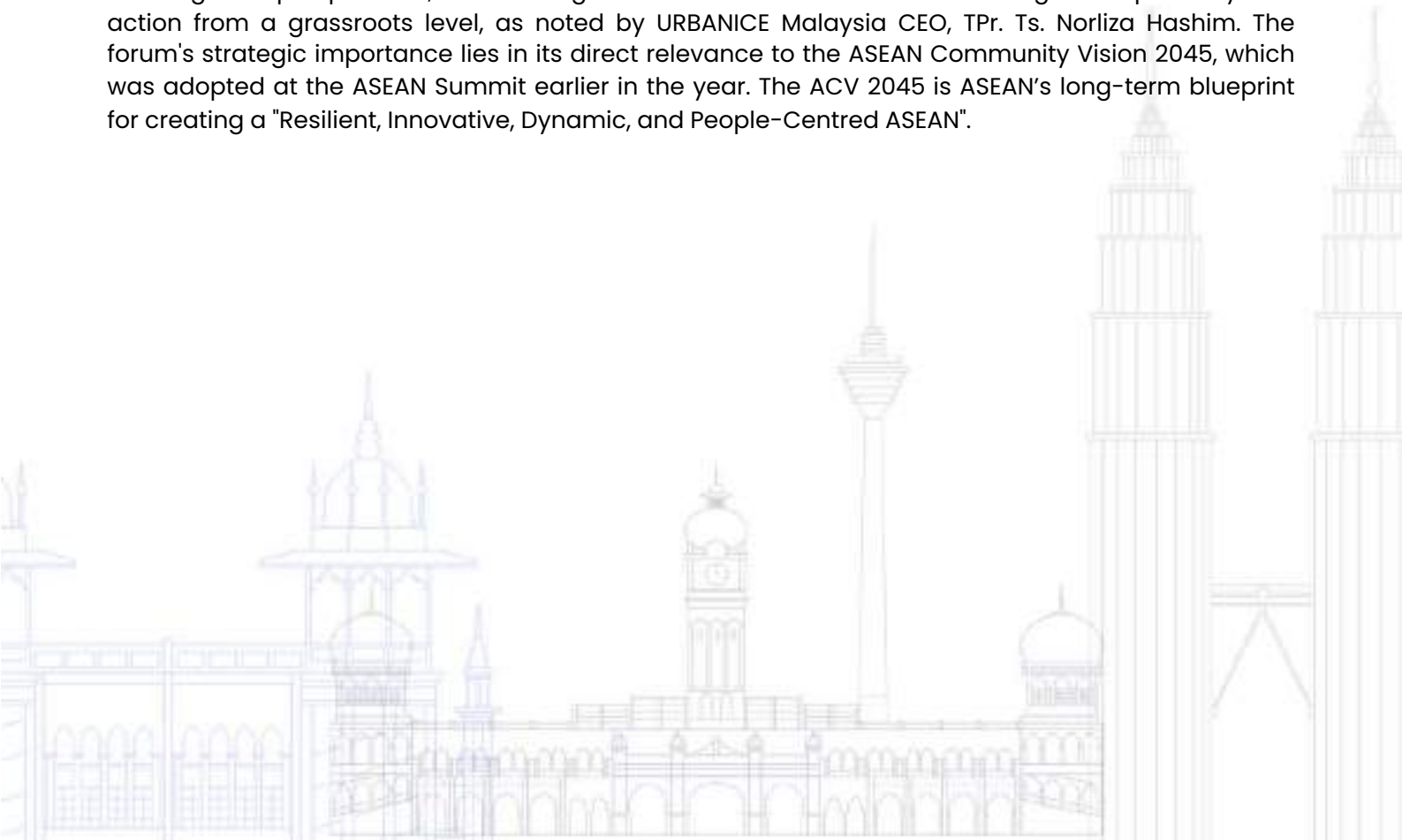
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## MAPPING AND ALIGNMENT REPORT: ASEAN SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION FORUM 2025 AND THE ASEAN COMMUNITY VISION 2045 – 1<sup>st</sup> day 11 AUGUST 2025

This session provides a substantive mapping and alignment of the forum's outcomes, particularly from its four stakeholder assemblies (Women's, Youth, Business, and Professional), to the four pillars of the ACV 2025. The analysis reveals a profound and intricate set of relationships. The forum's discussions demonstrate that urban sustainability is not a singular issue but a multi-faceted challenge requiring integrated solutions that span political, economic, socio-cultural, and connectivity domains.

**The Women's Assembly** reframes climate resilience as a core tenet of comprehensive security, directly aligning with the APSC, while also championing economic empowerment and inclusive financing under the AEC. **The Youth Assembly** showcases how digital innovation, a key objective of the ACCC, can be deployed as a powerful tool for civic engagement and governance, reinforcing the goals of the ASCC and APSC. Similarly, **the Business and Professional Assemblies** highlight the critical role of public-private partnerships, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and the creative economy in driving equitable growth and building the institutional frameworks necessary for a resilient region. Ultimately, the ASUF 2025 affirms that the most effective pathways to sustainable urbanization are inherently inter-pillar. The recommendations that emerged from the forum, from mandating specific funding for women-led initiatives to establishing shared data platforms and formalizing multi-stakeholder governance models, provide a clear roadmap for translating the strategic blueprint of Vision 2045 into tangible, on-the-ground action.

The strategic decision to precede the main forum with four stakeholder assemblies—representing Women, Youth, Business, and Professional constituencies—underscores a deliberate shift toward a people-centered and co-creative model of governance. This structure was designed to gather local and regional perspectives, showcasing scalable innovations and advancing clear pathways for action from a grassroots level, as noted by URBANICE Malaysia CEO, TPr. Ts. Norliza Hashim. The forum's strategic importance lies in its direct relevance to the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, which was adopted at the ASEAN Summit earlier in the year. The ACV 2045 is ASEAN's long-term blueprint for creating a "Resilient, Innovative, Dynamic, and People-Centred ASEAN".





### 3.1 The Women's Assembly: Aligning "H.E.R. Planet" with ASEAN's Vision 2045

**The Women's Assembly, themed "Women And Climate Resilience In Southeast Asia: H.E.R Planet,"** centered its discussions on the imperative of elevating women's leadership, lived experience, and innovation in the context of climate governance. The keynote address by Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah Mahmood called for a shift from addressing women's roles from the "margins to mandates," urging ASEAN governments to formally embed women's leadership in climate planning and policymaking. The discussions highlighted the critical importance of including diverse identities, such as rural women, indigenous communities, youth, and informal workers, in policy innovation, and recognizing the "grassroots wisdom" they possess. The assembly's proposals were concrete, including the establishment of an ASEAN-wide platform for women's climate advocacy and the formal allocation of resources by mandating a portion of climate and humanitarian budgets specifically for women and gender-balanced leadership programs.

The recommendations from this assembly have a direct and compelling alignment with multiple pillars of the ACV 2045 Vision. The primary connection is to the **ASCC**, which seeks to forge a common identity and build a caring, sharing, and inclusive society where the well-being and livelihood of the people are enhanced. The call to recognize women as "natural solution providers" and to formally empower them in decision-making is a direct embodiment of the ASCC's commitment to a people-oriented and socially responsible community. Beyond the social domain, the assembly's outcomes also significantly align with the **APSC**. While the APSC traditionally focuses on interstate relations and non-traditional security threats, the assembly reframed climate resilience and women's empowerment as fundamental issues of comprehensive security. The call to amplify women's voices was presented not merely as a gesture of inclusion but as a "strategy for survival" in the face of the climate crisis.

This perspective establishes a clear conceptual linkage: empowering women enhances societal resilience, which directly contributes to the APSC's goal of a "cohesive, peaceful, stable and resilient region with shared responsibility for comprehensive security". This approach modernizes the concept of security by acknowledging that a nation's ability to respond to and mitigate complex challenges is intrinsically linked to the empowerment and inclusion of all its citizens, particularly those most vulnerable to climate impacts. The focus on women's leadership in governance also contributes to the APSC's "Women, Peace and Security" agenda. Furthermore, the Women's Assembly's proposals extend into the economic realm, demonstrating an important alignment with the **AEC**.

The discussion on "inclusive financing" and embedding women's innovation as "social returns on investments" challenges traditional economic metrics. The AEC's blueprint for 2025 envisions a "highly integrated and cohesive economy" and a "competitive, innovative, and dynamic ASEAN". The assembly's proposals suggest that investments in women's empowerment yield tangible economic benefits, such as new businesses, innovative solutions, and increased productivity, thereby serving the AEC's goal of equitable economic development and a more resilient economy. This perspective recognizes that the social and economic dimensions are mutually reinforcing; an investment in the social well-being and leadership of women (ASCC) can directly serve as a catalyst for economic growth and innovation (AEC).

## 3.2 The Youth Assembly: Mapping the "Sustainability Agenda" to Future ASEAN

The Youth Assembly's session, titled "**The ASEAN Youth Lens, Youth Responsibility Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Cities,**" placed a strong emphasis on recognizing young people as active partners in urban development, rather than passive beneficiaries. Speakers, including Ms. Abe Lim, urged governments and city planners to actively involve youth through investments in youth-led initiatives, integrating sustainability into education, and creating platforms where young voices can directly influence city policies. The assembly's discussions centered on an "Urban Youth Theory of Change," advocating for consistent support, capacity-building, and funding to ensure youth are not only present but are "heard, trusted, and equipped to lead transformative change". The breakout sessions explored interconnected themes of climate action, inclusive health, digital innovation, and governance.

The outcomes of this assembly are profoundly aligned with the **ASCC**. The entire session is a living embodiment of the ASCC's commitment to a people-oriented and socially responsible community that seeks to realize the full potential of its citizens. By calling for youth to be active participants in building the cities they want, the assembly directly contributes to the ASCC's goal of fostering a common identity and preparing the ASEAN community to face emerging challenges through human and social development. The Youth Assembly also establishes a strong connection to the **ACCC**, particularly in the domain of digital innovation. The assembly's breakout session explicitly recognized the value of using "digital tools, like GIS and participatory platforms," to strengthen community engagement. This directly maps to the ACCC's strategic area of "Digital Innovation," which aims to leverage technology to achieve a seamlessly connected region.

However, the youth perspective elevates the role of technology beyond mere connectivity. The discussion framed digital tools as a means to achieve broader social and governance objectives, such as strengthening "gender-sensitive data collection" and community feedback loops. This shows that digital connectivity is not an end in itself but a foundational enabler for enhanced social engagement (ASCC) and improved governance (APSC). The youth-led initiatives demonstrate a profound understanding that a more inclusive society and a more effective government can be built through the strategic application of digital tools, thereby bridging the divide between these pillars.

Finally, the assembly's call for youth inclusion in governance to be "structured, visible, and valued" is a direct contribution to the **APSC**'s vision of a "rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred community". By advocating for a systems thinking approach and building community trust, the youth delegation provides a grassroots mechanism for achieving political development and shaping shared norms from the ground up, reinforcing the idea that a stable and resilient region is built on the active participation of its citizens.

### 3.3 The Business Assembly: Aligning Economic Growth with Regional Integration

**The Business Assembly, themed "Leveraging Tourism and the Creative Economy for Inclusive Growth,"** provided a strategic look at how economic development in ASEAN can be both competitive and equitable. A central point of discussion was the importance of sustainable tourism, championed by Dato' Hamdan Majeed, Managing Director of Thinkcity. He emphasized its multifaceted benefits, including public improvement, heritage protection, increasing liveability, and creating opportunities for MSMEs in smaller cities and rural areas to ensure "no place is left behind". The assembly also featured a proposal by Mr. Joe Sidek for "Serumput ASEAN" (People Connected), a collective, people-to-people platform to support the creative economy on a regional scale.

The entire assembly provides a clear roadmap for the **AEC's** vision of a "highly integrated and cohesive economy" that is "competitive, innovative, and dynamic". The focus on leveraging tourism and the creative economy directly supports the AEC's goal of reducing socio-economic disparities by driving development in second-tier cities, small towns, and rural areas. The case study of the Kampong GLAM revitalization project in Singapore was highlighted as a successful multisectoral effort that brought together tourism and urban development authorities, serving as a model for how collaborative projects can create economic value. Furthermore, the discussions on sustainable tourism and the creative economy directly align with the **ACCC**. The ACCC's strategic area of "People Mobility" is designed to enhance people-to-people connectivity across the region.

The proposal for "Serumput ASEAN" and the emphasis on promoting tourism in rural regions provide a practical framework for achieving this goal. It reveals a nuanced understanding that connectivity extends beyond physical infrastructure and logistics to encompass cultural and social linkages that drive economic activity. The assembly's discussions collectively advance the concept that a vibrant cultural and creative sector (ASCC) can serve as a primary engine for tourism and economic growth (AEC) and is fundamentally enabled by people-to-people connectivity (ACCC).

The business community is actively reframing economic value beyond traditional trade and manufacturing. The focus on intangible assets like heritage and liveability suggests a fundamental shift where social and cultural capital, typically domains of the ASCC, are now being treated as drivers of economic competitiveness for the AEC. The Kampong GLAM example is a perfect illustration of this synergistic relationship: a project rooted in cultural preservation and urban liveability generates economic returns through tourism, effectively blurring the traditional boundaries between the economic and socio-cultural pillars.

### 3.4 The Professional Assembly: Synergising Expertise for a Sustainable Urban Future

The Professional Assembly, moderated by Datin TPr. Noraida Saludin, focused on the need for a new paradigm in urban planning that moves beyond siloed expertise. The keynote speaker, Dr. Emil Eliastianto Dardak, stressed the importance of integrating diverse stakeholders, including architects, engineers, and economists, to address complex urban challenges. The assembly underscored the value of cross-disciplinary collaboration, shared data platforms, and robust public-private partnerships as crucial tools for advancing sustainable urban development. The discussions also highlighted the importance of maintaining cultural identity in urban development to avoid creating "homogeneous architecture," and of strengthening the role of politicians as key decision-makers.

This assembly provides the institutional and strategic foundation for the recommendations of all other assemblies. It directly aligns with the APSC by reinforcing the importance of effective governance and a rules-based, cohesive community. By emphasizing the need for multi-sectoral participation and strengthening the role of decision-makers, the professionals provide the institutional framework necessary for achieving the APSC's goal of a stable and resilient region. The assembly's focus on "shared data platforms" and "cross-sectoral tools" maps directly to the ACCC's strategic areas of "Digital Innovation" and "Regulatory Excellence".

These are not merely technological proposals but are seen as foundational tools to facilitate collaboration and improve efficiency across the region. This further reinforces the understanding that digital connectivity is a fundamental enabler for effective governance and collaboration. Furthermore, the emphasis on public-private partnerships and innovative financing models aligns with the AEC's objective of creating a dynamic and innovative economy. The ACCC's Master Plan acknowledges the need for innovative financing approaches and a favorable investment climate for sustainable infrastructure. The Professional Assembly provides the mechanism for this, arguing that robust public-private partnerships are the key to unlocking the investment and expertise required for large-scale urban projects.

The assembly's discussions collectively illustrate a critical causal relationship: a foundation of strong governance (APSC) and collaborative frameworks (ACCC) is a prerequisite for a competitive and innovative economy (AEC). This demonstrates that the effective implementation of urban policy is a multi-layered process that requires the seamless integration of all four pillars. The following matrix provides a detailed, quick-reference mapping of the key outcomes and recommendations from the ASUF stakeholder assemblies to the strategic objectives of the four ASEAN Community pillars, illustrating the intricate, multi-pillar alignment that defines modern urban policy.

ASUF Assembly / Theme	Key Outcome / Recommendation	Alignment with APSC	Alignment with AEC	Alignment with ASCC	Alignment with ACCC
<b>Women's Assembly: "H.E.R. Planet"</b>	Mandate a portion of climate budgets for women-led initiatives and gender-balanced leadership programs.	Direct alignment with "Women, Peace and Security" agenda and a resilient, stable region.	Promotes "equitable economic development" through inclusive financing and valuing women's innovation.	Direct alignment with a "caring and sharing society" that empowers women and enhances well-being.	Indirectly supports digital innovation in data collection and community engagement.
<b>Youth Assembly: "Youth Driving Sustainability"</b>	Structured inclusion of youth in governance, with capacity-building and funding.	Contributes to a "people-oriented, people-centred community" and good governance mechanisms.	N/A	Direct alignment with fostering social, human, and sustainable development for ASEAN citizens.	Indirectly supports digital innovation by using digital tools for participatory governance.
<b>Business Assembly: "Leveraging Tourism"</b>	Develop "Serumpit ASEAN" People-to-People platform to support the creative economy.	N/A	Direct alignment with building a "competitive, innovative, and dynamic ASEAN" and equitable growth.	Recognizes the value of cultural and social capital as economic drivers, fostering a common identity.	Direct alignment with "People Mobility" and enhancing people-to-people linkages.
<b>Professional Assembly: "Synergising Professions"</b>	Establish shared data platforms and robust public-private partnerships for urban planning.	Supports a "rules-based" community and strengthens the role of politicians and governance.	Supports a "competitive, innovative, and dynamic" economy through modern collaboration and financing models.	Fosters a more people-centered approach by enabling evidence-based, technology-enabled methods.	Direct alignment with "Digital Innovation" and "Regulatory Excellence."



### 3.5 Recommendations for Future Urbanisation Policy

The ASUF 2025 has demonstrated that the ambitious ASEAN Community Vision 2045 is not merely an abstract blueprint but a living framework that can be translated into concrete action through a people-centered and co-creative approach. The forum has served as a critical catalyst, revealing that the challenges of urbanisation—from climate change to digital inequity—can be addressed most effectively when policy and practice are aligned across the four pillars of the ASEAN Community. Based on the substantive mapping and analysis of the forum’s outcomes, the following strategic recommendations are provided for policymakers and regional stakeholders:

**a. Formalize Multi-Stakeholder Forums for Institutionalized Input:**



The success of the ASUF’s stakeholder assemblies highlights the immense value of institutionalized input from non-governmental and grassroots constituencies. It is recommended that ASEAN member states and the ASEAN Secretariat formalize and establish permanent versions of these forums, providing a continuous, structured feedback loop for policy development. This will ensure that the “people-centred” approach becomes a standard governance practice and that local wisdom informs top-down policy, thereby strengthening the APSC’s goal of a rules-based, people-oriented community.

**b. Champion Cross-Pillar Integration in Urban Policy:**



The analysis shows that the most impactful urban initiatives simultaneously address objectives across multiple pillars. Policymakers should be encouraged to actively break down policy silos and adopt a multi-faceted approach to urban development. For example, future infrastructure projects should be vetted not only for their economic viability (AEC) and connectivity impact (ACCC) but also for their social benefits (ASCC) and contribution to overall resilience (APSC). The implementation of shared data platforms and public-private partnerships, championed by the Professional Assembly, is a key enabler for this integrated approach.

**c. Invest in Foundational Enablers:**

The forum's discussions consistently pointed to cross-cutting themes as the foundational keys to unlocking progress. Therefore, it is recommended that funding and policy support be prioritized for these enablers, including shared digital data platforms, robust public-private partnership frameworks, and institutionalized capacity-building programs for youth and women. These are the critical catalysts that will accelerate progress across all four pillars and enable the co-creation of solutions that are both innovative and inclusive.

**d. Adopt a "Ground-Up" Governance Model:**

The forum's focus on localization and community resilience, as well as the success of projects like the Kampong GLAM revitalization, demonstrates the power of a "ground-up" approach. Top-down policy should be informed by and responsive to local, community-level initiatives and pilot projects. This approach, which is central to the forum's mandate, will ensure that regional strategies are relevant, adaptable, and genuinely reflective of the needs and aspirations of the people they serve.

In conclusion, urbanization will continue to be a defining megatrend in Southeast Asia, presenting both profound challenges and transformative opportunities. The ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Forum 2025 has shown that the path forward must be one of co-creation and inclusivity, addressing complex, interconnected challenges with unified, cross-pillar strategies. By translating its aspirational vision into tangible, urban-centric action, ASEAN can solidify its position as a beacon of cooperative multilateralism and a model for sustainable development in an increasingly integrated and interdependent world.





# 04

**MAPPING AND ALIGNMENT REPORT:  
ASEAN SUSTAINABLE  
URBANISATION FORUM 2025 AND  
THE ASEAN COMMUNITY VISION  
2045 – 2<sup>ND</sup> DAY 12 AUGUST 2025**



# 4.0

## MAPPING AND ALIGNMENT REPORT: ASEAN SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION FORUM 2025 AND THE ASEAN COMMUNITY VISION 2045 – 2<sup>nd</sup> day 12 AUGUST 2025

The second day of the ASUF 2025, which included the ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum (AGMF) and the Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAAC), served as the central platform for translating the high-level aspirational goals of the ACV 2045 into tangible, city-level action. The sessions on August 12, comprising roundtables, high-level dialogues, and special sessions, revealed a collective understanding that effective urban policy is inherently multi-faceted, requiring integrated solutions that bridge the four pillars of the ACV 2045.

The analysis highlights that the most effective pathways to sustainable urbanization are rooted in a "ground-up" governance model and robust cross-sectoral collaboration. Key takeaways from the day's discussions included a strong call for improved data integration between national and local levels, the critical role of public-private-people partnerships (PPPs) in financing sustainable projects, and a focus on inclusivity as a foundational element for a resilient society. The forum affirmed that local governments are on the front lines of policy implementation, making their capacity, data, and access to resources paramount for the successful realization of the ASEAN 2045 vision.

### 4.1 From Vision to Local Action

The official opening of the ASUF 2025 on August 12 marked the transition from the stakeholder assemblies to the high-level main event, bringing together ministerial and mayoral delegations from across the region. As ASEAN's first major regional event on sustainable urbanization under Malaysia's chairmanship, the forum's working title, "ASEAN Future Cities and Regions: Inclusivity and Sustainability," established a direct link to the ACV 2045. The day's sessions were designed to demonstrate how local action can be a powerful engine for advancing regional goals, echoing the call for a "people-centred" and resilient ASEAN. This report systematically maps the key outcomes and discussions from the roundtables and high-level dialogues of August 12 to these four strategic pillars, revealing a deep alignment between urban policy and the broader regional agenda.



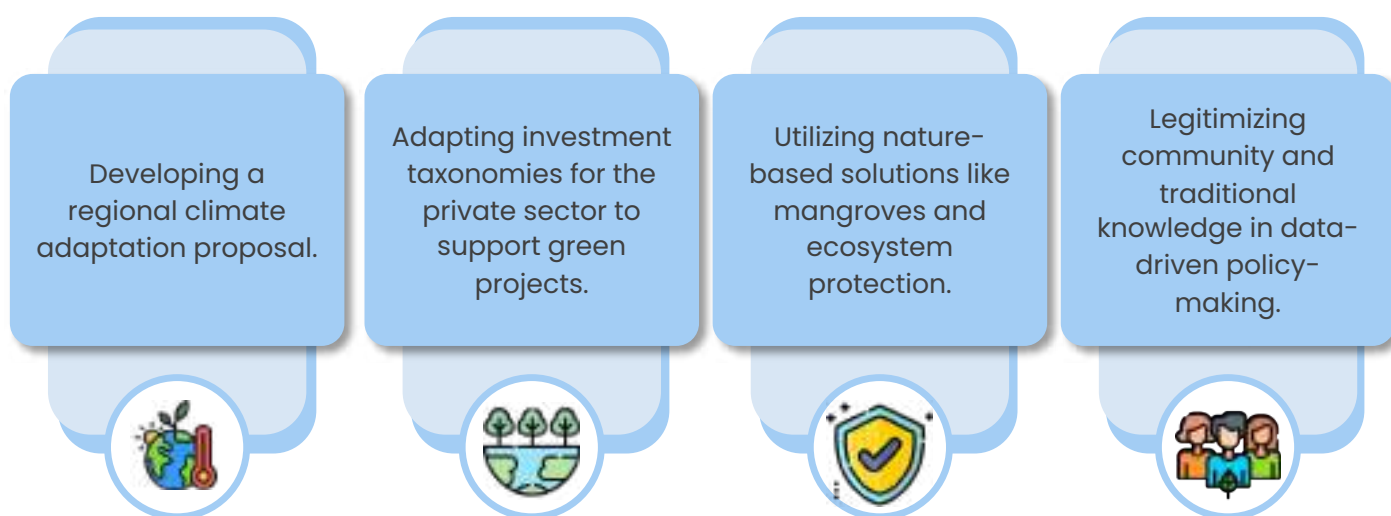
## 4.2 The Nexus of Data, Localization, and Governance

The roundtable on "From Blueprint to Impact: Driving SDG Localization through NUA Implementation in ASEAN Cities" directly addressed the operational challenges of translating global and national agendas to the local level. Discussions centered on significant data gaps, noting that while 81% of SDG data is available nationally, this figure drops to just 31% at the district and state level. The session emphasized that many local initiatives are not adequately represented in national statistical reporting, leading to a call for countries with strong data and political will, like Malaysia, to assist peers with capacity development.

This dialogue has a clear alignment with the **ACCC** and **APSC**. The call for better data integration and coordination directly supports the ACCC's strategic area of "Digital Innovation," which advocates for data-driven approaches to improve governance. The focus on strengthening the capacity of local governments to act as "local champions" and their need for a stage to influence national policy directly contributes to the APSC's goal of fostering a "rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred community". The emphasis on "heart ware over hardware"—the need for the desire to change rather than just technological solutions—also reinforces the ACCC's focus on human and social development as a prerequisite for progress.

### 4.2.1 Climate Resilience and Comprehensive Security

The roundtable on "ASEAN Coastal Cities and Climate Change" brought into sharp focus how climate-related challenges are an issue of comprehensive security. The Mayor of Sihanoukville, Cambodia, called for collective, cross-sector action to build resilient cities. Discussions highlighted issues from climate-driven floods hitting power grids to the social issue of climate refugees. The session featured calls for:



This session's outcomes are profoundly aligned with the **APSC** and **AEC**. It reframes climate change as a core component of "comprehensive security," a key goal of the APSC. By advocating for a regional adaptation proposal and coordinated action, the session reinforces the APSC's commitment to a "cohesive, peaceful, stable and resilient region". The focus on leveraging private sector finance and developing simplified ESG templates for SMEs directly links to the **AEC**'s vision of a dynamic, innovative, and resilient economy. Furthermore, the emphasis on community knowledge and protecting vulnerable populations directly supports the **ASCC**'s objective of enhancing the well-being and welfare of the people.

### 4.2.2 High-Level Dialogue on ASEAN Vision 2045

The high-level dialogues, particularly "Charting the Local Path to ASEAN 2045," were central to the day's agenda. The discussions reinforced the crucial role of local governments in translating strategic goals into community-level actions. Panellists emphasized the need for strengthening cultural identity and creative economies at the city level, giving the example of the Pacu Jalur in Riau-Indonesia. The dialogue stressed the need to foster "inclusive local ownership, governance, policy alignment, incubation and knowledge," and to leave "no one behind". The call for an informed sharing of data resources and city-to-city cooperation via joint projects and "one data, one map" systems was also a key outcome. This session provides a unifying framework that touches upon all four pillars:



**APSC:**

The focus on "people-centred/oriented" governance and the empowerment of local leaders reinforces the political development goals of the APSC.



**ASCC:**

The emphasis on strengthening cultural identity and promoting sustainable tourism aligns with the ASCC's goal of fostering a common ASEAN identity and heritage.



**AEC:**

The discussions on sustainable tourism as a "main driver" and leveraging local economic hubs contribute to the AEC's objectives of fostering a dynamic and innovative economy.



**ACCC:**

The repeated call for "one data, one map" and the sharing of data resources is a direct alignment with the ACCC's strategic areas of Digital Innovation and Regulatory Excellence.

### 4.2.3 Chapter 4: Inclusion, Affordability, and the People-Centred City

Several special sessions focused on the human dimension of urban policy. The "All Age Accessible City" session highlighted the need for designing equitable, inclusive cities for all, including youth, seniors, and differently-abled individuals. The mayor of Petaling Jaya shared an example of a "Child Friendly City". The "Beyond Housing: Making Cities Affordable" session framed housing affordability as a global crisis, urging holistic urban development that integrates housing, mobility, and the economy, and proposing models like "nucleus cities". These sessions provide a clear and direct link to the ASCC. The focus on enhancing the well-being and livelihood of people, from providing accessible amenities for special needs children to creating affordable housing, is central to the ASCC's mission. The discussions also have a strong relationship with the AEC's goal of equitable economic development and the ACCC's aim for seamless connectivity that improves quality of life. The concept of "nucleus cities" to spread urban benefits and reduce transit congestion is a practical application of the ACCC's strategic goal of sustainable urban development.

### 4.2.4 Cross-Pillar Synergies and Strategic Insights

The sessions on August 12 collectively demonstrated that the most impactful solutions for urban challenges operate at the intersection of the four ASEAN pillars. The core synergistic themes that emerged were:

a



#### **Localization is a prerequisite for regional success:**

The forum's core message was that the "vision" of ACV2045 is only as effective as its local implementation. The call for city-to-city cooperation and for local governments to have stronger governance and policy-making roles reinforces the idea that a resilient and stable region is built from the ground up.

b



#### **Data and Technology as a Unifying Tool:**

The discussions consistently framed digital innovation as a foundational enabler, not a separate objective. The call for shared data platforms and "one data, one map" systems was presented as a way to enhance collaboration between cities (ACCC), improve economic governance (AEC), and facilitate more informed policy-making for a people-centered approach (APSC and ASCC).

c



#### **PPPs as a Mechanism for Shared Responsibility:**

The importance of public-private partnerships was highlighted in multiple sessions as a way to finance sustainable infrastructure, create jobs, and foster urban transformation. This model of co-creation moves the burden of development from the government alone to a shared responsibility with the private sector and civil society, linking the goals of the AEC, APSC, and ASCC.

The following matrix provides a detailed overview of the mapping of key discussions to the four pillars of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.

ASUF Session / Theme	Key Outcome / Discussion	Alignment with APSC	Alignment with AEC	Alignment with ASCC	Alignment with ACCC
<b>Roundtable: SDG Localization</b>	The need to bridge data gaps between national and local levels.	Supports good governance and a rules-based, people-oriented community.	N/A	Supports enhanced well-being by addressing unserved communities like stateless people.	Aligns with "Digital Innovation" for data-driven planning.
<b>Roundtable: Coastal Cities and Climate Change</b>	Call for cross-sector action, climate-smart infrastructure, and a regional climate adaptation proposal.	Contributes to a resilient region with shared responsibility for comprehensive security.	Encourages private sector finance for green projects and simplified ESG templates.	Acknowledge s climate refugees and the importance of community knowledge.	N/A
<b>High-Level Dialogue: Charting the Local Path to 2045</b>	Need to localize policies and empower local governments as frontline implementers.	Directly supports political development and a people-centered community.	Supports sustainable tourism as a driver for the creative economy.	Fosters a common identity through cultural preservation and pride.	Calls for "one data, one map" systems and city-to-city knowledge exchange.
<b>Special Sessions: Inclusion and Affordability</b>	Creating age-friendly, inclusive, and affordable cities through integrated planning and nucleus cities.	N/A	Addresses equitable economic development and service accessibility.	Direct alignment with enhancing well-being and livelihood for all citizens.	Aligns with sustainable urban development and people mobility to reduce congestion.



#### 4.2.4 Strategic Recommendations for Future Urbanisation Policy

The ASUF 2025 on August 12 highlighted that while high-level visions are essential, their success is ultimately determined by their execution at the local level. The day's discussions and outcomes reinforce the need for a paradigm shift in regional governance, moving towards a more integrated, data-driven, and collaborative approach. Based on the insights from these sessions, the following strategic recommendations are proposed:

**a****Establish a Regional Data Sharing Framework:**

To address the significant data gaps at the local level, ASEAN should formalize a regional framework for local-level data collection and sharing. This framework, inspired by the "one data, one map" concept, would standardize metrics and provide a foundation for evidence-based policy-making across the region.

**b****Institutionalize a Multi-Stakeholder Financing Model:**

Building on the discussions around public-private-people partnerships, ASEAN should develop a clear, regional model for multi-stakeholder project financing. This could include a centralized fund to support local, community-led initiatives, drawing investment from both the public and private sectors to achieve the collective goals of the ASEAN 2045 Vision.

**c****Formalize City-to-City Cooperation:**

The forum showcased the value of city-to-city partnerships and knowledge exchange. To ensure this is a continuous process, a formal platform or program should be established to facilitate the sharing of best practices, such as those related to voluntary local reporting and sustainable urban models. This would empower cities to learn from each other and accelerate progress across the region.

In conclusion, the ASUF 2025 has provided a clear roadmap for urban policy that is both ambitious and pragmatic. By prioritizing localization, data integration, and collaborative pathways, ASEAN can effectively translate its Community Vision 2045 into tangible improvements in the lives of its citizens, demonstrating that sustainable urbanization is the most powerful catalyst for a "Resilient, Innovative, Dynamic, and People-Centred" future for the region.



# 05

**MAPPING AND ALIGNMENT REPORT:  
ASEAN SUSTAINABLE  
URBANISATION FORUM 2025 AND  
THE ASEAN COMMUNITY VISION  
2045 – 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY 13 AUGUST 2025**

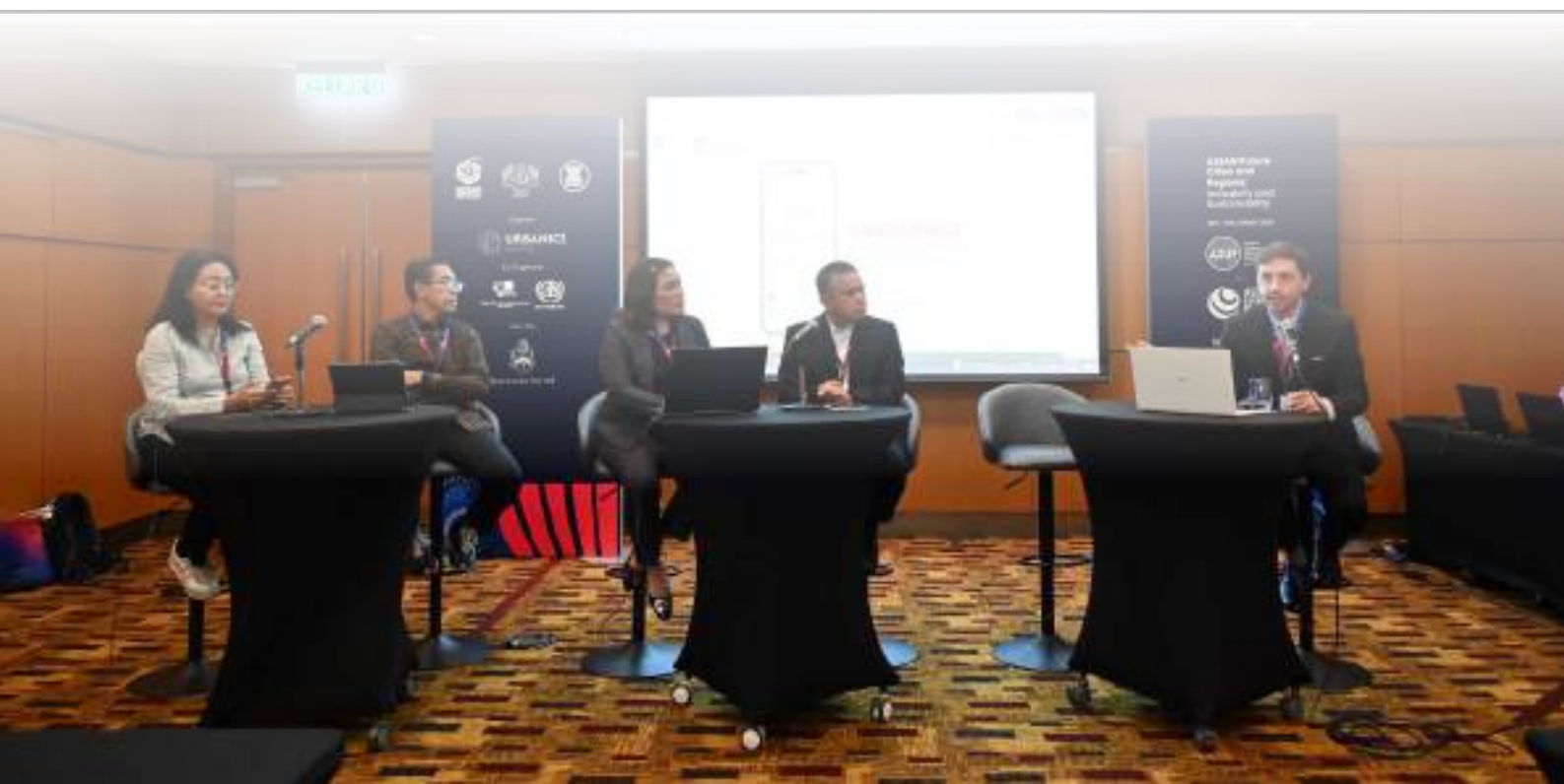


# 5.0

## MAPPING AND ALIGNMENT REPORT: ASEAN SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION FORUM 2025 AND THE ASEAN COMMUNITY VISION 2045 – 3<sup>rd</sup> day 13 AUGUST 2025

This report provides a substantive mapping and alignment of the forum's key thematic discussions—focused on climate resilience, inclusivity, digital transformation, and collaborative governance—to the strategic pillars of the newly adopted ACV 2045. The central thesis of this analysis is that the urban-level dialogues at ASUF provide an indispensable blueprint for operationalizing the aspirational goals of the 2045 vision. The findings reveal a powerful, people-centric approach to urban development that is crucial for the realization of a resilient, innovative, dynamic, and people-centered ASEAN Community. The discussions consistently demonstrated that local action is the primary engine for regional transformation, with initiatives ranging from community-based circular economies to innovative public-private partnerships directly contributing to and informing the strategic pathways of the APSC, AEC, ASCC, and ACC. The report concludes with actionable recommendations to formalize the feedback loop between urban and regional policy, establish a dedicated finance facilitator for sustainable projects, and create a unified knowledge portal to accelerate peer learning and data-driven governance across ASEAN.

The joint event on August 13, 2025, represented a unique and significant institutional confluence, bringing together the 2nd ASUF with the 6th AGMF and the 13th MGMAC. This convergence of mandates, which included closed-door sessions for governors and mayors alongside public dialogues and special sessions hosted by ASUF, is a critical mechanism for bridging the policy-implementation gap within the region. The forum provides a structured environment where high-level leaders from ASEAN capitals and municipalities can engage with technical experts, private sector partners, and grassroots representatives, fostering a vital feedback loop. By facilitating the transmission of practical urban-level successes and challenges to the regional decision-makers, this model supports the multi-level engagement and "top-down must meet bottom-up" approaches advocated throughout the discussions. This architecture is not merely an organizational convenience; it is a deliberate governance strategy that allows for the simultaneous formulation of high-level policy and the ground-up collection of data and successful case studies essential for effective governance across the ASEAN community.



## 5.1 Climate Resilient Cities: The Nexus with AEC and Connectivity

The dialogue on climate resilience at ASUF 2025 reframes climate action not as an environmental liability but as a strategic economic and infrastructural opportunity. The call for mobilizing significant capital for climate-resilient infrastructure and the emphasis on using ESG metrics for urban finance directly supports the AEC's vision for a financially resilient and sustainable economy. The discussions highlight that a rules-based, cohesive regional community, as envisioned by APSC, is also one that has established legal accountability for climate impacts, a theme highlighted by the reference to the latest ICJ advisory. Furthermore, the implementation of "green mobility corridors and flood-resilient drainage" under the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity demonstrates a direct, physical alignment with the Connectivity pillar. This unified approach ensures that climate initiatives are not siloed but are integral to the region's economic and infrastructural development.

## 5.2 Inclusive, Healthy and Caring Cities: The Centrality of ASCC

The discussions on inclusivity consistently emphasized that genuine sustainability begins with empowered communities. The Grassroots Dialogue provided a tangible blueprint for realizing the ASCC's goals of a "participative, inclusive, sustainable" and "caring Community". The success of community-led initiatives in urban farming and waste management demonstrates that a robust, bottom-up approach is essential for the success of top-down policies. The Special Session on cultural preservation further underscored this point by critiquing the over-reliance on external frameworks and instead calling for local ownership of heritage and the promotion of a "soft economy". These discussions make it clear that a city's value is not solely measured by its economic output but by its capacity to foster social cohesion, cultural identity, and human wellbeing.

## 5.3 Digital Transformation and Innovative Cities: The Foundation of All Pillars





The theme of digital transformation emerged not as a standalone urban function but as a foundational enabler for all four ASEAN 2045 pillars. Digital tools and data platforms support the AEC's vision for a "future-ready economy" by enabling new monetization strategies and data-driven services. They reinforce the APSC's security mandate by addressing the governance and cybersecurity risks associated with AI adoption. They enable the ASCC's goal of inclusive participation by providing tools for youth engagement and community feedback. Finally, they directly contribute to ASEAN Connectivity by creating a "unified ASUS-ASCN online portal" and "open spatial data platforms" for knowledge sharing and peer learning. The core message, "People first, technology second," is a crucial guiding principle that ensures technology serves human-centric goals, rather than merely automating existing urban inefficiencies. This integrated approach ensures that digitalization is a tool for building a more resilient, inclusive, and connected community.

## 5.4 Collaborative Pathways: The Governance Imperative for APSC and ASCC

The forum's discussions on collaborative governance highlight the critical role of multi-level engagement in achieving the goals of both the APSC and ASCC. The call for "institutional safeguarding" and the need to anchor initiatives in legal and policy mechanisms for long-term sustainability directly align with the APSC's aim to be a rules-based and resilient community. Concurrently, the case studies presented, such as Iloilo City's transformation through "Adaptive Accountable and Anticipatory governance", provide successful models for realizing the ASCC's vision of social justice and empowered, participatory citizens. A persistent challenge identified throughout the discussions was the fragmentation between national legislation and local buy-in on issues like solid waste management. This disconnect represents a significant failure point in the governance chain. The forum's focus on building public trust through "quick wins" and transparent communication is a direct, practical response to this systemic issue, aimed at fostering the long-term collaboration necessary for success.



The following matrix provides a detailed overview of the mapping of key discussions to the four pillars of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.

ASUF 2025 Sub-Themes	ASEAN 2045 Pillars	Specific Alignments & Key Takeaways (Source)
 <p><b>Climate Resilient Cities</b></p>	AEC	Mobilizing \$210 billion annually for climate-resilient infrastructure; need for strengthening local finance mechanisms and green capital markets. Advocating for ESG metrics in urban development finance, moving beyond ROI.
	ASCC	Addressing disproportionate health impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities; strengthening community networks. Promoting "bouncing forward" more equitably, not just returning to the status quo.
	Connectivity	Implementing "green mobility corridors" and "flood-resilient drainage" under the ASEAN Connectivity Master Plan. Adopting nature-based solutions and integrated urban planning.
 <p><b>Inclusive, Healthy and Caring Cities</b></p>	AEC	Promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) to create employment for low-income families and promote local products. Advancing a "soft economy" that incorporates cultural and intangible values, moving beyond purely economic development.
	ASCC	Highlighting community cohesion as critical to success; showcasing grassroots initiatives like urban farming and eco-tourism. Emphasizing the integration of cultural education and heritage preservation into sustainability discourse. Fostering a "caring Community" and leaving no one behind.
	APSC	Promoting participatory governance models like in Iloilo City, which enhances social justice and accountability.
 <p><b>Digital Transformation and Innovative Cities</b></p>	AEC	Leveraging technology for a "future-ready economy". Exploring monetization strategies for urban assets and diverse income streams. Showcasing AI and digital services for economic growth.
	ASCC	Utilizing digital tools for urban regeneration and youth engagement; Singapore's Urban Village Participation Model. Applying digital solutions to map tourism flows and enhance urban wellbeing.
	APSC	Enhancing cooperation in cybersecurity and AI challenges. Promoting digital tools for "accountability transparency" and efficient municipal reporting systems.
	Connectivity	Calling for a unified "ASUS-ASCN online portal" for city peer learning and progress reports. Using open spatial data platforms and digital twins to enable data-driven governance.
 <p><b>Collaborative Pathways: Policies, Partnerships and Financing</b></p>	AEC	Mobilizing sustainable infrastructure investment through innovative models like municipal bonds and PPPs. Strengthening local finance mechanisms to fund green transition.
	ASCC	Underscoring the need for community buy-in and decentralized solutions for effective policy implementation, as seen in solid waste management. Fostering stakeholder participation and empowerment in urban governance.
	APSC	Advocating for institutional safeguarding and anchoring initiatives in legal and policy mechanisms for long-term sustainability. The need for strong local government commitment and collaboration to address challenges quickly.

## 5.5 Synthesis of Findings and Strategic Implications

The substantive discussions at ASUF 2025 reveal several overarching principles critical for the future of ASEAN's urban agenda. The most prominent is the consistent focus on a "people-first" philosophy. Every theme, from climate resilience to digital transformation, was discussed in the context of how it would enhance the lives of citizens, from meeting everyone's needs within planetary boundaries to ensuring that technology serves real community problems. This human-centric approach is not a footnote but a fundamental principle that underpins a truly sustainable and inclusive urban future. The forum also underscores a crucial symbiotic relationship between local action and the regional vision.

The high-level aspirations of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 provide the strategic direction, while the on-the-ground urban initiatives showcased at ASUF provide the practical, scalable examples and critical feedback necessary for success. The challenges highlighted, such as the gap between national legislation and local buy-in on solid waste management, demonstrate that the failure to bridge this local- to-regional gap represents a significant risk to the entire ASEAN community-building project. The forum's existence and its structure are themselves a testament to the recognition of this critical feedback loop.

a



### **Institutionalize Multi-Level Feedback Loops:**

Formally mandate and institutionalize a mechanism to integrate the outcomes, best practices, and challenges from forums like ASUF, AGMF, and MGMAC into the ongoing development and review of ASEAN-wide strategic plans, such as the ASUS implementation and ASCN Action Plan (2026-2035). This will ensure that regional policy is not formulated in a vacuum but is continuously informed by the realities and successes of urban-level initiatives.



**b**



**Establish a Regional Urban Finance Facilitator:**

Create a dedicated ASEAN-level body or partnership, potentially with organizations like SEACEN or UNOPS, to serve as a finance facilitator for sustainable urban projects. This body should specifically focus on helping secondary cities and community-led initiatives navigate the complex landscape of green capital markets, prioritizing projects based on social and environmental impact metrics rather than just financial ROI, and helping to operationalize the innovative financing models discussed at the forum, such as municipal bonds and public-private partnerships.

**c**



**Launch a Unified ASEAN Urban Data and Knowledge Portal:**

Expedite the development of a centralized online portal, as proposed during the High Level Dialogue. This platform should serve as a hub for city action plans, progress reports, and community feedback. It must be built on principles of open spatial data and secure, interoperable data platforms to enable data-driven policymaking and accelerate peer learning across ASEAN cities.

**d**



**Develop a Holistic ASEAN Urban Wellbeing Index:**

In collaboration with partners like UN-Habitat, create a new, complementary urban success index that goes beyond traditional economic metrics like GDP. This index should measure the intangible values and successes identified in the forum, such as social cohesion, cultural preservation, and community empowerment, to provide a more holistic and human-centric measure of progress toward a "caring Community".

The ASUF 2025 bulletin is more than a record of events; it is a strategic document that provides a roadmap for the future of ASEAN's urban agenda. The forum's discussions confirm that the grand aspirations of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 will be realized—or stalled—in the cities and communities that constitute the region. By moving forward with a people-centric, collaborative, and innovative approach to urban development, ASEAN can not only build resilient cities but also forge a stronger, more inclusive, and prosperous community for all. The alignment of the urban agenda with the regional vision is not a simple correlation but a fundamental condition for success, ensuring that the work of governors, mayors, and communities directly contributes to the shared future of a resilient and dynamic ASEAN.



# 06

**MAPPING AND ALIGNMENT REPORT:  
ASEAN SUSTAINABLE  
URBANISATION FORUM 2025 AND  
THE ASEAN COMMUNITY VISION  
2045 – 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY 14 AUGUST 2025**

# 6.0

## MAPPING AND ALIGNMENT REPORT: ASEAN SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION FORUM 2025 AND THE ASEAN COMMUNITY VISION 2045 – 4<sup>th</sup> day 14 AUGUST 2025

The sessions on August 14, 2025, focused on the central theme of "ASEAN Future Cities and Regions: Inclusivity and Sustainability" and its sub-themes, producing substantive discussions and key commitments. A central finding is the profound interconnectedness of the forum's themes. The discussions consistently identified financing as the most critical cross-cutting issue, serving as a primary enabler or constraint for all other urban initiatives. Furthermore, the forum signalled a strategic shift towards a bottom-up governance model, formally institutionalizing the role of cities and local governments in implementing regional policy. This is underscored by the adoption of the MGMAAC Joint Communiqué and the 'Kuala Lumpur Sustainable Declaration,' which will serve as direct input to the ASEAN Leaders' Summit. The report concludes that the ASUF 2025 sessions provide a robust, city-level roadmap for achieving the ACV 2045. It recommends several strategic actions, including the formalization of innovative financing mechanisms, the empowerment of the new MGMAAC secretariat, and the creation of a regional "living lab" ecosystem to institutionalize knowledge transfer and project scalability.

### 6.1 A Nexus of Regional Urban Strategy

The proceedings on August 14, 2025, focused on a series of high-level dialogues and special sessions that moved from broad visioning to the practical mechanisms required to implement sustainable urban development. The discussions, attended by a diverse group of 9,120 participants from 66 countries, with a significant representation of 186 local government officials from ASEAN nations, underscore the growing importance of sub-national authorities in driving the regional agenda. The core discussions revolved around four key sub-themes: Climate Resilient Cities, Inclusive, Healthy and Caring Cities, Digital Transformation and Innovative Cities, and Collaborative Pathways: Policies, Partnerships and Financing. The following sections provide a synthesis of the key outcomes under each of these thematic areas, drawing from the detailed accounts in the forum's daily journal.



### 6.1.1 Climate Resilient Cities: Beyond Mitigation to Systemic Adaptation

Discussions on climate resilience moved beyond the technical aspects of infrastructure to address the fundamental financial and governance models required for sustainable urban adaptation. **The fifth High-Level Dialogue, titled "Financing Models for Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development,"** directly addressed the fiscal challenges confronting cities. Speakers emphasized that cities can access climate finance through a diverse portfolio of instruments, including blended funding, green bonds, and localized climate funds. The prerequisite for accessing these capital sources is a commitment to meeting strict sustainability standards, ensuring financial transparency, and building local capacity through systems such as the Malaysian Resilient Low Carbon Pilot and the Climate Project Funding Lab.

A significant development from **Special Session 12, "Cooling and Powering Green Economies,"** was the introduction of the UN Resource Management System (UNRMS). This framework is designed to help urban decision-makers prioritize energy and cooling projects, thereby assisting with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) compliance and unlocking critical climate finance. The emphasis on these tools indicates a collective recognition that the primary bottleneck for climate action at the local level is not a lack of political will but a deficit in financial mechanisms and the institutional capacity to manage them.

The governance dimension was a central focus of Special **Session 13, "Bridging Commitments and Action,"** which highlighted the need for robust collaboration between national and city governments to tackle shared environmental challenges, such as air pollution. The city of Bangkok was cited as a model, having implemented a multifaceted strategy that includes promoting working from home during high-pollution periods, expanding the use of electric vehicles (EVs), and deploying over 1,000 air quality sensors. Bangkok's approach demonstrates a holistic framework where digital tools and data inform policy decisions, which in turn are shaped by citizen input through the drafting of a Clean Air Act. The sessions acknowledged that while policy measures like mandatory public transport use for government officials are useful, their long-term sustainability depends on a systemic shift to greener technologies, such as EVs, to create a lasting impact.



## 6.1.2 Fostering Inclusive, Healthy, and Caring Cities

The forum's discourse on inclusivity and social well-being went beyond generic policy objectives to address specific demographic and cultural considerations. In the fifth High-Level Dialogue, a strong point was made that ESG principles must be developed at the community level, and that inclusion is a "non-negotiable" element that must specifically encompass youth and indigenous populations. This perspective views urban sustainability as an inherently social undertaking that must empower marginalized groups.

**The sixth High-Level Dialogue highlighted concerns with tangible urban health crises**, such as a rabies outbreak, and underscored the importance of integrating a public health perspective into urban planning. This session also stressed that urban development must be "culturally rooted" and that arts and culture should be recognized as essential pillars for growth, reinforcing the notion that livable cities offer more than just economic opportunities. These discussions provided context for the specific commitments made in the MGMAC Joint Communiqué, which formalized a shared commitment to the "greater inclusion of women and youth in urban governance" and a reliance on "bottom-up approaches".

A community-centric approach to problem-solving was also evident in **Special Session 12, which advocated for "community and shared renewable energy models"** to enhance affordability, local ownership, and access for remote and marginalized communities. Similarly, a UCLG ASPAC pairing session promoted city-to-city peer cooperation as a cost-effective method for sharing knowledge, particularly on waste management. This approach frames waste not as a liability but as a "valuable resource" with the potential to generate new business models, illustrating how local-level innovation can be scaled through collaborative networks without the need for expensive external consultancy services.

## 6.1.3 The Imperative of Digital Transformation and Innovation

The forum consistently framed digital transformation as a strategic tool for enhancing governance, improving public services, and fostering economic inclusivity, rather than as an end in itself. The sixth High-Level Dialogue cited Jakarta's use of "digital platforms and geospatial data for governance and citizen engagement" as an example of technology being leveraged to improve public administration and citizen participation. The roundtable session on the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 noted that Singapore is the only ASEAN country with a baseline digital economy policy, a point that served as a call to action for other member states to develop similar frameworks to unlock the full potential of a digitally integrated region. The MGMAC Joint Communiqué further solidified this commitment by identifying "digital transformation" as a key focus area for localizing the ACV 2045.

Beyond governance, digital solutions were presented as catalysts for addressing socio-economic challenges. The roundtable session highlighted the potential of the "gig economy and smart city opportunities" to enhance youth involvement and labor market participation. Additionally, speakers proposed innovative digital financing solutions, such as "zero-collateral loans and alternative credit scoring," to improve access to capital for a broader segment of the population, thereby fostering a more inclusive and dynamic urban economy. The overarching message was that "smart cities need smart people" and that technology must be integrated with nature-based and local solutions to be truly effective.

### 6.1.4 Collaborative Pathways: Policies, Partnerships, and Financing

Collaboration was a dominant theme, evolving from a general concept into a strategic imperative. The sixth High-Level Dialogue emphasized that "cross-border partnerships" are essential for development, citing the need to bridge rural-urban policy gaps and to uplift underdeveloped regions. The UCLG session's endorsement of "peer-to-peer city-to-city cooperation" highlighted a practical, cost-effective model for knowledge transfer, suggesting that partnerships between cities within the same country or across borders can overcome common challenges and "cross silos". To formalize this approach, Malaysia announced its intention to launch an "ASEAN Smart and Sustainable Centre" to support innovative scalable projects and "pairing cities programs" aligned with the ASEAN Smart City Network (ASCN) priorities.

Financing emerged as the single most critical and pervasive topic throughout the day's discussions. The fifth High-Level Dialogue introduced a new perspective on philanthropy, urging it to be viewed not as charity but as a "strategic investment in long term social impact". **Special Session 11, titled "Strategic Partnerships for Smart and Sustainable Cities,"** addressed the challenges of overreliance on public funding for smart city projects and introduced the "ASEAN Smart Financing Toolkit." This toolkit provides a "Library of Financing Instruments" and a "Financial Instrument Recommendation and Selection Tool (FIRST)" to guide cities in attracting private sector participation. The session noted that some countries, like the Philippines and Vietnam, have thriving municipal bond markets that enable strong sub-national governments to leverage commercial loans, and it underscored the need for all cities to "strengthen creditworthiness" to attract capital. The closing ceremony underscored this push for financial innovation with a call for a "United Core for greater local level investment from international institutions," signalling a desire for a more structured and coordinated approach to mobilizing capital at the urban level.



## Session-to-Theme Mapping Table

Session Title	Forum Theme	Key Discussion Points
<b>High Level Dialogue 5</b>	Collaborative Pathways: Policies, Partnerships & Financing	Philanthropy as a strategic investment, blended funding, green bonds, UN SDGs alignment
<b>High Level Dialogue 6</b>	Climate Resilient Cities; Inclusive, Healthy and Caring Cities	Urban health crises (rabies), green and tech-driven development, disaster resilience, regional collaboration, arts and culture as pillars of growth
<b>Special Session 11</b>	Digital Transformation and Innovative Cities; Collaborative Pathways	Financing challenges for smart cities, ASEAN Smart Financing Toolkit, municipal bonds, creditworthiness
<b>Special Session 12</b>	Climate Resilient Cities; Inclusive, Healthy and Caring Cities	Community renewable energy models, UNRMS for project prioritization, upskilling and green workforce development
<b>Special Session 13</b>	Climate Resilient Cities; Collaborative Pathways	National and city collaboration on air pollution, Bangkok's Clean Air Act with citizen input, EV transition policies, last-mile connectivity
<b>Roundtable Session 3</b>	Digital Transformation and Innovative Cities; Collaborative Pathways	Zero-collateral loans, alternative credit scoring, gig economy, ASEAN University, formal professional network
<b>UCLG ASPAC Pairing Session</b>	Inclusive, Healthy and Caring Cities; Collaborative Pathways	Peer-to-peer city-to-city cooperation, waste as a resource, crossing silos

## ASUF Themes to ACV 2045 Pillars Matrix

ASUF Theme	Key Discussion Point / Specific Example	Aligned ACV 2045 Pillar(s)
<b>Climate Resilient Cities</b>	Use of green bonds and local climate funds for urban infrastructure	AEC, ASCC
	Bangkok's Clean Air Act with citizen input and use of 1000 sensors	ASCC, APSC
<b>Inclusive, Healthy and Caring Cities</b>	Non-negotiable inclusion of youth and indigenous populations in ESG	ASCC
	Promotion of community-owned renewable energy models	ASCC
<b>Digital Transformation and Innovative Cities</b>	Jakarta's use of digital platforms and geospatial data for governance	APSC, ACC
	Proposal for zero-collateral loans and alternative credit scoring	AEC, ASCC
<b>Collaborative Pathways</b>	Peer-to-peer city-to-city knowledge exchange for waste management	ACC, ASCC
	The MGMAC Joint Communiqué and establishment of a permanent secretariat	APSC

## Key Outcomes and Commitments from ASUF 2025

Outcome/Commitment	Description	Significance
<b>Kuala Lumpur Sustainable Declaration on Localizing the ACV 2045</b>	Announced as input for the ASEAN Leaders' Summit in October 2025, focusing on climate resilience, zero-waste, inclusive governance, digital transformation, and cultural preservation.	This declaration signifies a formal recognition that the implementation of the ACV 2045 requires a bottom-up approach, driven by local and city-level actions and commitments.
<b>Joint Communiqué from MGMAC</b>	Agreement to establish a permanent secretariat in Jakarta (with Delhi as an observer), with a commitment to greater inclusion of women and youth and bottom-up approaches in urban governance.	This is a landmark institutional development that elevates the role of mayors and governors in the regional political framework. It provides a formal, dedicated platform for sub-national collaboration and a clear pathway for urban policy to be integrated into the APSC.
<b>Proposal to Integrate New Urban Agenda into UNFCCC</b>	Malaysia, as President of the UN Habitat Assembly, will submit a proposal at COP30 to integrate urban development agendas into global climate policy.	This commitment signals a proactive stance by an ASEAN member state to ensure that urban-level challenges and solutions are recognized and addressed within the global climate change framework.
<b>Establishment of an ASEAN Smart and Sustainable Centre</b>	Aims to be launched by URBANICE Malaysia to support innovative scalable projects and pairing cities programs aligned with the ASUS and ASCN.	This initiative provides a tangible mechanism to move beyond short-term pilot projects by creating a structured framework for knowledge transfer and project scalability, addressing a key issue identified throughout the forum.
<b>Call for a "United Core"</b>	A call to encourage greater local-level investment from international institutions.	This reflects a regional recognition of the need for a coordinated, robust approach to urban financing and signifies a push to attract and manage international capital more effectively at the city level.



## 6.2 Cross-Cutting Insights and Strategic Recommendations

The discussions at ASUF 2025 were not conducted in isolation. The four themes—Climate Resilience, Inclusivity, Digital Transformation, and Collaborative Pathways—exhibit a profound and symbiotic relationship. This analysis reveals two core, interconnected dynamics that define the current state of regional urban policy. The first dynamic is the role of **financing as the central enabler** for all other initiatives. The forum consistently identified a significant and recurring challenge: the overreliance on public funding for urban projects. The discussions showed a clear cause-and-effect relationship: without addressing this financial bottleneck, projects related to climate resilience, digital transformation, and social inclusion remain limited to "short term pilots" and cannot be scaled or sustained. The solutions proposed, such as green bonds, blended funding, municipal bonds, and the UNRMS, represent a strategic move toward diversifying capital sources. The emphasis on cities needing to "strengthen creditworthiness" demonstrates a collective understanding that urban governance must professionalize to attract private and international capital, thereby transforming sustainability from a budgetary line item into a self-sustaining investment opportunity.

The second dynamic is the **shift from a top-down to a bottom-up governance model**. The institutional commitments made at the forum's closing ceremony are a testament to this change. By adopting a Joint Communiqué to establish a permanent secretariat for governors and mayors, and by committing to "bottom-up approaches" in the Kuala Lumpur Sustainable Declaration, the forum is formally empowering cities as direct and autonomous actors in the regional policy-making process. This is a significant political development, as it creates an institutional pathway for city-level needs and innovations to be systematically considered at the highest levels of ASEAN leadership. This new structure is designed to ensure that the ACV 2045 is not merely a document of national-level aspirations but a living strategy that is implemented and driven by those closest to the urban challenges and opportunities. Based on the substantive mapping and the cross-cutting dynamics identified, the following strategic recommendations are proposed for policymakers, urban planners, and other stakeholders.



a



### **Institutionalize and Scale Financing Mechanisms:**

The ASEAN Smart Financing Toolkit and the UNRMS should be formally endorsed and promoted as a regional standard for urban project development. This will provide city officials with the necessary tools to structure bankable projects and diversify their capital base beyond public funds. Establishing a dedicated technical assistance facility could help cities improve their creditworthiness and access these new financing streams, ensuring that innovative ideas can be transformed into scalable, long-term solutions.

b



### **Empower and Formalize Local Governance:**

The establishment of the new MGMTAC secretariat in Jakarta should be expedited and adequately resourced. It is crucial to create formal, systematic channels for the secretariat to provide direct input to the ASEAN Leaders' Summit. This will solidify the shift to a bottom-up approach, ensuring that the voices of cities and local governments are consistently integrated into regional strategic planning. This move would strengthen the overall cohesion and resilience of the ASEAN community.

c



### **Create a Regional "Living Lab" Ecosystem:**

The proposed ASEAN Smart and Sustainable Centre should be established to coordinate a network of "living labs" across both capital and secondary cities. This ecosystem would serve as a structured framework for cities to test, iterate, and replicate successful projects, thereby moving beyond "short term pilots" to scaled implementation. The center can facilitate peer- to-peer knowledge transfer, building upon the model championed by the UCLG, and create a centralized hub for data and best practices.

d



### **Prioritize Policy Harmonization for Digital Transformation:**

A regional baseline digital economy policy, modelled on existing best practices like Singapore's framework, should be developed and adopted. This will create a common regulatory and data-sharing environment, which is a prerequisite for a seamless and secure ASEAN digital space. Such a policy would unlock the full potential of digital innovation as a catalyst for economic integration, improved governance, and enhanced social inclusion.

## 6.2.1 Thematic Assemblies

The ASUF began with four thematic assemblies—Youth, Women, Business, and Professional—that served as a powerful testament to the forum’s commitment to inclusive, multi-stakeholder participation. These ground-up sessions directly fed into the high-level dialogues and declarations, ensuring that the final outcomes were informed by diverse perspectives.

Assemblies	Focus Discussion	Vision 2045 Pillar Alignment	Key Insights and Speakers	Way Forward
<b>Women's Assembly: H.E.R Planet</b>	Gender gaps in climate resilience, disaster planning, and recovery.	Socio-Cultural, Political-Security	Keynote speaker Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah Mahmood called for a "shift from margins to mandates," urging governments to embed women's leadership in climate governance and allocate budgets specifically for women-led climate initiatives.	Launch AURORA Network; gender-responsive budgeting in urban resilience
<b>Youth Assembly</b>	Youth-led sustainability initiatives, their role as innovators and entrepreneurs, and engagement in policy-making.	Socio-Cultural, Economic	The Hon. Adam Adli, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, emphasized that youth are not just beneficiaries but "active partners" in building the cities they want. The assembly called for structured youth inclusion in governance.	Youth Innovation Hubs; co-designed climate monitoring apps
<b>Business Assembly</b>	The role of sustainable tourism and the creative economy in driving economic growth.	Economic, Connectivity	Joe Sidek called for an ASEAN-wide "People-to-People platform, 'Serumpot ASEAN'" to support the creative economy and promote sustainable tourism. Discussions highlighted the importance of engaging MSMEs and leaving no place behind.	SME tourism fund; regional green certification standards
<b>Professional Assembly</b>	The need for cross-sectoral collaboration and culturally sensitive urban planning.	Political-Security, Socio-Cultural, Economic, Connectivity	Dr. Emil Eliastianto Dardak, Vice Governor of East Java, stressed that urban planning must integrate diverse stakeholders like architects, engineers, and economists to adapt to new paradigms.	ASEAN Urban Professionals Consortium; best-practice toolkit

## 6.2.2 High-Level Plenary Sessions

The high-level plenary sessions brought together leading figures from ASEAN governments, UN-Habitat, and UCLG ASPAC to bridge regional visions with local realities. The first high-level dialogue on the ACV 2045 and ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan emphasized the need for stronger coordination, greater ownership, and capacity building to bridge urban infrastructure gaps. The second, on **Charting the Local Path to ASEAN 2045**, reinforced the principle that local voices are integral to a people-centered ASEAN Community.

During the grand opening ceremony, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah Haji Yusof, underscored the importance of uniting ASEAN Smart Cities and urbanization strategies for sustainable, innovative urban centers. The Minister of Housing and Local Government, Mr. Nga Kor Ming, reported on the progress of affordable housing and pledged to build 1,000 new parks by 2035, demonstrating a tangible commitment to the forum's goals. H.E. Dato' Seri TPr. (Dr.) Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, praised the alignment of Kuala Lumpur's 2040 plans with a people-centered vision guided by the C.H.A.S.E. City concept.

Dialogues	Focus Discussion	Sub-Themes	ACV 2045 Pillars	Way Forward
<b>ASEAN Vision 2045 and Connectivity Strategic Plan</b>	Cross-border logistics, digital corridors, supply chain security	Collaborative Pathways; Connectivity	Political-Security; Connectivity	Joint transport governance unit; ASCC-SP acceleration
<b>Charting the Local Path to ASEAN 2045</b>	Localizing regional goals into municipal plans	All four sub-themes	All four pillars	Local Vision 2045 roadmaps; peer-review among city clusters
<b>ASUS and ASCN Implementation</b>	Smart city pilots, data standards, interoperability	Digital Transformation; Collaborative Pathways	Economic; Connectivity	Scale ASCN to 20 cities; unify dashboards and APIs
<b>Climate and Disaster Resilience</b>	Nature-based solutions, public health, risk financing	Climate Resilient; Inclusive Cities	Political-Security; Connectivity	Resilience modules in statutes; resilience bond issuance
<b>Financing Models</b>	Blended finance, green bonds, SROI barriers	Collaborative Pathways	Economic; Connectivity	ASEAN Urban Finance Facility; SROI analytics training
<b>Vision for Future Cities</b>	Innovations in governance, tech, inclusion, climate adaptation	All four sub-themes	All four pillars	Innovation labs; 15 Future City demonstrators by 2027

### 6.2.3 Special Sessions

The special sessions delved into the forum's sub-themes, demonstrating a holistic, multi-dimensional approach to urban problems.

a



#### Climate Resilient Cities:

Sessions on **Cooling and Powering Cities and Bridging Commitments and Action (NDCs and Clean Air)** highlighted the need for community and shared renewable energy models, with a clear call for moving away from short-term pilots to scalable, long-term projects. Discussions on **ASEAN Coastal Cities and Climate Change** stressed the urgency of climate-smart infrastructure, nature-based solutions like mangrove restoration, and the need to address the humanitarian issue of climate refugees.

a



#### Inclusive, Healthy and Caring Cities:

The session on the **All Age Accessible City** focused on the importance of universal design and co-designing public spaces with youth, seniors, and the differently-abled. The **Beyond Housing** session framed housing affordability as a global crisis that requires holistic urban development, integrating housing with mobility and economic opportunities, and leveraging financing tools like land value capture.

a



#### Digital Transformation and Innovative Cities:

Discussions on **Digital Transformation and Innovative Cities** explored how cities are using technology to improve governance and services. The session on **Reimagining Urban Governance** highlighted that effective governance requires accountability, transparency, and a multi-level approach, from top-down policies to bottom-up civic tech and digital reporting systems. The core message was to "think of our city as a process not a project".

a



#### Collaborative Pathways:

The session on **Strategic Partnerships and Funding** addressed the financing challenges for smart city projects, advocating for the use of new tools like the ASEAN Smart Financing Toolkit to attract private sector investment and strengthen city creditworthiness. The **ASEAN Cities as Cultural Gateways** session explored how cultural assets can drive economic growth and regional transformation.

Sessions	Focus Discussion	Sub-Themes	AVCV 2045 Pillars	Way Forward
<b>AURORA: Women-led Resilience</b>	Multi-sector partnerships, mentoring hubs	Inclusive Cities; Collaborative Pathways	Socio-Cultural; Political-Security	Launch AURORA; secure ASEAN seed funding
<b>Thriving Together</b>	Urban design for inclusion, slum upgrading	Inclusive Cities; Collaborative Pathways	Socio-Cultural; Economic	Inclusion indicators in city scorecards
<b>Beyond Housing</b>	Land value capture, microfinance, incremental housing	Inclusive Cities; Collaborative Pathways	Socio-Cultural; Economic	Pilot land-lease reforms; micro-mortgage schemes
<b>All Age Accessible City</b>	Universal design, elderly and disabled mobility	Inclusive Cities	Socio-Cultural; Connectivity	ASEAN universal design standard; regional training
<b>Integrated Planning for Resilience</b>	Watershed management, flood-transport integration	Climate Resilient Cities	Political-Security; Connectivity	Resilience Planning Cells in secondary cities
<b>Cities as Cultural Gateways</b>	Cultural assets, digital storytelling, heritage tourism	Inclusive Cities; Digital Transformation	Socio-Cultural; Economic	Digital cultural passport; heritage grants
<b>Embedding SDGs in Urban Regeneration</b>	SDG localization, NUA alignment, participatory monitoring	Collaborative Pathways; Climate Resilient	All four pillars	City-level SDG dashboards; civil society training
<b>Safer and Inclusive Cities</b>	Community policing, heat mitigation, informal sector safety	Climate Resilient; Inclusive Cities	Political-Security; Socio-Cultural	Safe City accreditation; heat-alert systems
<b>Digital Transformation and Innovation</b>	AI for services, open data, e-governance	Digital Transformation	Economic; Connectivity	ASEAN open data platform; digital maturity certification
<b>Reimagining Urban Governance</b>	Polycentric governance, civic tech, transparency tools	Collaborative Pathways; Inclusive Cities	Political-Security; Socio-Cultural	Multi-stakeholder guidelines; civic tech incubators
<b>Strategic Partnerships and Funding</b>	PPPs, venture philanthropy, risk-sharing	Collaborative Pathways	Economic; Connectivity	Smart City Investment Network; PPP matchmaking portal
<b>Cooling and Powering Cities</b>	Microgrids, cooling corridors, tariff subsidies	Climate Resilient; Collaborative Pathways	Economic; Connectivity	Solar mini-grids; cooling atlas tool
<b>Bridging NDCs via Clean Air</b>	Emissions inventories, low-emission zones	Climate Resilient Cities	Political-Security; Connectivity	Low-Emission Zone toolkit; air quality sensor fund

### 6.2.4 Grassroots Dialogue

The **Grassroots Dialogue on "Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) & Urban Wellbeing"** showcased the power of community-led initiatives in addressing social and economic gaps. Speakers from local cooperatives and residents' associations shared practical examples of urban farming, eco-tourism, and agro-tourism ventures that created employment for low-income families and improved urban environments. This session demonstrated a crucial principle: that genuinely people-centered development must legitimize and scale up solutions that have already proven successful at the community level, and that grassroots initiatives, with zero capital investment, can be viable and revenue-generating. The call for collaborative policy and funding to accelerate these projects directly addresses the gap between grassroots innovation and institutional support, reinforcing the bottom-up governance model promoted throughout the forum.

### 6.2.5 Roundtable Sessions

The **roundtable sessions** provided a deeper dive into specific policy areas, offering a space for detailed technical and strategic discussions. The first roundtable, on **SDG Localization through NUA**, highlighted a significant national-to-local data gap, with national-level data availability at 81% but local-level at only 31%. It was noted that many local initiatives are not adequately represented in national statistical reports, and countries with strong data and political will, like Malaysia, can support their peers.

The second, on **ASEAN Coastal Cities and Climate Change**, brought together mayors and experts to share best practices for climate-smart infrastructure and nature-based solutions, emphasizing the importance of community knowledge in data-driven policymaking. The third roundtable, on **Vision 2045: Opportunities for Cities**, stressed the need for "horizontal integration and vertical integration" and proposed a formal "ASEAN Professional Network for Planners" to strengthen urban-rural linkages.

Roundtable Sessions	Focus Discussion	Sub-Themes	ACV 2045 Pillars	Way Forward
<b>RT1: SDG Localization via NUA</b>	Target setting, monitoring, policy gaps	Collaborative Pathways	Economic; Connectivity	Harmonized indicators; peer-learning for data officers
<b>RT2: ASEAN Coastal Cities &amp; Climate Change</b>	Sea-level rise, mangrove restoration, relocation strategies	Climate Resilient Cities	Political-Security; Connectivity	Coastal Cities Resilience Charter; technical assistance
<b>RT3: Vision 2045 – Opportunities for Cities</b>	Urban-rural linkages, localization success factors	All four sub-themes	All four pillars	Localization Toolkit; biennial city exchange forum

## 6.2.6 Special Addresses

The forum featured special addresses that provided conceptual frameworks and real-world examples for future urban development. YB Datuk Seri Dr Zaliha Bt Mustafa introduced the **THE C.H.A.S.E. CITY** concept, which integrates **Culture, Health, Art, Science, and Equity** into urban masterplans to create equitable and inclusive cities. YB Datuk Amar Dr Sim from Sarawak delivered a special address on **Healthy and Sustainable Cities**, emphasizing a "health-first" approach to urban design and the importance of green infrastructure in creating resilient communities.

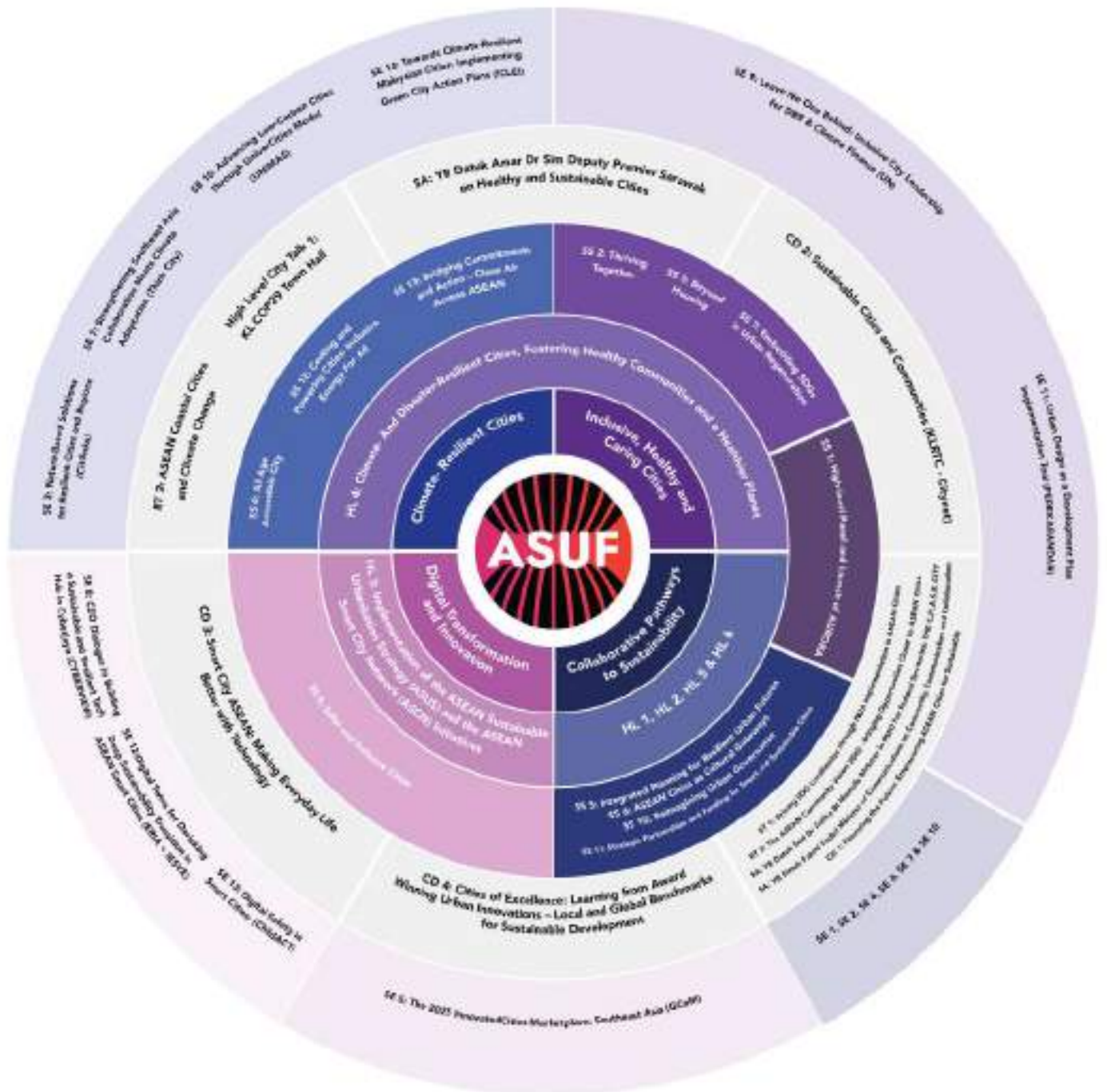
Speakers	Topics	Focus Discussion	Sub-Themes	ACV 2045 Pillars	Way Forward
<b>YB Datuk Seri Dr Zaliha Bt Mustafa</b>	YB Datuk Seri Dr Zaliha Bt Mustafa	Culture, Health, Art, Science, Equity integration	Inclusive Cities; Collaborative Pathways	Socio-Cultural; Political-Security	Integrate C.H.A.S.E. into masterplans; pilot in five capitals
<b>YB Datuk Amar Dr Sim</b>	Healthy & Sustainable Cities	Health-first design, green infrastructure, pollution control	Climate Resilient; Inclusive Cities	Socio-Cultural; Political-Security	ASEAN Healthy Cities Charter; nature-based health interventions

## 6.2.7 High-Level City Talks

The High-Level City Talks, including the **KL COP29 Town Hall**, provided a platform for aligning municipal climate actions with national commitments. A major outcome was the formal launch of the **KL Call to Action for COP30**, which advocates for the direct access of cities to climate funds and for the integration of the New Urban Agenda into the UNFCCC processes. This initiative positions Kuala Lumpur, and by extension, ASEAN cities, as central actors in the global climate change conversation.



# MAPPING AND ALIGNMENT OF ASEAN SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION FORUM 2025 “ASEAN FUTURE CITIES AND REGIONS: INCLUSIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY”



**HL:** High Level  
**SS:** Special Session  
**RT:** Roundtable  
**SA:** Special Address  
**CD:** City Dialogue  
**SE:** Side Event

**HL 1:** High Level 1 – ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan  
**HL 2:** High Level 2 - Charting the Local Path to ASEAN 2045: Advancing Regional Vision through Local Action  
**HL 3:** High Level 3 - Financing Models for Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development  
**HL 4:** High Level 4 - Vision For Future Cities and Regions: Opportunities to Transform  
**HL 5:** High Level 5 - Integrated Planning for Resilient Urban Systems  
**HL 6:** High Level 6 - Vision For Future Cities and Regions: Opportunities to Transform  
**HL 7:** High Level 7 - Collaborative Pathways to Sustainability  
**HL 8:** High Level 8 - Climate Resilient Cities, Fostering Healthy Communities and a Resilient Future  
**HL 9:** High Level 9 - Digital Transformation and Innovation  
**HL 10:** High Level 10 - Digital Transformation and Innovation  
**HL 11:** High Level 11 - Digital Transformation and Innovation  
**HL 12:** High Level 12 - Digital Transformation and Innovation  
**SS 1:** Unlocking Local Potential: Tourism as a Tool for Community-Led Resilience (Hybrid)  
**SS 2:** Embracing Doughnut Economics: A New Paradigm for ASEAN Cities (SCPH)  
**SS 4:** Unlocking Green Opportunities: An Investment Framework for Sustainable Industry Growth (KIBQ)  
**SS 6:** Resilient Heritage: Safeguarding ASEAN's UNESCO Sites for a Sustainable Future (UTM)  
**SS 7:** Strengthening Southeast Asia: Where Collaboration Meets Climate Adaptation (Think City)  
**SS 10:** Advancing Low-Carbon, Inclusive-Cities through the UniverCities Model and Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration (IINPMAS)



# 07

PART 2:  
**DEEP DIVE INTO THEMATIC  
PILLARS OF URBAN  
DEVELOPMENT**

# 7.0 PART 2: DEEP DIVE INTO THEMATIC PILLARS OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The forum's sub-themes provided a detailed look into the most pressing challenges facing ASEAN cities, synthesizing diverse perspectives from across sectors.

## 7.1 Pillar 1: Climate Resilience and a Healthier Planet



The discussions on Climate Resilient Cities and Fostering Healthy Communities and a Healthier Planet revealed a maturing strategic approach to climate action in ASEAN. The RT Session 2 on ASEAN Coastal Cities and Climate Change and Special Session 13 on Bridging Commitments and Action demonstrated that climate change is no longer viewed as a purely environmental issue but as a multi-dimensional

security, economic, and health concern. The APSC Strategic Plan acknowledges this by including climate change as a critical security challenge. The discussions noted that climate disasters, such as extreme heat and floods, strain health resources and disproportionately affect marginalized communities.

The KL COP29 Town Hall discussions provided a crucial link, showing how local urban development, such as the Kuala Lumpur Greening Plan and its Park Connector Network, can be integrated with national NDCs and global UNFCCC processes. This cross-cutting approach, described as a whole-of-community approach in the APSC Strategic Plan, seeks to move beyond siloed efforts and demands enhanced coordination and collaboration across all pillars and sectors.

## 7.2 Pillar 2: Inclusivity, Health, and Social Well-being



The forums' focus on Inclusive, Healthy and Caring Cities represented a fundamental shift in the concept of inclusivity. Instead of merely discussing representation, the assemblies and sessions emphasized empowering marginalized groups as frontline solution providers. The Women Assembly called for greater recognition of women's inherent abilities as natural solution providers and for gender-responsive

budgeting in climate planning. Similarly, the Youth Assembly called for youth to be active partners in youth-led initiatives and for capacity-building to support their innovative ideas.

This approach was further solidified during the All Age Accessible City session, which highlighted the importance of co-designing with youth, seniors, and the differently-abled. The Grassroots Dialogue on Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) provided documented evidence of this model in action, showcasing community-based solutions that were often bootstrapping with zero capital investments. The consensus was clear: a durable path to sustainable urban development must leverage the unique knowledge and problem-solving capacities of diverse community groups, recognizing that local wisdom is a critical and underutilized resource.



### 7.3 Pillar 3: Digital Transformation and Innovation



The discussions on Digital Transformation and Innovative Cities revealed a nuanced perspective on the adoption of technology in urban settings. While the forums celebrated advanced technological solutions such as Singapore's Digital Twin and Bangkok's AI-enabled urban systems, a recurring theme was the need to ensure these tools are human-centered and context-specific. A key message from

the Special Session 9 was that people first, technology second should be the guiding principle for smart city development, noting that solutions must come from the needs on the ground.

This emphasis on a human-centric approach is significant because it exposes a critical challenge: ensuring that technological advancements do not widen existing digital and economic divides. The ASEAN in Your Words section from the user-provided material notes that unequal digital access and bureaucratic barriers are persistent challenges to achieving broad-based participation in decision-making. This indicates a dual-track strategic necessity for ASEAN cities: high-tech, data-driven solutions for mega-cities must be complemented by a more grassroots, accessible digital approach for secondary cities and rural areas, ensuring that the benefits of innovation are shared equitably across all communities.



## 7.4 Pillar 4: Collaborative Pathways: Governance, Partnerships, and Financing



The forum demonstrated a regional consensus that financing for sustainable urbanization must shift from traditional, public-sector-dependent models to more innovative and inclusive frameworks. The High-Level 5 session on Financing Models highlighted a massive capital mismatch: cities don't have this much-needed capital to manage aging infrastructure and attract new talent. The Grassroots Dialogue further revealed that community-led initiatives often lack the funding assistance required to scale their successful projects.

This challenge is compounded by the fact that only a few ASEAN countries have strong subnational governments capable of leveraging municipal bonds. The forum, therefore, initiated a crucial dialogue on bridging this gap by advocating for innovative tools like blended funding and green bonds, as well as promoting the idea that philanthropy should be viewed as a strategic investment in long term social impact. The call for ESG metrics in urban development finance and a shift from money and profit to social and environmental impacts signifies a new approach to urban financing that seeks to unlock private capital and align it with sustainable, community-level priorities.





# 08

**PART 3:  
INSTITUTIONALISING THE  
VOICE OF CITIES: KEY  
ACHIEVEMENTS AND  
FORWARD AGENDA**



## 8.0 PART 3: INSTITUTIONALISING THE VOICE OF CITIES: KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND FORWARD AGENDA

The 2025 forums were not merely a venue for discussion; they were a platform for establishing new institutional mechanisms that will outlast the event itself, marking a fundamental shift in ASEAN's multi-level governance architecture. The AGMF's adoption of Shared Commitments and the MGMAC's adoption of the Joint Communiqué were significant. The agreement to establish **a permanent MGMAC secretariat in Jakarta** institutionalizes collaboration among ASEAN capitals and is a strategic move to strengthen regional urban diplomacy. Furthermore, the appointment of **Her Excellency Dato' Seri TPr. (Dr) Maimunah Mohd Sharif as Special Envoy of ASEAN Cities and Local Governments** is a pivotal moment, as it creates a formal diplomatic role designed to amplify the voice of cities in shaping ASEAN's future and provide a direct channel for local leaders to influence regional policymaking.

Malaysia's announcement to establish the ASEAN Smart and Sustainable Centre is a key outcome that will catalyze innovation and collaboration. Hosted by Urbanice Malaysia, this new institutional platform will serve to accelerate scalable urban innovations and city-to-city pairing programmes, positioning it as a primary implementation mechanism for both the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS) and the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) [ , S\_D3]. This suite of achievements demonstrates a strategic and deliberate effort by ASEAN to formally weave the voice of cities into the fabric of its high-level decision-making processes, marking a new era of multi-level governance in the region. The following table summarizes the key institutional achievements of the ASUF, AGMF, and MGMAC 2025 forums and their strategic mandates.

Achievement/Institution Name	Mandate/Purpose
Kuala Lumpur Sustainable Declaration on Localising the ASEAN Community Vision 2045	To be formally submitted to the 47th ASEAN Leaders' Summit as a unifying outcome document, embedding city-level priorities into regional policymaking.
ASEAN Smart and Sustainable Centre	To serve as a regional platform to accelerate scalable urban innovations and city-to-city pairing programmes, aligning with ASUS and ASCN.
Special Envoy of ASEAN Cities and Local Governments	A new, formal diplomatic role to amplify the voice of cities and local governments in shaping ASEAN's future.
Permanent MGMAC Secretariat in Jakarta	To institutionalize collaboration among ASEAN capitals and strengthen regional urban diplomacy.
AGMF's Shared Commitments to Promote Women and Youth in Governance	To ensure that future growth is driven by diversity, equity, and intergenerational leadership.



# 09

PART 4:  
**STRATEGIC LINKAGES AND  
PERSISTENT GAPS**





## 9.0 PART 4: STRATEGIC LINKAGES AND PERSISTENT GAPS

The forum's comprehensive agenda underscored the deep interconnectedness of urban development issues. The discussions revealed that climate resilience cannot be achieved without the use of digital tools for data-driven planning and monitoring. Similarly, fostering true inclusivity and social well-being requires innovative financing models and new governance frameworks to fund community-led projects and address persistent development gaps. The strategic value of digital transformation, a key objective of the AEC and Connectivity pillars, was recognized as a crucial tool for enhancing civic engagement (an ASCC and APSC goal) and improving urban governance.

Despite these synergies, the forum also highlighted persistent challenges that require a forward-looking strategy. A significant gap exists between high-level visions and on-the-ground implementation. The RT Session 1 on SDG localization noted a lack of integration between national and local data, as well as the fact that many local initiatives are not adequately represented at national level statistical reporting. The warning against political interference and corruption delaying progress in ASEAN cities further emphasizes the need for a more robust and resilient implementation framework. The forum's findings point to a critical paradox: while high-level leaders have an ambitious vision, the mechanisms for effective on-the-ground delivery and accurate progress reporting remain a key challenge that must be addressed to ensure the longevity and impact of the ASEAN 2045 Vision.



# 10

PART 5:  
**POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS  
AND THE FORWARD AGENDA**



## 10

PART 5: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND  
THE FORWARD AGENDA

Based on the forum's outcomes and the analysis of key discussions, the following policy recommendations are proposed to ensure the sustained and effective localization of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.

### 10.1 For ASEAN Member States and National Governments:

a

**Institutionalize Local-Level Reporting:**

National governments should formally mandate the use of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) to bridge the national-local data gap, ensuring that city-level progress is accurately captured in national statistical reporting and used to inform the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs.

b

**Establish Dedicated Coordination Units:**

As proposed in the High-Level 3 session, national urban ministries should establish dedicated subnational ASUS coordination units to serve as permanent liaison bodies between national policy and local implementation. This would provide a structured mechanism for cities to receive guidance, share data, and receive support for their initiatives.

c

**Align Finance Taxonomies:**

Governments must align national finance taxonomies with city-level needs to unlock climate finance and private capital for secondary cities and smaller towns. This includes simplifying ESG templates for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to enhance their access to green funding.

## 10.2 For Local Governments and City Leaders:

a



### Leverage New Institutional Platforms:

City leaders should actively utilize the newly established MGMAAC permanent secretariat and the Special Envoy role to share best practices, advocate for local priorities, and directly influence regional policy discussions.

b



### Embrace the PPPP Model:

Local governments are encouraged to move beyond traditional public-private partnerships to a Public-Private-People Partnerships (PPPP) model. This involves co-creating solutions with community-based organizations and marginalized groups, recognizing their role as solution providers and leveraging their local wisdom.

b



### Strengthen Financial Governance:

Cities must enhance their creditworthiness and governance reforms to access new, innovative financing models such as municipal bonds and blended finance. The ASEAN Smart and Sustainable Centre could provide technical assistance in developing transparent and accountable financial systems.



### 10.3 For the ASEAN Secretariat and Regional Bodies:

a



#### Finalize and Operationalize the ASUS Implementation Plan:

A dedicated working group should be convened to finalize the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS) implementation and the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) Action Plan, as was proposed. This work plan should be agile and responsive to changing needs, ensuring it remains relevant over time.

b



#### Establish a Permanent Urban Finance Facility:

The ASEAN Secretariat should consider establishing a permanent Urban Finance Facility or a Smart City Investment Network. This entity would directly link private capital and international funds to a pipeline of vetted, bankable local projects, helping to bridge the critical capital mismatch identified at the forums.


b



#### Develop Practical Toolkits:

The ASEAN Smart and Sustainable Centre should be leveraged to develop and disseminate practical toolkits and training programs on critical urban issues, including data governance, participatory planning, and financial management. These resources would empower local governments with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively implement the ACV 2045 at the grassroots level





# 11

## KEY OUTCOMES AND ACHIEVEMENTS



# 11

## KEY OUTCOMES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The ASUF 2025 yielded a series of landmark outcomes that will shape the trajectory of urban governance in ASEAN for years to come.

### 11.1 Kuala Lumpur Sustainable Declaration

The most significant outcome was the adoption of the **Kuala Lumpur Sustainable Declaration on Localising the ACV 2045**. This document outlines six shared commitments, including strengthening ASEAN identity through local action, advancing local priorities under the Vision 2045 pillars, institutionalizing collaboration mechanisms for local governments, localizing climate commitments, advocating for local-level investments from international institutions, and strengthening local partnerships for inclusive development. This declaration serves as a crucial input to the 47th ASEAN Leaders' Summit, ensuring city-level priorities are heard at the highest policy level.

### 11.2 ASEAN Smart and Sustainable Centre

Malaysia announced its intention to establish the **ASEAN Smart and Sustainable Centre**, to be led by URBANICE Malaysia. This center will act as a regional platform to support innovative and scalable urban development projects, as well as city-to-city pairing programs, aligned with the ASUS and ASCN priorities.

### 11.3 Special Envoy Appointment

In a landmark decision, H.E. Dato' Seri TPr. (Dr) Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, was appointed as the **Special Envoy of ASEAN Cities and Local Governments**. This appointment institutionalizes a dedicated role for amplifying the voices of cities and local governments in ASEAN policy discussions, recognizing her extensive contributions to sustainable urban development.

### 11.4 AGMF Shared Commitments

The ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum successfully adopted **Shared Commitments** that promote the greater inclusion of women and youth in urban governance. This outcome directly supports the socio-cultural pillar of Vision 2045, ensuring that governance models are more representative and equitable.

### 11.5 MGMAC Joint Communiqué

The Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals adopted a **Joint Communiqué** and agreed to establish a **permanent secretariat in Jakarta**. This institutionalizes the ongoing collaboration among ASEAN capitals, providing a formal mechanism for regular dialogue and coordinated action on urban challenges.

## 11.6 Sungai Bunus Park Connector Network

As a tangible demonstration of its commitment to sustainable urban development, Kuala Lumpur announced the **Sungai Bunus Park Connector Network**, a landmark initiative to establish a continuous network of green linkages across the city. This project enhances ecological connectivity, promotes active mobility, and improves community well-being, serving as a best-practice model for other ASEAN cities.

## 11.7 KL Call to Action for COP30

The President of the UN Human Settlements Assembly (UNHA) officially launched the **Kuala Lumpur Call to Action for COP30**. This initiative urges the international community to embed the principles of the New Urban Agenda into the UNFCCC processes, underscoring the critical and often overlooked role of cities and local governments in global climate action.





# 12

**URBAN EXPO**

# 12 URBAN EXPO

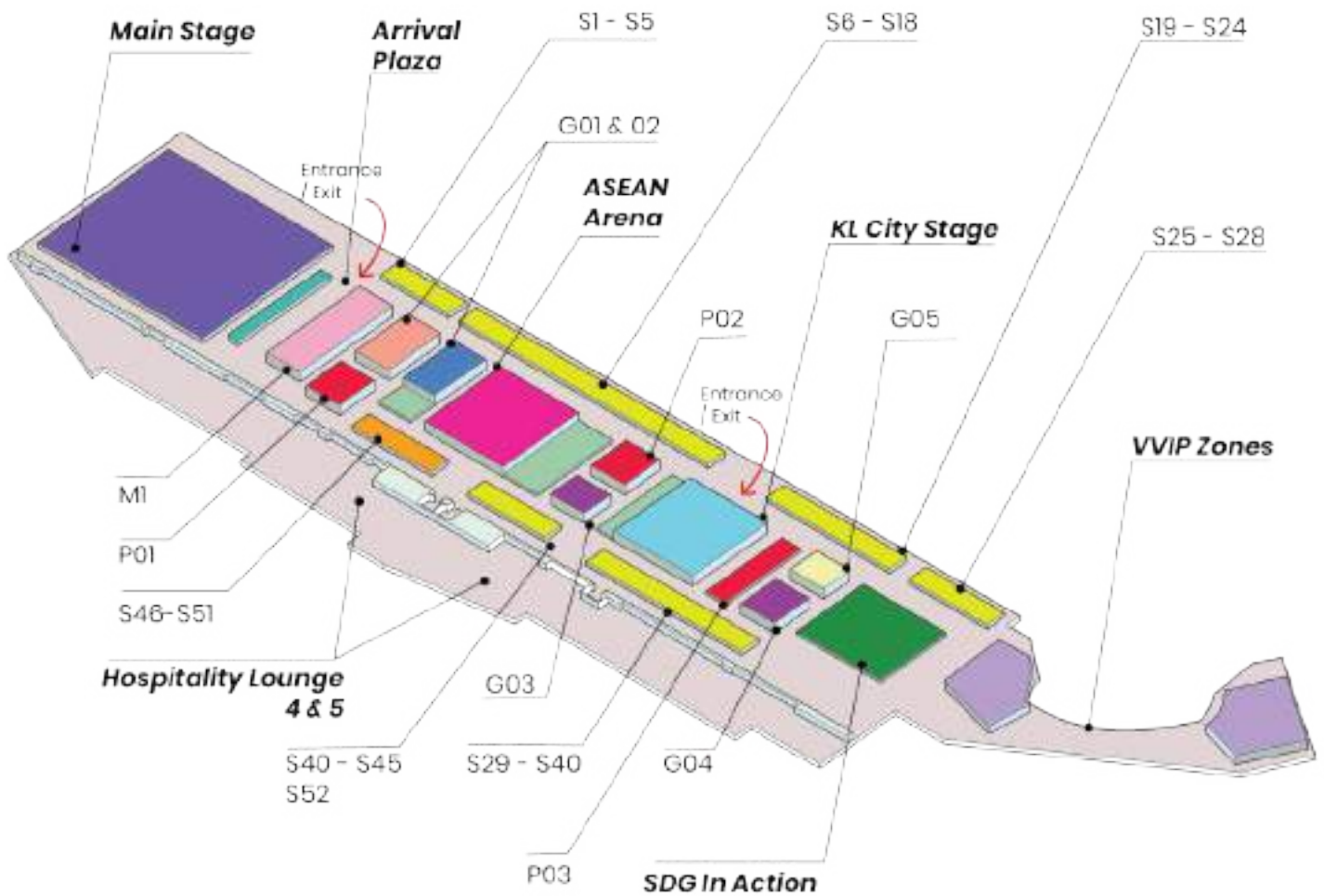
The future of ASEAN cities will be on discussion at the ASEAN Sustainable Urban Expo (ASUF) 2025! As the main anchor for the event, the Expo brings together a vibrant mix of Exhibitors and Social Enterprises, each offering unique solutions for a sustainable future.

The Expo includes 4 uniquely constructed spaces that are curated to embrace participants in a comfortable and engaging setting. Throughout the expo will be 'chill zones' sparsely situated for participants to meet, chat and share their experiences. The international assembly of exhibitors and social enterprises is truly a reflection of global faces and the commitment towards an Inclusive and Sustainable Future for ASEAN Cities and Regions.



## 12

## URBAN EXPO



## Exhibitors

12th - 14th | 9am - 6pm

M1	Pavilion KPKT	S1	United Cities and Local Government (UCLG)	S29 & 30	AECA Solutions
M2	ASEAN Arena	S2	UNHabitat WUF13	S31	Green Building Index (GBI)
M3	KL City Stage	S4	• ICLGI Local Governments for Sustainability	S32	• Bike Commute Malaysia
M4	SDG In Action		• Green City Action Plan (GCAP)		• Global Designing Cities Initiative
			• IMT-GT Joint Business Council Malaysia	S33 & 34	Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia
		S5	Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh		
P01	PRIMA	S6	Buddhist Tzu Chi Charity Foundation	S36	Linaco
P02	airbnb	S8 & 9	REKA • Mole • aisara.ai	S37	Tuxuri
P03	Universiti Malaya	S10	Official ASUF Merchandise	S40	Starbucks
G01	Selangor Pavilion			S41	AJM Planning & Urban Design Group (APUDG)
G02	Perbadanan Kemajuan Negeri Selangor (PKNS)	S11	Malaysia Institute of Planners (MIP)	S42 - 44	Tokyo Metropolitan Government
G03	• Think City	S12	The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf (M) Sdn Bhd	S45	Lian Meng Group
	• anthropocene.media	S13	AdaptX Hub at the AI Centre, Asian Institute of Technology		
	• JME Experiences	S14	Ecocycle Dynamic Solutions	S46 - 47	Media Corner
G04	• Goonj Malaysia	S15	Pusat SDG Negara (PSN)	S49 - 51	Orange Zone
	• Sustainable Social Capital	S16	it's chunky	S52	Institute of Landscape Architects Malaysia
	• Seven One Tea	S17 & 18	Prasarana		
	• RE-KAYU				
G05	Paramount Property	S19 & 20	Gamuda		
		S21	Perbadanan Pembangunan Kampung Baru		
		S22	• Earth Heir Collective		
		S23	• The SeaMonkey Project		
		S24	Nagi Coffee		
			Majlis Bandaraya Pulau Pinang		
		S25 - 27	Medical Emergency		
		S28	PDRM		



# 13

**TECHNICAL VISITS**





## 13

### TECHNICAL VISITS

As a concluding component of the forum, technical visits were organized for delegates from the AGMF and MGMAC. These visits provided an opportunity for participants to observe firsthand some of Kuala Lumpur's flagship urban development initiatives, including Kampung Bharu, Merdeka 118 and Taman Tasik Titiwangsa, demonstrating the practical application of the principles discussed during the forum.

# 13 TECHNICAL VISITS



**11** CURATED TECHNICAL VISITS IN 5 CITES (KUALA LUMPUR, SUBANG JAYA, KUALA LANGAT, PUTRAJAYA AND SEREMBAN )

**514** NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED THE VISITS IN 2 DAYS

As part of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Forum (ASUF) 2025, a curated series of 11 technical visit routes were held on 11th and 15th August. These visits were designed to offer participants an immersive, on-the-ground experience of how cities in Malaysia implemented practical, scalable, and inclusive solutions in response to urban challenges. A total of 514 participants attended the visits, reflecting strong regional interest and engagement.

Spanning themes such as climate resilience, heritage conservation, digital innovation, sustainable mobility, social housing, and public-private partnerships, each route showcased real-world practices aligned with ASUF’s sub-themes. Participants had the opportunity to engage with project leaders, observe local implementation, and learn how public policy, design, and community engagement came together to create liveable urban environments.

These visits offered a unique chance to see policy in action and were a key component of ASUF’s commitment to bridging dialogue with demonstration – enabling knowledge exchange, inspiration, and collaboration among ASEAN cities and partners.





## Merdeka 118 Kuala Lumpur

Merdeka 118, the world's second tallest tower, showcases Malaysia's urban ambition through green design, smart tech, and inclusive spaces. Anchoring the Merdeka 118 precinct, it blends heritage with innovation—making it a model of sustainable, connected urban growth and an ideal technical visit for ASEAN delegates.

## Seremban City, Negeri Sembilan

Bandaraya Seremban is positioning itself as a model of sustainable urbanisation through smart governance, green infrastructure, and livable, resilient townships. A key highlight is the Cypark Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Plant — Malaysia's first grid-connected facility converting municipal waste into renewable energy, showcasing circular economy solutions that reduce landfill reliance while producing clean power.



## Taman Tasik Titiwangsa Kuala Lumpur

Taman Tasik Titiwangsa is a major urban park in Kuala Lumpur showcasing how green spaces boost liveability, health, and resilience. With upgraded, inclusive facilities and sustainable design, it offers a refreshing outdoor experience—making it an ideal technical visit focused on nature, leisure, and community in the city.

## PRASARANA Malaysia Berhad

Prasarana Malaysia Berhad operates Malaysia's major rail and bus services, including LRT, MRT, Monorail, and Rapid Bus, driving the country's shift toward low-carbon, inclusive urban mobility. The visit will highlight Prasarana's Mobility Hub—showcasing integrated transport planning, smart operations, and last-mile connectivity. ASEAN delegates will gain insights into how digital innovation and efficient service delivery enhance commuter experience and support resilient, accessible city transport systems.





## Wetlands Arboretum @ Gamuda Cove

Wetlands Arboretum @ Gamuda Cove is a model of nature-based urban development, transforming degraded wetlands into a thriving biodiversity and eco- education hub. Located within an integrated township, it blends conservation, water management, and sustainable placemaking. This outdoor visit offers ASEAN delegates hands-on insights into climate resilience, habitat restoration, and integrating green infrastructure into urban planning.

## Putrajaya

Putrajaya, Malaysia’s federal administrative capital, showcases sustainable city planning through its intelligent garden city concept—combining modern infrastructure with green spaces, waterways, and smart environmental systems. This visit offers ASEAN delegates insights into low-carbon mobility, nature-based solutions like the tropical Wetlands Park, and how integrated planning supports livability, resilience, and climate adaptation in a purpose-built capital city.



## Kampong Bharu Kuala Lumpur

Kampong Bharu, a historic Malay enclave in central Kuala Lumpur, offers a living example of heritage-led urban regeneration. Known for its cultural richness and traditional lifestyle, ongoing community-led efforts preserve its identity amid modernisation. As a technical visit site, it highlights how cities can balance development with cultural preservation.



## Sunway City Subang Jaya

Sunway City in Subang Jaya is a smart, sustainable township transformed from a former mining site into a low-carbon urban hub. Driven by private sector leadership and aligned with the SDGs, it features green mobility, renewable energy, inclusive spaces, and smart technologies. As Malaysia's first certified low-carbon city, it offers ASEAN delegates a real-world model of resilient and future-ready development.

## Exchange 106

Exchange 106, one of Southeast Asia's tallest towers, stands as a symbol of Malaysia's growing financial and business hub within the TRX (Tun Razak Exchange) district. Designed as a high-performance green building, it integrates cutting-edge technologies, smart systems, and world-class amenities. A visit to Exchange 106 offers ASEAN delegates insight into sustainable skyscraper design, transit-oriented development, and the role of iconic architecture in driving economic growth and global investment.



## EQ Kuala Lumpur

EQ Kuala Lumpur is a leading example of sustainable luxury hospitality in the heart of the city. As a Green Building Index (GBI) certified hotel, EQ combines modern design with energy efficiency, water conservation, and smart environmental practices. Located near major attractions and transit links, it showcases how hospitality can align with sustainability goals. A visit to EQ offers ASEAN delegates insights into green building standards, sustainable tourism, and the integration of environmental responsibility within the urban hospitality sector.



# 14

## SUSTAINABILITY PROTOCOL



## 14

## SUSTAINABILITY PROTOCOL



### Travel Responsibly

Choose low-carbon options whenever possible: walk, cycle, take public transportation (MRT, LRT, RapidKL shuttle service dedicated for the event), carpool, or share a ride. Option for direct flights and consider booking with the event's sustainable airline partners, Malaysia Airlines and Firefly Airlines.



### Bring Your Essentials

BYOB: Bring along your reusable items, such as a water bottle, utensils, and food containers, to minimise single-use waste. Refill your bottle at designated water stations around the venue.



### Go Paperless

Use the event app, scan QR codes, or read digital brochures instead of requesting printed materials. Take notes digitally or use a notebook you already have.



### Practice Waste Separation

Dispose of waste correctly by following the venue's separation system: recyclables, organic waste, and general waste.



### Last but not least be a role model!

Lead by example: adopt and promote eco-friendly habits throughout the event. Support values of accessibility, inclusivity, and meaningful community engagement.

Scan to know more about our sustainability protocol





# 15

**SDG IN ACTION**





*This stage is about giving visibility to ideas and practices that can be scaled, replicated, and localised. It belongs to all cities, but it is curated here in Malaysia because we believe our cities can lead by example*

**TPr Ts Norliza Hashim**

Chief Executive

Urbanice Malaysia

# 15

## SDG in Action

### From Concept to Action: The Journey of the SDG in Action Stage

When first outlined in its concept note, the SDG in Action Stage was imagined as a dynamic, inclusive space within the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Forum (ASUF) 2025, a platform inspired by the WUF Urban Library and SDG Action Zone. Its purpose was to showcase localised solutions, amplify youth and grassroots voices, and connect policy with practice through practical, replicable innovations.

The note envisioned a stage that would:

- Demonstrate scalable SDG solutions emerging from cities and communities.
- Provide a voice to underrepresented actors, including youth, women, and marginalised groups.
- Facilitate peer-to-peer learning and cross-sectoral partnerships.
- Advance local leadership in Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and SDG implementation.

#### From Vision to Reality

Over three days, the SDG in Action Stage evolved into exactly that, and more. With more than 20 sessions, it brought together city leaders, innovators, youth advocates, academics, private sector actors, and community organisations, offering concrete pathways for SDG localisation.

The six thematic clusters proposed in the concept note of resilient cities, inclusive prosperity, connectivity, governance and data, equity and social inclusion, and food systems, were not only addressed but expanded with new dimensions:

- Resilience & Climate Adaptation: Tokyo's century-scale resilience plan and Shenzhen's ecological corridors.
- Inclusive Prosperity: Sarawak's digital economy for rural communities and Tawau's women empowerment initiatives.
- Connectivity & Mobility: Prasarana's carbon-neutral roadmap and GDCI's Safe Schools.
- Governance & Data: Malaysia SDG Cities' VLR/VSR framework and CityNet's Urban SDG Knowledge Platform.
- Equity & Social Inclusion: Refugee inclusion strategies, youth-led resilience, and design for persons with disabilities (IIUM's 7 Pearl Sanctuary).
- Circularity & Food Systems: Agro-parks, KLCC's zero food waste model, and The Asher's zero-waste-to-landfill technology.

## Format and Engagement

The original idea of short, thematic presentations gave way to longer 30-minute solo sessions, enabling deeper dives into practice and policy. This allowed presenters—from final-year students to metropolitan governments—to share data, lived experience, and lessons learned with equal weight. The openness of the stage created unexpected synergies: discussions spilled into Q&A sessions, and partnerships were sparked between cities, organisations, and networks.

## Beyond Expectations

While visibility and networking were expected, the stage delivered outcomes that surpassed the concept note's ambition:

- Policy-relevant insights, such as crowdsourced financing models and embedding Safe School guidelines in ASEAN frameworks.
- Quantifiable impacts, including KLCC diverting 556kg of forum waste and Malaysia's progress on 26 VLRs in 2025.
- Empowered voices, where youth, women, and refugee leaders were not token participants but central agents of change.

In reflecting on the journey from concept to delivery, the SDG in Action Stage proved itself as more than a thematic showcase. It became a living laboratory of urban practice, where global cities and local communities stood side by side in advancing the SDGs.

This stage has now established itself as ASEAN's open forum for action-oriented SDG solutions—a replicable model that can travel with future forums, continuing to bridge policy with practice and ensuring that no city, no community, and no citizen is left behind.

## SDG in Action Stage at ASUF 2025

The **SDG in Action Stage**, convened as part of the **ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Forum (ASUF) 2025** in Kuala Lumpur, served as a dynamic platform for local innovation, grassroots leadership, and city-to-city learning. Over the course of three days, more than 20 sessions brought together municipal leaders, youth representatives, private sector innovators, academics, and community organisations to share concrete, scalable solutions for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in urban contexts.

### Day 1 – Urban Resilience, Smart Cities, and Youth Leadership

The opening day explored city strategies for resilience, sustainable mobility, and inclusive growth, drawing lessons from Tokyo, Shenzhen, Kuala Lumpur, and regional networks such as CityNet and the Scout Movement. Highlights included:

- Tokyo's Resilience Project, a JPY 17 trillion investment in disaster preparedness and climate adaptation;
- Shenzhen's transformation into a global innovation hub with 100% electrified public transport and ecological corridors;
- Prasarana Malaysia's roadmap to carbon neutrality in urban transport by 2050;
- The Lembah Pantai SDG Precinct as a living lab for regenerative urbanism;
- The Urban SDG Knowledge Platform as a tool for tracking and replicating best practices across cities; and
- Youth-led resilience efforts, with scouts advocating for co-created urban solutions.

### Day 2 – Localising SDGs, Social Inclusion, and Innovative Finance

Day 2 turned the spotlight on community-led initiatives, refugee inclusion, biodiversity, and sustainable finance. Notable sessions featured:

- Sandakan's Community Agenda 2023–2027, demonstrating localised pathways for SDG delivery;
- Refugee Action for Change, calling for refugee-inclusive urban development;
- Tzu Chi Foundation's compassion-in-action model, linking humanitarian work with resilience;
- Malaysia SDG Cities, where Urbanice Malaysia presented a national framework scaling VLRs and positioning cities as living urban labs; and
- Crowdsourced financing platforms, enabling communities to directly fund SDG-aligned projects.

The afternoon highlighted city experiences from Kaysone Phomvihane (Laos), Moscow, and Kuala Lumpur's grassroots movement Kerja Jalan, culminating in discussions on digital twins and 3D mapping. The day emphasised that inclusive governance and innovative financing are critical levers for achieving the SDGs in ASEAN cities.

### Day 3 – Equity, Conservation, and Regeneration

The final day showcased how digital innovation, biodiversity, women’s leadership, and sustainable regeneration intersect to shape the future of ASEAN’s cities. Sessions included:

- Sarawak’s digital economy strategy, bridging the rural–urban divide through connectivity and e-commerce;
- Orangutan conservation in Peninsular Malaysia, linking biodiversity with ecosystem resilience;
- Women’s empowerment initiatives in Tawau, advancing gender equality as a driver of inclusive urbanisation;
- IIUM students’ 7 Pearl Sanctuary project, reimagining inclusive design for persons with disabilities;
- TRX City’s regeneration of central Kuala Lumpur, embedding ESG principles into urban finance;
- Zero-Waste-to-Landfill innovation, showcasing The Asher as a Malaysian technology for circular waste management; and
- GDCI’s Safe School Programme, scaling child-focused urban design across ASEAN.

Across three days, the SDG in Action Stage amplified practical pathways for implementing the SDGs at city level, proving that transformative solutions often emerge from the intersection of local knowledge, youth leadership, technological innovation, and cross-sector partnerships. The discussions consistently highlighted that no city, community, or citizen should be left behind—a message resonating with ASEAN’s collective vision of a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future.



## SDG in Action – Day 1 Report

**Participants at the opening day of the SDG in Action Stage explored innovative city strategies for resilience, sustainable mobility, and inclusive urban growth, drawing lessons from Asia’s leading metropolitan centers. The programme featured five in-depth solo presentations from leading cities, organisations, and youth representatives, each delivering a 30-minute deep dive into their unique approaches to implementing the SDGs in an urban context.**

**Across the morning and afternoon, municipal leaders, transport operators, youth advocates, and urban innovators shared concrete examples of how high-density cities can address climate, mobility, and equity challenges through integrated planning and technology-driven solutions.**

### Co-Creating Resilient Cities: A Youth Movement Perspective

Zairin Adam Abdul Aziz, Asia-Pacific Regional Youth Representative of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, highlighted how a global movement of 57 million young people is shaping communities and contributing to sustainable urbanisation through the Scouts for SDGs initiative. He underscored that Scouting is not only about outdoor adventure, but increasingly about equipping youth to respond to today’s urban challenges across four dimensions: environment, peacebuilding, skills for life, and health & wellbeing.

Drawing on stories from across Asia-Pacific, he shared how Scouts have taken action to address urban vulnerabilities and highlighted programmes such as Ticket to Life in Manila, where Scouts reintegrated street children into education and community, and Thailand’s prison rehabilitation initiative that uses Scouting to teach life skills to inmates. He also described how Malaysian Scouts are piloting youth leadership and advocacy workshops, enabling young people to design campaigns and mobilise resources on issues that matter to them – from engaging citizens in urban initiatives to raising humanitarian support for Gaza.

Beyond the city, he noted how Scouts have tackled coastal challenges through beach cleanups, microplastic awareness campaigns, and projects promoting sustainable fishing practices, showing how youth-led solutions can connect urban life with broader ecological systems. These examples demonstrated how structured youth networks can combine grassroots service with systemic advocacy, bridging local action with global frameworks such as the SDGs.

Zairin concluded by urging ASEAN policymakers and city leaders to move beyond symbolic youth engagement towards institutionalised participation in city governance, citing models such as UNICEF’s Child-Friendly Cities and C40’s Youth Climate Councils. Stressing that “resilient cities aren’t built by concrete alone, but by neighbours who look out for each other and young people who believe their community’s future is worth fighting for,” he called on governments, city networks, and youth movements to forge structured partnerships that embed young people as co-creators of ASEAN’s urban future.

## Sustainability and Inclusivity in Public Transport (Prasarana Malaysia)

Premkumar Paramasivam, Executive Vice President of Rapid Bus, Prasarana Malaysia, outlined the company's Sustainability Framework 2023–2030, targeting a 45% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. He explained that **“public transport is not just about moving people, it's about moving society towards equity and sustainability.”**

Prasarana's initiatives include installing solar PV systems at BRT stations, upcycling decommissioned train parts into merchandise, and deploying reverse vending machines at key transit hubs. The operator is expanding first- and last-mile connectivity through dedicated bus lanes, rapid on-demand vans, and the MyRapid Pulse national journey planner app. Services for persons with disabilities (developed in consultation with OKU Sentral) include premium on-demand mobility vans, currently serving around 500 bookings per month.

Vendor ESG training and sustainable supply chain measures are integrated into Prasarana's broader commitment to the UN SDGs, with a focus on equity, inclusivity, and safety in urban mobility. Responding to questions from the floor, he underscored the company's role in supporting Malaysia's goal of achieving a 50% public transport modal share by 2040.



## Tokyo's Path to Resilience as a Sustainable City

Kiyotoshi Koga, Director for Project Promotion Planning and Coordination, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, presented Tokyo's vision for 2050 as "the world's most resilient city" a place that balances maturity and growth where every individual can thrive. He framed resilience as a long-term, generational commitment that demands consistent investment, innovation, and public trust.

Koga outlined the JPY 17 trillion (~MYR 530 billion) Tokyo Resilience Project, a comprehensive programme designed to safeguard residents from a spectrum of risks, including storms and floods, major earthquakes, volcanic ash, disruptions to power and communications, and future pandemics. This scale of investment, he emphasised, is not merely about building infrastructure but about securing the safety, health, and continuity of life for Tokyo's 14 million residents.

Key measures include undergrounding utility poles to reduce storm damage, constructing regulating reservoirs beneath roads and parks to temporarily store floodwaters during heavy rain events, and raising seawalls to counter anticipated sea level rise of up to 0.6 meters. Advanced technology plays a central role, Tokyo is deploying AI-based systems for real-time water-level prediction, using drones for structural inspections, and building robust data platforms to support rapid decision-making during emergencies.

"We are designing not for the next decade, but for the next century," Koga stated, noting that climate adaptation requires sustained political will, strong technical capacity, and active community engagement. He stressed that resilience is as much a social contract as it is an engineering challenge, calling for policies that protect all residents equally while fostering public participation in disaster preparedness.

## Shenzhen: A Hi-Tech Innovation City with Green and Smart Livability

Xu Songming, representing the City of Shenzhen, recounted the remarkable transformation of China's first special economic zone from a fishing village of 330,000 residents in 1980 to a megacity of over 22 million today. In just over four decades, Shenzhen has evolved into "China's Silicon Valley", home to more than 500,000 technology enterprises, including global leaders in telecommunications, electric vehicles, and robotics. This rapid growth has been anchored in forward-looking urban policy, cutting-edge infrastructure, and a commitment to sustainable development.

Shenzhen's achievements include becoming the first city in the world to fully electrify both its bus and taxi fleets, drastically reducing urban emissions. The city has also pioneered a low-altitude economy framework, enabling commercial drone logistics and cross-sea eVTOL (electric vertical take-off and landing) air transport, setting a precedent for urban air mobility. "We are proof that urban miracles can happen, but they must be guided by green principles," Xu remarked, underscoring the city's philosophy that technology and ecology must advance hand in hand.

He highlighted the "Mountain-Sea Corridor" ecological framework, designed to connect urban residents to nature through 3,600 km of greenways linking homes to parks, beaches, and forest trails. Wildlife overpasses have been constructed to reconnect fragmented mountain habitats, and the city's rich biodiversity is supported by ongoing mangrove restoration projects. Shenzhen also serves as the headquarters for the International Mangrove Center, a hub for global cooperation on coastal ecosystem conservation.

Smart governance underpins these achievements, with a four-dimensional spatial digital infrastructure. Covering aerial, terrestrial, subterranean, and maritime domains and an AI+ industrial policy that accelerates innovation across sectors. These advancements contributed to Shenzhen receiving the 2024 World Smart City Award. However, Xu acknowledged that challenges remain, including acute spatial constraints, ensuring equitable access to resources, and building climate resilience in a city of such scale and density.



*We are proof that urban miracles can happen, but they must be guided by green principles*

**Xu Songming**

Director General of the Planning and Natural Resources Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality



## **Lembah Pantai SDG Precinct (University Malaya Sustainable Development Centre)**

Collectively representing Universiti Malaya (UM) – Malaysia’s oldest university – Associate Professor Dr. Zeeda Fatimah Mohamad and Dr. Fong Chng Saun from the UM Sustainable Development Centre (UMSDC), Associate Professor ChM. Dr. Noraini Ahmad from the UM Community Engagement Centre (UMCares), and Dr. Azni Yati Kamaruddin from the Ungku Aziz Centre for Development Studies (UAC) jointly presented the recent establishment of the “Lembah Pantai SDG Precinct”

This promising initiative, co-initiated by UM and Urbanice Malaysia aims to integrate place-based action research, community engagement, and living lab approaches to advance SDG localisation in Lembah Pantai, one of Kuala Lumpur’s most socio-economically diverse constituencies. Spanning both the UM urban campus and its surrounding neighbourhoods, the precinct repositions the university as not only a hub for knowledge generation but also an active partner in local sustainability transitions and SDG implementation.

The precinct builds upon UM’s longstanding sustainability efforts in the area. UMSDC has spearheaded the Campus Sustainability Living Labs Programme – with focus areas ranging from biodiversity conservation, waste and water management to the current emphasis on Just Net Zero. Several of these labs have extended their impact beyond campus borders, offering replicable practices for environmental stewardship. UMCares further complements this work through 37 community-based projects across Lembah Pantai. These include health empowerment, urban community gardens, waste reduction campaigns, and educational programmes for low-income households. Meanwhile, UAC contributes through targeted social interventions, such as addressing learning loss among B40 students and promoting equitable development.

Through partnerships across local government, civil society organisations, and the private sector, the Lembah Pantai SDG Precinct can function as a dynamic testbed for urban sustainability innovation. Promising areas for future initiatives include: advancing zero-waste practices, developing inclusive green mobility corridors, designing climate-resilient public spaces, integrating sustainability education in formal and informal settings and empowering public health. Together, these initiatives underscore UM’s evolving role as a university deeply embedded in its local context – championing inclusive, action-oriented, and collaborative pathways toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goal.

## **Tracking Urban SDG Localization with the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform (CityNet)**

Chris Di Gennaro, representing CityNet, introduced the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform, a joint initiative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Seoul Metropolitan Government, and CityNet. Designed to promote knowledge sharing and city-to-city cooperation for sustainable urban development, the platform enables municipalities to develop and adopt innovative solutions to shared challenges.

In addition to the platform, Chris showcased Seoul’s digital twin. A high-fidelity, real-time 3D model of the city used for urban planning, disaster simulation, and infrastructure management. He also highlighted how gamification techniques have been applied to engage citizens, making urban data and planning scenarios more interactive and accessible to the public. These tools, he noted, help bridge the gap between technical planning processes and community understanding, ultimately encouraging greater participation in city governance.



*Digital twins and gamification are not about technology for its own sake, but about helping citizens and leaders see the city differently and act differently*

**Chris Di Gennaro**  
Senior Program Officer  
CityNET



## SDG in Action – Day 2 Report

**Day 2 of the SDG in Action Stage brought together filmmakers, municipal leaders, humanitarian advocates, community organisations, and urban sustainability experts to explore how the SDGs can be advanced through culture, inclusivity, resilience, and innovation. The six solo presentations offered diverse perspectives, ranging from film as a tool for awareness, to localised SDG action plans, refugee inclusion, community-based resilience, and financing solutions for cities.**

### Upon the Pond, A Film by Salma K. Achmad

The day opened with the screening of *Upon the Pond*, a fantasy romance set in a mysterious lake in the land of Sunda. The story follows Arum, a siren who falls in love with Tama, a textile factory worker, in a narrative that intertwines themes of love, self-acceptance, and the search for identity.

Through the symbolism of its characters and setting, the film highlights the delicate relationship between humans and nature, reflecting on the fragile dynamics of ecosystems in the face of unsustainable and environmentally harmful industrial practices.

Director Salma K. Achmad explained that the film is intended as both a cultural and environmental statement: “Stories are powerful because they allow us to feel sustainability, not just measure it. They remind us that ecosystems are not abstract—they are lived, loved, and lost if we fail to care for them.”

Participants reflected on how visual storytelling and cultural narratives can complement policy and technical approaches to sustainability, making the SDGs more relatable to wider audiences.

### Localising Global Goals Through Sandakan Sustainable Community Agenda 2023–2027

Mohd Kazroy Nizam Bin Sani, Head of Urban Planning and Architecture, Sandakan Municipal Council, presented the city’s Sustainable Community Agenda 2023–2027, which is framed under the vision of “Smart, Sustainable, Safe.” The Agenda represents Sandakan’s first structured effort to align local policies and programmes with the SDGs, tailored to its own urban realities.

He outlined the city’s urban challenges, including perceptions of safety following past incidents, urban poverty (affecting 8.5% of residents), and low awareness of cleanliness. The Agenda is structured around three thrusts, low-carbon circular economy, food security, and safe communities and five themes to advance SDG localisation.

Kazroy stressed that the Agenda is not simply a planning exercise but a practical roadmap for SDG localisation: “Localising global goals means translating abstract targets into tangible actions our citizens can see, touch, and benefit from.”

He closed by emphasising the need for multi-level collaboration between local councils, state authorities, and federal agencies to ensure initiatives can be sustained and scaled. Participants reflected that Sandakan’s integrated approach could serve as a reference model for other secondary cities in ASEAN seeking to bridge local needs with global commitments.



*The solution is to let refugees be seen as partners in resilience, not outsiders to it*

**Elise Arya Chen**

Deputy Director of Young Lives Malaysia and Board Advisor of Refugee Action for Change (ReAct)



## From Shadows to Solutions: Refugee Inclusion in Urban ASEAN

Elise Arya Chen, Deputy Director of Young Lives Malaysia and Board Advisor of Refugee Action for Change (ReAct), opened the session by confronting some of the most entrenched myths about refugees in Southeast Asia, that they are an economic burden, resistant to integration, or too dependent on humanitarian aid. She stressed that these narratives obscure the reality of refugees' contributions and potential, particularly in cities where most of them reside.

Drawing on evidence from Malaysia, Chen highlighted that when refugees are granted access to work, education, and healthcare, they become net contributors to the economy, generating an estimated RM6.5 billion (~USD 1.5 billion) to national GDP annually and creating spillover employment for locals. Rather than draining resources, refugee communities often support urban economies through entrepreneurship, informal labour, and service provision.

Chen argued that the true drivers of xenophobia are invisibility and the lack of legal recognition, which trap refugees in informal systems and leave them vulnerable to exploitation. By contrast, integration reduces social tension, strengthens local economies, and builds more cohesive urban communities.

She called for refugee-inclusive urban development, built on three pillars:

- Community-based service delivery (health, education, housing),
- Skills recognition and economic integration, and
- Climate resilience through community innovation.

In closing, Chen offered a compelling reminder: ***“Trauma doesn’t erase competence, our systems erase recognition of competence.”*** She urged ASEAN policymakers and city leaders to move from exclusionary policies to empowerment strategies that treat refugees as partners in resilience and development.

## Compassion in Action: Building a More Resilient Community (Tzu Chi Foundation)

Lee Peng Sian, Tzu Chi Foundation Malaysia, presented the organisation’s humanitarian model of resilience, anchored in the values of compassion, volunteerism, and community solidarity. He noted that with nearly 10 million members globally and 248 recycling centres across Malaysia, Tzu Chi has grown into one of the region’s largest grassroots movements linking social care, environmental protection, and disaster response.

Lee shared compelling examples of disaster relief operations, including the 2021 Sri Muda floods, where more than 9,000 volunteers mobilised within days to prepare and deliver over 40,000 hot meals for affected families. He also recalled the 2025 Bintulu floods and the Putra Heights gas explosion, where volunteers went beyond material aid by conducting home visits, offering emotional support, and distributing blessing funds to restore dignity and hope for victims.

Importantly, Lee framed compassion as both a philosophy and a practical tool for resilience: “We start by doing what’s necessary, then possible and suddenly, we are doing the impossible.” He stressed that resilience is not only built on infrastructure and policy, but also on trust, empathy, and shared responsibility within communities.

The session closed with reflections from participants on how faith-based and volunteer-driven organisations can complement municipal governance, particularly in rapid emergency response and sustained community outreach, filling gaps where formal systems may be slow or overstretched.



*Malaysia SDG Cities  
positions our urban areas  
as living laboratories,  
where policies, finance,  
and innovation converge  
to accelerate delivery of  
the SDGs*

**TPr Ts Norliza Hashim**  
Chief Executive  
Urbanice Malaysia



## Malaysia SDG Cities (Urbanice Malaysia)

Norliza Hashim, Chief Executive of Urbanice Malaysia, and convener of the SDG in Action Stage, delivered a keynote presentation on the Malaysia SDG Cities programme, positioning it as a national framework to accelerate sustainable urbanisation and localise the SDGs across Malaysian municipalities. She reminded participants that Malaysia is already an urban nation, with 78% of its population living in cities, where urban areas account for 65% of national GDP. This rapid urbanisation, she noted, brings both opportunities for innovation and pressing challenges related to inequality, climate resilience, and environmental sustainability.

The Malaysia SDG Cities initiative provides a structured pathway for cities to align with the 2030 Agenda. It promotes Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) as accountability mechanisms, enabling cities to assess progress, identify gaps, and integrate global commitments into local action. By 2024, 14 cities had completed VLRs, with 26 more in progress for 2025—a scale of local reporting that has placed Malaysia among the global leaders in SDG localisation. **“Cities are the frontlines of the SDGs. Our work ensures no city, no community, and no citizen is left behind,”** Norliza affirmed.

She elaborated on the programme’s principles of regenerative urbanism and climate-proof infrastructure, underscoring the need to “future-proof” Malaysian cities within planetary boundaries. Concepts such as the doughnut economics model were highlighted as tools for rethinking growth in ways that secure social foundations without overshooting ecological limits.

Urbanice Malaysia’s leadership, Norliza explained, lies in convening a multi-stakeholder ecosystem—local governments, private sector, academia, civil society, and international partners—around a shared agenda for sustainable development. Through initiatives like Malaysia SDG Cities Roadmaps, urban labs, and partnerships with the KLCC Business Events Alliance, the programme demonstrates how cities can become living urban laboratories for innovation, policy integration, and financing solutions.

As the owner of the SDG in Action Stage, Norliza also reflected on its role as a space for experimentation and dialogue: “This stage is about giving visibility to ideas and practices that can be scaled, replicated, and localised. It belongs to all cities, but it is curated here in Malaysia because we believe our cities can lead by example.”

The session concluded with a call to ASEAN peers to expand the practice of VLRs and to view cities not just as service providers, but as drivers of transformation in the global effort to achieve the SDGs.

## SDG Crowdfund Funding for Cities (pitchIN, Malaysia)

The final session of the morning was delivered by Lai Kai Bin, Head of Equity Crowdfunding (ECF) at pitchIN, Malaysia's leading digital platform for crowdfunding and investment. Lai introduced a pioneering approach to urban finance: leveraging crowdfunding to support SDG-aligned city projects.

He explained that pitchIN, which began in 2012 as a reward-based crowdfunding platform, has since evolved into a robust marketplace that connects entrepreneurs with investors. By applying this model to city sustainability, municipalities can mobilise resources beyond traditional public budgets. **"Financing the SDGs is everyone's responsibility, we must move from dependency to shared accountability,"** Lai stressed.

Through digital platforms, citizens, philanthropists, and businesses can directly support municipal initiatives such as green infrastructure, renewable energy, and community-based programmes. Case studies demonstrated how small-scale contributions, when pooled, generate significant impact while enhancing transparency, civic ownership, and accountability.

Lai emphasised that the pitchIN approach is not only about raising capital but also about building partnerships and trust. **"When citizens invest in their city's sustainability, they become stakeholders in its future. That changes the dynamic from passive beneficiaries to active co-creators of urban resilience,"** he noted.

Participants discussed the potential for crowdfunding to address fiscal constraints faced by ASEAN cities, particularly smaller municipalities with limited access to large-scale financing. The session concluded with strong interest in exploring public-private-citizen partnerships to accelerate SDG delivery at the local level.

## Smart and Sustainable Moscow (Moscow City)

Tatiana Naumova, Department for External Economic and International Relations of Moscow, presented the city's vision of a smart and sustainable megacity that combines cultural heritage, technological innovation, and environmental responsibility. She highlighted Moscow's status as one of the world's greenest megacities and a leading global cultural hub, welcoming over 26 million tourists in 2024 and ranking first worldwide for museums and theatres. At the same time, the city has been investing heavily in infrastructure that enhances quality of life: in 2024 alone, 89 new social facilities including 49 schools, 14 health facilities, and 17 sports complexes were completed.

The Urban Renewal Initiative is one of the largest globally, having relocated over 220,000 residents and aiming to relocate almost 1 million residents into safer, more energy-efficient housing while redeveloping neighbourhoods with improved amenities and open spaces. On transport, Moscow is to triple its metro and city railway lines since 2010, and by 2030, 95% of residents will live within walking distance of a metro station. The city also operates the world's largest metro circle line.

Moscow is advancing rapidly in green and shared mobility, deploying more than 2,400 electric buses, introducing world's first year-round electric river transport that serves 300,000 passengers per season, and managing the world's largest car-sharing fleet of over 40,000 vehicles. Tatiana Naumova also showcased Moscow's Digital Twin system, which integrates more than 5,000 layers of urban data to inform over 2,000 management decisions annually. Citizen engagement is enabled through the Active Citizen platform, which has hosted over 7,000 public votes on urban issues.

**"A smart city is not only about digitalization, but about inclusivity, cultural vibrancy, and improving people's daily lives,"** Tatiana Naumova noted. She explained that Moscow's strategy is to become a testbed for AI, autonomous transport, and sustainable technologies by 2030, positioning the city as both a global cultural centre and a model of urban innovation.

## The Power of Slow: Rethinking Speed and Access to Reclaim the City (Kerja Jalan, Malaysia)

Yasmin Lane, founder of Kerja Jalan, delivered a compelling call to rethink urban mobility by challenging car-centric development and the culture of speed in Southeast Asian cities. Kerja Jalan, an advocacy platform for walkable and rollable Malaysian cities, uses community-led walks and cross-sector collaborations to champion safer, more inclusive streets.

Yasmin argued that excessive speeding and unsafe roads are not simply individual choices but the result of urban design, weak enforcement, and entrenched policies favouring cars. She pointed to the cycle of induced demand where building more highways only creates more traffic and sprawl as a key barrier to sustainable urbanisation. ***“We need to ask: who really benefits from speed, and what do our cities lose in the process?”*** she remarked.

Yasmin showcased practical solutions such as narrowing lanes, building raised crossings, installing protected cycling paths, and investing in permanent bus rapid transit lanes. She cautioned against superficial transit-oriented development focused only on condominiums near stations, stressing the need for “authentic TOD” that integrates affordable housing, mixed-use density, and equitable access.

She also proposed bold policy reforms: ending fuel subsidies, abolishing minimum parking requirements, halting new highway projects, and reclaiming urban streets for people instead of cars. ***“Fixing transit is about stitching entire journeys from door to door so we can live well without needing a car,”*** Yasmin concluded.

The presentation resonated strongly with ASEAN participants, many of whom face similar struggles with congestion and sprawl. Discussions underscored the urgency of rebalancing mobility priorities to reclaim liveability, equity, and climate resilience in urban spaces

## Kaysone Phomvihane City: Localising the SDGs in Lao PDR

Mr. Vannaeth Phaophongsavath, Deputy Head of Kaysone Phomvihane City Administration Office, shared the city’s ongoing efforts to align its rapid urban growth with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Located in Savannakhet Province, Kaysone Phomvihane City is one of the fastest-growing urban centres in Lao PDR, and its leadership has recognised that structured SDG localisation is essential to ensuring sustainable and inclusive development.

Mr. Vannaeth explained that the city is committed to aligning its development with the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) and the 2030 Agenda, with support from UN-Habitat. In July 2024, the city held a Voluntary Local Review (VLR) sensitization workshop to introduce the VLR concept and explore how it could support local planning. Discussions highlighted three priority SDGs: decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), poverty reduction (SDG 1), and quality education (SDG 4).

He stressed that the workshop was not a reporting exercise but an opportunity to learn about the VLR process, capture local perspectives, and understand how it can highlight development gaps, engage stakeholders, and strengthen policy coherence. The event brought together over ten line ministries and diverse stakeholders, enriched by lessons from Thailand’s VLR experience, and featured an interactive Mentimeter session.

Looking ahead, Kaysone Phomvihane City expressed interest in continuing the VLR journey, provided there is adequate budget. The city aims to continue its partnership with UN-Habitat and explore collaboration with development partners and local stakeholders. With further support, it hopes to become a demonstration case in Lao PDR for how mid-sized cities can localize the SDGs and integrate them into decision-making.

## Digital Twins & Data-Driven Cities: Geospatial Technologies Powering Future-Ready ASEAN Cities (AECA Solutions Sdn Bhd)

### Introduction

The panel discussion convened by AECA Solutions explored how geospatial intelligence and digital twin technologies can accelerate sustainable urbanisation, support evidence-based policy, and empower cities across ASEAN to achieve the SDGs. The session brought together leaders from government-linked enterprises, industry innovators, and international geospatial experts, moderated by Kavitha Seras, with panel contributions from:

- Khairul Ariffin, COO - AECA Solutions
- Liew Zi Qing, Head of Digitalisation, Development & Delivery (3D) - Sunway Property
- Fariz Ghazali, CEO - Infrasel
- Maziana Muhamad, Director - Woolpert Malaysia

### Key Highlights & Insights

#### Opening Perspective: A Geospatial Vision for ASEAN Cities

- Tengku Erina (AECA Solutions) emphasized that geospatial technologies are no longer a luxury – they are becoming a fundamental tool in shaping how cities think, plan, and evolve.
- As cities around the region face mounting challenges—from urban sprawl to climate risks, from infrastructure ageing to digital inequality—there is a growing urgency to adopt data-driven and future-ready solutions.
- Highlighted AECA's geospatial technologies, including Digital Twins, AI, and UAV-based mapping, are enablers of smarter decision-making.
- Reaffirmed AECA Solutions' commitment, with Urbanice Malaysia, to inclusive, digitally empowered urban futures where technology serves communities and leverages local wisdom.

#### The Role of Data in Driving Smarter Urban Solutions Moderator

- Kavitha Seras framed the discussion around the SDG Cities approach, stressing data interoperability, governance, and accessibility.
- She emphasized the importance of city-level collaboration with private innovators, such as AECA, to bridge the gap between policy ambitions and on-the-ground implementation

**Private Sector Case Study: Integrating Smart Solutions into Urban Ecosystems**

- Liew Zi Qing (Sunway Digital) described Sunway’s development of a smart and sustainable ecosystem powered by Internet of Things (IoT) devices and geospatial platforms, including a three-dimensional map of Bandar Sunway. The new integrated command centre will manage this system by monitoring temperature data and various facility management parameters.
- Demonstrated how digital twin modelling enhances urban planning, energy efficiency, and green space management, reinforcing the case for public-private collaboration.
- One of the primary challenges encountered during implementation is integrating diverse systems, ranging from facility management to security operations.

**Geospatial Intelligence for Infrastructure and Mobility**

- Khairul Ariffin (AECA Solutions) presented AECA’s cutting-edge work, including 3D aerial mapping of Kuala Lumpur City Centre and Bandar Sunway, as well as mobile mapping of Selangor state roads for road assets, a baseline for parking maintenance using LiDAR, and visual-evidence data collection for tax collection to increase stakeholders’ revenue streams.
- Showcased AECA’s survey-grade data collection methods and AI-driven analytics, which reduce costs and improve the accuracy of infrastructure audits for local governments.

**Smart Infrastructure and Maintenance: Bridging Policy & Practice**

- Fariz Ghazali (Infrasel) highlighted the practical challenges faced by infrastructure concessionaires and how data-driven maintenance models can transform service delivery.
- Stressed the value of real-time monitoring technologies to ensure roads, utilities, and public assets meet both safety standards and sustainability goals



## Regional & International Perspective: Benchmarking Best Practices

- Maziana (Woolpert Malaysia) brought global geospatial insights, particularly from the projects they have been working on with the Singapore Land Authority, Land Transport Authority, and Building & Construction Authority, highlighting benchmarking opportunities where ASEAN cities can adapt proven models from other regions.
- Accurate and precise data are essential for supporting agencies in their maintenance and development activities.
- Highlighted the need for capacity building and upskilling within city governments to fully leverage digital twin and geospatial investments.
- Data sharing is important for reducing costs across agencies and generating long-term benefits for the broader community. This approach accelerates the adoption and optimization of technology.

## Introduction

Consensus on Digital Twins as Critical Tools – The panel agreed that digital twins are the next frontier for cities seeking to operationalise SDGs through data-driven planning and service delivery.

Geospatial as a Bridge Between Aspirations and Action – From climate action to smart mobility, geospatial intelligence enables cities to move from policy concepts to implementable strategies.  
Public

Private Partnerships are Essential – Collaboration with technology providers like AECA Solutions is vital for cost-effective, scalable solutions that governments cannot build alone. Capacity Building and

Knowledge Exchange – Cities must invest in training, standards, and peer learning to keep pace with technological advancements.

ASEAN Cities as Global Models – With the right adoption of geospatial and digital twin technologies, ASEAN cities can become global showcases of SDG-driven innovation.

## Conclusion & Call to Action

The session reaffirmed that geospatial technologies are catalysts for sustainable urban transformation. AECA Solutions, together with its strategic partners, stands ready to collaborate with ASEAN and global cities in deploying practical, scalable solutions tailored to local needs.

## SDG in Action – Day 3 Report

Participants at the third day of the SDG in Action Stage explored the intersections of digital innovation, biodiversity conservation, gender empowerment, inclusive design, and climate-proof regeneration. The sessions highlighted how technology, community engagement, and cross-sector partnerships can accelerate the localisation of the SDGs in ASEAN and beyond.

The morning programme brought together speakers from Sarawak, Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah, Kuala Lumpur, and the private sector, while the afternoon showcased global and local urban innovations on zero-waste technologies and safe, inclusive public spaces.

### From Connectivity to Prosperity: Unlocking Rural Opportunities Through E-Commerce, Entrepreneurship, and the Digital Economy by Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation, Malaysia

Amirul Rizwan of the Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation (SDEC) opened Day 3 with an account of Sarawak's ambitious push to bridge the rural-urban digital divide under the Sarawak Digital Economy Blueprint 2030. The state, with its vast geography and dispersed rural settlements, faces unique challenges in connectivity. Yet, through an aggressive rollout of over 600 multi-operator telecommunication towers and expansion of Fixed Wireless Access for underserved households, SDEC has begun transforming digital access into an engine for inclusive growth.

Beyond infrastructure, Amirul emphasised that connectivity must be matched with capacity building and digital entrepreneurship. SDEC has established digital hubs and innovation centres where communities receive training in STEM education, e-commerce, financial technology, and digital marketing. These hubs are designed not only to close skills gaps but also to catalyse youth-led innovation and encourage women entrepreneurs to enter the digital economy.

By 2025, more than 32,000 micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) had benefited from digitalisation programmes, ranging from onboarding to e-payment adoption and social media marketing. Amirul showcased examples of rural entrepreneurs using TikTok Shop, Shopee, and Lazada to access national and even international markets. Products once limited to local bazaars—such as Sarawak handicrafts, pepper, and food items—are now finding customers across Malaysia and beyond.

Participants reflected on the regional implications, noting how Sarawak's model could be replicated in other ASEAN contexts where connectivity gaps persist. Lessons included:

- Public-private partnerships for infrastructure financing;
- Community-based digital hubs to ensure uptake and inclusion; and
- E-commerce platforms as equalizers for rural producers.

The session concluded that digital infrastructure, when paired with entrepreneurship and innovation, can help rural communities leapfrog into the digital economy, turning geographic disadvantage into opportunity.



*Every tower we build is  
not just about coverage,  
it is about creating  
opportunity*

**Amirrul Rizwan**  
Sarawak Digital Economy  
Corporation (SDEC)



## Reviving Hope: Orangutan Conservation for Sustainable Futures in Peninsular Malaysia (Bukit Merah Orang Utan Island Foundation, BMOUIF)

Dr. Muhammad Fahmi Bin Ramli, Veterinary Surgeon with the Bukit Merah Orang Utan Island Foundation (BMOUIF), presented the Foundation's efforts to safeguard one of Malaysia's most threatened primates. He described the orangutan as a keystone species whose survival is intricately linked to the health of tropical ecosystems, noting that habitat loss, deforestation, and human-wildlife conflict remain critical threats in Peninsular Malaysia.

Dr. Fahmi outlined BMOUIF's integrated conservation model, which combines rescue and rehabilitation of displaced orangutans, habitat restoration, and long-term veterinary care with community-focused eco-tourism and education. He emphasised that the Foundation serves as both a research hub and living classroom, engaging visitors, students, and researchers in understanding the complex relationship between biodiversity and human development.

Importantly, Dr. Fahmi highlighted that orangutan conservation is not just about protecting wildlife, but also about safeguarding human well-being. Healthy forest ecosystems maintained in part by orangutans as "forest gardeners" dispersing seeds directly support climate resilience, water security, and air quality for surrounding communities.

***"Orangutans are forest ambassadors," he explained, "and their protection is inseparable from the sustainability of our own cities and societies."***

## Women Empowerment in Tawau (Pertubuhan Inspirasi Kasih Negeri Sabah, PINKS)

Fifi Rafiedah Ariff, Chairperson of Pertubuhan Inspirasi Kasih Negeri Sabah (PINKS), delivered an inspiring presentation on how women in Tawau are advancing the SDGs through grassroots leadership, entrepreneurship, and advocacy. She began by highlighting the structural challenges faced by women in Sabah's east coast, including low female labour force participation, high vulnerability to gender-based violence, limited access to financial services, and gaps in digital literacy.

Against this backdrop, PINKS was established to serve as a community-based platform for empowerment, focusing on three main pillars:

Economic empowerment – providing entrepreneurship training, digital marketplace skills, and start-up support for women-led businesses in areas such as food processing, crafts, and services.

Social advocacy – addressing gender-based violence, reproductive health awareness, and promoting women's rights in collaboration with local agencies and NGOs.

Youth and digital engagement – equipping young women with digital skills and creating mentorship programmes to prepare them for participation in Sabah's emerging digital economy.

Fifi highlighted the impact of partnerships under the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on the SDGs (APPGM-SDG), which has supported PINKS in piloting women-led community projects, from microfinance initiatives to climate resilience activities. These projects have not only uplifted household incomes but also strengthened women's leadership roles in local governance and SDG localisation.

## 7 Pearl Sanctuary (International Islamic University Malaysia, IIUM)

Final-year students Airil Hafiy Bin Khairul Faizi, Muhammad Amir Umar Asyraf Bin Abdul Khatab, Muhammad Iyad Fawwaz Bin Muhammad Rushdan, and Ahmad Dannish Haykal Bin Ahmad Junaidi from the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) presented their capstone project, the 7 Pearl Sanctuary, a bold and visionary proposal for inclusive and sustainable urban living.

The project was conceptualised as a living township that integrates residential, commercial, educational, and agro-tourism functions within a framework of universal accessibility and environmental sustainability. Designed through extensive research and engagement, the Sanctuary embodies the principle that cities should adapt to people not the other way around.

The students explained that their design was inspired by the concept of “pearls” as symbols of resilience and inclusivity where each “pearl” represented a unique but interconnected element of urban life. They emphasised that persons with disabilities (PwDs) are not an afterthought but a starting point in the design, turning traditional planning hierarchies upside down.

## TRX Urban Regeneration and Sustainability (TRX City Sdn Bhd, Malaysia)

Nor Shaharom Mansor, Director of Development at TRX City Sdn Bhd, presented the Tun Razak Exchange (TRX) as one of Malaysia’s most ambitious regeneration projects, transforming a 70-acre underutilised parcel in central Kuala Lumpur into the country’s International Financial District and a showcase of sustainable urban development.

Anchored by the 492-metre Exchange 106 tower, TRX is designed around transit-oriented development principles, ensuring seamless connectivity to MRT, LRT, and regional transport links. With 23% of the site dedicated to public green space, including Malaysia’s largest elevated city park, TRX balances high-density commercial activity with inclusive recreational areas that serve both workers and surrounding communities.

Shaharom explained that sustainability is embedded into the project at multiple levels. TRX has secured LEED and GBI green building certifications, integrates a district-wide stormwater management system, and features water recycling plants to reduce demand on municipal supply. Flood resilience is prioritised through upgraded drainage infrastructure, a critical measure given Kuala Lumpur’s exposure to flash floods.

Economically, TRX has attracted over RM8 billion in investment, drawn 90 global brands, and created an ecosystem of more than 20,000 knowledge workers. Shaharom positioned the development as more than just a real estate project, but a catalyst for Malaysia’s ESG-driven growth. Central to this vision is Kuala Lumpur’s first ESG Centre, hosted at TRX, which will convene investors, regulators, and innovators to mainstream environmental, social, and governance standards in finance and business.

**“TRX is not just about real estate, it is an ecosystem builder and an enabler of sustainable finance,”** Shaharom noted, framing the district as both a national economic engine and a regional model for climate-conscious regeneration.

Audience discussions explored the balance between large-scale investment and community benefits, with participants highlighting the importance of TRX’s public spaces, cultural programming, and sustainable mobility connections in ensuring the project serves as a true urban commons rather than an exclusive financial enclave.

## Zero-Waste-to-Landfill: Events in Action (JME Group, Malaysia)

The JME Group presented The Asher, a 100% Malaysian innovation designed to transform how cities and corporations manage solid waste. Unlike traditional incinerators, The Asher uses ultra-high temperature heat treatment in the absence of oxygen, a process that breaks down solid waste into just 2% inert ash within hours, requiring no external fuel and producing no harmful emissions. The ash itself can be repurposed as a soil conditioner or filler for construction, creating a closed-loop solution aligned with the circular economy.

The session underscored how this technology enables zero-waste-to-landfill events, offering a scalable and portable model for governments, corporations, and communities. It was showcased live at the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Forum, with KLCC deploying The Asher to manage event waste and divert 556kg of waste away from landfills over the course of the Forum.

Industry leaders joined the discussion, strongly criticising Malaysia's continued reliance on landfills, which remain the destination for 82.5% of the 38,437 metric tonnes of solid waste produced daily in 2021, according to the Malaysian Investment Development Authority.

- Jamie Loh, Director of waste management project GZW Return, stressed: **“Building more [landfills] is neither sustainable nor cost-effective.”**
- Pang Swee Lei, Executive Director of Pamarai Sdn Bhd, added that landfills, while “conveniently out of sight and out of mind,” are an unethical option to keep costs low. He highlighted their long-term risks: leachate contamination, methane emissions, and irreversible land degradation. Pang advocated for a treat-at-source model, in which waste is processed directly where it is generated rather than sent to centralised dumps.

Pang described The Asher as a “closed-loop waste elimination system” compact enough to fit on a pickleball court, capable of processing general waste quickly without combustion. He emphasised its potential to be a game-changer for both event management and urban waste systems across ASEAN.

Adding a venue perspective, Zulkifly Shariff, Sustainability Manager at KLCC, reported that the convention centre had sent no food waste to landfills since 2023 after shifting to a composting system, treating 73% of its waste at source in 2024. He announced a target to reach 100% treatment at source in 2025, reinforcing KLCC's ambition to lead by example in sustainable event management.

## Safe School Programme in Kuala Lumpur and How It Scaled Up (Global Designing Cities Initiative, GDCI)

Jashwanth Tej Kasala, Program Manager at the Global Designing Cities Initiative (GDCI), closed Day 3 with an engaging session on the Safe School Programme, a child-focused urban design initiative first piloted in Kuala Lumpur in partnership with Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL). Recognising that traffic danger is one of the greatest risks children face in cities, the programme reimagines the areas around schools with speed reduction measures, clearly marked pedestrian crossings, traffic-calming infrastructure, and child-friendly public spaces.

The pilot project demonstrated that simple interventions such as curb extensions, improved signage, wider walkways, and protected drop-off zones can significantly reduce accidents and improve accessibility. It also showed how designing from a child's perspective can reshape entire neighbourhoods for the better, making streets safer not only for students but also for parents, teachers, and surrounding communities.

The session emphasised that road safety is not a transport issue alone, it is a question of equity and sustainability. By protecting children, cities build resilience, support education outcomes, and foster inclusive growth. Jashwanth framed the programme within a broader equity agenda: **“Road safety is a cornerstone of urban equity. If a city is safe for children, it is safe for everyone.”**



*At KLCC, sustainability is not a side programme, it is our operating principle. If we can achieve zero food waste to landfills in the nation's busiest convention centre, it can be done anywhere*

**Mohd Zulkifly Mohd Shariff**  
Sustainability Manager  
Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre

## Conclusion and What's Next

The SDG in Action Stage at ASUF 2025 has shown that the SDGs are not abstract global commitments, but living practices embedded in the daily work of cities, communities, and people. Over three days, this stage amplified stories of resilience from Tokyo and Shenzhen, inclusive mobility from Kuala Lumpur, biodiversity conservation in Peninsular Malaysia, digital innovation from Sarawak, and youth-led resilience efforts across ASEAN.

What emerged clearly is that solutions are already here, in our neighbourhoods, schools, local governments, and community networks. The challenge ahead lies not in invention, but in scaling, financing, and embedding these practices into governance systems so that they reach every city and citizen.

This proceedings report serves three roles:

**Reference** – documenting innovations, practices, and lessons for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers.

**Peer Learning Tool** – enabling cities and communities across ASEAN to adapt and replicate models showcased on this stage.

**Input to ASUF 2025 Outcomes** – feeding into the wider Forum's shared knowledge base, including the Kuala Lumpur Resolution on Sustainable Urbanisation, to strengthen regional collaboration and implementation pathways.

Looking forward, the SDG in Action Stage will continue to evolve as an open laboratory of ideas, ensuring that the momentum built in Kuala Lumpur is carried forward into ASEAN's future forums and dialogues. By placing youth, women, communities, and city leaders on equal footing, the stage has demonstrated a new model of urban diplomacy. One rooted in co-creation, accountability, and shared ownership of the SDGs.

As TPr Ts Norliza Hashim reminded us, ***"No city, no community, and no citizen should be left behind."*** This remains the guiding principle of the SDG in Action Stage and the collective work of ASEAN towards a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future.



*The SDG in Action Stage may not be the loudest, but it is authentic, and that is what makes it impactful.*

**Mohd Syafiq Subri**

Malaysia SDG Cities Lead  
Senior Executive Town Planner







# 16

## CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS



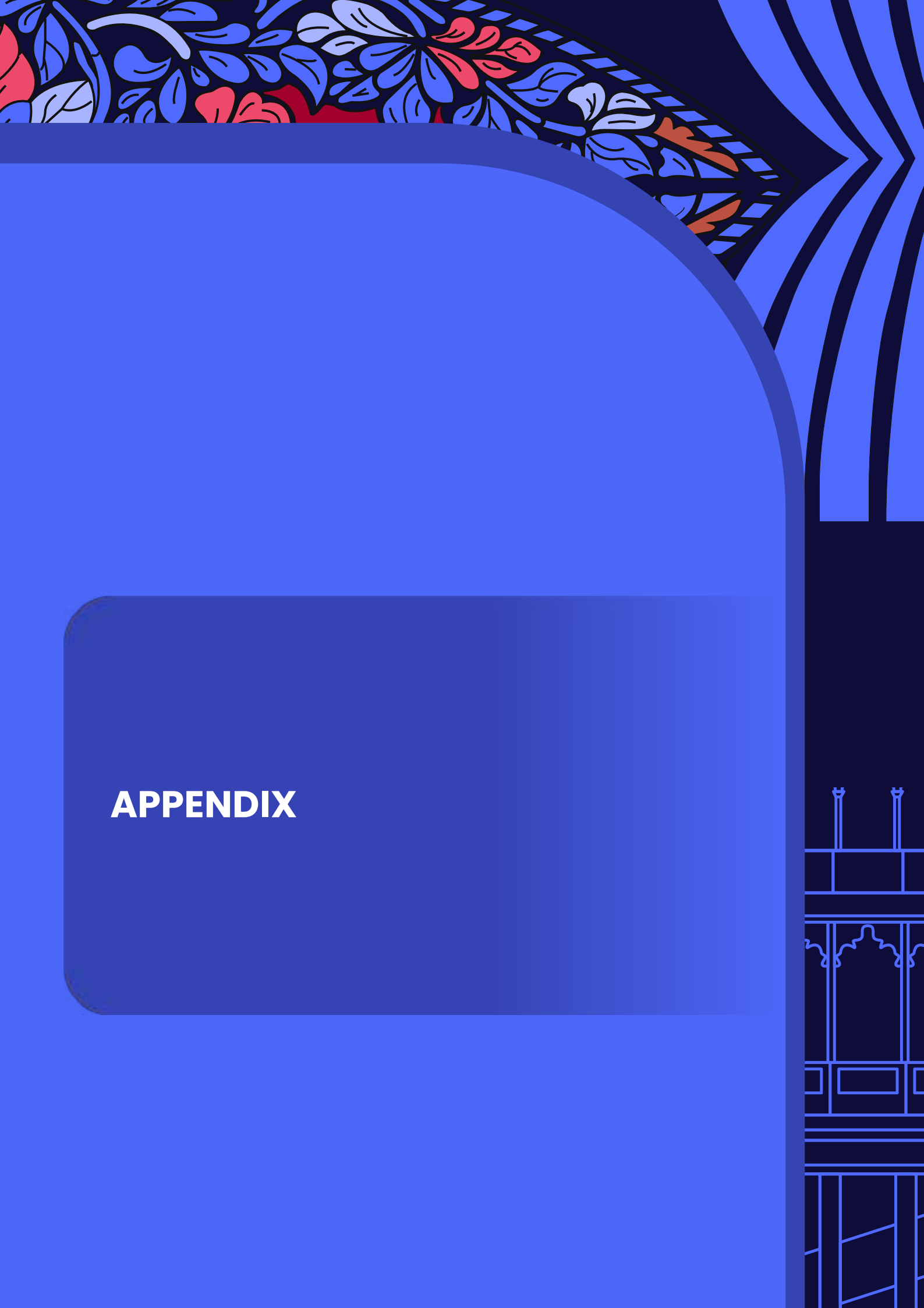


## 16

### CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

The ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Forum 2025 was a watershed moment that successfully positioned cities as the primary implementers of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. The convergence of the ASUF, AGMF, and MGMAC was a strategic act of urban diplomacy that created a unified voice for local governments, a crucial step in bridging the historical gap between regional aspirations and local realities. The forum's outcomes, most notably the Kuala Lumpur Sustainable Declaration, are set to be formally submitted to the 47th ASEAN Leaders' Summit as a clear roadmap for urban-led regional development.

This is not merely a symbolic gesture but a critical next step in institutionalizing the role of cities in ASEAN's future. The establishment of a permanent MGMAC secretariat in Jakarta, the creation of the ASEAN Smart and Sustainable Centre, and the appointment of a Special Envoy for Cities are all mechanisms designed to ensure that the momentum from this forum is translated into sustained, long-term action. By traveling together with its cities and its people, ASEAN has laid the institutional groundwork to ensure its journey toward 2045 is not only ambitious but also inclusive, resilient, and, most importantly, achievable.



**APPENDIX**

# APPENDIX 1.

## KEY ORGANISERS



### ORGANISERS



**URBANICE**  
MALAYSIA

### CO-ORGANISERS



### HOST CITY



### KEY SPONSORS

Platinum



Main



Silver



## APPENDIX 1.

# PROGRAM PARTNERS & PROVIDERS

### Supporting Partners



### Official Accomodation Platform



### Official OTA



### Official Airline Partner



### Official Urban Mobility



### Official Airport Transfer & Ride Hailing



### Official 5G Provider



### Official Landscape



### Stakeholder Assembly Venue Partner



### Official Brew Partner



### Official Digital Outreach Partner



## APPENDIX 1.

# HOTEL PARTNERS

Enjoy exclusive rates and special deals from our hotel partners in conjunction with ASUF, AGMF & MGMAC 2025.



## APPENDIX 2.

### Guest of Honour

- **THE HONOURABLE DATO' SRI HAJI FADILLAH BIN HAJI YUSOF**, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia.
- **THE HONOURABLE MR. NGA KOR MING**, Minister of Housing and Local Government of Malaysia.
- **THE HONOURABLE DATUK SERI DR. ZALIHA BT MUSTAFA**, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories).
- **THE HONOURABLE DATUK HAJAH AIMAN ATHIRAH BINTI SABU**, Deputy Minister of Housing and Local Government Malaysia.
- **H.E DR. BIMA ARYA**, Vice Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.
- **H.E. NARARYA SANGGRAMAWIJAYA SOEPRAPTO**, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Community and Corporate Affairs.
- **THE HONOURABLE DATUK AMAR PROF. DR. SIM KUI HIAN**, Deputy Premier of Sarawak, Malaysia.
- **THE HONOURABLE MR. ADAM ADLI BIN ABDUL HALIM**, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports.
- **YM TENGKU DATO' AIMAN PUTRA BIN TENGKU DATO' SRI KAMAL BAHRIN**, CEO & Director of Enggang Holdings S/B and District Councillor of Cameron Highlands District Council.
- **H.E DATUK WIRA M NOOR AZMAN BIN TAIB**, Secretary General Ministry of Housing & Local Government Malaysia.
- **HER EXCELLENCY DATO' SERI TPR (DR.) MAIMUNAH BINTI MOHD SHARIF**, Mayor of Kuala Lumpur.
- **H.E DR. BERNADIA IRAWATI TJANDRADEWI**, Secretary-General UCLG ASPAC.
- **H.E VIJAVAT ISARABHAKDI**, Former Vice Minister Foreign Affairs of Thailand and Eminent Person of Thailand in the HLTF-ACV.
- **H.E KAZUKO ISHIGAKI**, Regional Director, Asia and the Pacific, UN HABITAT.
- **H.E GINO VAN BEGIN**, ICLEI Secretary General.
- **H.E TAN SRI DR. JEMILAH MAHMOOD**, Executive Director of Sunway Planetary Health Centre.
- **H.E DATUK IR. MEGAT JALALUDDIN MEGAT HASSAN**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB).
- **DATO' MOHAMAD HARIS KADER SULTAN**, Chief Executive Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA).

### List of Head of Delegates ASEAN Capitals

- **H.E PRAMONO ANUNG**, Governor of Jakarta, Indonesia.
- **H.E SENG VANNAK**, Vice Governor of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- **H.E ATHSAPHANGTHONG SIPHANDONE**, Governor of Vientiane, Lao PDR.
- **H.E. AUNG KYAW MOE**, Ambassador of Myanmar to Malaysia.
- **H.E ANGELA LEI ATIENZA VALDEPENAS**, Vice Mayor of Manila City, Philippines.
- **MR. BAEY YAM KENG**, Minister of State, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. Mayor, North East District Singapore.
- **MS. LOW YEN LING**, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry & Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth & Chairperson of Mayors' Committee Mayor, South West District Singapore.
- **MR. PORNPROM VISIKITSRETH**, Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) of Bangkok and Adviser to the Governor (Environmental Affairs), Thailand.
- **H.E LE HONG SON**, Standing Vice Chairman of the Hanoi People's Committee, Viet Nam.
- **MR. GODINHO DOMINGOS**, Director of Dili Municipality Authority of Water Sanitation and Environment, Timor-Leste.
- **H.E AWANG HAJI MOHAMMAD SOFIAN BIN HAJI BASRI**, Acting District Officer, Tutong District, Brunei Darussalam.

## APPENDIX 3.

### LIST OF SPEAKERS

<b>Mr. Bingxun Seng</b>	Partner, Ernst & Young
<b>Ms. Kazuko Ishigai</b>	Regional Director, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific UN-Habitat
<b>Ms Lara Franzen</b>	Counsellor (Development) of the Australian Mission to ASEAN
<b>Mr. Lim Chze Cheen</b>	Director/Head of ASEAN Connectivity Division, ASEAN Secretariat
<b>Tuan Hazli TKSU(M)</b>	
<b>Datuk Seri TPr. Maimunah Mohd Sharif</b>	Mayor of Kuala Lumpur
<b>Mr. Dakila Carlo E. Cua,</b>	President of UCLG ASPAC/ President of the Union Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)/ Governor of Quirino Province, the Philippines
<b>Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi</b>	Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC
<b>Mr. Jose Enrique "Joen" Miraflores</b>	Governor of Aklan Province, the Philippines
<b>Dr. Bima Arya</b>	Vice Minister of the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic Indonesia
<b>H.E. Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi</b>	Former Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, The Eminent Person of Thailand for High-Level Task Force-ASEAN Community Vision (HLTV-ACV)
<b>Mr. Pramono Anung</b>	Governor of Special Region of Jakarta, Indonesia
<b>Ms. Low Yen Ling</b>	Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry & Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Singapore
<b>Mr. Lim Chze Cheen</b>	Director/Head of ASEAN Connectivity Division, ASEAN Secretaria
<b>Dr. Christina Yeo Ken Yin</b>	Ministry of Tourism Art and culture
<b>Mr. Abhineet Kaul</b>	Partner, Strategy and Transactions, Access Partnership
<b>Mr. Juanito Victor C. Remulla</b>	Secretary, Department of the Interior and Local Government of the Philippines
<b>Assist. Dr. Supakorn Siddhichai</b>	Executive Vice President of Digital Economy Promotion Agency, Thailand
<b>Dato' Haji Hilmy bin Haji Othman</b>	Dewan Banadaraya Kuala Lumpur
<b>Dr Peili Pey</b>	Research Fellow leading the Planetary Health programme at the Centre of Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre), S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore
<b>Prof. Dr. Jemilah Mahmood</b>	Executive Director, Sunway Centre for Planetary Health, Sunway University, Malaysia
<b>Pak Indra Lim</b>	Kalimantan Director, Alam Sehat Lestari
<b>Dr. Jason Kai Wai Lee,</b>	Director of Heat Resilience and Performance Centre, National University of Singapore
<b>Ms. Xiaoting Hou-Jones</b>	Government and Policy Lead, OR Ms. Leonora Grcheva, Cities and Regions Lead, Doughnut Economics Action Lab
<b>Philip Yang</b>	COP30 special envoy for cities and founder of Urbem

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<b>Dr Neil Khor</b>	Advisor to the Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Advisor to the President of the United Nations Habitat Assembly
<b>Datin Suliana Shamsuddin Alias</b>	Chairperson of YOKUK Foundation
<b>Mr. Gino Van Begin</b>	ICLEI Secretary General
<b>Alexander Nash</b>	
<b>YBrs. Tuan Mohd Fuad Ahmad</b>	Group Chief Corporate Development Officer Group CEO Office Bank Pembangunan Malaysia Berhad
<b>YBrs. Puan Suraya Sani</b>	Deputy Director, Sustainability Unit, Bank Negara Malaysia
<b>YM Tengku Dato' Aiman Putra Bin Tengku Dato' Sri Kamal Bharin</b>	Yayasan Enggang Holdings
<b>YB Datuk Amar Prof. Dr. Sim Kui Hian</b>	Deputy Premier of Sarawak, Malaysia
<b>Professor Bambang Susantono</b>	ADB Vice President 2015–2022; Head of Nusantara Capital Authority (IKN) 2022–2024; Special Advisor to UCLG
<b>Dato' Mohamad Haris Kader Sultan</b>	Chief Executive Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA)
<b>Marulina Dewi</b>	
<b>Mr. Baey Yam Keng</b>	Minister of State for Transport, and Culture, Community and Youth
<b>Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi</b>	Secretary General the United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC)/ ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum (AGMF) Secretariat
<b>Omna Sreeni-Ong</b>	Engender Consultancy
<b>YBhg. Datin Dr (h.c) Hajah Hartini Osman</b>	Chairperson of the Women Economic Forum ASEAN 2025
<b>Tuan Jaziri Alkaf Abdillah Suffian</b>	Former Senator, Parliament of Malaysia
<b>TPr Ts Norliza Hashim</b>	CEO Urbanice Malaysia
<b>Puan Norazlina Binti Yusof</b>	Deputy Director, Section of Local Council Selangor Economic Planning Unit
<b>Ms. FUJITA Megumi</b>	Director for Planning and Coordination, Planning and Coordination Division, Tokyo Metropolitan Government
<b>Dyan Currie</b>	Principal Dyan Currie & Associates City Advisors
<b>Mr. Baey Yam Keng</b>	
<b>YBrs. Puan Julaihah Jamaludin</b>	YDP Majlis Perbandaran Hulu Selangor
<b>Ms. Fatma Şahin</b>	Mayor of Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality
<b>YBhg. Dato' Ir. Ts. Dr. Mohd Azhar Bin Abd Hamid</b>	Director General, National Solid Waste Management Department (JPSPN), KPKT



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<b>Datin Paduka Noraini Roslan</b>	Former Mayor Klang
<b>Dato' Sr Haji Azmar Talib</b>	Chief Executive Officer of Tun Razak Exchange
<b>Dyan Currie</b>	Principal Dyan Currie & Associates City Advisors
<b>Aiman Nazri</b>	Selangor Youth Community
<b>Beatrice Ch'ng</b>	Senior Manager, Sustainability and Climate Change Policy, PwC Malaysia.
<b>Dr Sabariah Ani</b>	UTM Property Evaluation (Urban regeneration SME)
<b>Mr Dail Umamil Asri</b>	Director of Connectivity and Logistic Infrastructure, Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS), Indonesia
<b>Mrs. Angela Mwai</b>	Chief of the Human Rights and Social Inclusion, UN-Habitat Global Headquarters
<b>Dr. Kalpana Viswanath</b>	Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Safetipin
<b>TPr. Aniza Osman</b>	Deputy Secretary of Development, Shah Alam, Malaysia
<b>Mr. Charinthon Patnantavech</b>	Deputy Mayor, Hatyai, Thailand
<b>Mr. Gonggomtua Sitanggang</b>	Southeast Asia Director, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy
<b>Ms. Sri Husnaini Sofjan</b>	Senior Program Administrator & Strategist, the Huairou Commission
<b>H.E. Sor Vorin</b>	Under Secretary of State, the Ministry of Interior in Cambodia
<b>Ms. Sanjeevani Dilanthi Singh</b>	Economic Affairs Officer, UN ESCAP
<b>Mr. Pradya Komanee</b>	Manager of DEPA Upper-Northern Office, Chiang Mai, Thailand
<b>Ms. Evi Syarifudin</b>	Module Coordinator, Future Cities Lab, Singapore-ETH Centre
<b>Dr. Tu Anh Trinh</b>	Director Institute of Smart City and Management, College of Technology and Design, University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
<b>Mr. Chang Ho Lee</b>	Vice President, ESE, Korea
<b>H.E. Linne Yun</b>	Deputy Governor of Siem Reap Province, Cambodia
<b>Mr. Hairol Samad</b>	General Manager - Smart Solution Division, Telekom Malaysia
<b>Dr. Rita Padawangi</b>	Associate Professor at Singapore University of Social Sciences
<b>Dr. Sunil Dubey</b>	City Strategy & Ed Lead, UNSW Cities Institute, Sydney
<b>Madam Sanisah Binti Shafie</b>	Director of Regional Planning Division, PLANMalaysia
<b>Mr. Sebastian Markart</b>	Project Director, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
<b>Mr. Tony Chan</b>	Planning Leader Southeast Asia, Arup
<b>Mr. Cung Trong Cuong</b>	Director, Hue Institute of Development Studies
<b>Dr. Bountha Onnavong</b>	Director General, Department of Housing and Urban Planning, Ministry of Public Works and Transport of Lao PDR
<b>Mrs. Anita Ahmad</b>	Chief Executive Officer, Yayasan MySDG
<b>Ms. Wan Ling Koh</b>	Senior Manager, Access Partnership
<b>Mr. Markarius Anwar</b>	Vice-Mayor, Pekanbaru (Indonesia)
<b>YBhg. Dato' Haji Abd. Hamid Bin Hussain</b>	Mayor of Royal Klang City Council

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<b>Mr. Dominador Lagare</b>	City Councillor, General Santos City (Philippines)
<b>Mr. Nguyen Van Giang</b>	Deputy Head of the Urban Development Strategy and Planning Division at the Urban Development Agency – Ministry of Construction in Vietnam
<b>Mrs. Jazlyn Lee</b>	Regional Engagement Lead, Global Covenant of Mayors (GCOM)
<b>Mr. Kelvin Vergara Tagnipez</b>	Global Cities Engagement Lead, International Finance Corporation – APEX Green Cities
<b>Ts Dr Mohd Muzzammil Ismail</b>	Deputy Director / Head of Sustainable Development Technologies, MIGHT
<b>Dr. Afifuddin Husairi Mat Jusoh@Hussain</b>	Deputy Dean (Teaching and Learning), School of Liberal Studies (CITRA-UKM) – Expert of Energy Sector
<b>Tania Pei Yee Lim</b>	Associate Economic Affairs Officer at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)
<b>Pn Nazarina Bt Mohd Nasir</b>	Chief Customer Officer (SME & Residential), TNB
<b>Mr. Lionel Yap</b>	Secretary of MPSEA, and also the International Relations and ASEAN Market Expansion Portfolio Lead
<b>Non Arkaraprasertkul</b>	Senior Expert in Smart City Promotion, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (Digital Economy Promotion Agency) Thailand
<b>Souksavanh Hanephom</b>	Smart City Expert, Ministry of Public Works and Transport (Department of Housing Souksavanh HANEPHOM and Urban Planning), Laos
<b>Mr. Philip Yang</b>	Special Envoy COP30 for cities & founder of the URBEM Institute
<b>Dr. Kevin Austin</b>	Deputy Executive Director, C40 Cities
<b>Ms. Precious Benjamin</b>	Sustainable Cities Lead Clean Air Asia
<b>Atty. Glynda Bathan-Baterina</b>	Deputy Executive Director, Clean Air Asia
<b>Mr. Pornphrom Vikitsreth</b>	Chief Sustainability of Bangkok and the Advisor to the Governor of Bangkok
<b>Muhammad Ridzwan bin Ali</b>	Senior Assistant Secretary (Climate Change Policy and Negotiation) at Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability, NRES Malaysia
<b>Ms. Atika Nur Rahmania</b>	Head of Regional Development Planning Agency Jakarta Capital City Government
<b>Mr. Norio Saito</b>	Senior Director, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, Asian Development Bank
<b>Mr. Asfaazam Kasbani</b>	Director National SDG Centre
<b>Srinivasa Popuri</b>	Chief, ROAP Bangkok Multicountry Office UN Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
<b>TPr. Puan Annie Syazrin Binti Ismail</b>	Subang Jaya / Anne Shazrin ahli majlis Klang
<b>Lavanya Rama Iyer</b>	Director, Policy and Climate Change, WWF Malaysia
<b>Dr Afiq Redzuan</b>	Director of Government Relations and Partnership Malaysia HR Forum

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<b>YBrS Tuan TPr. Saifuddin bin Abdul Karim</b>	Majlis Perbandaran Alor Gajah
<b>Mr. Curt Gariggan</b>	Chief, UNESCAP, Sustainable Urban Development Section
<b>YBrS Prof Madya Dr Zeeda Fatimah Mohamad</b>	Director, Universiti Malaya Sustainable Development Centre (UMSDC),
<b>Alwis Rustam</b>	Executive Director of Apeksi, Indonesia
<b>YBrS. Dr. Khamarrul Azahari Razak</b>	Director, the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Center (DPPC) UTM
<b>YBrS. Dr. Gary William Theseira</b>	Chair of the Council, Climate Governance Malaysia
<b>Mr. Emani Kumar</b>	ICLEI's Deputy Secretary General and Executive Director, ICLEI – South Asia
<b>YBrS. Encik Hafiz Amirrol</b>	Deputy Executive Director, MERCY
<b>Mr. Sar Kackada</b>	Mayor of Sihanoukville City, Cambodia
<b>YBrS. Dr Mohd Khairul Idlan Bin Muhammad</b>	Associate fellow, Centre for River and Coastal Engineering (CRCE) UTM
<b>Ms. Lee Huey Yi</b>	Regional Engagement Lead, Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation
<b>YBrS. Dr Kalithasan Kailasam</b>	Manager, River Care Programme
<b>YBhg. Dato' Nor Azmie Diron</b>	Secretary-General, Ministry of Economy
<b>Ms. Kimberly Roseberry</b>	Economic Affairs Officer, Energy Division, ESCAP
<b>YBhg. Dato' Ir. Ts. Abdul Razib Dawood</b>	Executive Director, ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE)
<b>YBrS. Dr. Afiza Idris</b>	Director, Energy Division Ministry of Economy
<b>YBhg. Dato' TPr. Fadlun Mak Ujud</b>	President, Putrajaya Corporation
<b>YBhg. Datuk Ir. Megat Jalaluddin Megat Hassan</b>	Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB)
<b>Mr. Michael E. Williamson</b>	Chief, Sustainable Energy, Development and Utilization Section, Energy Division, ESCAP
<b>Ms. Sri Sofjan</b>	
<b>Ms. Duanguetai Surasakjinda</b>	Deputy Director, Centre for IMT-GT Subregional (CIMT)
<b>Assoc Prof Dr Peter Aning Tedong</b>	Associate Professor, Faculty of Built Environment, Universiti Malaya
<b>Ir. Prof. Dr. Jeffrey Chiang Choong Luin</b>	President, The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia
<b>Tan Sri Prof Dr Noorul Ainur Mohd Nur</b>	Board of Governors Chairman University College of Yayasan Pahang (UCYP)
<b>Bibi Zaleha Zurkiple</b>	Executive Secretary Committee for ASEAN Youth Cooperation (CAYC)
<b>Datin Noraida Saludin</b>	Immediate Past President Malaysian Institute of Planners
<b>Mr. Tony Chan</b>	Planning & Design Leader South-East Asia, ARUP
<b>Danial Rahman</b>	CEO, Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI)
<b>YBhg. Prof. Dr. Norzailawati Bt. Hj. Mohd. Noor</b>	Professor at IIUM

## APPENDIX 4.

# SECRETARIAT

## Urbanice Malaysia

- **Dato' Dr Dolbani Mijan**, Board of Director
- **Datin Paduka Dr. Dahlia Rosly**, Board of Director
- **TPr. Ts. Norliza Binti Hashim**, Chief Executive
- **Dr. Azmizam Bin Abd. Rashid**, Deputy Chief Executive
- **Dr. Mohd. Rizal Bin Osman**, Chief Operating Officer
- **TPr Hj. Che Rasid bin Che Seman**, Director of Special Project
- **Mohamed Johan Sammy Bin Abdullah**, Partnership & Business Development Lead
- **Fatimahton Binti Hasan**, Senior Executive, Administration and Integrity
- **Mohd Syafiq Bin Subri**, Senior Executive, Malaysia SDG Cities Lead
- **Syed Iskandar Syed Mustafa Kamal**, SDG Centre, Senior Executive / Lead
- **Mardiana Binti Mohd Salleh**, Senior Executive Town Planner
- **Lotfi Bin Omar**, Executive Accounts & Finance
- **Muhammad Asri Bin Mohd Hardi**, Executive Urban Innovation
- **Noreen Nattassa Binti Ahmad Jaafar**, Senior Executive
- **Dr. Nor Amaleena Binti Mazlan**, Senior Executive
- **Nur Cempaka Edlin Binti Rosli**, Executive Environmental Management
- **Abdul Rauf Bin Mohd Hadzri**, Executive Environmental Planning
- **Muhammad Khilal**, Executive Town Planner
- **Foo Wen Fang**, Executive
- **Atiqah Azri**, Executive Graphic Designer
- **Nur Nuha Binti Ismail**, Executive Sustainability and Urban Planning
- **Aidahtun Syafiqah Ahmad Jefry**, Executive
- **Lee Kai Xuan**, Executive
- **Norhaslina binti Fauzi**, Executive
- **Omar Danel Bin Muhdari**, Executive
- **Muhammad Azhari Mazlan**, Executive
- **Ahmad Afif Bin Mazlan**, Executive
- **Siti Aishah Binti Mohd Ma'mon**, Executive
- **Siti Marina Binti Ahmad Tobias**, Executive
- **Dr Yap**, Intern Universiti Malaya
- **Dr. Felicia Yan Lin Lee**, Intern Universiti Malaya
- **Dennis Tang Cang Li**, Intern Universiti Malaya
- **Jamalin Zafirah Binti Jamaludin**, Intern Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia
- **Muhammad Nur Afiq Bin Mohd Nordin**, Intern Universiti Putera Malaysia
- **Muhammad Haiqal Haniff Bin Mohd Asri**, Intern Universiti Putera Malaysia
- **Neerut A/L Eh Win**, Intern Universiti Putera Malaysia
- **Muhammad Ikbar Azwa Bin Johari**, Intern Universiti Putera Malaysia
- **Nuraina Dayini Binti Haris Ferdaus**, Intern Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia



ASEAN Future Cities and Regions:  
Inclusivity and Sustainability

10-15 August 2025  
Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC)  
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

## Daily Journal

**11 August 2025 – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysian Tourism Center (MaTiC)**

On Monday, four stakeholder assemblies (Youth, Women, Business and Professional) were held a day before the official commencement of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanization Forum 2025 under the auspices of Malaysia's chairmanship of ASEAN. It is the first time a regional event of this scale has been organized under the theme of sustainable urbanization, with the working title "ASEAN Future Cities and Regions: Inclusivity and Sustainability".



*Opening of the stakeholder assembly*

At the opening main plenary, **TPr. Ts. Norliza Hashim, CEO of URBANICE Malaysia**, welcomed the converging of local and regional perspectives, encouraging participants to showcase scalable innovations in the context of ground up localization, community resilience, inclusion, partnerships, and advancing clear pathways for action. She alluded to the establishment of regional networks and communities of practice to carry the momentum of this assembly through the forum and beyond.

**The Hon. Datuk Hajah Aiman Athirah Sabu, Deputy Minister of Housing and Local Government**, emphasized that sustainable urbanization is collective journey and not a solitary path undertaken by the government alone, all stakeholders from the assembly's constituencies including grassroots leaders are essential. Sustainability cannot be engineered in isolation; it must be co-created with empathy, collaboration, and a shared vision.

**H.E. Dr. Bernadia Tjandradewi, Secretary General of the United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC)**, then highlighted the opportunity for the Assembly's delegations in this forum to contribute towards the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, which was adopted at the ASEAN Summit earlier in May. She noted that the future of our cities will be shaped by all of us, regardless of race, faith, or economic status.

**The Hon. Adam Adli, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports**, emphasized that sustainable communities and cities are interconnected, reminding that youth are not only beneficiaries of urban policy, they play an important role in building the cities they want, as innovators, entrepreneurs, digital adopters and grassroots leaders. He called on youths to engage in impactful projects and participate in as active partners in youth-led initiatives for livable neighborhoods across ASEAN.



**TPr. Ts. Norliza Hashim, CEO of URBANICE Malaysia**

**Dato' Hamdan Majeed, Managing Director, Thinkcity**, highlighted the importance of sustainable tourism to drive economic development, with cobenefits including public improvement, heritage protection, increasing liveability, MSME opportunities, economic spending on smaller cities and towns, leaving no place behind.

### BUSINESS ASSEMBLY

**Mr. Edison Choong Wan Sern, Deputy Director of Strategic Planning, MATRADE and Co-founder and Chair ImpakHUB and Ms. Alexandra Nastassia, General Manager (East Malaysia) Borong (formerly known as Dropee)** provided co-moderated welcoming remarks.

**Mr. Joe Sidek, Managing Director and Founder of Joe Sidek Production and the Georgetown Festival**, called for partners to support the creative economy, calling on an ASEAN collective, People-to-People platform, "Serumpit ASEAN" (People Connected), and encouraged support for the ThinkCity and DBKL year-end festival, Kreatif KL.

**Panel members discussed** examples from ASEAN neighbouring countries, shared case studies such as the Kampung GLAM revitalization project in Singapore, a collaborative multisectoral effort between the Singapore Tourism Board and the Urban Redevelopment Authority.

Delegates discussed issues affecting First-Tier City, Second-Tier City, Small Town, and Rural Areas, including engagement strategies, pilot projects, project evaluation with scorecards and regional networks. Two champions for sustainable tourism emerged: MATTA, which actively promotes tourism in the rural northern region, and KLCC BEA, which coordinates the KL Festival and other events within the KLCC precinct to enhance the city's cultural and tourism appeal.



From right: **The Honourable Adam Adli, The Honourable Datuk Hajah Aiman Athirah Sabu, H.E. Dr. Bernadia Tjandradewi.**

The *Daily Journal* is a publication of the **ASEAN Sustainable Urban Forum 2025 Secretariat**. This issue was written and edited by Lead Rapporteur Dr. Mohd Hafiyyan, Overall Lead Rapporteur, Ms. Tania Lim, and Rapporteurs Ms. Ilyana Tasnim Mohd Hanafiah, Ms. Nur Fatin Athirah Mohd Fareh, Ms. Pinon Suzana Mathela Ninzga, Ms. Nurul Nabila Shohimi, Ms. Maizatun Munirah Abdul Rahman, Mr. Muhammad Momin Khan Babar, and Dr. Sunil Dubey.

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## PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY

The professional assembly was welcomed and moderated by **Datin TPr. Noraida Saludin, past President, Malaysian Institute of Planners**. The speakers emphasized the importance of collaboration and connectivity to address urban challenges. The keynote address was provided by **Dr. Emil Eliastianto Dardak, Vice Governor of East Java**, who stressed that ASEAN's urban planning must adapt to new paradigms by integrating diverse stakeholders, including architects, engineers, and economists.

In the first panel discussion, panellists highlighted:

- Examples of successful projects such as the Bona Fide Global City redevelopment and the Singapore Marina Barrage as models of collaboration between different professions,
- Invited regional collaboration on cooling coalition programmes and application of cross-sectoral tools like the UN Resource Management System in resource planning.
- Highlighted the need to strengthen international and regional linkages to enhance Australia's engagement on urbanization issues.
- Stressed the value of cross-disciplinary collaboration, shared data platforms, and robust public-private partnerships to drive sustainable urban development.

### Second Panel Discussion

This discussion was titled "Innovations and Tools to Support Professional Collaborations", provided a space for speakers to provide inventions on:

- The need to establish a sustainable organizational structure at the national level, involving multi-sectoral participation,
- The importance of ASEAN cities maintaining their cultural identity in urban development rather than creating homogeneous architecture. He also urged for strengthening the significant role of politicians as decision-makers.
- Key insights on interdisciplinary education approaches. He also highlighted the introduction of evidence-based, often technology-enabled, methods.

## WOMEN ASSEMBLY

The **Hon. Senator Jaziri Alkaf Abdillah Suffian** moderated the assembly, which was opened by **Dr. Azmizam, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of URBANICE Malaysia**, who called for the centrality of women's leadership, lived experience and innovation embedded as social returns on investments and inclusive financing. In her keynote, **Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, Executive Director and Pro-Chancellor of Sunway University**, called for a shift from margins to mandates, urging ASEAN governments to embed women's leadership in climate governance, emphasize diverse identities, rural women, indigenous communities, youth and informal workers, policy innovation to include grassroots wisdom, she called for more training for women and girls, for an ASEAN-wide platform for women's climate advocacy and innovation, to "amplify women's voices, not as a gesture of inclusion but as a strategy for survival".

### Panellists further:

- Emphasized the importance of building social networks for knowledge sharing and inclusivity in decision-making.
- Raised an insight on decision-making has truly progressed from discussion to actual policy-making, citing under-the-radar decisions contrary to women's interest.
- Emphasized the hidden roles of women in the home - despite not being in the public eye, many retain traditional knowledge on keeping their homes cool.
- Called for greater recognition of women's abilities as natural solution providers and problem solvers.

### Breakout session

The Womens' Assembly proposed a women-centered response to climate resilience - calling on governments, civil society, the private sector, to join the effort.

They also called for formalizing and empowering women in leadership, and decision-making at the highest levels of climate planning and policy-making - emphasising greater allocation of resources, like mandating a portion of climate and humanitarian budgets specifically for women and gender-balanced leadership programs.

## YOUTH ASSEMBLY

**Moderator Mr. Eow Shiang Yen** opened the youth assembly session on The ASEAN Youth Lens, Youth Responsibility Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Cities. **Ms. Abe Lim, Founder & Managing Director, Responsible Project Venture** urged Governments, city planners, and communities to actively involve youth in urban development processes by investing in youth-led initiatives, integrating sustainability into education, and creating platforms where young voices influence city policies — because building sustainable cities starts with empowering the next generation.



Youth Assembly delegation breakout sessions and discussions

### Panellists:

- Stressed that Educators, communities, and policymakers must equip youth with the tools and support to lead eco-conscious lives. Promote sustainability in schools, support youth-led green initiatives, and make sustainable options more accessible and affordable — because empowering youth means protecting our planet's future.
- Conducted a training session, calling on policymakers, educators, NGOs, and urban developers to accelerate implementing the Urban Youth Theory of Change. He emphasized the need for consistent support, capacity-building, and funding for youth initiatives, that youth are not only present, but heard, trusted, and equipped to lead transformative change.
- Called for innovation among youth and stakeholders - providing safe spaces, resources, and support for piloting new ideas, highlighting the need for learning cycles and feedback loops to refine solutions, where real impact comes from trying, failing, learning, and improving.

### Break-out Session

The youth assembly explored four interconnected themes: climate action and resilience; inclusive health and safe communities; digital innovation and future scripts; governance and partnerships, emphasizing capacity building, systems thinking, and community trust, noting the importance of using digital tools, like GIS and participatory platforms, to strengthen gender-sensitive data collection and community engagement, while recognizing the value of both technology and in-person interaction. Further, youth inclusion in governance must be structured, visible, and valued.



Business Assembly discussions



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KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

## Daily Journal

### 12 August 2025 – Kuala Lumpur Convention Center

On Tuesday, Malaysia launched the grand opening of the joint 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Sustainable Urbanization Forum, 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum, and the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals. The event began with a 4 high level dialogues attended by ministerial and mayoral delegations, 4 city level events organized by the Kuala Lumpur City Hall, 4 special sessions and 4 roundtables, organized with a host of partners such as United Cities and Local Governments, C40 Cities and UN-Habitat.

### ROUNDTABLES

#### Session 1

The first roundtable session of the day was moderated by **Dr. Azmizam Abdul Rashid, Deputy CEO, URBANICE Malaysia**. The session, titled “*From Blueprint to Impact: Driving SDG Localization through NUA Implementation in ASEAN Cities*” included panellists from UN-Habitat, SDG Center of the Ministry of Economy, Malaysia, the Alor Gajah Municipal Council, UN ESCAP, University Malaya and the Association of Indonesian Municipalities.

The session highlighted:

- While it is important to build alignment between New Urban Agenda (NUA) progress reporting as there is a lack of integration between national and local scales.
- There are still significant data gaps - nationally, up to 81% of SDG data is available, but at the district and state level this is down to just 31%. There are many initiatives undertaken at local level that is not adequately represented at national level statistical reporting.
- Countries like Malaysia with strong data and political will can support other peers in ASEAN with capacity development to implement the NUA through the SDGs. As chair of ASEAN, there are strategic actions that can be undertaken by bringing local champions, mayors and governors a stage nationally.
- Good examples were shared by Shah Alam and Alor Gajah municipalities as the first few to undertake SDG voluntary local reporting (VLRs)
- Examples such as the mySDG trust fund was set up to further SDG implementation within unserved vulnerable communities, such as stateless people.
- Called upon partnerships with universities as resources to complete and resource projects.
- The importance of heartware over hardware solutions. The desire to make the change is needed, more than technological solutions.

#### Session 2

The second session “*ASEAN coastal cities and climate change*” is moderated by **Dr. Khamarrul Azahari Razak**, Director, Disaster Preparedness & Prevention Center (DPPC), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia. The panellists include **Mr. Sar Kackada**, Mayor of Sihanoukville City, Cambodia, and senior representatives from ICLEI, MERCY Malaysia, C40 Cities, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, the National Disaster Management Association (NADIM) and Global Environment Center (GEC) Malaysia. The mayor reaffirmed their commitment to building resilient cities through climate-smart infrastructure and inclusive governance. Addressing it requires collective effort and cannot be done in isolation. The forum is a change to forge partnerships and share experiences,



Grand Opening Ceremony, Main Plenary Hall

Cambodia has prioritized Sihanoukville for resilience building through preventive zoning, improved wastewater treatment, landfill upgrades, and water resource management. The city is bidding to join the Asian Smart City Network, has developed a smart city strategy with UN-Habitat, and launched a PPP pilot under the Ministry of Economics and Finance, focusing on smart waste management under the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanization Strategy. The mayor called for a cross-sector action to make cities inclusive, sustainable, and safe. He enquired if the ASEAN Chair would consider the development of a ASEAN regional climate adaptation proposal. The moderator invited best practices, case studies, and policy recommendations for the ASEAN Ministerial and COP30. Panellists addressed:

- Issues from climate-driven floods, storms has hit power grids, exacerbating heat waves in Japan, and persistent sea-level rise impacts. ICLEI formed an ASEAN Climate Governance Chapter;
- The private sector adapting Malaysia's investment taxonomy for ASEAN, with simplified ESG templates for SMEs. Sister cities can support collaboration,
- Climate finance particularly ADB-supported Green City Action Plans link cities to NDCs, with local action critical. Nature-based solutions—mangroves, ecosystem protection, and artificial corals—can reduce erosion and protect coasts.
- Community knowledge and traditional knowledge can be the best data and information - community data should be legitimized in data-driven policy making.
- Climate refugees and migration issues are also major issues.
- A case study from philanthropic, local community-led, redevelopment of Aceh post-tsunami restoration and reconstruction was done, demonstrate.

To view more photos of the event,

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## SPECIAL SESSIONS

### Session 1

This high level session titled “*Charting the Local Path to ASEAN 2045: Advancing Regional Visions through Local Action*” was moderated by **H.E. Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi**, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC, which included the **H.E. Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi**, Former Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs (Thailand), **Mr. Pramono Anung Wibowo**, Governor of the Special Region of Jakarta (Indonesia), **Ms. Low Yen Ling**, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry & Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (Singapore), **Mr. Lim Chze Cheen**, Director/Head of ASEAN Connectivity Division (ASEAN Secretariat), **Dr. Christina Yeo Ken Yin**, International Relations Division (Culture), Ministry of Tourism, Art, and Culture (Singapore).

**H.E. Dato’ Seri TP. (Dr.) Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, Mayor of DBKL provided opening remarks. The panel urged cross-sector collaboration to co-create inclusive, future-ready cities, sharing best practices like the Philippines’ Boracay survey and calling for context-specific roadmaps with action plans, resource strategies, timelines, and accountability. She stressed zero-waste integration in urban planning and stronger coordination of ASEAN climate commitments for united COP action. **H.E. Dr. Bima Arya Sugiarto**, Indonesia’s Vice Minister of Home Affairs, provided a keynote speech. Panellists emphasized genuine, daily policy implementation with examples from towns like Pekanbaru and village cooperatives on food security, education access, and inflation control, calling for easy-to-communicate public programs, continuous monitoring, city-to-city cooperation, joint projects, knowledge exchange via “one data, one map” systems, smart cities, GEDSI programming, and improved national–city coordination for better economic governance.



Training Sessions on Future Cities

### Session 2

This session, titled “*Thriving Together: Cities Leading the Way in Inclusion and Sustainability*”, was moderated by **TP. Ts. Norliza Hashim**, CEO, Urbanice Malaysia and attended by **H.E. Mr Baey Yam Keng**, Mayor of North East District, and Minister of State, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Culture and Youth (Singapore), **H.E. Ms. Fatma Sahin**, Mayor of Gaziantep, Turkiye, **Ms. Fujita Megumi**, Director for Planning and Coordination, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, **Ms. Norazlina binti Yusof**, Deputy Director of Local Council of Selangor, **Ms. Dyan Currie**, Principal of Currie and Associates, and **Ms. Julaihah Jamaludin**, Chair/President of Hulu Selangor Municipal Council. The panellists called for:

- In Singapore, the setting of mobility targets, such as 8 in 10 households within a 10-minute walk of a train station by 2030, full wheelchair accessibility, walk-cycle-walk models, and electrifying 50% of buses by 2030 with a complete combustion phase-out by 2050 and public transport subsidies.
- In Selangor, to develop the next phase of the sustainability blueprint (being the first to develop one), free Smart Selangor buses transitioning to EVs, and readiness to complete the Selangor Climate Change Policy and Climate Adaptation Center.
- To develop strong collaboration, aka the “Ganziatep model,” inclusive housing, services and disaster resilience, with “no one left behind” approach, targets for 1000 affordable homes delivered every 6 months, achieve 90% wastewater recycling, and expansive social programmes for all.

- To establish a diverse, smart and safe city, with longevity support, flood / earthquake resilience, investments in next-gen solar, green circular hydrogen and to cut GHG by 50%+ by 2030, 60%+ by 2035.
- Called for indigenous inclusion, to ensure major events deliver deliver long-term SDG-aligned benefits.

*“Public transport is more than just infrastructure, it is a service, commitment to our people to help them easily move around (the country)”*



Panellists at Special Sessions

### Session 3

Titled “*Beyond Housing : Making Cities Affordable*” this session was moderated by Foward Malaysia Organization and panellists from United Nations ESCAP, Banten Province municipality (Indonesia), PR1MA Malaysia, FOMCA, University of Malaya, PropertyGuru/iProperty, The panellists :

- Framed housing affordability as a global crisis, urging holistic urban development integrating housing, mobility, and economy, with civil society engagement, financing tools like land value capture, and inclusive transit-oriented development (TOD) for all income levels.
- Addressed affordability through entry, financing, and maintenance costs, with PR1MA focusing on community-building, engaging MOF and local councils, and maintaining open buyer channels to shape policies.
- Advocated for mandatory community engagement in budgeting, affordability indexes by location, CIAs and EIAs in urban projects, and public awareness of participation rights.
- Highlighted multi-dimensional affordability with inclusive housing policies, equitable financial models, and alignment of costs with disposable income.
- Stressed affordability beyond low-income groups, noting service accessibility, and proposed “nucleus cities” to spread urban benefits.
- Shared participatory planning examples (like in Tangerang, Indonesia) with financing for low-income groups, and commitments to education hubs, safe housing, and multi-stakeholder engagement.
- The importance of stakeholder engagement and land value capture as an important financing mechanism of affordable housing
- The creation of nucleus cities to improve accessibility and reduce transit congestion.
- Develop safe housing and education homes for low income groups.



Roundtable Session 2: ASEAN Coastal Cities and Climate Change

**Session 4**

**Datuk TPr. Dr. Alias Rameli**, the DG of PLAN Malaysia, moderated this session titled, **“All Age Accessible City”**. In her opening, she emphasised the designing of equitable, inclusive cities for all ages in line with the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy, measuring urban success by serving people’s needs. Introduced Malaysia’s Kota MADANI model as a future city reference, embodying inclusivity, sustainability, spirituality, and locality. **Mr. Haji Mohamad Zahri Haji Samingon**, Mayor of Petaling Jaya (Malaysia) providing key interventions. Panellists called for:

- The inclusion of youth, senior, and differently-abled participation in planning, demonstrating city received awards for the “Most Happy and Sustainable City” with UNICEF recognition as Malaysia’s first Child Friendly City, and inclusive public amenities catered for in its strategic plan.
- Autism-friendly public spaces and greater consideration for special needs children in planning. Cited examples like Sunway Putra’s Bilik Tenang and the Smart Autism Village in Kuala Kubu Bharu for enabling independent living.
- Co-designing with youth, differently-abled, and business for graceful ageing and purpose-filled living. Promoted integrated age-friendly environments, citing Singapore’s Blue Zone 2.0 and initiatives in Bangkok, Penang, and TRX City.
- Emphasising the difference between impairment and disability, stressing representation and positive character as key to inclusivity. Proposed “Break the barriers, build the bridge” and “Enablement and empowerment” principles, adherence to Malaysian Standard 1884, and community-level advocacy.
- Promoting drawing lessons from Asian cities on universal design, child-friendly cities, and ageing in place. Urged regional cooperation via the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025, with targeted policies and SDG11.1-linked monitoring mechanisms.



High Level Session on the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan

**HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE**

**Dialogue 1 - High-Level Dialogue on the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan 2035**

Moderated by **Mr. Bingxun Seng**, Partner, Ernst & Young, the panellists included **Mr. Lim Chze Cheen**, Director at the ASEAN Secretariat, **Ms. Lara Franzen**, Development Counsellor of the Australian Mission to ASEAN, **Ms. Kazuko Ishigaki**, Regional Director, ROAP UN Habitat, **Ms. Duangruetai Surasakjinda**, Deputy Director Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (CIMT). The panellists:

- Emphasized need for stronger coordination, ownership, and capacity-building in ASEAN Connectivity, adding smart and sustainable urban development as a strategic priority. Advocated agile workplans and multi-stakeholder collaboration for impactful results.
- Reaffirmed long-term support for ASEAN’s development, stressing people-centered connectivity and innovative financing tools to bridge urban infrastructure gaps, with greater private sector involvement.
- Called for alignment of ASEAN initiatives with global agendas, focusing on rural empowerment, environmental sustainability, and inclusive governance, supported by data-driven approaches like SDG localization.

- Highlighted subregional cooperation to localize ASEAN strategies, prioritizing public-private partnerships, alignment with strategic areas, and building local capacity for effective project delivery.



High Level Dialogue 2: Charting the Local Path to ASEAN 2035

**High Level Dialogue 2**

Following on from Special Session 2, **H.E. Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi**, facilitated the dialogue between panellists **H.E. Jose Enrique “Joel” Miraflores**, Governor of Aklan Province (Philippines), and also **H.E. Vijavat Isarabhakdi**, **Mr. Pramono Anung Wibowo**, **Ms. Low Yen Liang**, **Mr. Lim Chze Cheen**, **Dr. Christina Yeo Ken Yin**. and **H.E. Dato’ Seri TPr. Dr. Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, who provided opening remarks. Interventions emphasized the need for collective actions for improving the quality of life for all, emphasizing the critical need for partnership, translating vision into mission and action plan, and localisation to ensure positive impacts on the ground.

The keynote speech contained several insights:

- Cities and local governments are closest to the people and directly involved in translating policies into actions at the local level.
- The need to strengthen cultural identity of cities and creative economies, for example Pacu Jalur in Riau-Indonesia.
- It is mandatory that cities are thriving and resilient. ASEAN needs to strengthen inclusively local ownership, governance, policy alignment, incubation and knowledge

The panellists further:

- Stressed that local voices are integral to people-centred/oriented ASEAN community, translating strategic goals into community-level actions. The need to translate ASEAN strategic goals into community level action, creating enabling environments, legal frameworks, and promote people centered and inclusive governance, cultivating a sense of belonging, cultural pride and the importance of leaving no one behind.
- Called on full commitment to the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. Further emphasised the need to develop sustainable tourism as the main driver, in addition to energy conservation, reducing food waste, and other impacts. Partnership in ASEAN is key to provide an informed sharing of data resources.
- Called for commitments from major capitals to support ACV 2045.
- Called for making safer digital and real-world places, localizing laws, policies and empowerment initiatives for women.
- Reiterated the utmost importance in localization when translating a vision into mission and an action plan, to consider grassroots voices.



Special sessions on women led cities, KL Town Hall COP

**KL TOWN HALL CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP)**

**Opening Session**

The opening addressed integrating local actions into national climate commitments, stressing cooperation between governments, civil society, and experts. Presentations covered Malaysia’s leadership in green city planning, the potential of green technology for jobs and sustainability, and the use of PPPs to develop infrastructure and tourism. The conclusion called for stronger city–national collaboration and embedding local initiatives into NDCs.

**Keynote Session**

The keynote reinforced Malaysia’s climate targets, including net-zero by 2050, a 45% emissions intensity cut by 2030, and a 40% recycling rate by 2030. Strategies include circular economy adoption, low-carbon urban guidelines, waste-to-energy plants, landfill-to-park conversions, and sustainable construction practices. Emphasis was placed on climate justice, especially for vulnerable communities, and building public–private–people partnerships

**Case Studies Sharing**

The session highlighted inclusive urban development through participatory approaches, focusing on women-led initiatives and youth empowerment in climate action. Examples included capacity building under projects that equip participants to shape cities, co-created solutions to strengthen local institutions, and training programs for teachers to foster environmental stewardship among youth. The discussion stressed translating plans into ground-level actions, enhancing women’s roles in decision-making, creating safer urban spaces, and expanding economic opportunities with technical support.

**ASEAN Session**

The session showcased best practices in climate action from ASEAN cities, emphasising political will, updated climate risk data, and community inclusion. Kuala Lumpur’s policies target carbon neutrality through renewable energy, green mobility, and integrated urban nature, while Kota Kinabalu focuses on plastic reduction, waterfront revitalisation, and waste-to-energy projects. Recommendations stressed balancing economic growth with environmental protection and expanding public engagement.

**High Level Talk Session**

This session explored translating global and national climate policies into local action, underlining spatial planning, resilience, and local empowerment. Policy tools like the Low Carbon Cities Framework, urban observatories, and smart city platforms were presented alongside examples of zero-waste initiatives, green mobility, and park networks. The discussion concluded that integrated planning, inclusive collaboration, and tailored city-level actions are essential for sustainable urban transformation.



H.E. Dato’ Seri TPr. (Dr.) Maimunah Mohd Sharif having a discussion with The Hon. Mr. Nga Kor Ming at the KL Town Hall Sessions on Conference of Parties



The Honourable Dato’ Sri Haji Fadillah Haji Yusof, Grand Opening

**MAIN SESSION**

**Grand Opening**

After much of the sessions had taken place throughout Day 1 of the forum, the grand opening was held, with keynote interventions from **H.E. Dato’ Seri TPr. (Dr.) Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, H.E. Anaclaudia Rossbach**, Undersecretary General of UN-Habitat and **H.E. Nararya Sanggrama Soeprapto**, the DSG of ASEAN Community and Cooperation.

The two co-leads of the Stakeholders’ Assembly provided a statement urging inclusive, cross-sector collaboration with community voices at the centre, recognizing no effort can be solved alone. It called for gender-responsive climate action, youth engagement, SME empowerment, and measurable outcomes.

**The Hon. Dato’ Sri Haji Fadillah Haji Yusof**, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, emphasised uniting ASEAN Smart Cities and urbanisation strategies for sustainable, innovative urban centres. Highlighted adapting green blueprints to local realities and leveraging AI-powered planning. **The Hon. Mr. Nga Kor Ming**, Minister of Housing and Local Government, reported on progress in achieving affordable housing targets, pledging to build at least 1000 new parks by 2035, with targets to reduce solid waste generated and establishment of waste-to-energy plants, with a circular economy blueprint and roadmap, and a National Circular Economic Council for solid waste, calling on international regional collaboration.

Additional notable interventions from other speakers include:

- Urging collaboration to localise ASEAN’s strategy roadmap, aligning Kuala Lumpur’s 2040 plans with a people-centred vision. Guided by the CHASE City concept, she reaffirmed Malaysia’s commitment to sustainability, zero-waste, and climate-aligned local action.
- Praising Malaysia’s role in ASEAN Vision 2045 and stressed the need to localize the ASEAN Community Vision. Local governments are frontline implementers through advocacy, partnerships, and co-created policies.
- Calling for empowering local governments to lead sustainable urbanisation amid rapid growth, housing shortages, and climate risks. Positioned the forum as a platform for advancing SDG 11, housing access, and resilience.
- Advocating inclusivity, sustainability, digital transformation, and climate resilience as urban pillars. Called for data-driven planning, stronger urban-rural links, and access to financing for sustainable projects.

*“if you want to travel fast, you travel alone. But if you want to travel far, you travel together”*

Organisers



Co-Organisers



Host City





ASEAN Future Cities and Regions:  
Inclusivity and Sustainability

10-15 August 2025  
Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC)  
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

## Daily Journal

### 13 August 2025 – Kuala Lumpur Convention Center

Wednesday marks the second official day of the joint 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Sustainable Urbanization Forum (ASUF), 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum, and the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals. The morning began with the Opening Event for the Official Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC) in the morning, followed by an afternoon launch of the Official Meeting segment of the ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum. Alongside these two closed door ASEAN sessions, ASUF hosted 2 Highlevel Dialogues, a Grassroots Dialogue, 5 City Dialogues, 5 Special Sessions, 10 Side Events, 11 Training Sessions, and 11 SDG in Action demonstrations and screenings.

#### HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUES

The 3<sup>rd</sup> High Level Dialogue, titled “Implementation of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS) and the ASEAN Smart City Network (ASCN) Initiatives”, was moderated by **Mr. Abhineet Kaul**, Access Partnership, with panel speakers **Dr. Supakorn Siddhichai**, Executive VP, Digital Economy Promotion Agency (Thailand), **Mr. Juanito Victor C. Remulla**, Secretary, Department of the Interior and Local Government (Philippines), **Ms. Low Yen Ling**, Senior Minister of State (Trade & Industry, Culture, Community & Youth), Chair of Mayors’, Mayor, South West District (Singapore), **Mr. Rudzameir Malek**, Deputy Director, Commission of Kuching North City (Malaysia). With closing remarks from **The Hon. Datuk Wira M Noor Azman Taib**, SG of Ministry of Housing and Local Government (Malaysia). The speakers highlight:

- Need for interoperable data platforms to enable real-time monitoring of urban indicators.
- Thailand’s pilot regional smart city portal aggregates priority actions to facilitate city peer learning.
- Philippines Local Government Code is to embed within municipal plans, ASUS’ eight priority actions.
- Propose UCLG ASPAC training to certify ASEAN planners.
- Smart hubs, community co-creation, tracking social inclusion, digital literacy, green space targets (replicated in other ASEAN cities).
- Kuching North partnership with ASEAN’s Lead Implementing Body for Sustainable Infrastructure (LIB-SI), under ASEAN Connectivity Master Plan, for green mobility corridors and flood-resilient drainage

They called for:

- Establishing subnational ASUS coordination units within urban ministries. Incentivize cities through peer review grants (tied to progress on ASUS tools)
- Leverage ASCN’s private sector network for finance, pilot “social return on investment” frameworks with cities’ public dashboards.
- Unified ASUS-ASCN online portal for city action plans, progress report and community feedback. Annual stock takes should update Regional Urbanization Report by UN-Habitat.
- ASEAN Secretariat to convene a working group Q4 2025 to finalize ASUS implementation and ASCN Action Plan (2026-2035).
- UN-Habitat and URBANICE Malaysia co-host technical clinics across ASEAN capitals from November 2025 (data governance, participatory planning), nominate focal points for LIB-SI steering.

The closing speech reaffirmed Malaysia’s commitment to treat ASUS and ASCN as living frameworks, urging momentum with engaged stakeholders, impact measurement, agile governance.



Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals [closed door]

#### Grassroots Dialogue

The session titled “Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) & Urban Wellbeing” featured panellists from the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia (APPGM), the Bayu Damansara Residents Association, and the Kooperasi Kampung Paya Luboh Melaka Berhad (Paya Luboh Village Cooperative). These grassroots organizations focused on societal economic gaps, including poverty, education, environment and economic disparities, and documents practical examples of community initiatives such as urban farming (like honey production), eco-tourism and agro-tourism cooperatively run enterprises to employ low-income families and local product promotion, improve solid waste management as a flood risk reduction measure, integrating SSE into national policies and SDG frameworks, empowering and demonstrating community-based successes through a measure of bootstrapping with zero capital investments, through to revenue generating community self-help approaches like agro-tourism/eco-tourism. Community cohesion is critical to success. The panellists called for collaborative policy commitment from local councils, and funding assistance to accelerate or scale up small scale community projects, and the need to scale up similar models across ASEAN countries through high-level support.

To view more photos of the event,  
Go to [https://www.weair.me/  
dashboard](https://www.weair.me/dashboard)



3<sup>rd</sup> High Level Dialogue: Speakers



ASEAN Future Cities and Regions:  
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## Daily Journal

### 14 August 2025 – Kuala Lumpur Convention Center

Thursday marks the last day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Sustainable Urbanization Forum (ASUF), whilst the technical visits for the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum, and 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals will continue for another day. The day saw 2 High Level Dialogues, a Special Address session, 3 Special Sessions, a Roundtable Session, 8 City Sessions hosted by KL Town Hall, a side event session and 3 training sessions (which includes The United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) pairing session).

The event ended with a **closing ceremony** in the afternoon. Overall, ASUF was attended by a total of **8,578 attendees**, from **66 countries including ASEAN**, with a total of **186 local government officials from the ASEAN countries**.



Closing Ceremony of ASUF, AGMF and MGCAM

### HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUES

The 5<sup>th</sup> High Level Dialogue, titled “*Financing Models for Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development*” was attended by **Dr. Neil Khor**, Special Advisor on Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Housing and Local Government (Malaysia) as moderator and speaker, with panellists **His Highness Tengku Dato' Aiman Putra Tengku Dato' Sri Kamal Bharin**, CEO of Yayasan Enggang Holdings, **Datin Suliana Shamsuddin Alias**, Chair of YOKUK Foundation, **Mr. Anouj Mehta**, Country Director of ADB Thailand, **Mr. Mohd Fuad Ahmad**, Group Chief Corporate Development Officer, Bank Pembangunan Malaysia Berhad, **Mr. Gino Van Begin**, Secretary General, ICLEI, and **Ms. Suraya Sani**, Deputy Director, Bank Negara Malaysia.

The speakers:

- Called upon not viewing philanthropy as charity but as a strategic investment in long term social impact.
- ESG must be developed upstream at community level, inclusion is non-negotiable and must include youth, and indigenous. ASEAN cities should be a living lab.
- Malaysia's national infrastructure development bank is starting to finance projects aligned with UN SDGs.
- Cities can access climate finance through blended funding, green bonds, local climate funds by meeting sustainability standards, ensuring transparency, building local capacity, and implementing digitalized, accountable systems for resilient urban infrastructure.
- Examples from Malaysian Resilient Low Carbon Pilot and Climate Project Funding Lab as examples of capacity building.

*“Philanthropy isn't charity — it's an investment in our shared future”*



High Level Dialogue 5, panel discussion

The 6<sup>th</sup> High Level Dialogue, titled “*Vision For Future Cities and Regions: Opportunities to Transform*” was moderated by Bambang Susantono, with panellists **Dato' Mohamad Haris Kader Sultan**, CEO, Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA), **H.E. Dato' Seri TPr. (Dr.) Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, Mayor, Kuala Lumpur, **Ms. Marulina Dewi**, Head, Bureau for Cooperation Affairs, Jakarta Government with a special address from **H.E. Datuk Amar Prof. Dr. Sim Kui Hian**, Deputy Premier of Sarawak and Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government of Sarawak (Malaysia).

Speakers highlighted:

- Concerns with urban health crises, rabies outbreak, and rural-urban policy gaps, need for green, tech-driven, culturally rooted development (hydrogen transport, smart cities), disaster resilience and regional collaboration, “*my city is our city*”
- Smart cities need smart people, nature-based, local tech.
- Affordable housing, waste management, climate resilience, inclusive planning, green connector public transport targets, 20% → 70% by 2040.
- Northern region (Malaysia) has development gaps that need bridging (education, health, infrastructure). Important to have detailed roadmaps, KPIs and fairness between states. Cross-border partnerships essential for uplift development.
- Jakarta uses digital platforms and geospatial data for governance and citizen engagement. Investments in ASEAN Arc, Library, Hub and other centers. Living lab experiments. Partnerships in climate resilience, mobility and digital governance for ASEAN 2045.
- Arts and culture are important pillars for growth in established cities.



High Level Dialogue 6, panel discussion



Special Session 11 - View from the room

### SPECIAL SESSIONS

**Session 11**, titled **“Strategic Partnerships for Smart and Sustainable Cities”**, was moderated by **Ms. Anita Ahmad**, CEO, MySDG Foundation and speakers **Ms. Wan Ling Koh**, Senior Manager, Access Partnership, and **Mr. Markurius Anwar**, Vice-Mayor of Pekanbaru (Indonesia) and panellists **Mr. Nguyen Van Giang**, Deputy Head of Division, Urban Development Agency, Ministry of Construction (Vietnam), **Mr. Dominador Lagare**, City Advisor, General Santos City, **Ms. Jazlyn Lee**, Regional Engagement Lead, Covenant of Mayors, **Mr. Kelvin Vergara Tagnipez**, Global Cities Engagement Lead, IFC.

- Smart city projects have financing challenges, overreliance on public funding and limited instruments and mechanisms for private sector participation. Introduces ASEAN Smart Financing Toolkit.
- Introduce tools like Library of Financing Instruments and Case Studies, Financial Instrument Recommendation and Selection Tool (FIRST), Interactive Discussion Board for knowledge sharing.
- Shared examples of plans and implementation targets for public mobility projects in Pekanbaru, alongside entrepreneur and community programmes and offers statistics.
- Governance reforms in Vietnam strengthened local administration.
- Locally sourced revenue through innovative financing, efficient waste management and PPPs in General Santos City. Robust revenue management helps pay off financing early, increasing innovative pricing/fees for services.
- Good practices ASEAN only Philippines, Vietnam and increasingly Indonesia have strong subnational governments capable of leveraging municipal bonds and commercial domestic bank loans. Cities need to strengthen creditworthiness. Vietnam and Philippines have thriving municipal bond market for city services, Indonesia providing state and provinces access to regional bond issues.

Questions from the audience:

- Mr. Siau Min Yang, Senior Researcher, Japan Council of Local Authorities enquired legal frameworks and proper controls for local governments so they do not simply borrow and cannot repay, and what is the legal framework to keep lender/borrower safeguarded?
- IFC and General Santos City responded that the Philippines has PPP laws that provide frameworks, and cities are municipal corporations that have the power to raise debt, and enter into equity finance.

**Session 12**, **“Cooling and Powering Green Economies: Inclusive Energy for All”** was moderated by **Ts. Dr. Mohd Muzzammil Ismail**, Vice President / Head of Sustainable Development Technologies Division, and panelled by **Ms. Nazarina Mohd Nasir**, Chief Customer Officer, Tenaga Nasional Berhad, **Ms. Tania Lim**, Assoc. Economics Officer, UN ESCAP, **Dr. Afifuddin Husairi Mat Jusoh @ Hussain**, Deputy Dean, School of Liberal Studies (CITRA-UKM), **Mr. Ir. Justin Sim**, President, Malaysian Photovoltaic and Sustainable Energy Industry Association, **Mr. Phillip Yang**, Special Envoy, COP 30, URBEM Institute.

- Promotion of community and shared renewable energy models to increase affordability, inclusivity, and local ownership, advanced metering infrastructure phased deployments through action plan.

- Examples of rural electrification and mini-scale grid renewable projects to improve access for remote and marginalised communities.
- Need for upskilling and green workforce development and training.
- Examples of smart energy solutions, including widespread smart meter rollout, upgrading new infrastructure
- Comparison of ASEAN’s broad, non-binding energy policies with the EU’s binding, detailed frameworks; emphasis on aligning national, regional, and local priorities.
- The need to move away from short term pilots and scaling up. Need to develop clear metrics to evaluate and track progress over time and move away from short term oriented projects.
- Introduced UN Resource Management System (UNRMS), that can help decision making in cities particularly on prioritizing energy technology and cooling projects, in cities. Project classification is necessary to help decision makers focus on resourcing urgent priorities that deliver most impact. Helps with ESG and unlock climate finance.
- Urban infrastructure financing challenges addressed through structured project prioritisation and global funding alignment frameworks, such as UNRMS.
- Recognition that community adoption, biodiversity integration, and balanced market-government-community roles are critical for successful projects.
- Called for ASEAN’s strength in diversity.

**Session 13**, titled **“Bridging Commitments and Action: Advancing NDCs Implementation through the Lens of Clean Air across ASEAN”**, Moderated by **Dr. Kevin Austin**, Deputy Executive Director, C40 Cities, **Mr. Muhammad Ridzwan Ali**, Senior Assistant Secretary, Min. of Natural Resources and Sustainability, **Ms. Atika Nur Rahmania**, Head of Regional Development Planning Agency, Jakarta Government, **Mr. Pornphrom Vikitsreth**, Chief Sustainability Officer and advisor to Governor, Bangkok Government, **Mr. Norio Saito**, Senior Director, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, ADB.

- Emphasised that tackling air pollution and climate change requires strong national and city collaboration, and diverse financing.
- Stressed the importance of strong government commitment (mandatory govt employee public transport use)
- Bangkok’s air quality improvement initiatives include promoting working from home during high pollution, EV transition policies by central government, EV public transport, cycling infrastructure. Expanded air quality monitoring with over 1000 sensors, and Clean Air Act with citizen input in drafting.
- The need for collaboration across government levels, private and community to address air pollution.
- Questions from the audience (Sunway College) was posed on whether there was any continuity in government led measures for example the once a week public transport day for government officials, as once the practice stopped, air pollution returned. How can it be more sustainable? Another question was posed on whether there is a more efficient strategy for people who commute by car daily to work in cities like KL or Bangkok, that have limited last mile connectivity?
- Responses to the first question include the need for transitioning to EV technologies vs. combustion engines, and green state policies. The second question called for tailored solutions, to map where people live and work and where the transport needs are, and mobility patterns. Last mile issues (i.e. train stations/terminals to homes, or workplaces) must be solved, feeder buses must be consistent, regular and frequent.



Special Session 13 - Advancing NDCs Implementation

### ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS

Roundtable Session 3, titled “The ASEAN Community Vision 2045 - Bringing Opportunities Closer to ASEAN Cities”, was moderated by **Prof. Dr. Noorul Ainur Mohd Nur**, Board Chair, University College Yayasan Pahang (UCYP), **Datin TPr. Nuraida Saludin**, Malaysian Institute of Planners, **Prof. TPr. Gs. Dr. Norzailawati Mohd Noor**, International Islamic University Malaysia, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Peter Aning Tedong**, University Malaya, **Mr. Danial Rahman**, CEO, Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI), **Mr. Tony Chan**, ARUP, **Ms. Bibi Zaleha Zurkiple**, ASEAN Youth Cooperation, **Dr. Afiq Redzuan**, Malaysia HR Forum.

The panellists highlighted:

- The need to incorporate ACV 2045 into city/local dimensions. Horizontal integration and vertical integration is needed to achieve, Spatial integration is also important, Johor-Singapore cross-border integration of talent and technology.
- Singapore as digital hub, reliant on critical infrastructure, undersea cable dependency.
- ASEAN urban economic zones - renewable energy incentives have large carbon gains here. Singapore, Vietnam, Laos, Philippines good examples of advancements in city planning. Warned against political interference and corruption delaying progress in ASEAN cities.
- Community driven public design spaces for all ages, cultures important.
- Examples from Chinese second and third tier cities achieving economic parity with mega cities by interconnecting all their regions.
- Formal youth engagement platforms are vital to prioritizing and planning community spaces.
- Called for proposals to establish a formal **ASEAN Professional Network for Planners** and cross-sector experts, with digital and infrastructure connectivity to strengthen rural-urban linkages.
- Proposed an **ASEAN University** for dedicated knowledge exchange and innovation.
- Singapore is the only ASEAN country with a baseline digital economy policy, urged others to follow suit. Examples such as **zero-collateral loans and alternative credit scoring** can improve access to financing.
- Questions from the floor voiced concerns about forgotten secondary cities in national budgeting priorities, resulting in economic decline. The region should adapt to economic trends, the gig economy and smart city opportunities can enhance youth involvement and labor market participation.
- ASEAN's future competitiveness relies on robust infrastructure planning, inclusive governance, and innovative economic zones to create resilient and connected cities.

To view more photos of the event, go to:  
<https://www.wear.me/>



### UCLG ASPAC PAIRING AND LEARNING SESSION

This session, titled “*Learning and Pairing Session on Waste Management (Waste Management between Urban-Act Pilot Cities and Peer/Knowledge Cities)*” was moderated by **Dr. Phanith Chou**, Royal University of Phnom Penh, and **Mr. Helmi A'bidin**, Regional Project Manager, UCLG ASPAC, with **Ms. Soma Biswas**, Communication Advisor, GIZ, **Ms. Sara Hoefflich**, ASG for Service Innovation, UCLG, **Mr. Eugene Zapata Garesche**, European Commission TALD Facility, GIZ EU, **Dr. Sasway Bandyopadhyay**, CEPT University Ahmedabad, **Dr. Debolina Kundu**, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs, **Dr. Ashita Shama**, UNESCAP.

- Greater peer-to-peer city-to-city cooperation, as an extremely cost efficient option - where knowledge gained locally is directly transferable without need for expensive consultancy services.
- Waste is a resource, and valuable resources are often underutilized, when waste is seen as a resource, it is possible to generate business models through innovative ideas within cities. City-to-city cooperation is important and encouraging partnerships between cities within the same state as well as countries a good start, for example (e.g., Indore-Bhopal, Lucknow-Prayagraj), is a simple and easy way for crossing silos.

### JOINT CLOSING CEREMONY FOR ASUF, AGMF AND MGMAC

The event was officiated by **H.E. Dato' Seri TPr. (Dr.) Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, Mayor of KL, presenting the host city's remarks, **H.E. Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi**, SG of UCLG ASPAC, presenting the concluding remarks, and **Hon. Mr. Nga Kor Ming**, Minister of Housing and Local Government, to provide the official closing address. Highlights:

- **H.E. Dato' Seri TPr. (Dr.) Maimunah Mohd Sharif** appointed as the **Special Envoy of ASEAN Cities and Local Governments**.
- Alignment of **ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS) with ASEAN Community Vision 2045**.
- Malaysia aims to launch an **ASEAN Smart and Sustainable Centre led by URBANICE Malaysia** to support innovative scalable projects and pairing cities programs aligned with ASUS and ASEAN Smart City Network (ASCN) priorities.
- Adopted **Joint Communiqué from the Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC)**, agreeing to establish a permanent secretariat in Jakarta (with Delhi as an observer), with **shared commitments in greater inclusion of women and youth** in urban governance, and bottom-up approaches.
- Adoption of a position paper on localizing the **ACV 2045 and AGMF 2025 Declaration**, with focus areas on climate resilience zero-waste, inclusive governance, digital transformation and cultural preservation.
- Announced the ‘**Kuala Lumpur Sustainable Declaration on Localizing the ASEAN Community Vision 2045**’, as input to the **ASEAN Leaders' Summit in October 2025**.
- Building on previous **ASEAN Mayors Forum Declarations** including but not limited to the Surabaya Communiqué 2011, Makassar Declaration 2015, Target Action Agenda 2017, AMF Declaration 2019, AMF Phnom Penh Declaration 2022, Jakarta Declaration 2023, and Vientiane Declaration 2024.
- As **President of UN Habitat Assembly, Malaysia will submit a proposal to integrate the New Urban Agenda into the UNFCCC at COP30**.
- Called for a United Core for greater **local level investment from international institutions**.

### HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUES

The 4<sup>th</sup> High Level Dialogue, titled “*Climate- and disaster-resilient cities, fostering healthy communities and a healthier planet*” was moderated by **Dr. Peili Pey** of NTU Singapore, with a keynote from **Prof. Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah Mahmood**, Sunway University, and **Ms. Leonora Grcheva**, Doughnut Economics Action Lab, alongside panellists from Alam Sehat Lestari, NUS Singapore, and Urbem. The speakers highlight:

- Asia Pacific as having ¾ of the global total of disaster-related displacements. Climate deaths between 2030-2050 projected at 250,000 per annum, and disasters strain health resources and affected marginalized communities.
- Resilience means “bouncing forward” stronger, more equitably, not returning to the status quo. Action pathways include nature-based solutions, inclusive governance, integrated urban planning, and cross-sector collaboration,
- Urgent, concrete, community-led action, climate is an investments, and humans at the heart of policy.
- Value distribution and wealth must be distributed fairly, decoupling structural growth from GDP expansion
- Replacing GDP-focused growth with a regenerative economy that meets everyone’s needs within planetary boundaries, social connection, and restoring natural systems, seeing the economy as embedded, recognizing safe and just spaces taking into account planetary boundaries.
- Planetary health is a daily practice. Community-led, nature-integrated approaches offering healthcare, forest protection, and livelihoods in Indonesia offers transferable models for ASEAN cities.
- Extreme heat risk is growing in ASEAN, with severe health risks. Urgent call for walkable, heat-resilient environments supported by regional collaboration and public empowerment.
- Climate change increases vector-borne diseases by 155% in Brazil for example, inclusive cities must protect vulnerable groups, strengthen community networks, and address the compounded health impacts of climate change.
- Climate Justice demands legal accountability - referencing latest ICJ advisory that governments have a duty to protect citizens from climate impacts. Geopolitics threatens collaboration.

### CITY DIALOGUES

#### Session 1

“*Financing for Sustainable Development*”, was moderated by **Dr. Marcelino Pandin**, Special Advisor of UCLG ASPAC, the event was attended by **Mr. Yusuke Nakano**, Mayor of Hamamatsu, Japan, **Mr. Pows Parkop**, Governor of Port Moresby Papua New Guinea, **Dr. Cynyoung Park**, Executive Director, Southeast Asian Central Banks (SEACEN), **Mr. Alwis Rustam**, Executive Director, The Associate of Indonesia Municipalities (APEKSI), **Dr. Ani Ahmad**, Mayor of Ampang Jaya, Malaysia and **Dr. Ameer Sobhan**, Programme and Partnership Development, Asia Hub, Cities Alliance hosted by UNOPS.

The panellists highlighted that:

- Cities suffer a financing and capital renewal gap in managing aging infrastructure and attracting new talent.
- Financing should support inclusive and resilient development and not just ROI. Use more ESG metrics in urban development finance.
- Developing cities like Port Moresby face enormous urbanization pressures, climate change and limited local revenue.
- Cities are responsible for **75% of global emissions** and consume **70% of global energy**, especially transport and buildings.
- Asia needs **\$210 billion annually** for climate-resilient infrastructure, but municipalities don't have this.
- Asia must finance its green transition by strengthening **local finance** mechanisms, developing **green capital markets**, and mobilizing sustainable infrastructure investment.
- Innovative, community driven financing models, like Islamic finance, municipal bonds and PPPs.
- Moving away from dependency on limited revenue sources by investing in industrial development, economic development areas, strata development, green technology, innovation, digitalization and privatization.

- Sustainable, inclusive budgeting and strategic planning, transform financial challenges like waste management into opportunities through innovation and long-term thinking.
- Investment should not focus on big cities - secondary cities need funding too. Development projects should not be judged only by money and profit - social, environmental and community impacts matter too.



Dr. Cynyoung Park, Executive Director, Southeast Asian Central Banks (SEACEN)

#### City Dialogue - Session 3

“*Digital Transformation & Innovative Cities*”, was moderated by Dr Lim Seng Boon, UiTM, with panellists from PLANMALAYSIA, MDEC and ITMAX System Berhad. Notable insights include:

- Collaboration is key – Strong partnerships between governments, communities and universities are essential to achieve the Smart Nation vision. Consider AI adoption.
- Government role in de-risking, DBKL taking first mover risk by allowing ITMAX to test solutions as a reference for other governments.
- Need a national digital agency champion like MDEC.
- Digital integration challenges - newer with older technologies
- Monetisation strategies – Cities should explore ways to turn assets into revenue and identify diverse income streams to fund urban innovation and services.

### SPECIAL SESSIONS

#### Session 6

Titled “*ASEAN Cities as Cultural Gateways: Harnessing Diversity for Regional Transformation*” this session was moderated by Joe Sidek Productions with DR. dr. H. Maulana, MKM, Mayor of Jambi, Indonesia, Prof Dr Amran Hamzah, UTM, Ar. Dr. Zulhemlee Ann, Malaysian Institute of Architects, Mr. Jomy Yaw, Play Klang, Mr Eddin Khoo, Pusaka Centre for the Study of Traditional Performance in Malaysia.

The panellists :

- Showcased local examples of youth-led urban revitalizations like the *Tumpah Ruah Festival*, and “Happy City” concept, initiatives for food, art, and creativity and collaboration as key drivers for cultural, tourism and economic growth.
- However, notably cultural organizations were fragmented, with mindset challenges and lack of defined success indicators in cultural planning strategies. Secondary cities are left out of ASEAN cultural conversations.
- Integrating cultural education, indigenous and heritage preservation in sustainability discourse is important.
- Community mapping is key - for example discovering food attractions and other touristic offerings in the city can increase tourism spending in a city or town. Cultural storytelling an important tool.
- ASEAN lacks intellectual grounding or political will in cultural discourse. Critiqued reliance on external frameworks like UNESCO without local cultural ownership. Creative economy terms are overused. Called for moves from purely economic development to ‘soft economy’ incorporating cultural and intangible values.
- Government actions contrary to cultural preservation, avoid symbolic siloed gestures for cultural efforts. Connect and amplify NGO-driven cultural projects at national scale



Special Session 6 “ASEAN Cities as Cultural Gateways”

### Session 7

Titled “*Embedding SDGs in Urban Regeneration*” this session was moderated by Datin Paduka Noraini Roslaa, former Mayor of Klang, with a keynote from Dato’ Sri Haji Azmar Talib, CEO of Tun Razak Exchange, with panellists from Selangor Youth Group, PWC Malaysia, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia, Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) and Currie & Associates

The speakers called for:

- The development of a *Digital Sustainability Master Plan*, social value enhancement,
- Integrated spatial planning in Indonesia to address floods and low-carbon mobility.
- Stakeholder task forces can strengthen project sustainability and bankability
- Circular economy strengthens livelihood opportunities especially if focused on youth development and community needs.

*“Aim to create loveable, not liveable spaces to counter sick office syndrome”*

### Special Session 9

Titled “*Digital Transformation and Innovative Cities*”, the session was moderated by Ms. Sanjeevani Dilanthi Singh, Economic Affairs Officer, UN ESCAP, with panellists from Future Cities Lab, Singapore-ETH Center, Digital Economy Promotion Agency (Thailand), Smart City Committee, Battambang Provincial Hall (Cambodia), University of Economics, Vietnam and Telekom Malaysia.

The panellists discussed:

- Engagement processes should intentionally include youth groups without fatiguing them (like Singapore’s Urban Village Participation Model), with real world digital tools (Digital Twin Singapore, Adaptive mobility planning in Zurich, Circular Future Cities Platform, Tropical Urban Living Lab, Cooling Singapore 2.0).
- Use open spatial data platforms and share data to empower municipalities to use datasets.
- Examples from Thailand - Smart living and smart tourism.
- 3D Model of Nimman City, with Wifi Location Based Services and AI Behaviour analysis from CCTV to map tourism flows, crowd density and urban design. Demonstrated Smart Signage Solutions and AI Edge Terminal CCTV, Smart DustPole systems to reduce PM2.5, Automated Telemetry Water Level Monitoring System (Thailand).

*“People first, technology second – solutions must come from the context, the community, and the real needs on the ground”*



Special Session 9 - Panel discussion

### Session 10

Titled “*Reimagining Urban Governance Through Integration and Inclusion*” this session was moderated by Dr. Rita Padawangi, Singapore University of Social Sciences, with speeches from Madam Sanisah Shafie, Director, PLAN Malaysia, Dr. Sunil Dubey, UNSW Cities Institute, Sydney, and panellists from Hue Institute of Development Studies, Vietnam, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Arup Southeast Asia.

The speakers highlighted:

- Effective urban governance requires accountability transparency, empowerment and stakeholder participation.
- Examples of Malaysian policies were shared - National Urbanization Policy 2016-2025, main town and country planning legislations in Malaysia, and labor related challenges.
- Examples from Viet Nam, on GIS-based investments in digital modelling and GIS data for preserving heritage and understanding community issues for planning needs.
- Examples of Adaptive Accountable and Anticipatory governance is essential. Top down must meet bottom up approaches like in Iloilo City, transforming a polluting river city to a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, and Bangkok Metropolitan Authority’s financial support for women and youth startups.
- Urban green spaces and green buildings are necessary, with multi-level engagement crucial.
- Urban solutions require strong local government commitment and collaboration, **institutional safeguarding means anchoring initiatives and ownership in legal and policy mechanisms** for long term sustainability.
- Use appropriate digital technologies to track issues (like congestion or localized pollution and address it quickly with efficient digital municipal reporting systems). Quick wins are important for public trust, and setting realistic timelines is essential to achieve intended targets. Must meet community expectations for transparent communication and involve them to understand complex and urgent issues.

*“Think of our city as a process not a project”*

### UCLG ASPAC Learning and Pairing Session

*Practices, Intervention from Knowledge Cities on Waste Management Projects*

Moderated by **Dr. Phanith Chou**, Royal University of Phnom Penh, with **Ms. Leticia Clemente**, Baguio City (Philippines), **Ms. Nichapa Amphiar**, Consultant, Smart City Development Phitsanulok (Thailand) **Dr. H. Maulana**, Mayor of Jambi (Indonesia), **Mr. Zulkifli Tamby Chik**, Deputy CEO SWCorp (Malaysia), **Mr. Dharmesh B. Mistry**, Deputy Municipal Commissioner of Surat (India), **Mr. Bhupender Kumar Attri** (Comissionar CEO of URBAN ACT). The panellists shared lessons such as:

- Black soldier fly biotechnology for sustainable waste diversion (pilot programme for food waste management, up to 300kg daily waste) in Baguio circular economy, and Barangay-based BSF technology.
- Phitsanulok Municipality began eco-friendly composting tank, reducing expenditure USD 355k, and waste volume reduction 31.4%
- Modest successes shared in examples of biogas waste-to-energy pilots.
- Other panellists shared about challenges with national legislation enacted on solid waste management best practices (like extended producer responsibility and similar), but encounter challenges with state/local-government level buy-in/adoption.
- Waste management successes requires significant community buy-in and adoption at the household, and village level, e.g. Kampung Bahagia programme in Indonesia.
- **Poor community-level coordination and household-level mobilization** (changing recycling habits, awareness and at-source segregation) are significant barriers to effective action. Community-based, decentralized solutions (e.g. BSF tech, waste bnks) are essential for local ownership and efficient implementation of solid waste management government programs.

# ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Forum 2025

11-14 August 2025 | Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre

## ASEAN Future Cities and Regions: Inclusivity and Sustainability

### Summary Substantive Report

#### ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies	Focus Discussion	Sub-Themes	ASEAN Community Vision 2045 Pillars	Way Forward
Women's Assembly	Gender gaps in climate resilience, disaster planning, and recovery	Climate Resilient; Inclusive Cities	Socio-Cultural; Political-Security	Launch AURORA Network; gender-responsive budgeting in urban resilience
Youth Assembly	Digital tools for youth engagement, green jobs, participatory budgeting	Digital Transformation; Inclusive Cities	Economic; Connectivity; Socio-Cultural	Youth Innovation Hubs; co-designed climate monitoring apps
Business Assembly	Sustainable tourism and creative industries for inclusive growth	Collaborative Pathways; Inclusive Cities	Economic; Connectivity	SME tourism fund; regional green certification standards
Professional Assembly	Interdisciplinary, culturally sensitive planning and governance	Collaborative Pathways; Digital Transformation	Political-Security; Socio-Cultural	ASEAN Urban Professionals Consortium; best-practice toolkit

#### HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUES

Dialogues	Focus Discussion	Sub-Themes	ASEAN Community Vision 2045 Pillars	Way Forward
ASEAN Vision 2045 and Connectivity Strategic Plan	Cross-border logistics, digital corridors, supply chain security	Collaborative Pathways; Connectivity	Political-Security; Connectivity	Joint transport governance unit; ASCC-SP acceleration
Charting the Local Path to ASEAN 2045	Localizing regional goals into municipal plans	All four sub-themes	All four pillars	Local Vision 2045 roadmaps; peer-review among city clusters

ASUS and ASCN Implementation	Smart city pilots, data standards, interoperability	Digital Transformation; Collaborative Pathways	Economic; Connectivity	Scale ASCN to 20 cities; unify dashboards and APIs
Climate and Disaster Resilience	Nature-based solutions, public health, risk financing	Climate Resilient; Inclusive Cities	Political-Security; Connectivity	Resilience modules in statutes; resilience bond issuance
Financing Models	Blended finance, green bonds, SROI barriers	Collaborative Pathways	Economic; Connectivity	ASEAN Urban Finance Facility; SROI analytics training
Vision for Future Cities	Innovations in governance, tech, inclusion, climate adaptation	All four sub-themes	All four pillars	Innovation labs; 15 Future City demonstrators by 2027

## SPECIAL SESSIONS

Sessions	Focus Discussion	Sub-Themes	ASEAN Community Vision 2045 Pillars	Way Forward
AURORA: Women-led Resilience	Multi-sector partnerships, mentoring hubs	Inclusive Cities; Collaborative Pathways	Socio-Cultural; Political-Security	Launch AURORA; secure ASEAN seed funding
Thriving Together	Urban design for inclusion, slum upgrading	Inclusive Cities; Collaborative Pathways	Socio-Cultural; Economic	Inclusion indicators in city scorecards
Beyond Housing	Land value capture, microfinance, incremental housing	Inclusive Cities; Collaborative Pathways	Socio-Cultural; Economic	Pilot land-lease reforms; micro-mortgage schemes
All Age Accessible City	Universal design, elderly and disabled mobility	Inclusive Cities	Socio-Cultural; Connectivity	ASEAN universal design standard; regional training
Integrated Planning for Resilience	Watershed management, flood-transport integration	Climate Resilient Cities	Political-Security; Connectivity	Resilience Planning Cells in secondary cities
Cities as Cultural Gateways	Cultural assets, digital storytelling, heritage tourism	Inclusive Cities; Digital Transformation	Socio-Cultural; Economic	Digital cultural passport; heritage grants

Embedding SDGs in Urban Regeneration	SDG localization, NUA alignment, participatory monitoring	Collaborative Pathways; Climate Resilient	All four pillars	City-level SDG dashboards; civil society training
Safer and Inclusive Cities	Community policing, heat mitigation, informal sector safety	Climate Resilient; Inclusive Cities	Political-Security; Socio-Cultural	Safe City accreditation; heat-alert systems
Digital Transformation and Innovation	AI for services, open data, e-governance	Digital Transformation	Economic; Connectivity	ASEAN open data platform; digital maturity certification
Reimagining Urban Governance	Polycentric governance, civic tech, transparency tools	Collaborative Pathways; Inclusive Cities	Political-Security; Socio-Cultural	Multi-stakeholder guidelines; civic tech incubators
Strategic Partnerships and Funding	PPPs, venture philanthropy, risk-sharing	Collaborative Pathways	Economic; Connectivity	Smart City Investment Network; PPP matchmaking portal
Cooling and Powering Cities	Microgrids, cooling corridors, tariff subsidies	Climate Resilient; Collaborative Pathways	Economic; Connectivity	Solar mini-grids; cooling atlas tool
Bridging NDCs via Clean Air	Emissions inventories, low-emission zones	Climate Resilient Cities	Political-Security; Connectivity	Low-Emission Zone toolkit; air quality sensor fund

## GRASSROOTS DIALOGUE: Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) and Urban Wellbeing: Financing Community-Based Urban Solutions

**Focus:** Community-led microfinance, mental health, urban agriculture

**Sub-Themes:** Inclusive Cities; Collaborative Pathways

**Vision 2045 Pillars:** Socio-Cultural; Economic

**Way Forward:** ASEAN SSE Urban Fund; wellbeing indicators in city budgets

## ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS

Roundtable Sessions	Focus Discussion	Sub-Themes	ASEAN Community Vision 2045 Pillars	Way Forward
RT1: SDG Localization via NUA	Target setting, monitoring, policy gaps	Collaborative Pathways	Economic; Connectivity	Harmonized indicators; peer-learning for data officers
RT2: ASEAN Coastal Cities & Climate Change	Sea-level rise, mangrove restoration,	Climate Resilient Cities	Political-Security; Connectivity	Coastal Cities Resilience Charter; technical assistance

	relocation strategies			
RT3: Vision 2045 – Opportunities for Cities	Urban-rural linkages, localization success factors	All four sub-themes	All four pillars	Localization Toolkit; biennial city exchange forum

## SPECIAL ADDRESSES

Speakers	Topics	Focus Discussion	Sub-Themes	ASEAN Community Vision 2045 Pillars	Way Forward
YB Datuk Seri Dr Zaliha Bt Mustafa	THE C.H.A.S.E. CITY	Culture, Health, Art, Science, Equity integration	Inclusive Cities; Collaborative Pathways	Socio-Cultural; Political-Security	Integrate C.H.A.S.E. into masterplans; pilot in five capitals
YB Datuk Amar Dr Sim	Healthy & Sustainable Cities	Health-first design, green infrastructure, pollution control	Climate Resilient; Inclusive Cities	Socio-Cultural; Political-Security	ASEAN Healthy Cities Charter; nature-based health interventions

### HIGH-LEVEL CITY TALK: KL COP29 Town Hall

**Focus:** Aligning municipal NDCs with national targets, net-zero roadmaps, climate finance access

**Sub-Themes:** Climate Resilient Cities; Collaborative Pathways

**Vision 2045 Pillars:** All four pillars

**Way Forward:** COP-to-City Protocol; direct access to climate funds

