Urban October provides everyone with an opportunity to join the conversation about the fast rate of change in our cities and towns and the challenges and opportunities that this presents. Each October, everyone interested in sustainable urbanization from national and local governments to universities, NGOs and communities is encouraged to host or participate in virtual or physical activities, events, and discussions.

This year’s Urban October will focus on the climate crisis which is also the theme of UN-Habitat’s campaign ClimateAction4Cities although activities can be about any aspect of sustainable urbanization.

The month begins with World Habitat Day on the first Monday of October, which falls on 4 October 2021. The theme for this year's World Habitat Day is Accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world.

Urban October ends with World Cities Day on 31 October 2021. While the overall theme remains Better City, Better Life, the specific theme for this year is Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience as cities worldwide are increasingly suffering the effects of climate-related disasters, such as floods,
droughts, sea level rise, heatwaves, landslides, and storms. This will look at creating more sustainable, climate-resilient societies. The Global Future Cities Surabaya Urban and Earthquake Resilience, Ho Chi Minh Smart Ticketing Systems (STS) and Bangkok Decision Support System for Flood Management (DSS) teams will be presenting as part of the planned events.

Further event details will be posted [here](#) throughout October. We encourage you to mark your calendars, as to not miss these insightful presentations.

Content owner: [Veronica Tang](#)

**Surabaya, Indonesia**

**Green light for Surabaya Technical Working Group**

The establishment of a Technical Working Group for both Surabaya key interventions of the Global Future Cities Programme (GFCP) – urban transformation and earthquake resilience – will significantly improve coordination and communication among all major stakeholders, as well as sustain post project activities.

We were therefore delighted to receive the official backing for the Working Group from the Mayor of Surabaya, Mr. Eri Cahyadi, who signed a mayoral decree on 15 June 2021, following a discussion between our Surabaya Team and Local Government Officials.

This is a critical development in terms of local ownership and internalisation for both interventions. We can now kick-start the process of integrating the interventions’ results into the Surabaya government’s workplan from 2022 onwards, in collaboration with the Technical Working Group.
Kampung Ondomohen is known for being among the best urban farming villages in Surabaya, developed as a living lab for urban farming activities and green tourism village since 2020. The community in Kampung Dolly of Putat Jaya Gang 2A has also longed to develop urban farming activities in their neighbourhood, aware of its many social benefits ever since the red-light district was closed down in 2014. Residents are drawn to the potential for urban farming to create a green environment that helps the community improve their standard of living through better health and a stronger economy.

On August 20, 2021, Kampung Dolly representatives, led by Mr. Nirwono, went to Kampung Ondomohen to meet Mr. Mus and Mrs. Endang, the environmental champions of the village. Dolly residents learned a great deal about the black soldier fly, maggot breeding, fish farming and vegetable growing, whether in hydroponics or small spaces. These activities ultimately encouraged Kampung Ondomohen and Kampung Dolly to initiate their sister village programme to bring wider benefits for both villages. It is envisioned that this implementation will accelerate Kampung Dolly's urban transformation, specifically those goals related to urban farming.

*Kampung refers to village in Indonesia.*
Kampung Dolly representatives, led by Mr. Nirwono, went to Kampung Ondemohen to meet Mr. Mus and Mrs. Endang, the environmental champions of the village.

Read full article [here](https://www.example.com). Content owner: Retno Hastijanti and Shaendy Widyaswara

**Surabaya, Indonesia**

**Validation of earthquake risk analysis will save lives and prevent economic loss**

The Surabaya Earthquake Risk Profile (SEARP) is designed to support local authorities in improving their capacity on disaster preparedness. As authors of the analysis, the Global Future Cities Surabaya Earthquake Resilience team is therefore delighted to announce validation of the SEARP by additional local authorities, following recent consultation meetings. The National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) and BAPPENAS (Ministry of National Development Planning) validated the SEARP on 16 September 2021, becoming the third and fourth key national stakeholders to give their approval. They follow the BMKG (Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Bureau) in July 2021 and National Earthquake Study Centre (PuSGeN) in August 2021.

This display of the SEARP, according to BAPPENAS, serves as a timely reminder on the critical importance of disaster risk analysis within strategic planning procedures. The number of potential fatalities and economic loss shown in the SEARP indicates that integrating such profile analysis will assist local governments in saving lives and predicting devastating infrastructure collapse (government and community assets).
Melaka and Iskandar Malaysia

GFCP discusses urban planning and GESI strategy at the Malaysia Urban Forum 2021

The Global Future Cities Programme (GFCP) team in Malaysia took part in the Malaysia Urban Forum 2021 (MUF2021) from 6 – 8 September 2021. The virtual event, which centred on sustainable urbanisation, was organised by Urbanice Malaysia, an entity under the Malaysian Ministry of Housing and Local Government, with UN-Habitat serving as one of the global partners for the event.

The three-day event, which saw over 5,600 participants join more than 50 sessions led by 350 speakers, featured two sessions organised by the GFCP.

The first session was held on 7 September 2021 and was opened by welcome remarks from His Excellency Charles Hay MVO, the British High Commissioner to Malaysia. The session presented the development of tools and information to support sustainable urban and transport planning with a focus on data, Intelligent Transport System, the Citizen Feedback Portal, data analytics and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) Project Assessment Tool.

The second session held on 8 September 2021 focused on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) considerations in urban and transport planning. The session presented an overview of the strategic needs of GESI communities and the ongoing challenges in inclusive urban and transport planning, implementing GESI, Universal Design practices and adherence to the UN SDGs.
Both sessions featured thought-provoking questions from attendees and further spread awareness of the GFCP’s ongoing efforts towards enhancing transport and mobility in Malaysia.

Read [here](https://example.com) for more information on the two sessions organised by GFPC.

Content owner: [Roseanne Clarice](mailto:roseanne.clarice@example.com)

Iskandar Malaysia

Iskandar Malaysia aces pilot project
The GFCP Iskandar Malaysia Project Team has successfully completed the intervention’s pilot project for a Smart Integrated Mobility Management System (SIMMS).

After monthly demonstration sessions with stakeholders since March 2021, a final session was held on 6 September 2021 to review the completed pilot project.

The session presented potential future short-term updates to the transport model including incorporating vehicular movement count data, public transport board and alight count data as well as journey time data for key highway and bus routes. Long-term refinements could potentially include incorporating land use and planning data, forecasting of population and other types of data, as well as real-time highway modelling based on sensor data.

The session also provided Intelligent Transport System (ITS) updates which included a summary of the Survey 123 Application to digitise ITS assets with accurate spatial data. Smart GIS updates included data collection, engagement, data processing, GIS functionality as well as data transfer and handover protocols.

As part of the pilot project, a Citizen Feedback Portal, Orang Kurang Upaya (Persons with Disabilities) Accessibility Application and Cycling Infrastructure Application were also developed. These portals capture feedback from the general public via crowdsourcing methods. This feedback is complemented by accurate geospatial information which would be useful to authorities undertaking urban and transport planning.

The Pilot Project data transfer has kicked off, with the City Partner, Iskandar Regional Development Authority, set to take ownership of the various digital tools and data created as part of the pilot.
Preliminary SIMMS ITS Masterplan

Each local authority to have their own ITS strategy, prioritising systems according to need and alignment with other schemes:
- Traffic lights system
- Bus priority (MBPT)
- CCTV with analytics

IRDA to initiate/support regional ITS projects with relevant authorities to address wider cross-boundary and sectoral issues.

Screen capture of Smart GIS data dashboard
Making a local case for pedestrianisation in Melaka

The Global Future Cities Programme (GFCP) Melaka Project Team organised a townhall on 11 September 2021 with over 20 members of the Heritage Area Business Association and residents to introduce the proposed Melaka Heritage Area Pilot Project.

The project features the pedestrianisation of the famous tourist attraction, Jonker Street, as well as the rejuvenation of the Heritage Area which is a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage Site. Members of the local community will be invited to contribute in a ‘Create Art’ contest, where the winning entries will be showcased as part of an Asphalt Art event that will take place during the pilot project.

The discussion found that most businesses in the area have either closed permanently or moved away. While the townhall attendees agree with the pedestrianisation pilot project, they stressed that it is vital to ensure local community opinions and buy-in are obtained to make the project a success.

Through this pilot project, the GFCP in Melaka aims to encourage pedestrian-friendly streets, increase non-motorised vehicle usage, and increase visibility as well as sales for local businesses in Jonker Street.
A summary of the Melaka Area Pilot Project and success stories of similar projects

Members of the Melaka Heritage Area Business Association and local residents at the GFCP Townhall

Content owner: Roseanne Clarice

Philippines, Cebu

Cebu delivery team’s successful community consultations in
partnership with local NGO ensure more inclusive urban planning

Throughout September and October 2021, the Cebu delivery team (CDT) and local Cebu-based Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), the Pagtambayayong Foundation consulted with representatives from various groups whose feedback was essential in ensuring the CDT’s proposed development strategies are relevant, inclusive, and meet the changing and evolving needs of Cebu City.

These consultations are part of the CDT’s key outputs under its intervention 1, which is to develop a dynamic city development strategy with a focus on housing and integrated urban development. The strategic directions proposed included eliminating informal settlements and catering to the needs of its people for low-cost, adequately serviced, affordable housing while participating in sustainable and equitable growth. To accomplish this, the participants were invited from a diverse spectrum including women’s groups, homeowners’ associations, indigenous people’s (IP) communities, and the elderly, who represent groups threatened by eviction and living in informal settlements, danger zones, and in areas affected by infrastructure development. In addition, representatives from upland communities, transport-oriented groups, labour unions and market vendors were also invited in the discussion.

A hybrid method was deployed combining in-person and remote methods for the consultation to keep participants safe amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Following COVID-19 restrictions, the community consultations were conducted with strict physical distancing and sanitation measures. The success of the community consultations was integral to better understanding and gathering feedback from the strategy’s target beneficiaries, the analysis of which help ensure the establishment of a responsive city development strategy and affordable housing strategy that provides strategic directions to improve the quality of life of Cebu City’s residents.
Meet the team

**Sawinee Phuengnet**

I am the Monitoring, Evaluating, Reporting, and Learning (MREL) Officer for the Global Future Cities Program- Bangkok Intervention. My role is to support Log-frame monitoring and review program performance indicators, keeping track of the potential secondary benefit opportunities during the implementation, and ensure the action plan is followed up. In addition, I also provide support on collecting data for good news stories and lessons learned of the project accomplishments.

There are three interventions for Bangkok Intervention includes the Integrated Data Hub (IDH), Decision Support System (DSS), and Transit-Oriented Development Plan (TODP). Even though the Integrated Data Hub Intervention ended in early 2021, the intervention demonstrated its success in establishing a groundwork for data science and data integration for city management and provide an outline scale-up of data science pilots to be undertaken for other interventions. So, I am working on the two ongoing interventions, the Decision Support System (DSS) and Transit-Oriented Development Plan (TODP), to ensure that the interventions will provide a meaningful impact to tackle the urban challenges of Bangkok city.

Fun facts about me: one of my favourite things to do is go jogging with my father in the morning. My perfect day would start with a morning jogging, a cup of coffee, and ends with a good book!
Newsletter

Submitting your news

Please use the GFCP newsletter – news submission form to submit any announcements to be included in the next newsletter.

Community Urban Agenda Platform

The New Urban Agenda Platform is the knowledge portal for gathering voluntary reports, best practices, and data - both quantitative and qualitative, for reviewing the progress made in implementing the New Urban Agenda to achieve the 2030 Agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals.

This platform is for national governments, subnational governments, local authorities, civil societies, UN entities, private sector, regional organisations, and all other key stakeholders to voluntarily share their contributions to the implementation of the global agenda from the global, regional, national, and local level.

As a one-stop shop for both reporting and learning, the platform supports knowledge exchange, encourages interaction, and supports capacity development to establish communities of practice for sustainable urbanisation development.

We encourage you to sign up here and join the various groups for GFCP and post links to good news stories developed and published on the UN-Habitat knowledge platform to encourage discussions on relevant topics and promote engagement! This is a growing initiative aimed at creating and reinforcing partnerships among all relevant stakeholders and fostering collaboration, for transformative urban solutions and mutual learning.

Contact us

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