8th UCLG ASPAC CONGRESS
From Steady Recovery to Sustained Prosperity in Post COVID Asia and the Pacific

7-9 September | Hosted by Zhengzhou Municipal People’s Government, China
COVID-19 is not just a health crisis. The Pandemic has affected the whole society and its economies at their core. The pandemic and its impacts are deeply local in nature, requiring cities and local governments to re-examine their perspectives, policies and investments, among others, in public health services, economic stimulus and social security. Local governments are making effort for recovery and building back better. New and effective approaches to drive a sustained recovery from social, economic, and health crisis are necessary. Understanding how we can take advantage of the changes driven by COVID-19 will help the region build resilience to other crises that share similarities to COVID-19, such as those stemming from climate change, environmental degradation, natural hazards, human trafficking, wars, macroeconomic mismanagement, and international financial meltdowns.

The 8th UCLG ASPAC Congress will convene in conjunction with an International Conference titled “From Steady Recovery to Sustained Prosperity in Post COVID Asia Pacific.” The event will be organised by UCLG ASPAC and co-hosted by the Zhengzhou Municipal People’s Government and the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) with the support of UCLG ASPAC strategic partners in the region. The event is held from 7 to 9 September 2021.

Congress Messages

Hou Hong
Mayor of Zhengzhou City

"Digitalisation in the city is crucial during the COVID-19 crisis, where for example, big data collection is helpful for locating cases and better tracking."

Ashok Kumar
President of UCLG ASPAC

"It is clear that the COVID-19 pandemic is a threat to our achievement of the SDGs. At the same time, recovery efforts can help accelerate progress towards the goals."

Dr. Bernadia Irawati
Secretary General
UCLG ASPAC

"Tangible action should be addressed at the international right down to the local level. Therefore, vertical and horizontal integration, as well as the involvement from private sectors is critical so we can build back and come back stronger."

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Ashok Kumar
Byanju Shrestha

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Objectives
The 8th UCLG ASPAC Congress and International Conference will have four main objectives:

- to promote sustainable development through city- and local government-led actions in Asia-Pacific region;
- to drive sustained prosperity and well-being in Post COVID Asia and the Pacific;
- to officially adopt the UCLG ASPAC Manifesto 2021-2025, and;
- to conduct UCLG ASPAC Statutory Meetings – the Executive Bureau and Council Meeting.

Participants
The 8th UCLG ASPAC Congress draws a broad spectrum of:

- Local stakeholders
- Civil society groups
- National government agencies
- International organisations
- Development institutions
- Private sector
- Policy makers and opinion shapers

It is expected that more than 500 participants virtually attending from across the Asia-Pacific region including prominent figures, will take part in the 3-day event.

Speakers
Ashok Kumar
President of UCLG ASPAC

Byanju Shrestha

Yasutomo
Suzuki
Mayor of Hamamatsu City

Hou Hong
Mayor of Zhengzhou City

Rosy
Senanayake
Mayor of Colombo

There are more than 70 speakers invited to the 8th UCLG ASPAC Congress.
Program Agenda

Tuesday, 7 September 2021

11.00 – 12.30 Climate Financing and Budgeting
Led by GCoM SEA Secretariat, GCoM Global Regional Coherence for Asia Pacific and UCLG ASPAC

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch

13.30 – 15.00 South & Southwest Standing Committee

13.30 – 15.00 Break

15.30 – 17.00 Standing Committee of Women in Local Government

17.00 – 18.30 HDP Nexus Committee

From response to recovery; Snapshot of learning cities best practices
Led by UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)

Wednesday, 8 September 2021

09.00 – 10.30 Culture Committee

10.30 – 11.00 Break

11.00 – 12.30 Southeast Asia Standing Committee

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch Break

13.30 – 15.00 Post-Pandemic Tourism Recovery – Insight and Strategy
Led by Xi'an Municipal People's Government

15.00 – 15.30 Break

15.30 – 17.30 Belt and Road Local Cooperation Committee
Decentralised Cooperation and the SDGs
Led by United Cities and Local Governments – World Secretariat

15.30 – 17.30 Belt and Road Local Cooperation Committee

17.00 – 18.30 MCR2030: Strengthening national-local collaboration towards making cities resilient in Asia-Pacific
Led by United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

Thursday, 9 September 2021

09.00 – 10.00 Opening Ceremony
- An Official Adoption of UCLG ASPAC Manifesto 2021-2025
- Launching Photo Contest and Winner Announcement

10.00 – 10.30 Sister Cities Signing Ceremony in Asia Pacific

10.30 – 11.00 Break

11.00 – 12.30 Propelling the New Normal from Steady Recovery to Sustainable Prosperity in Post COVID Asia and the Pacific
Topics: Digital Economy & Employment Promotion, Rural Revitalization & Poverty Elimination, Community Service & Social Security, Public Health & Emergency Management

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch Break

13.30 – 15.00 UCLG ASPAC Executive Bureau Meeting

15.00 – 15.30 Break

15.45 – 16.45 UCLG ASPAC Council Meeting

16.45 – 17.45 Closing Session and Unveiling the Monument of UCLG ASPAC Congress

Committee Meetings | Plenary Sessions | Statutory Meetings | Side Events
Registrations

Participants will register via www.uclgaspac-connect.org
Information on the meeting agenda, photo contest, host city information, and other inquiries shall be regularly updated through the Congress Website.

About UCLG ASPAC and its Congress

The United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC) is the largest regional section of UCLG. Its members – representing local administrative and political leadership from cities and local governments across Asia Pacific – have set a high priority on achieving the SDGs by 2030 and have been working with partners from around the world to accelerate its localisation. UCLG ASPAC Secretariat and its members have also been active in strengthening cooperation and building resilience to control the COVID-19 pandemic in the Asia Pacific region.

UCLG ASPAC Congress is a biennial event that brings together mayors, governors, local governments’ officials, and key development actors across the Asia Pacific countries. The 8th UCLG ASPAC Congress is organised by UCLG ASPAC, hosted by the Zhengzhou Municipal People’s Government and the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC).