

**Voice of
the Mayors**



Solat Mortazavi

Mashhad

Youth participation and
engagement

About

Voice of the Mayors

Celebrating its thirtieth anniversary, METROPOLIS wishes to leverage the unique experience of its members, represented by the mayors of the major metropolises, presidents and governors of metropolitan regions. Too often, the expertise of these high-ranking officials is lost once their term has come to an end. However, at a time when global urban development is quickening its pace, their experience is more beneficial than ever for the new generations of local decision-makers, the entire spectrum of public and private local development stakeholders and partners in the international community.

In its capacity as a network of the world's major metropolises, METROPOLIS also seeks to make an active contribution to the current international debate concerning the revision of the Millennium Development Goals, negotiations on climate change and the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

This is how the idea for **Voice of the Mayors** came into being, as a wealth of first-hand testimonies from local and regional leaders whose experience deserves to be recounted and disseminated. Bequeathing this legacy also conveys the willingness of METROPOLIS members to share their experiences and to enhance the exchange of knowledge, a concerted effort to contribute towards shaping sustainable urban development worldwide.

Upon the creation of METROPOLIS in 1984, the 14 founding members expressed their desire to work together to strengthen their mutual capacities to manage their cities. **Voice of the Mayors** helps to achieve this goal with the 136 members that comprise METROPOLIS today and the young generations of local decision-makers.

The testimony you are about to read serves to enhance the association's training activities and the work carried out within the framework of the METROPOLIS Initiatives, the METROPOLIS Women International Network and of METROPOLIS Youth.

The experience of the leading decision-makers in major metropolises across the world is essential. They manage the day-to-day needs of millions of citizens as regards housing, mobility, education, health, safety and energy, to name but a few. They run cities, urban areas and metropolitan regions that are sometimes larger than certain United Nations member states in terms of population, budget size and global reach. They are the main political leaders on the front line, tackling the challenges facing the planet. Nevertheless, this role has yet to be sufficiently recognised in present-day international relations.

It is Metropolis' aspiration that **Voice of the Mayors** will help these leaders' words to be better heard, listened to and taken into consideration by the international community.

Alain LE SAUX
METROPOLIS Secretary-General
October, 2014



Curriculum vitae

SOLAT MORTAZAVI

Mr Mortazavi was born in January, 1962, in Farsan County in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province. He is married and has five children.

He has already played important roles in the Central Sherifdom of Farsan, Lordegan governorship, Birjand governorship, Membership in the Central Council of Society of Devotees of the Islamic Revolution, Editor in chief of Hemayat Newspaper of the Judiciary, Secretary of the election, South Khorasan governor in the 9th government, Political deputy of the Ministry of the Interior in the 10th government.

Course: Islamic Jurisdiction

Solat Mortazavi

Youth participation and engagement

Initially, I want to appreciate the World Association of Metropolises for creating such an opportunity for me to share my experiences.

Since the beginning of serving to the noble people of Mashhad as the mayor of the second metropolis of Iran with a population of about 3 million, I have had some strategies in my mind and I have done my best to actualize them. One of the most important ideas of mine in urban management was to take advantage of the youth's contributions, creativities and notions. We have a lot of thoughtful, creative and far-sight-

ed youth who are superior in many aspects of sciences and morality. They are interested in development of their city. Taking advantage of the youth's contributions and collective wisdom, we could reach the highest levels of scientific and ethical arenas and have a peaceful and good city. In my opinion, this is our greatest wealth. The youth have always encouraged me to provide the required setting for their presence and using their talents in municipality practices. On the other hand, we can share our experiences with them.

From past to present, we have been doing great works in order to involve the youth in solving the municipal problems; I will notice them in brief.



I have considered seven policies for this group in municipality. Members of the group are working hard to increase the youth's scientific contributions in urbane management, based on their purposes, strategies and duties. These seven policies are placed in three fields of active participation and real partnership, youth empowerment and decision making for managers.

The head of this group is appointed by the mayor. He works under my supervision, takes part in the most important municipality meeting (council of mayor's deputies) and discusses about the youth's problems and issues.

I will talk about some of our achievements and proceedings; but, before that I want to cite that who are the young audiences of our plans and activities. It should be noted that we have not set any limitations on the education field, age, place of living, administrative procedure of the problem and etc. for our audiences and we just have tried to invite them publicly. Of course, we classify them into different groups based on

Another important practice to make a direct contribution with the youth and empowerment of them and taking advantage of their notions is that we have introduced a young consultant to each of the deputies, organizations and managers of Mashhad municipality. These consultants can help the deputies and heads of the organizations as well as the managers of regions as a scientific, research creative power and this practice was appreciated by them. This suitable opportunity for the talented youth caused them to transfer their ideas, plans and scientific comments to the managers in different parts of the municipality. This has led into a great evolution in the municipality. Selection of these consultants is performed according to their background activities in the group, education, specialty, capabilities, ethics, etc. and after a while, a new group of the youth with new ideas will be selected as alternatives.

We have succeeded in using the capabilities of university professors, urban managers,

specialist as well as universities, research centers, scientific association and etc. in order to promote our goals and to justify the importance of participation in urbane management for the youth based on exponential model of the youth's scientific partnership in urbane management. Accordingly, we could take advantage of 327 professors' participation in order to check the ideas and plans of the youth, judgment in festivals and presence in observations and evaluations as a guide for the youth.

One of our fundamental strategies is taking full advantage of the information. According to technology advancement and development of communications in modern life, it is essential to use Information Technology. In this regard, we have launched the internet intelligent system of "ideshahr" with this address: www.ideshahr.ir. This system is designed and built intelligently in which any individual, especially the youth with any science, age and location feature is registered and begins to record his ideas on the system through an automatic training. These recorded ideas are categorized based on their topics, so that the authorities can reach them easily. Up to date, this system includes 3500 users and 21000 registered ideas. These ideas are considered as treasuries of thought, science, creativity and experience.

It should be noted that recruitment of motivated youth with desire of solving urban problems and creating peace in the city is performed voluntarily. The major reason of this way of thinking in people and our development in all fields is people's adherence to wise and righteous leader of our country who always trusts to the youth and discusses among the youth about the most important issues of country; he expects the youth to modify and improve the issues.

Another reason of wide-spread coordination of the youth with municipality is trust making and reassuring relative to tracking the ideas. For instance, in ideshahr system, the users discuss about each other's ideas and complete them. After registration, the idea is referred to the special commission relating to the topic. The commission

investigates the idea in terms of science. If the idea is applicable, the commission will ask the theorist for checking economical and executive justifications and converting them to a comprehensive and complete plan. When the idea is converted to a complete plan, it will be sent to the relative manager of municipality and it will be defended to be applied. These plans are tracked until the time of execution. It should be noted that the theorist can observe the procedure of tracking and application of his idea electronically through the system. This is one of our instances of trust making for the youth. In this way, I investigate and observe the communication and interaction with the youth in the municipality and pursue their contribution and application of their ideas, because I believe that receiving thousands of ideas does not mean finishing and if we cannot apply them, we will have the biggest loss.

We have festivals of innovations and inventions, discussions of managers and the youth, thematic group works, creation of visit and assessment teams for urban projects by the youth and training courses; we have gain desirable results.

Another proceeding which I have ordered is creation of local youth network. Local youth network is established in order to organize and empower the local youth to identify the problems of a region and provide local strategies to solve these problems. Through this plan, we were looking for another type of optimum contribution of the youth. Except the instances I have noted, we are performing applicable practices in cultural and social deputies in order to increase the interactions and scientific contributions.

In terms of communication at national and international levels, we have had broad interactions. I believe that national and international interactions with any topic can cause advancement. I can say that now we share our experiences and achievements with the other cities. Each theorist performs the documentation of experiences and has got personal forms of experience insertion. In this context, a complete introduction of young consultants association and its experi-







ences are presented in www.policytransfer.metropolis.org, so that all the managers, specialists and the youth can take advantage of them.

We have some activities in terms of national communications with the aim to utilize the experiences and knowledge of other cities relating to the youth, development and deepening of exchanges and interactions, providing settings for manifestation of creativities and evaluations of the youth, empowerment of consultants and activists. Up to date, we have sent our representatives to different cities of our country and teach them the model of youth's scientific contribution in urban management. Now, 11 cities of Iran are using the model of Mashhad municipality for the youth's contributions.

One of the most important international activities which was done by us is presenting the idea of creation of metropolis youth network in Guangzhou and providing the proposal of setting up the international network of metropolis youth. Our plan was admitted in World Summit on of the Board of Metropolis in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2013. It was appointed that Mashhad is considered as the central office of international network of metropolis youth. After that we had press conferences in order to schedule, register the members through special tests and interviews, consultative meetings and workshops. Also, we had an active presence in international seminar of intelligent city and strategic planning, and we introduced the system of "ideshahr". In order to determine the accurate strategy, we held the strategic summit of metropolis youth in 2014 in Mashhad in which a draft of the overview, mission and the three-year operational program of metropolis was edited and placed in operational program of metropolis between 2015 and 2017.

In my speeches and interviews, I have always emphasized on the youth's participation. Recently, I have sent a 10-article manifest to all of the deputies and managers in which I have totally focused on importance of youth's communication with municipality, utilizing the youth's ideas, experience sharing with the youth, application of the youth's plans and etc. and I have asked my

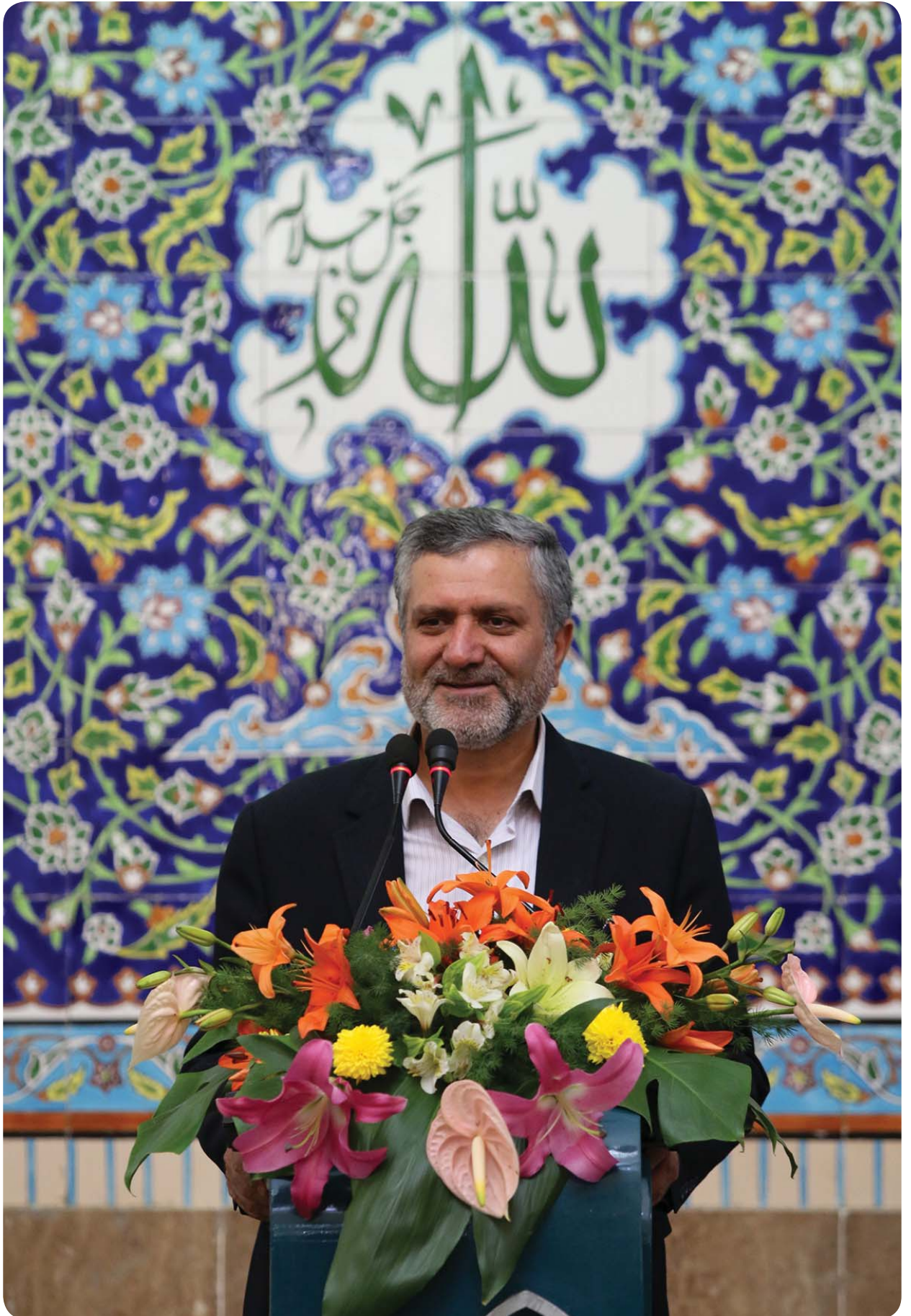
managers for friendly cooperation and supports towards the youth.

The strategies, plans and activities of us to attract the youth's scientific contribution have not been finished and every day, we are looking for a new method, because in my opinion, creative and scientific contribution of the youth is a mutual achievement which has a great effect at the present time and the future. I am satisfied with the previous works, but I would never say that they are enough. Again, I emphasize that our activities in virtual space must be more optimized and accurate. We are trying to improve our scientific networks and internet systems.

I finish my speech with a sentence quoted from the leader of my country:

"Youth and teenagers are bubbling springs of power and talent. Youth means future. A good youth is a good future for a country."

**Mashhad
September, 2014**





Latitude and longitude of Mashhad

North latitude				East longitude			
Min.		Max.		Min.		Max.	
Minute	Degree	Minute	Degree	Minute	Degree	Minute	Degree
43	35	7	37	2	59	38	60

Population of Mashhad

Population (2011)	2,766,258
Average annual growth (2006-2011)	1.7%
Male population	1,384,599
Female population	1,381,659
Number of households	804,391
Average age	29.52 years old

Incoming passengers sorted by the type of transportation vehicles

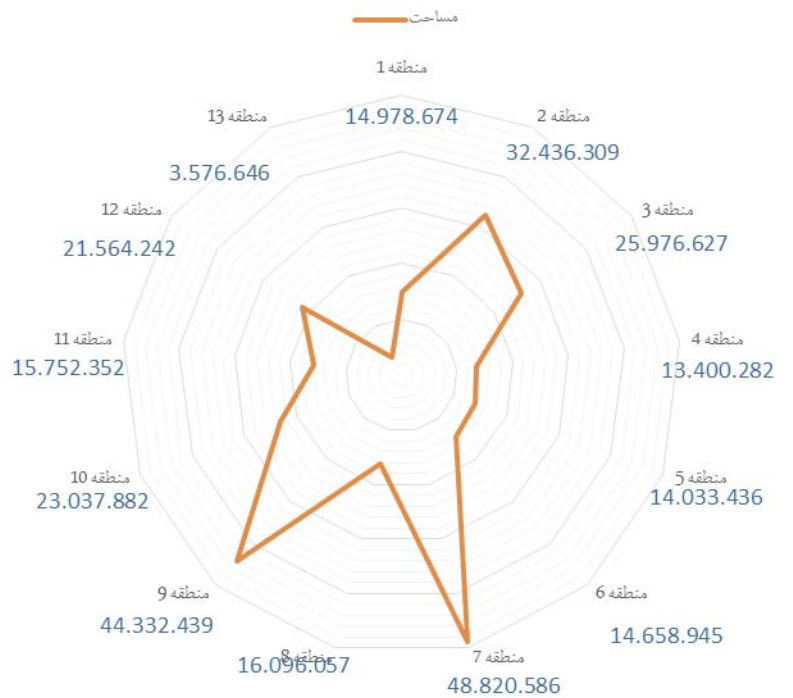
Vehicle type	Incoming passengers
Bus (passenger terminal)	9,177,288
Minibus (passenger terminal)	2,263,894
Automobile (passenger terminal)	620,122
Train	6,144,866
Domestic and international flights	3,305,978

Population of Mashhad, sorted by age

Age group	Male	Female	Total
0-4 years old	119,784	114,350	234,134
5-9 years old	109,089	104,031	213,120
10-14 years old	107,485	104,882	212,367
15-19 years old	111,592	114,414	226,006
20-24 years old	151,274	160,146	311,420
25-29 years old	168,654	167,799	336,453
30-34 years old	131,948	131,912	263,860
35-39 years old	103,261	99,231	202,492
40-44 years old	89,529	90,374	179,903
45-49 years old	76,112	75,651	151,763
50-54 years old	67,115	66,713	133,828
55-59 years old	49,452	48,510	97,962
60-64 years old	29,628	32,410	62,038
65-69 years old	24,208	23,568	47,776
70-74 years old	17,508	19,173	36,681
75-79 years old	14,386	13,994	28,380
80-84 years old	7,338	8,494	15,832
85-89 years old	4,134	4,212	8,346
90-94 years old	1,007	971	1,978
95-99 years old	287	254	541
100 years old and more	125	364	489
Unspecified	683	206	889

Area dispersion of urban regions of Mashhad

Region #	Area (in square meters)
1	14,978,674
2	32,436,309
3	25,976,627
4	13,400,282
5	14,033,436
6	14,658,945
7	48,820,586
8	16,096,057
9	44,332,439
10	23,037,882
11	15,752,352
12	21,564,242
13	3,576,646
Total	288,664,477



METROPOLIS' VOICE OF THE MAYORS IS SUPPORTED BY

Cities Alliance

Cities Without Slums

The Cities Alliance is a global partnership for urban poverty reduction and the promotion of the role of cities in sustainable development. Cities Alliance Members include local authorities, national governments, non-governmental organisations, multilateral organisations, and associate members. METROPOLIS is a founding member of Cities Alliance.

www.citiesalliance.org



The Global fund for cities development (FMDV) was created in October 2010 at the initiative of METROPOLIS, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and 34 founding members (cities and city networks). It is an international political organisation which aims to strengthen solidarity and financial capacity by and among local authorities and is complementary to existing mobilisation, coordination and advocacy networks.

www.fmdv.net



Created in 2004, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) is the united voice and world advocate of local and regional self-government. Members of UCLG are present in 140 countries, and are organized into seven regional sections, a Forum of Regions, and a metropolitan section coordinated by METROPOLIS. UCLG's membership includes over 1,000 cities and regions, as well as 155 local government associations.

www.uclg.org



The World Urban Campaign is a global partnership coordinated by UN-Habitat, designed to promote a positive vision of sustainable urbanization and to place the urban agenda at the highest level in development policies. It is meant to build alliances with all the sectors of society in a movement to provide a knowledge and action-oriented platform to address urban challenges. It is a platform for Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to be held in 2016.

www.worldurbancampaign.org

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Voice of the Mayors # 18

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