

**Seventh Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF-7)**  
**“Future of Asia and Pacific Cities: Transformative Pathways to  
Achieve  
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**  
**15-17 October 2019, Penang, Malaysia**

**Draft Concept Note for Urban Innovation Session**

**Title:** Localizing the New Urban Agenda and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

**Time & Date:** 11:00-12:30, 16 October (tbc.)

**Venue:** tbc.

**Sponsors:** City of Guangzhou, United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) & World Association of the Major Metropolises (METROPOLIS)

**Co-organisers/ partners:** UN-Habitat, UCLG ASPAC, Southern Finance Omnimedia Corp. & Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation

**Session description**

*Background:*

The Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation (Guangzhou Award) is an award system dedicated to city-to-city cooperation and the sharing of lessons learned from experience. The Award just recently completed its fourth cycle (2018) where cities and regions submitting initiatives to the Award were asked how their respective initiatives were contributing to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

*Observable Trends:*

Of the 300 submissions received in 2018, 45 were selected as deserving initiatives, 15 were shortlisted as outstanding initiatives and 5 won the Award. A cursory analysis of the 45 deserving initiatives reveals many interesting and somewhat unexpected trends in how cities and regions are implementing the 2030 Agenda. Among these trends is the observation that most of the 45 deserving cities and regions are implementing, on average, 3 or more SDGs concurrently. While this is in line with the fact that the SDGs are mutually supporting, what is equally interesting to observe is that many of these local authorities are undertaking actions that do not fall within their traditional remit.

Given the above, the proposed event will focus on the following:

(a) What were some of the salient trends and issues emerging from the analysis of the 45 initiatives;

(b) A deep dive into four case studies from four different countries in the Asia Pacific region will be presented illustrating how local authorities are implementing the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda. The case studies represent very different social, economic and environmental contexts as well as cities of different sizes. The case studies have all qualified as finalists for the Guangzhou Award for Urban Innovation.

The proposed format is that of an interactive and fully moderated event. After a few introductory words by the co-organisers of the event, representatives of four cities will have a chance to explain not just WHAT they did or achieved, but more importantly HOW. The representatives of the four cities will be joined by two experts representing different stakeholders to form a panel for discussion, Q&A and debate.

### **Key questions (3 embedded questions):**

- What are some of the contributing factors to the success of each of the four cases and what do they have in common, if anything?
- What are some of the key difficulties or barriers that remain in accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Global Agenda at the local level, what is their nature and how can they be overcome?
- What can other cities and regions learn?

### **Proposed speakers:**

#### Introductory remarks:

- Representative (tbc.) of Guangzhou Municipality
- Ms. Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, UCLG
- Mr. Octavi De La Varga, Secretary General, METROPOLIS (tbc.)

#### City Case Studies:

- Senior official (tbc.) from Guangzhou introducing the 1000 electric bus fleet
- Senior official from Surabaya (tbc.)
- Senior official from Sydney (tbc.)

#### Moderator:

Mr. Nicholas You, Executive Director, GIUI

#### Panelists:

Representative from UN-Habitat (tbc.)

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General, UCLG-ASPAC

### **Tentative Agenda:**

<b>(1) Remarks</b>	
11:00-11:05	Remark by an official from city of Guangzhou (tbc.)
11:05-11:10	Remark by Ms. Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, UCLG

11:10-11:15	Remark by Mr. Octavi de la Varga, Secretary-General, METROPOLIS
<b>(2) Panel discussion</b>	
Moderator: Nicolas You, Executive Director, GIUI	
11:15-11:20	Introduction
11:20-11:35	Presentation by Representative from Sydney
11:35-11:50	Presentation by Representative from Surabaya
11:50-12:05	Presentation by Representative from Guangzhou
12:05-12:25	Q&A
12:25-12:30	Wrap up by the moderator

