Cities are centers of opportunity and prosperity where innovation sparks and takes root. However, cities and their surrounding regions are also on the front lines of global change. They adapt to shifts in dimensions of urban life and confront the impacts of rapid urbanization, demographic change, climate change, technological advancements and a range of development challenges.

ICLEI has long recognized the warning signs and is responding directly to global challenges. At the ICLEI World Congress 2018 in Montréal, Canada, Members of ICLEI made a commitment to create deep, systemic change in urban areas. They rallied behind the ICLEI Montréal Commitment and Strategic Vision 2018-2024 to guide them through the following six years via the five interconnected pathways for change.

Reviewing 2018, ICLEI East Asia has expanded partnerships with local governments and institutions in the region and welcomed Shanghai Changning District, China as our new Member. In better supporting ICLEI Members and network cities in the region, we opened our Beijing Office in March 2018, and continued to deliver projects and programs based on local and regional needs.

In response to the urgent need for action on air quality improvement in East Asia, a series of collaboration, capacity building, and research projects were carried out with East Asia Clean Air Cities, a program which has gathered 10 local governments since 2016, and is facilitating the environmental cooperation between Beijing and Seoul.

Based on previous efforts on urban low carbon development, ICLEI East Asia continues leading the Building Efficiency Accelerator in the region, and is actively supporting Ulaanbaatar in project preparation and implementation of thermo-technical residential retrofits with regional partners.

East Asian cities play critical roles in driving sustainable and green economy with rapid economic growth and decentralization. ICLEI supported Chinese and Korean jurisdictions to scale up green public procurement uptake under the 10YFP on SPP Working Group 1A project, and expanded the existed GPP Partnership under the new name Procura+ East Asia.

In July, ICLEI East Asia successfully co-hosted the session “Building Green Circular Cities” in Guiyang, gathering local governments, businesses and partners to look at the opportunities and challenges in shifting towards the circular economy. ICLEI is preparing the new initiative Green Circular Cities Coalition to facilitate international cooperation on pursuing circular cities at a subnational level.

Finally, ICLEI East Asia co-hosted a capacity building workshop on climate change adaptation and urban resilience with partners for Zhuhai city officials. In 2019, we will continue to deliver training on developing integrated climate change adaptation planning to individual pilot cities in China.

Cities of ICLEI are leading the way towards global sustainability. ICLEI East Asia is committed to accelerating these efforts with the experiences and partnerships of ICLEI across the region, and supporting local governments in pursuing the five pathways for change.
ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of more than 1,750 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 100+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. Our Members and team of experts work together through peer exchange, partnerships and capacity building to create systemic change for urban sustainability.

ICLEI EAST ASIA SECRETARIAT

Hosted by the Seoul Metropolitan Government, the ICLEI East Asia Secretariat supports East Asian Members in the Greater China Region, Japan, Korea, and Mongolia.

ICLEI East Asia has developed local and regional programs and exchange platforms to accelerate sustainable and low carbon development in the region, including East Asia Clean Air Cities, Procura+ East Asia, the Green Circular Cities Coalition, and Urban Resilience. We provide technical consulting, training and information services to build capacity, share knowledge and support local governments in pursuing sustainable development.

In order to further extend our support to Chinese cities’ sustainable and environmentally friendly development, ICLEI East Asia opened the Beijing Office in March 2018.

MEMBERSHIP

Globally, ICLEI Membership has grown to more than 1,750 local and regional governments in 124 countries worldwide since 1990. In East Asia, 96 local governments in East Asia have joined ICLEI as of December 2018.

NEW MEMBER

Located on the west side of the global financial center Shanghai, Changning District is committed to the overall enhancement of urban area functions and quality, which includes the building of a smart urban area and continuously improved green and low-carbon development. In fostering its international and inter-city engagement, Changning joined ICLEI in 2018 and is participating in the Building Efficiency Accelerator with the support of ICLEI East Asia (see page 16).
Ashok Sridharan, President of ICLEI and Mayor of Bonn, Germany.

Every three years, ICLEI holds its World Congress to showcase the efforts of local and regional governments across the network to advance sustainable urban development worldwide, and connects them with their peers and strategic partners for discussions that will inform and enhance their work.

On June 19–23, the ICLEI World Congress 2018 took place in Montréal, Canada. 56 sessions, 3 pre-events, and 10 technical visits were organized under the four-day Congress, gathering hundreds of local, regional and national governments, international agencies, representatives of the private sector, academics and researchers, community groups and partners from around the world.

The ICLEI World Congress 2018 was also the kick-off point for the holistic approach to sustainable development captured in the ICLEI Montréal Commitment and Strategic Vision 2018-2024, which defines five interconnected pathways for change, providing a guidance for action by ICLEI Members and network cities to transform individual communities, and lays out a roadmap for advancing sustainable urban development through 2024, taking into account the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the New Urban Agenda.
The five ICLEI pathways towards low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient, and circular development are designed to create systemic change. They provide a framework for designing integrated solutions that balance the patterns of human life and the built and nature environments, and serve as a basis for sustainable urban development that considers the complexity of urban systems. When these pathways guide local and regional development, urban systems become more sustainable.

ICLEI East Asia incorporates different pathways and helps local and regional governments advance sustainable urban development. Often, our activities are guided by a predominant pathway or set of pathways. We design our works to integrate as many pathways as possible into any given activity, such as a project, partnership or initiative.
Launched in 2016, East Asia Clean Air Cities (EACAC) is a long-term multilateral collaboration network for cities committed to tackling air pollution. 10 East Asian cities have joined and actively participate in various trainings and events under the framework.

INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

On September 4–5, ICLEI East Asia supported the Seoul Metropolitan Government in organizing the 8th Northeast Asia Forum on Air Quality Improvement as the co-organizer. The Forum was attended by officials of 25 local governments, including EACAC cities Beijing, Tokyo, Kitakyushu and Ulaanbaatar. On this occasion, Kitakyushu and Ulaanbaatar shared their experiences in pursuing clean air through international and intercity cooperation. With monitoring being a process fundamental to improving air quality management, ICLEI East Asia also hosted the session “Strengthening Monitoring to Better Inform Air Pollution Management”, gathering experts from UN Environment, research institutes, and local governments from the region to present latest air quality monitoring technology and methodologies.

EACAC cities Beijing, Seoul, Tokyo and Ulaanbaatar, together with other 18 cities, adopted the Tokyo Declaration on Realization of Clean Cities and Clear Skies during the Forum of Clean City and Clear Sky. The Declaration underscores not only the importance of achieving clear skies, but also outlines specific pathways towards this goal. The 22 cities are committed to undertaking measures to: improve waste management and material cycling; optimize resource efficiency; create mechanisms for citizen and city-business engagement; and cooperate with ICLEI and other international organizations and institutions.

BEIJING—SEOUL BILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

In March 2018, Beijing and Seoul signed an MoU to promote environmental cooperation, with a focus on clean air actions. With Beijing and Seoul both being host cities of ICLEI offices, ICLEI East Asia actively engages the two cities in EACAC for capacity building and knowledge sharing on air quality improvement.

ICLEI East Asia supported organizing the Joint Workshop on Ways to Reduce Fine Dust and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) under the framework of the 3rd Meeting of the Seoul-Beijing Joint Committee, and participated in the Beijing-Seoul Climate and Environmental Cooperation Forum as a part of the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of Seoul-Beijing relations. Two cities gathered on these occasions to exchange their actions on air quality improvement, and reaffirmed their commitments to jointly tackle climate change and environmental challenges.

CAPACITY BUILDING ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR BEIJING MUNICIPALITY

ICLEI East Asia is supporting the Beijing Bureau of Ecology and Environment on capacity building for international cooperation, and assisted the bureau organizing the session “Progress and Lessons Learned: 20 Years of Fighting Air Pollution in...”
GREEN LUNG FOR ULAANBAATAR

To better understand local challenges and stimulate regional cooperation on air quality issues, EACAC funded a joint study in Ulaanbaatar in 2017–2018. Initiated by the Environment and Climate Fund of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia, and conducted by the Mongolian University of Life Sciences, the study defines air quality data and pilots an urban greening project in the ger districts of Bayankhoshoo and Nisekh to analyze the effectiveness of trees as a potential air pollution mitigation measure. The project builds upon technological advances for improving saplings survival rates, citizen engagement, multi-level governance, and air quality data collection.

GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

10YFP ON SPP WG1A

GPP TENDER IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT MONITORING

In 2016, ICLEI started the two-year project ‘Green Public Procurement (GPP) Tender Implementation and Impact Monitoring’ under the 10 Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Public Procurement (10YFP on SPP) led by UN Environment, to support Chinese and Korean local authorities in procuring eco-friendly and innovative products and services, and monitoring its environmental impacts. Among the six jurisdictions ICLEI closely works with, 2 Chinese local governments implemented new tender model in 2018 with ICLEI East Asia’s direct support.

Tianjin Binhai New Area identified the furniture sector as an entry point to pilot green procurement evaluation scheme, and formulated a set of specifications, award criteria and verification methods in a life cycle perspective. The criteria were applied to two procurement tenders of school desks and chairs for public campuses in Binhai, and contributed to over 29.61 tons waste being diverted from landfill, and saved around 91.96 tons of CO2e. The project won the 2018 China Government Procurement Award for Innovation of the Year, and the criteria will be further institutionalized district-wide in 2019.

Through an on-site technical consultation seminar held under the 10YFP on SPP project, ICLEI East Asia assisted Shenzhen Guangming District in identifying ice-storage air conditioning as the most suitable product group for the Guangming Culture and Arts Center construction work in embracing green specifications. ICLEI East Asia will continue to cooperate with Guangming and criteria researchers in the air-conditioning industry in China to formulate green specifications and award criteria for the construction team’s references.

As final output of the project, ICLEI East Asia conducted two cases studies on the participating local jurisdictions’ GPP achievements for global distribution.

PROCURA’ EAST ASIA

Jointly organized by ICLEI East Asia and the Beijing Bureau of Ecology and Environment, the EcoProcura China 2018: ICLEI Green Public Procurement Capacity Building Workshop gathered over 30 representatives and officials from 11 Chinese local governments and experts from China, Europe, and Japan. The workshop was closed with the launch of the ProcurA’ East Asia Green Procurement Network. As a sister network of ProcurA’ Europe which connects over 40 European public authorities and regions to exchange and act on sustainable and innovation procurement, ProcurA’ East Asia is designed to bridge public authorities in the region in achieving sustainable and low-carbon development goals with green procurement as an effective policy tool. Five Chinese and one Korean local governments and strategic partners from the region have joined.

CHINA NATIONAL GPP STUDY VISIT

Under ProcurA’ East Asia, ICLEI organized a Chinese National GPP delegation comprising high-level representatives from the Ministry of Finance, local governments, and national agencies for a 10-day study visit to Copenhagen, Malmo, Gothenburg, Stockholm, Oslo, and Bergen. The delegation investigated forefront green procurement policies and practices in Europe, contributing to the establishment of a national green public procurement scheme in China.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

ICLEI East Asia compiled a synthetic case study on the Chinese city Shenzhen’s success in phasing out products that contain Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) through implementing ambitious GPP policies for global distribution.
The Building Efficiency Accelerator (BEA) is a public-private collaboration that turns global expertise into action to accelerate local government implementation of building efficiency policies and programs under the UN Sustainable Energy for All initiative. Global partners have joined the BEA, creating a network of support for the 38 participating cities. As a regional lead, ICLEI East Asia is supporting two cities in the BEA.

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia joined the BEA in March 2017 and is one of five BEA partner cities selected in August 2018 for a 18-month ‘Deep Dive’ Partnership together with ICLEI East Asia and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). Through this focused partnership structure, ICLEI East Asia is providing dedicated assistance via a technical advisor staffed in the city department, and supporting project preparation and securing finance for thermo-technical residential retrofits to reduce energy loss.

Shanghai Changning District, China joined the BEA in 2018. With strong leadership and commitment on building energy efficiency towards low carbon development, Changning identifies three priorities: Near Net-Zero Energy Buildings (NZEBs) pilots; smart management with big data support from demand- and supply-side; and international interactions and knowledge exchange. Changning is looking to pursue better management system to cope with a number of variables such as peak and off-peak building electricity demand, renewable energy generation, building energy resilience, and Internet of Things (IoT) optimization. Under the BEA, ICLEI East Asia is supporting Changning in connecting with global experts and accessing various resources.

Since 2016, ICLEI East Asia has been co-organizing annual training on urban sustainability for local government officials with the Seoul Human Resource Development Center. This year, the week-long training focused on climate change policies. 17 local government officials from Beijing, Foshan, and Guiyang of China, Haiphong of Vietnam, Marikina of the Philippines, Melaka of Malaysia, and Jakarta of Indonesia are updated with the latest information of energy transition, pedestrian-friendly city, waste management, ICLEI’s GreenClimateCities methodology, and participated in the 8th Northeast Asia Forum on Air Quality Improvement hosted by the Seoul Metropolitan Government (see page 12).

Inspired by the Promise of Seoul, a comprehensive climate strategy adopted by Seoul which embodied 10 million residents as equal partners in shaping and implementing climate action, the Ambitious City Promises project was launched in 2017 to support Southeast Asian cities in adapting the model of inclusive and ambitious climate action, mainstreaming low emission development strategies, and creating new climate leaders. The project is implemented by ICLEI and funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) via the International Climate Initiative (IKI). ICLEI East Asia supports the project implementation, and assisted arranging officials from Jakarta and Marikina to participate in the Capacity Building Program on Climate Change Policies under the capacity building pillar of the project.

The Asia Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) Partnership is a voluntary regional network comprised of individuals and organizations active in designing, promoting, and/ or implementing LEDS. In 2018, ICLEI East Asia supported the Partnership in forming four Community of Practices (CoP) to engage experts and practitioners as a group for peer-learning and knowledge advancement on the topics of: grid-scale renewable energy; clean mobility; multi-level governance; and Nationally Determined Contributions finance.
**HORIZON 2020 PROJECTS**

**CONNECTING NATURE**
Launched in 2017, Connecting Nature is a partnership of 31 organizations co-working with local authorities, communities, industry, NGOs and academics from 16 European countries, Brazil, China, Korea and the Caucasus (Georgia and Armenia). It focuses on improving city planning practices by transcending silos and bridging stakeholders. A community of cities has been formed to co-develop the policy and practices for upscaling nature-based solutions for urban resilience, innovation and governance. Within the project, ICLEI East Asia is coordinating activities to share learnings and advanced practices via ICLEI’s Global Urban Nature Programme for Urban Nature Pioneers.

**CLEVER CITIES**
Led by Hamburg, London and Milan, CLEVER Cities intends to position nature-based solutions as a means to improving public health, social cohesion, citizen security, and increasing economic opportunities in deprived areas of cities often lacking in quality green spaces. Funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology of China, ICLEI East Asia began coordinating the initiation of the China project with the Xi’an Jiaotong University in 2018, and will continue to support Chinese cities’ engagement and facilitate project-related dialogue between China and the EU.

**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT**
The ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center hosted the 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments as an official event to the 14th Conferences of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP14). With the support of ICLEI East Asia, the Chinese city Beijing actively participated in the event and gathered with local governments from around the world, including Aichi Prefecture of Japan and Gangwon Province of Korea. The Summit adopted the ‘Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People’ which is an urgent call to action for strengthened commitment to multi-level integration, action and collaboration to stem biodiversity loss and restore biodiversity health for the sake of people and nature. The Communiqué was presented to the CBP COP14 plenary the following day.

**GREEN CIRCULAR CITIES**
ICLEI East Asia, ICLEI Japan and ICLEI Europe are preparing the new initiative Green Circular Cities Coalition, presenting an opportunity for global cities to shift away from the linear paradigm, and move towards the circular economy and sound-material cycle societies through synergizing with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Designated to facilitate international cooperation on pursuing circular cities at the subnational level, the Coalition will serve as a platform to connect cities, experts, businesses and relevant stakeholders for mutual learning and technical support. Cities could also participate in thematic working groups joined by Knowledge Partners and Solution Providers, and focus on key areas including circular industrial park (industrial symbiosis); municipal resource management; buildings and construction, urban spatial planning and governance; water-food-energy nexus; and green/circular procurement and green supply chain.

**GREEN CIRCULAR CITIES EVENTS**
Building Green Circular Cities successfully hosted on July 7 in Guiyang, China.

Representatives of local governments and the private sector from Japan and China explored the possibilities of fostering circular transition through public-private partnership.

Harald Friedl of Circle Economy demonstrated the Dutch city Amsterdam’s journey towards the circular economy.
Through the International Platform for Environmental Technology (3iPET), ICLEI carried out a joint project with the Foreign Economic Cooperation Office (FECO), Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China, to support the cooperation between local governments and the private sector on environmental industry and technology, in exploring possible solutions to the challenges of sustainable development cities are facing.

Five cities from China, Finland, Germany and Japan have demonstrated strong interest to join, and the Coalition welcomes more ambitious cities and regions on board to set forth the circular journey.

During the Eco Forum Global Annual Conference Guiyang 2018, ICLEI East Asia co-organized the session “Building Green Circular Cities” with the Eco Forum Global Secretariat, gathering high-level representatives from Shanghai, Shenzhen, Suining, and Liupanshui of China, Kitakyushu and Yokohama of Japan, and Turku of Finland to showcase their circular practices. Experts and representatives of the private sector from China, Norway and the Netherlands also shared how local governments and businesses could cooperate in fostering circular transitions.

At the global level, ICLEI East Asia also participated in the 2018 World Circular Economy Forum as a panelist of the session ‘Circular Food Systems in Cities’, and supported organizing the session ‘De-carbonizing Era in Cities and Regions’ at the Japan Pavilion of UNFCCC COP24.

Recognized as one of the most livable cities in China, Zhuhai is also known for its vulnerability due to frequent hitting by typhoons. With the support of ICLEI East Asia, a Zhuhai delegation visited the ICLEI Brussels Office and three ICLEI Member cities in Iceland and Portugal to exchange knowledge on urban resilience in November.

Following the visit to Europe, ICLEI East Asia co-organized the workshop “Strengthening Capacities for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Zhuhai” on December 18 with the Zhuhai Municipal Government and UNISDR’s Office for Northeast Asia and Global Education and Training Institute to raise awareness of the topic among Zhuhai city officials. Climate experts from Chinese national agencies and resilience specialists from ICLEI’s Japanese Member city Toyama also provided professional advices to Zhuhai based on the challenges the city has encountered. Topics covered include resilient infrastructure and urban planning; climate risk modelling and forecasting; ecological conservation and nature-based solutions; and capacity building with citizen engagement.

ICLEI East Asia will continue to deliver comprehensive trainings on development and implementation of integrated climate change adaptation plans to individual adaptation pilot cities in China, alongside international exchange and consultation.

ICLEI East Asia supported organizing the UNISDR workshop ‘Developing Capacities on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Asia-Pacific Region’ in Jeju, South Korea, and contributed as trainers. An urban climate change adaptation and resilience workshop was held in Zhuhai for local government officials.
EQUITABLE AND PEOPLE-CENTERED DEVELOPMENT

URBAN TRANSITIONS ALLIANCE

Urban transitions empower cities with an industrial legacy to define their own pathways towards more vibrant and sustainable economies, improving their local environments and the lives of their residents.

Launched in 2017, the Urban Transitions Alliance is managed by ICLEI and funded by Stiftung Mercator to present an opportunity for industrial and former industrial cities across the world to become global leaders in sustainable urban development. 11 local governments from China, Germany, USA, and Poland have joined the Alliance, together working on the four core thematic areas of energy, mobility, infrastructure, and social transition.

Alliance members convened at the Urban Transitions Forum during the ICLEI World Congress 2018 as the second global gathering of the Alliance. The Forum was comprised of transition-focused thematic sessions, working meetings, and networking opportunities for the cities to share their achievements and current challenges.

In October, the Urban Transitions Alliance China Event took place in Beijing. Representatives from the Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area (E-Town), Beijing Huairou District, and Shijiazhuang Yuhua District of China, Essen and Leipzig of Germany gathered to exchange their transition visions, challenges and learnings from each other. On this occasion, Vera Rodenhoff of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature, Conservation and Nuclear Safety, and Dengli Ming of the Beijing Bureau of Ecology and Environment highlighted the importance of experience exchange between German and Chinese cities.

The Alliance Transition Roadmap was published as the final report of the first phase of the Alliance, presenting concrete solution pathways and project cities’ achievements and commitments. The Alliance expects to push forward peer-city matching programs as its second phase in 2019.
ICLEI East Asia continues to build new partnerships with government agencies, organizations and institutes to promote global sustainability through knowledge and multilateral cooperation. In 2018, ICLEI East Asia has forged new, as well as strengthened long-standing collaboration with partners include:

**ICLIE East Asia**

**KNOWLEDGE SHARING**

To facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experience and expertise on urban sustainability between Members and network cities, and to showcase their achievements globally, ICLEI East Asia prepares publications related to our programs and activities with localized contents for the region.

ICLEI East Asia frequently updates its works and activities through media platforms, including the website, e-newsletters, and social media channels. An official WeChat account was set up in 2018 to disseminate latest information of ICLEI to local government and partners in China.

**GREEN CIRCULAR CITIES COALITIONS**

*Program brochure*

- June 2018 | EN, CH

*Building Green Circular Cities*

*Post Event report*

- September 2018 | EN, CH

**ICLEI East Asia Case Study Series No.1**

*Shenzhen, China*

- January 2019 | EN, CH

**ICLEI East Asia Case Study Series No.2**

*Binhai New Area, Tianjin, China*

- March 2019 | EN

**ICLEI East Asia Case Study Series No.3**

*Guangming District, Shenzhen, China*

- March 2019 | EN

**GREEN CIRCULAR DPALIS**

*Urban Transitions Alliance China Workshop Event Report*

- October 2018 | EN

**ICLEI East Asia**

*Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific 2019*

- 4.15-4.17 | New Delhi, India

**ICLEI East Asia**

*2019 Seoul International Forum on Air Quality Improvement*

- 5.22-5.23 | Seoul, Korea

**ICLEI East Asia**

*2019 International Renewable Energy Conference & Seoul Mayors Forum on Climate Change*

- October 22-26, Seoul, Korea

**ICLEI East Asia**

*UNFCCC COP25*

- 12.2-12.13, Santiago, Chile

**ICLEI East Asia**

*Resilient Cities 2019: 10th Anniversary*

- 6.26-6.28, Bonn, Germany

**ICLEI East Asia**

*2019 Beijing International Forum on Metropolitan Clean Air Actions*

- 7.12, Beijing, China

**ICLEI East Asia**

*Procura+ East Asia Brochure*

- October 2018 | EN, CH

2019 PREVIEW

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MEET OUR TEAM

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Departed Staff

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HYUNDAI

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KAOHSIUNG CAPACITY CENTER [KAOHSIUNG]

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