



Local Governments
for Sustainability

EAST ASIA

2022 Annual Report



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ABBREVIATION

Abbreviation	Definition
BMU	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
IKI	International Climate Initiative
INTERACT-Bio	Integrated Regional Action on Biodiversity
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
MEM	Ministry of Emergency Management of the People's Republic of China
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
MCR2030	Making Cities Resilient 2030
GCoM Asia	Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Asia
URA	Urban-Rural Assembly
SPD	Science-Policy Dialogue
WP3	Working Package 3
CCUD	China Center for Urban Development
NDRC	National Development and Reform Commission
GEF	Global Environment Facility
CBD COP15	The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity
WRI	World Resources Institute
C40	Cities Climate Leadership Group
UrbanShift GP activities	GP: Global Partner
GexCom	Global Executive Committees
CBI	City Biodiversity Index
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
Dena	German Energy Agency
SHRDC	Seoul Human Resources Development Center
LGMA	Local Governments and Municipal Authorities
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
IMC	Incheon Metropolitan City
SMG	Seoul Metropolitan Government
NEAR	Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments

FOREWORD

2022 presented many different challenges. Despite the continued influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on every aspect of our work, ICLEI East Asia Secretariat has strived to support our member cities in creating a more sustainable, green and bright future.

In 2022, ICLEI East Asia Secretariat continued to engage at the local to the global level, shaping policy and sparking actions through the five crucial pathways – low emission development, nature-based development, circular development, resilient development, and equitable and people-centered development.

The 7th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities (7th Submit) was one of the most significant events of the year. The Summit was part of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15), that took place from December 8 to 18, 2022, in Montreal, Canada. Over 1,500 registered delegates from more than 300 cities and regions across 70 countries participated in the Summit. The theme of the Summit was “Taking Action for Biodiversity,” which provided a great platform for cities and regions from the globe to discuss and agree on future actions to implement the new Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at COP15. The establishment of the ICLEI-Kunming International Center of Excellence for CitiesWithNature was also announced at the Summit.

To support Chinese local governments to actively showcase and publicize their achievements and experiences on biodiversity conservation, ICLEI took the lead in organizing the “Global Local Governments and Cities Corner - China Day” on December 13. At the opening ceremony, the Chinese version of the “City Biodiversity Index” was launched. Additionally, 36 new cities including 6 Chinese cities (Kunming, Chengdu, Shenzhen, Jiaying, Huzhou, and Nanyang) signed up to the CitiesWithNature. Meanwhile, the 6 cities were also awarded the title of “Biodiversity Charming Cities”.

This year, ICLEI East Asia completed the second Seoul Beijing Bilateral Research project on climate and air quality policies in the two capitals. The project report, “Advancing Carbon Neutrality in Metropolises - A Comparative Study of Climate Policies in Seoul and Beijing”, provides a comprehensive review of the two cities’ climate strategies and actions covering energy, transport and building sectors.



ZHU Shu

Regional Director & China Representative

In late 2022, the INTERACT-Bio project officially kicked off, funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through the International Climate Initiative (IKI). INTERACT-Bio is designed to help improve the utilization and management of nature within fast-growing cities and their surrounding regions.

Under the global initiative - Make Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030), the UNDRR Office for Northeast Asia and ICLEI East Asia Secretariat jointly launched MCR2030 in China. On September 8, 2022, the MCR2030 Multi Stakeholder Consultative Meeting was held in Beijing. Experts and city representatives gathered to share the latest progress and practices of resilient city development and exchanged expectations and feedback on the implementation of MCR2030 in China.

The GEF-7 UrbanShift China Project, branded as Green and Carbon Neutral Cities Project, was officially kicked off in November 2022. The objective of the project is to integrate biodiversity conservation into the three participating cities (Chengdu, Ningbo and Chongqing)’ urban development and establish their pathway to carbon neutrality.

Funded by Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung, ICLEI supported the Municipality of Ulaanbaatar in developing a city-wide GHG inventory management system by capacity building training. Another project named Mobility Transition Roadmap was designed to support Mongolian cities in designing long-term roadmaps to achieve net-zero and sustainable urban mobility. Collaborating with New Climate Institute and the Seoul Institute, ICLEI East Asia Secretariat developed TransDEC, a tool to develop long term roadmaps for the transport sector, along with a guidebook.

Despite numerous difficulties, ICLEI East Asia Secretariat has made great strides in our commitment to build a sustainable urban world. Our world is changing at an incredibly fast pace, but we are ready to embrace the future. And we are going to make more efforts and explore more possibilities in the post epidemic era.

ABOUT ICLEI

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of more than 2,500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125 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, ICLEI East Asia Secretariat has developed local and regional programs and exchange platforms to accelerate sustainable and low carbon development in the region under the ICLEI's five development pathways. By providing technical consulting, training, and information services to build capacity and share knowledge, we support local government Members in China, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea, and Mongolia in pursuing sustainable urban development.

To further extend our support to Chinese cities, ICLEI East Asia Secretariat opened the Beijing Office in March 2018.

Memberships

Globally, ICLEI Membership has been active in over 125 countries worldwide since 1990. As of 2022, 101 local governments in the East Asian region have joined and are actively participating in ICLEI's global network.

New Members

Known in China as the City of Eternal Spring, Kunming, located in southwest China is the capital and largest city of Yunnan Province. As the host city of the first phase of the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15), Kunming has fully showcased its openness, inclusiveness, and its beauty of biodiversity to the international community. In the past few years, ICLEI has worked closely with Kunming in various sustainable development areas, especially in the area of biodiversity and nature-based development. The ICLEI-Kunming International Center of Excellence for CitiesWithNature, jointly initiated by ICLEI and Kunming City, was formally established at the 7th Global Biodiversity Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities during COP 15 Phase 2, to promote technical cooperation and capacity building of Chinese and overseas cities. With Kunming's joining ICLEI membership, ICLEI will continue to deepen its cooperation with Kunming City through its diverse projects, technical tools, resources and network.

GOVERNANCE

ICLEI Council

ICLEI is democratically governed by our members through the ICLEI Council -- the overarching decision making and guiding body. The Council approves the ICLEI Strategic Plan with a six-year scope and has the sole power to amend the Charter and elect the Global Executive Committees -- the GexCom -- portfolio seats.

Chaired by elected President and Vice Presidents, the GexCom is composed of up to 4 appointed Members and Representatives from the 7 Regional Executive Committees -- the RexComs -- and represents ICLEI towards international institutions and has the authority to make strategic decisions concerning the organization.

2021-2024 President and Vice President

Frank Cownie | President | Mayor of Des Moines, USA

Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh | First Vice President | Mayor of Malmö, Sweden

Atishi Marlena | Vice President | Member of Legislative Assembly, National Capital Territory of Delhi, India

Minna Arve | Vice President | Mayor of Turku, Finland

2021-2024 East Asia RexCom

Daisaku Kadokawa | Chair | Mayor of Kyoto

Eui-Seung Kim | Vice Chair | Vice Mayor of Seoul Metropolitan Government

Dong-yeon Kim | Portfolio | Governor of Gyeonggi Province

Weishu Li | Portfolio | Vice Mayor of Changchun

Cheng-Ta Hsieh | Portfolio | Deputy Mayor of New Taipei

Dr. Kazuhiko Takemoto | Advisory Member | Chair of ICLEI Japan

Alex Zhang | Advisory Member | Executive Director of Eco-Forum Global

GexCom Members



Frank Cownie



Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh



Atishi Marlena



Minna Arve

RexCom Members



Daisaku Kadokawa



Eui-Seung Kim



Dong-yeon Kim



Weishu Li



Cheng-Ta Hsieh



Dr. Kazuhiko Takemoto



Alex Zhang

2022 OVERVIEW

Webinars

UrbanByNature China Webinar #6 Replicating Nature-based Solutions across the Urban Fabric
2.23 | Online

DPRK online seminar
4.27-4.29 | Online

CLEARING HOUSE-REGREEN: UrbanbyNature China Webinar (½)
6.21 | Online

Trainings

Regional and Local Dialogue for Knowledge Exchange on City-wide GHG inventories
3.16 | Online

Capacity Building for Local Governments on Climate and Clean Air Actions for Chinese Cities
5.30- 6.8 | Seoul, South Korea & Online

Making Cities Resilient 2030 Multi-Stakeholder Consultative Meeting
9.8 | Beijing, China

Regional Stakeholder Workshop on Low-Carbon Buildings and Constructions in the Greater Bay Area of China
9.20 | Online

Circular City Action Training
10.9 & 10.24 | Online & Chengdu, China

Capacity Building Workshop on the Development of Mobility Transition Roadmap for Mongolian Cities
10.12 | Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia & Online

Climate Adaptation for Inclusive and Resilient Cities Workshop for Yunnan Cities
11.22-23 | Kunming, China





Photo by Made From The Sky on Unsplash

Global Forum

Global Coastal Forum

1.10-1.12 | Yancheng, China

ICLEI World Congress 2021 - 2022: The Malmö Summit

5.11-5.13 | Malmö, Sweden

Mongolia Climate Change and City Forum

5.30-5.31 | Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

2022 Beijing International Forum for Metropolitan Clean Air and Climate Actions

9.4-9.5 | Beijing, China

Daring Cities 2022

10.3-10.7 | Bonn, Germany & Online

World Cities Day

10.31 | Shanghai, China

UNFCCC COP27

11.7-11.18 | Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands COP14

11.21-11.29 | Wuhan, China & Geneva, Switzerland

The 2nd International Forum on Low Carbon Cities

12.06-12.08 | Incheon, South Korea

Seoul International Forum on Climate Actions

12.1-12.2 | Seoul, South Korea & Online

CBD COP15 Part II and the 7th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities & Subnational Governments

12.7-12.19 | Montreal, Canada



Image: ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

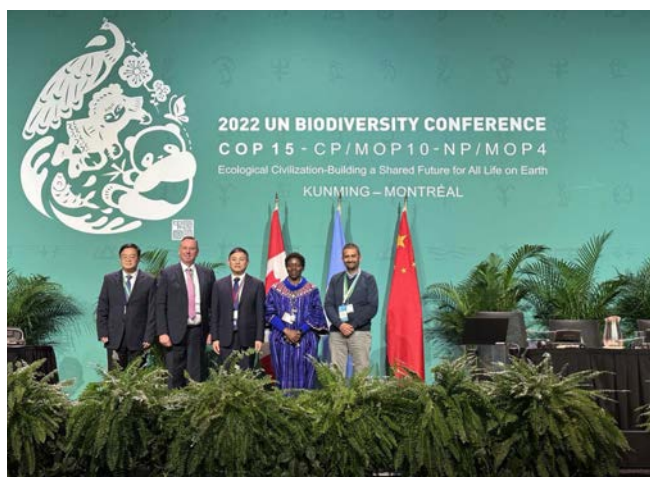
COP15 7th City Submit

The 7th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities was a global milestone that strengthened the contributions of subnational governments and cities to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Held on December 11th and 12th, 2022 in Montreal, Canada, at the main venue of COP15, the Summit was an official parallel event to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP15. The Cities Summit was co-organized by the ICLEI, City of Montreal, the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Regions4, the Province of Quebec and the City of Kunming.

The 7th City Summit was themed on “Taking action for biodiversity” with three sessions: Engage, Influence, and Act. This year’s summit surpassed all previous summits in terms of size, scope, and impact, with more than 1,500 delegates from 70 countries registered offline, including 130 mayors, 6 governors, 237 city delegations, 136 NGOs, and 456 international organizations. The City Summit was broadcast live to the world in Chinese, English, French, and Spanish, with over 2,000 people attending online.

The Summit hosted a high-level roundtable, bringing together a group of government leaders, including mayors, governors, and other political representatives from around the world, to engage with each other on the priorities for taking action for biodiversity ahead of the Summit. The meeting was attended by more than 80 high-level speakers, including Gino Van Begin, Secretary General of ICLEI; Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the CBD Secretariat; Huang Runqiu, President of COP15 and Minister of Ecology and Environment of China; Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat; Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General of the World Food and Agriculture Organization; Zhao Yingmin, Vice Minister of Ecology and Environment of China; Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment of Canada; Richard Benyon, UK Minister for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; and Steffi Lemke, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection of Germany, etc.





Welcome speeches by the organizers at the opening ceremony: from left to right, Liu Jiachen, Mayor of Kunming; Gino Van Begin, Secretary General of ICLEI Huang Runqiu, President of COP15 and Minister of Ecology and Environment, China; Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the CBD Secretariat; and Sergio Graf, Regions4 Vice President for America. (image: Chinadaily)

ICLEI-Kunming International Center of Excellence

The City Summit also witnessed the formal establishment of the ICLEI-Kunming International Center of Excellence, under the framework of CitiesWithNature, jointly initiated by ICLEI and Kunming City. The Center aims to become an important platform for demonstration, learning and partnership between Chinese and international cities in nature and biodiversity conservation. It will also support exchange, cooperation and capacity building between Chinese and foreign cities in biodiversity conservation, promote international advocacy for Chinese cities, and encourage local governments to make commitments and take action to implement the new global framework.



Kunming City and ICLEI signing the framework agreement on the "ICLEI-Kunming International Center of Excellence for CitiesWithNature" (image: Kunming Municipal Ecology and Environment Bureau)

CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature

CitiesWithNature welcomed 36 new local governments and 5 new global partners. The platform is an important vehicle for local governments around the world, endorsed and supported by the CBD Secretariat and managed by ICLEI, to share, showcase and report on examples of progress and results of local governments' actions. Cities such as Chengdu, Shenzhen, Kunming, Jiaxing, Huzhou, and Nanyang in China are also participating in the platform. The selected city cases will be promoted and shared on the platform on a long-term basis, setting benchmarks and samples for local biodiversity conservation globally.

The RegionsWithNature global partnership initiative, a sister platform to the CitiesWithNature Platform that focuses on a landscape scale and urban-rural linkages at the regional level, was officially launched on the second day of the City Summit and welcomes new partners and regions.

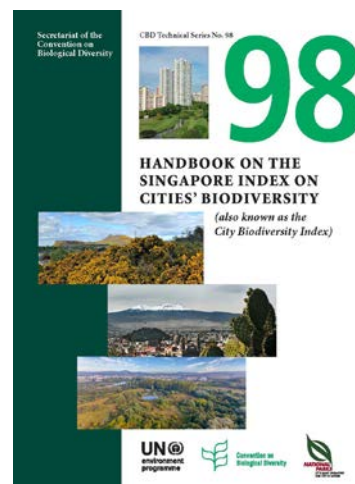


China Day

To support Chinese local governments to make full use of COP15 and the City Summit platform to actively showcase and publicise the achievements and experiences of China's local ecological civilization and biodiversity conservation, ICLEI took the lead in organising the "Global Local Governments and Cities Corner - China Day" on December 13. The event provided an opportunity and space for local and subnational government leaders in China to participate in high-level dialogues, hold bilateral meetings, engage with CBD Partners, development banks, international organisations and experts, and to showcase their actions and best practices. It included an opening and closing event and offered three thematic sessions partnered with multiple organisations, local and subnational governments, stakeholders and international organisations to focus on local and subnational action for biodiversity.

City Biodiversity Index

At the opening ceremony of China Day, the Chinese version of the “City Biodiversity Index (CBI)” was launched in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the National Parks Board of Singapore. The City Biodiversity Index, or CBI, is a set of indicators that cities use to assess their progress and achievements in biodiversity conservation. It is also the first tool adopted by the international community to measure the effectiveness of cities, sub-national regions or local governments in conserving biodiversity, and is known as the “golden standard” for urban biodiversity monitoring and assessment.



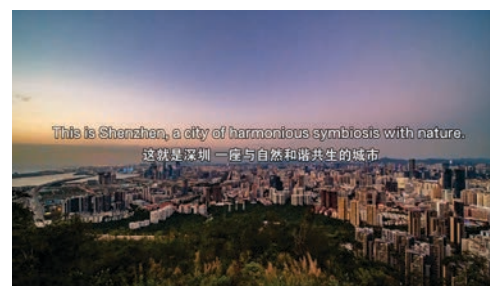
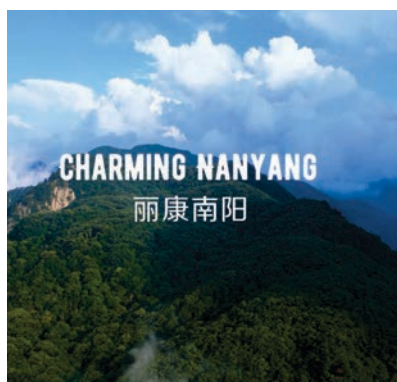
City Biodiversity Index (CBI)

Biodiversity Charming Cities



Certificate of “Biodiversity Charming Cities” awarded at the “China Day” (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)

On China Day, Kunming, Shenzhen, Chengdu, Jiaxing, Nanyang, and Huzhou were awarded as Biodiversity Charming Cities. The Biodiversity Charming Cities initiative was led by ICLEI to recognize those cities that have achieved remarkable progress and created best practices in biodiversity conservation at the local level in China. The six cities were selected based on the “City Biodiversity Index”. Recommended by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), it is the main technical criterion through a process of independent application or institutional recommendation, online review, and evaluation. Due to their outstanding achievements in urban biodiversity conservation, these six cities were showcased during COP15 and were widely promoted on the CitiesWithNature Platform supported by the CBD Secretariat and managed by ICLEI. This will set a benchmark and an example for urban biodiversity conservation worldwide.



Biodiversity Charming Cities

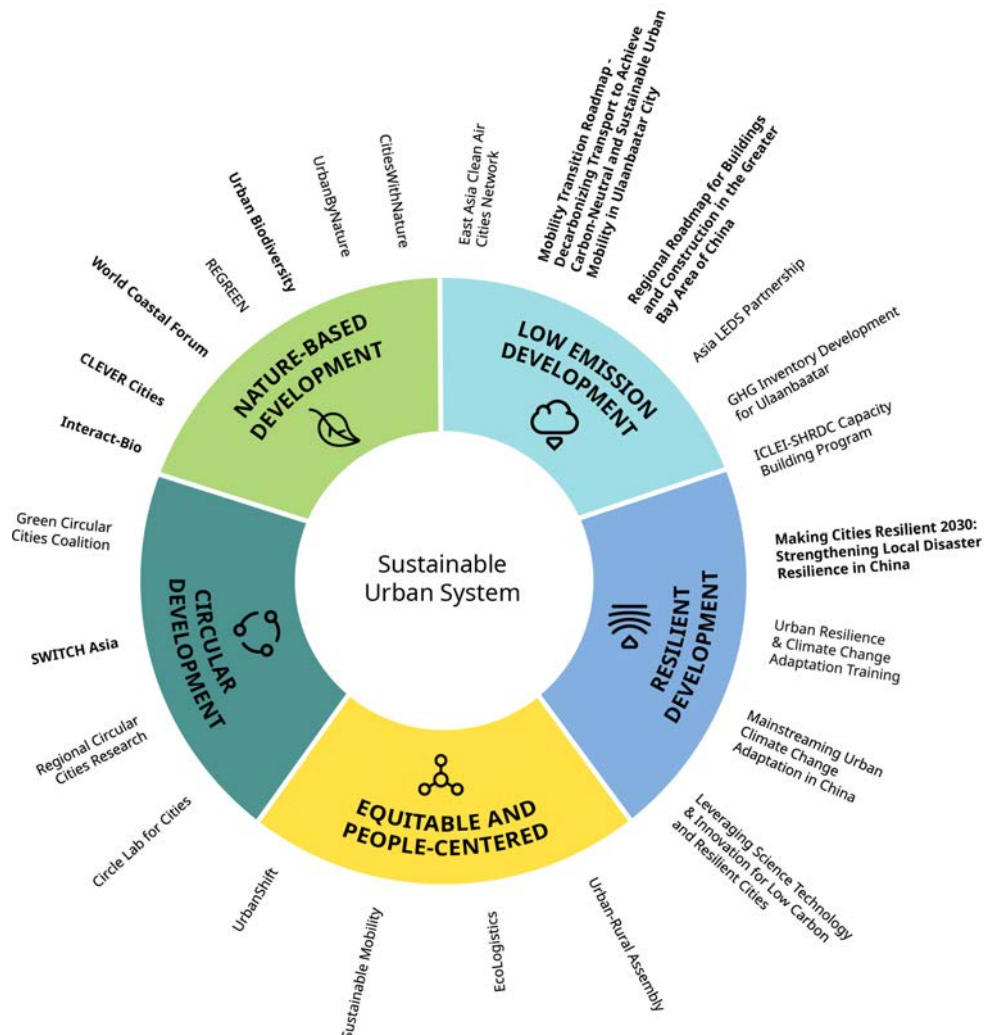
PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

In the urban era, cities, towns and their surrounding regions are centers of opportunity and prosperity and, indeed, act as important hubs of economy, innovation and co-creation, production, consumption, as well as social and cultural interaction. At the same time, numerous cities, towns and regions are places where deep poverty and inequity prevail, and where severe natural degradation proliferates with ecosystems pushed past their thresholds.

Local and regional governments across the ICLEI Network have recognized the warning signs of global challenges, and have responded through the new ICLEI Malmö Commitment and Strategic Vision 2021-2027, which was built on the five pathways set out by the Network in Montréal in 2018, aiming to facilitate deep and lasting systemic change globally.

The five ICLEI pathways towards low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development are designed to create systemic change. They serve as a basis for sustainable urban development that considers the complexity of urban systems, and provide a framework enabling local and regional governments to think holistically and design integrated solutions that balance the patterns of human life and the built and natural environments.

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. But we design our works to integrate as many pathways as possible into any given activity, such as a project, partnership or initiative.





LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT

curbs climate change, creates new economic opportunities and improves the health of human and natural systems.

Contribute to SDGs



The Second Seoul-Beijing Bilateral Research Project



ICLEI East Asia completed the second Seoul-Beijing Bilateral Research project, which focused on climate and air quality policies in the two capitals. The resulting project report, titled “Advancing Carbon Neutrality in Metropolises - A Comparative Study of Climate Policies in Seoul and Beijing,” provides a comprehensive review of the two cities’ climate strategies and actions, covering the energy, transport, and building sectors.

This report was presented at the ICLEI World 2021-2022: The Malmö Summit, showcasing the climate efforts of both cities to international audiences. The project demonstrated the climate leadership of Seoul and Beijing, facilitated peer learning between the two cities, and supported future climate action planning for both cities.

GHG Inventory and Regional Cooperation with the City of Ulaanbaatar



Funded by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, the project supported the Municipality of Ulaanbaatar in developing a city-wide GHG inventory management system. ICLEI East Asia developed an online course and organised a regional-local dialogue on city-wide GHG inventory development, providing capacity building and promoting regional cooperation. Through the project, the Municipality of Ulaanbaatar gained knowledge of city GHG inventory management systems, enhanced institutional capacity to build and manage a GHG inventory system of international standards, and built networks with relevant international and national organisations.



Seoul-Beijing Bilateral Research Report 2022

Mobility Transition Roadmap - Decarbonizing Transport to Achieve Carbon-Neutral and Sustainable Urban Mobility in Ulaanbaatar City

The objective of this project was to assist cities in designing long-term roadmaps for achieving net-zero and sustainable urban mobility. In collaboration with the NewClimate Institute and the Seoul Institute, ICLEI East Asia developed TransDEC, a tool for developing long-term roadmaps for the transport sector, along with a guidebook.

Based on the knowledge products, ICLEI East Asia organized a workshop in Seoul and a capacity-building workshop in Ulaanbaatar. The project helped cities understand transport decarbonization pathways, enhance their capacity for co-controlling and transport decarbonization through exchanges with international cities and organizations, and strengthen their climate ambitions.



Regional Roadmap for Buildings and Construction in the Greater Bay Area of China

ICLEI collaborated with the German Energy Agency (dena) and the China Academy of Building Research to develop a regional roadmap towards a zero-emission, efficient, and resilient buildings and construction sector in the Greater Bay Area of China. An online workshop was organized to promote the report, which engaged over 70 stakeholders. The roadmap served as the basis for discussion with regional stakeholders, and plans were made to develop further updates. The study helps national, regional, and local authorities, as well as construction companies, make sustainable, resource-saving, and climate-friendly decisions.

ICLEI-SHRDC Capacity Building on Climate and Clean Air Actions

Since 2016, ICLEI East Asia has been co-organizing annual training on urban sustainability for local government officials in the region with the Seoul Human Resources Development Center (SHRDC). This program has been recognized as a flagship annual program. The 2022 training program adopted an innovative methodology by combining three self-paced online lectures and two-day live sessions from May 30th to June 8th. Themed "Climate and Clean Air Actions", this year's program was widely welcomed by local governments in China as it aligned with achieving the Paris Agreement at a global level, as well as domestic strategies on carbon peak and carbon neutrality in China. More than 190 participants from 26 provinces, cities, and districts registered for the training.

The self-learning sessions included in-depth lectures on Seoul's 2050 Climate Action Plan and detailed policy directions. They also covered air quality management policy for fine dust-free clean air in Seoul, and examples of carbon reduction policies in the transportation sector that can lead to changes in citizens' behavior regarding the climate crisis and carbon neutrality. During the live session on June 7th-8th, experts from Seoul and ICLEI exchanged with participants with more detailed lectures focusing on 1) climate neutrality, climate action planning, and GHG inventory; 2) co-control of air pollution and carbon emissions in transport, buildings, and energy sectors; 3) practical tools for climate action planning and transport decarbonization roadmap. The training stimulated inspirational exchanges among the participants.



Capacity building workshop under the Mobility Transition Roadmap (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)

UNFCCC COP27



ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability serves as the focal point for the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency to the UN. During COP27, from November 7 to 17, 2022, ICLEI convened the Multilevel Action Pavilion in the UNFCCC COP27 Blue Zone as the home for local and regional governments. The pavilion featured an agenda that hosted over 55 sessions of rich programming and meaningful dialogues, showcasing #MultilevelActionDelivers with support from over 45 organizations.



UNFCCC COP 27 (image: ICLEI World Secretary)

At the Pavilion, the ICLEI East Asia Secretariat, ICLEI Japan Office, and ICLEI Korea Office co-organized a side event titled "Multi-Stakeholder Climate Actions in East Asia". This event gathered leaders and high-level representatives from multi-stakeholders in the East Asia region, including Goyang City, the Beijing Municipal Ecology and Environmental Bureau, the Kyoto Environment Policy Bureau, and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia. These stakeholders featured their actions, urban initiatives, and multilevel cooperation between national and local governments to achieve climate neutrality and sustainable development.



UNFCCC COP 27 (image: ICLEI World Secretary)

Seoul International Forum on Climate and Environment SMG Annual Forum



Seoul has been hosting two international forums – one on air quality and the other on climate change – to encourage and monitor efforts to improve urban air quality and address climate issues. Since 2010, Seoul has organized the International Forum on Air Quality Improvement annually, providing a platform for city officials and experts to discuss air quality improvement in depth. Additionally, Seoul has hosted a mayoral forum every two years since 2016, recognizing the crucial role of cities in responding to climate change.

Building on previous experience and recognizing the integrated approach needed to promote sustainable development and accelerate carbon neutrality, Seoul integrated the above-mentioned forums into the 'Seoul International Forum on Climate and Environment', held in hybrid format on 1-2 December with the theme "Together for the Earth – Zero Waste". The forum aimed to respond to climate change effectively and promote sustainable waste management, particularly in light of the increasing waste generated during the COVID-19 outbreak. By promoting zero waste policies and realizing a circular economy in cities, the forum contributed to making the earth more sustainable. As an official partner, ICLEI supported Seoul in inviting various cities and partners as resource persons, while Mr. Shu Zhu, Regional Director of ICLEI East Asia, moderated a session on waste management efforts to reduce carbon emissions, focusing on 3Rs (Reduce, Recycle, Reuse) initiatives.



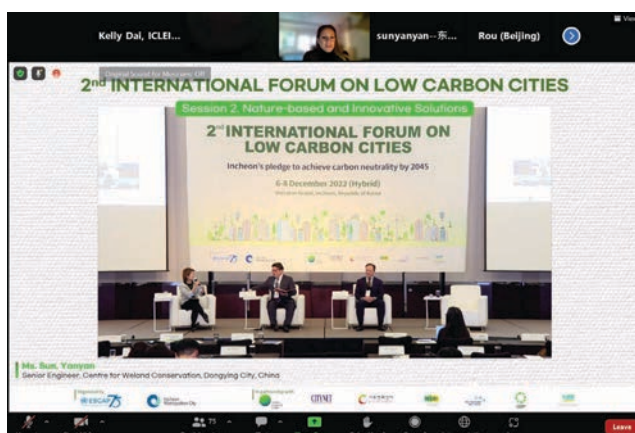
From left, climate expert and TV personality James Hooper from the United Kingdom; Maria Castillo Fernandez, the ambassador of the EU to Korea; Lee Hoe-sung, chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Oh Se-hoon, Seoul mayor; Korea University Prof. Moon Kil-joo who is also from Fine Dust Special Committee under the Korean Prime Minister's Office; and Lee in-keun, an official at the Environment Planning Bureau under the Seoul Metropolitan Government, at the forum's opening ceremony (image: Seoul Metropolitan Government)

2nd International Forum on Low Carbon Cities



Since 2021, ICLEI East Asia has collaborated with UNESCAP East and North-East Asia Office, Incheon Metropolitan City (IMC), and other domestic and overseas partners to organize the International Forum on Low Carbon Cities. The forum serves as a platform for promoting knowledge dissemination, strengthening regional bonds, and increasing synergistic effects between local initiatives under the umbrella theme of climate action.

ICLEI East Asia provided technical and coordination support for moderating a thematic session on Nature-based and Innovative Solutions and inviting guest speakers. ICLEI East Asia will continue to provide unwavering support to enhance the capacity of the East Asian region to take advanced and inclusive climate action, through expanded coordination with co-organizers and relevant stakeholders.



▲ Dongying City at the 2nd International Forum on Low Carbon Cities



► 2022 Beijing International Forum for Metropolitan Clean Air and Climate Actions

Beijing International Forum for metropolitan Clean Air and Climate Actions



The “2022 Beijing International Forum for Metropolitan Clean Air and Climate Actions,” held successfully on September 4-5 at the China National Convention Center, was organized by the Beijing Municipal Ecology and Environment Bureau and co-hosted by the ICLEI East Asia Secretariat. With the theme of “Co-Control of Air Pollution and GHGs Emissions,” this forum convened experts and representatives from global metropolises’ ecological environments to address the “Dual Carbon” initiative, air pollution, and climate change.

Distinguished participants included representatives from the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (China), the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), as well as cities like London, Paris, Tokyo, Seoul, Ulaanbaatar, Lombardy, Bogota, and domestic urban centers, and leading experts from scientific research institutions also joined the discussions. Additionally, the forum aligned with the “3rd International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies,” organized by the UNEP Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), championing swift global action and showcasing the determination and effectiveness of clean air and climate initiatives.

ICLEI orchestrated a dynamic exchange of expertise, inviting key figures including representatives from Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and ICLEI’s World Secretary. This diverse panel shared their experiences and proactive measures in tackling air pollution control, climate change, and green finance. Guiding this informative dialogue was Mr. Zhu Shu, Director of the ICLEI East Asia Secretariat, who moderated the sub-forum titled ‘Co-Control of Pollution and GHG Emissions.’ The discussions zeroed in on contemporary urban planning strategies, policy frameworks, and case studies from global metropolises, providing valuable insights for cities and local governments working towards the synergistic effects of reducing pollution and carbon emissions.



NATURE-BASED DEVELOPMENT

protects and enhances biodiversity and urban ecosystems, which underpin key aspects of local economies and the well-being and resilience of our communities.

Contribute to SDGs



INTERACT-Bio Integrated Regional Action on Biodiversity



INTERACT-Bio is a project funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through the International Climate Initiative (IKI). Its goal is to improve the utilization and management of nature within fast-growing cities and their surrounding regions. By providing expanding urban communities with nature-based solutions and associated long-term benefits, the project aims to enable governments at all levels to integrate their efforts for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into core subnational government functions. These functions include spatial planning, land-use management, local economic development, and infrastructure design.

INTERACT-Bio is being implemented in Brazil, India, Tanzania, China, Colombia, and South Africa. The project began in China in late 2022 and it will select one model city and two participating cities in China. The project will engage with local government officials, communities, local enterprises, public welfare organizations, and other stakeholders who are closely related to local ecosystem services. The project will also work with technical partners to align local governments' actions with national biodiversity strategies and action plans.



Sino-EU Collaboration: Horizon 2020 Cluster Projects

After concluding the UrbanByNature China webinar series in early 2022, the ICLEI Beijing Office is continuing to promote knowledge and expertise exchange to mainstream nature-based solutions (NbS) in urban development among relevant actors beyond China and Europe. ICLEI regional offices are collecting cases to develop the Clever Cities global catalogue, which showcases the most advanced urban NbS experiences from around the world. All presentation materials from the UrbanByNature China webinar series are available on the program page and ICLEI East Asia's website.

The REGREEN project aims to foster urban livelihoods among universities, research institutes, city authorities, consultancies, and city networks through urban living labs. This project helps to promote international exchanges, analyze regional practices, and provide practical toolkits (planning, modeling, evaluating, education, governance) for cities to apply NbS. One of the project outputs is the Transition Handbook, led by the ICLEI Europe Secretariat, which provides a comprehensive toolkit and methodology for cities on NbS strategizing and practices.

Additionally, we are working closely with other Sino-EU H2020 projects to seek synergies and further foster the application of NbS, integrated action on climate adaptation, and increase of urban biodiversity.



13 case studies of European cities



2022 EU Horizon 2020 Cross-Project Workshop (Phase 1)

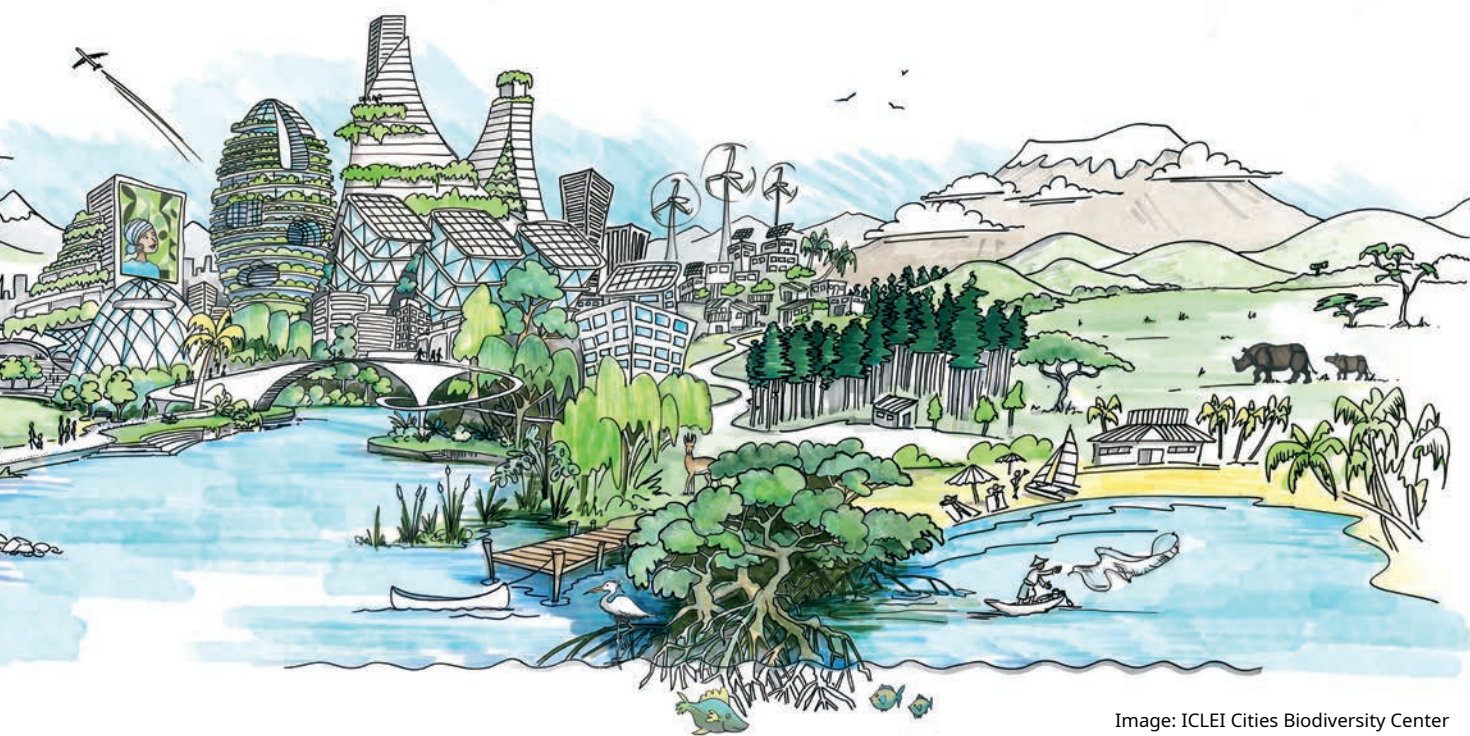


Image: ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center



RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

anticipates, prevents, absorbs and recovers from shocks and stresses, especially those brought about by rapid environmental, technological, social and demographic change, and improves essential basic response structures and functions.

Contribute to SDGs



Making Cities Resilient 2030 Multi-Stakeholder Consultative Meeting (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)

Making Cities Resilient 2030: Strengthening Local Disaster Resilience in China

On September 8, 2022, the UNDRR Office for Northeast Asia and the ICLEI East Asia Secretariat co-organized the “Making Cities Resilient 2030 Multi-Stakeholder Consultative Meeting”. Over 50 participants attended, including representatives from the Ministry of Emergency Management, the National Centre for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development of Tsinghua University, UNDP, and various municipalities in China such as Beijing, Chengdu, Changning District of Shanghai, Lishui, Kunming, Tianjin, Nanjing, Yancheng, Xiangyang, Huzhou, Dongying, Guangzhou, and Foshan.

During the meeting, experts and city representatives from local governments shared the latest progress and practices of resilient development and exchanged feedback and expectations on the implementation of MCR2030 in China.

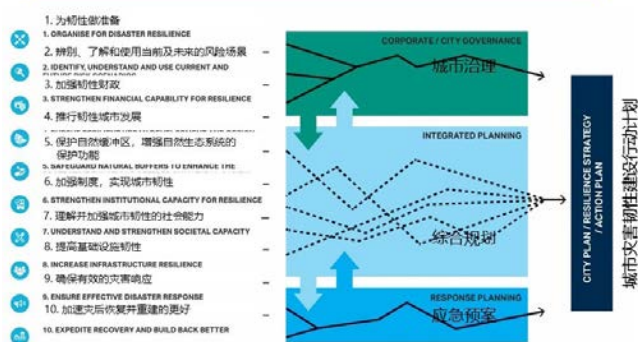


Making Cities Resilient 2030 Multi-Stakeholder Consultative Meeting (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)

The Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient (MCR) are developed with the launch of the MCR Campaign in order to accelerate implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) at local level. The Ten Essentials map directly against the Sendai priorities of action and its indicators for monitoring actions on disaster risk reduction. They are the critical and independent steps that need to be undertaken to build and maintain resilience.

Many cities have found the Ten Essentials to be a crucial tool to stimulate fundamental understanding on disaster risk reduction. The Ten Essentials support the underlying fact that cities are complex and is a system of systems. It helps cities to initiate cross-sectoral and cross-stakeholder dialogue on risk reduction and resilience which is crucial for the resilience building process.

UNDRR SCORECARD



Resilient Cities Workshop for Cities in Yunnan Province

On November 22-23, the Climate Adaptation for Inclusive and Resilient Cities Workshop was successfully held to address climate challenges and support local governments in taking strong action. The event was co-hosted by the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Asia (GCoM Asia) and ICLEI East Asia, with support from the Department of Ecology and Environment of Yunnan Province. The workshop aimed to provide technical assistance to local governments in Yunnan Province in formulating and implementing relevant climate action plans.

The workshop was organised in a hybrid manner, with both an on-site venue in Kunming and an online meeting via Zoom. Around 100 government officials and experts from provincial and municipal departments responsible for climate adaptation planning, management, and implementation participated, as well as four case cities from Europe and East Asia. Following the workshop, a half-day study tour was organised to the Baofeng Wetland to better understand the progress of its ecological restoration and ecosystem-based adaptation measures.



Climate Adaptation for Inclusive and Resilient Cities Workshop (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)



Contribute to SDGs

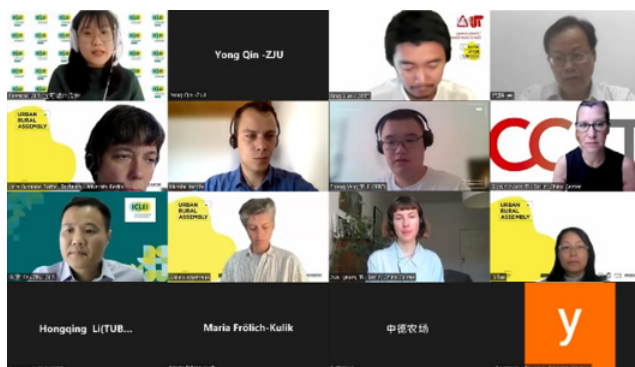


Wang, L. and Li, Y. (2010) 'The Impact of Government Policy on the Development of the Chinese Real Estate Market', *Journal of Real Estate Research*, 31(1), pp. 1-15.

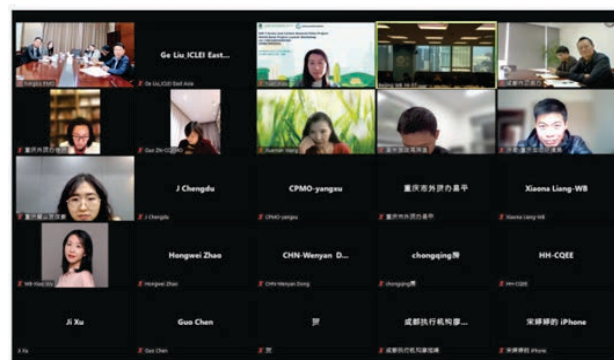
¹ Spatial planning is the process of shaping the built and natural environment, giving beyond traditional land-use planning to integrate and develop policies and action policies and programs that address the spatial dimension of issues. It is not confined only designing the land use, but also the management of development based on economic, social, and economic needs (Muthiah, 2018). The absence of integrated spatial plans at national and subnational levels may overlook a community's needs, as generate conflicts, and tension, influence the development (Demuthiah, 2018). (Demuthiah, 2018). Territories are not just geographical areas, but are also socio-economic structures and social, economic, cultural, and political areas, and generate a hierarchy of approach to spatial planning designs from traditional local development that has a origin-based difference between planning and development. The difference between scales, and perceptions levels, including urban level between (SMAH, 2018).

Territorial and Spatial Planning as a Driver for Multi-scalar Urban-rural Integrated Development in China

Regular exchanges with Chinese partner cities/urban regions on issues of sustainable urban-rural relations are ongoing to support R&D activities in the study region, Huangyan District of Taizhou, and to discuss and prepare a possible transfer of project results to other Chinese regions.



URA SPD Dialogue on 17 June 2022 (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)



GEF-7 UrbanShift China Project Launched on 16 Nov 2022 (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)

GEF-7 UrbanShift

The UrbanShift China Project, also known as the Green and Carbon Neutral Cities Project, was approved in May 2022. The project's development objective is to integrate biodiversity conservation into participating cities' urban development and establish a pathway to carbon neutrality. The World Bank implements it in partnership with the China Center for Urban Development (CCUD) under the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the People's Government of Chengdu Municipality, the People's Government of Chongqing Municipality, and the People's Government of Ningbo Municipality.

To celebrate the project's effectiveness and enhance communication and coordination between governments of different levels and relevant departments, the project launching ceremony and the first national-local dialogue were organized virtually on November 16, 2022. A total of 36 participants from the World Bank, China Center for Urban Development, Ministry of Finance, ICLEI East Asia Secretariat, and the cities of Chengdu, Chongqing, and Ningbo joined the meeting. ICLEI East Asia Secretariat,

as UrbanShift's implementation partner in China, presented the global platform's knowledge and capacity-building offer.

On December 13, 2022, ICLEI East Asia organized a "China Day" event during the CBD COP15 in Montreal, Canada, to showcase biodiversity actions happening in China by local and subnational governments and various international organizations worldwide. Chengdu (GEF-7 city) and Shenzhen (GEF-6 city) participated in the event and presented their local actions and strategies towards urban biodiversity. ICLEI East Asia used this opportunity to gather its global partners with UrbanShift, including UNEP, WRI, and C40, to promote their biodiversity action in and beyond China and generate more projects and cooperation. Additionally, ICLEI East Asia highlighted the importance of GEF funding to Chinese cities and, more importantly, how it can bring in the latest cutting-edge knowledge and generate spillover effects. It also increased the publicity of UrbanShift in China and paved the way for ICLEI to conduct UrbanShift GP activities in China in the future.



GEF-7 China Project launch (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)



CIRCULAR DEVELOPMENT

together with new models of production and consumption, builds sustainable societies that use recyclable, shareable and replenishing resources to end the linear model of “produce, consume, discard,” while continuing to meet the material and development needs of a growing global population.

Contribute to SDGs



Circular Lab for Cities



The project aimed to support cities in developing circular economies through capacity-building workshops and roadmap development. ICLEI East Asia organized two training sessions in Chengdu, Foshan, and Kaifeng. The training sessions featured speakers from research institutes and private companies. This project had multiple positive impacts on circular economy development in participating cities. Participants gained knowledge of the Circular Cities Action Framework and the Ganbatte tool, enhancing their capacity to implement circular actions and develop circular economy roadmaps. The project also helped participants build networks with international and local organizations focused on circular economy development.

Ganbatte is a tool helping cities explore data-driven insights, solutions, tools and practical examples of the circular economy that can help the city achieve its climate and sustainability goals. It explored data from over 6000 cities, provided 50 circular economy solutions and conducted 667 case studies.



Cities consume 75% of the world's natural resources

Cities are responsible for 70% of global GHG emissions

Cities produce 50% of global waste

Cities as drivers of the linear economy



Addressing impacts along the value chain

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

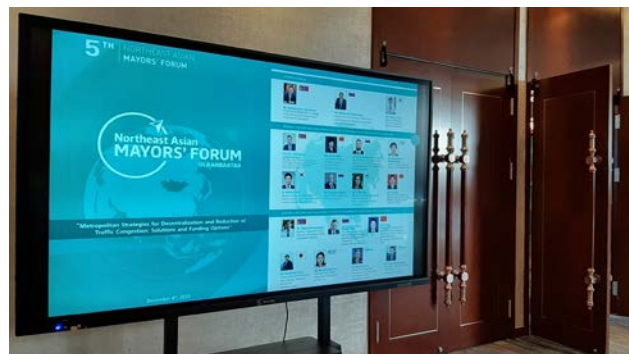
ICLEI World Congress

The ICLEI World Congress 2021-2022 was a triennial gathering for all ICLEI members and partners, hosted by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and the City of Malmö, Sweden. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ICLEI World Congress 2021-2022 had a virtual launch on April 13-15, 2021. Over 800 representatives from more than 60 countries around the world met in person and attended the “Malmö Summit” on May 11-13, 2022, in Malmö, Sweden, for an international three-day congress on local and regional sustainable development. The summit brought together urban practitioners, researchers, and stakeholders to exchange and inspire each other on best practices. Sessions focused on strategies towards a climate-neutral future, resilient and healthy communities in harmony with nature, and equitable and inclusive communities.

On May 10, 2022, the ICLEI Global Executive Committee convened in person in Malmö for their 2022 annual meeting. They reported on the work of over 2500+ ICLEI members and network cities during these challenging times and projected their completion over the next three years.



The ICLEI World Congress 2021-2022 (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)



5th Northeast Asian Mayors' Forum

Since 2014, the Municipality of Ulaanbaatar has hosted the Northeast Asian Mayors' Forum biannually. The forum convenes representatives from cities and related agencies to promote regional cooperation, providing a platform for sharing best practices and insights among cities in the region. Through this platform, cities can explore collaboration opportunities to address regional challenges and work toward sustainable development.

This year's forum focused on the topics of urban decentralization and traffic congestion, capturing the attention of regional representatives. Thematic sessions introduced diverse and encouraging local initiatives, helping participants expand their knowledge and approaches to these challenges. The forum also provided opportunities to explore potential collaborations at the local and regional levels.



5th Northeast Asian Mayors' Forum (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

ICLEI East Asia continues to build new partnerships with relevant government agencies, organizations and institutes to promote global sustainability through knowledge and multilateral cooperation. In 2022, through constant cooperation on various programs and activities, ICLEI has forged new, as well as strengthened collaboration with longstanding Partners in the region.

ICLEI East Asia re-established and strengthened the partnership with the Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea, the ESP (Ecosystem Services Partnership) Asia Regional Office, the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments (NEAR) regarding the project and activities related to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

ICLEI East Asia also forged the partnership with SK Forest, UNEP Copenhagen Climate Center, the Hanns Seidel Foundation Mongolia, and discussed the collaboration on providing technical support to Mongolian cities in a wider range of geographical positions and workstreams.

Furthermore, ICLEI East Asia established a new partnership with the Busan Foundation for International Cooperation and joined the Advisory Committee for International Organizations of Busan.

In addition, ICLEI East Asia formed a new partnership with PKF hospitality GmbH and provided coordination support to promote the sustainable practices of Seoul city on a global level.



KNOWLEDGE SHARING



Building Energy Efficiency and Thermal Retrofitting, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

2022 May / English



Leveraging Science, Technology and Innovation for Low Carbon and Resilient Cities

2022 May / English



Summary of the Seoul-Beijing Bilateral Research Report 2022: A Comparative Study of Climate Policies in Seoul and Beijing

2022 May / English



Seoul-Beijing Bilateral Research Report 2022: A Comparative Study of Climate Policies in Seoul and Beijing

2022 May / English



REGREEN Fact Sheets

2022 June / English, Chinese



2021 Annual Report

2022 / English, Chinese



Introducing the Malmö Commitment and Strategic Vision

In this video, the ICLEI Secretary General, Gino Van Begin, presented the ICLEI Malmö Commitment and Strategic Vision 2021-2027. This vision aims to guide ICLEI's 2500 members and network cities in accelerating sustainability and provide a framework for implementing over 350 projects in the coming years.

The speech emphasized the need to make comprehensive choices to transform civilization from a fossil fuel-based model to a renewable, resilient, and nature-based one that respects planetary limits. The five ICLEI pathways towards low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient, and circular development set to generate systemic change. ICLEI pledged to support its members in implementing these pathways by providing guidance, platforms, and partnerships and encouraging visionary leadership, knowledge-sharing, and active engagement with local communities to drive lasting global impact.

2023 PREVIEW

INTERACT Bio Project

Whole Year | Kunming

Zero Carbon City International Forum 2023

3.01 | Tokyo, Hybrid

ICLEI-UNDRR Urban Resilience Building Series

1st training | 4.10-4.11 | Guangzhou

GCoM Regional Workshop for the East Asian Cities

4.18-4.19 | Seoul

6th High-Level International Forum on Sustainable Urban Development

4.25-4.27 | Chengdu

UNITAR CIFAL JEJU-ICLEI Capacity-Building Workshop – Pathway to Decarbonized and Cleaner Road Transport in Asia and the Pacific – Starting from the region's key priorities

5.02-5.04 | Jeju island

Urban-Rural Assembly International Conference

5.04-5.06 | Apolda, Germany

Low-Carbon and Sustainable Building Workshop for the Greater Bay Area of China

6.01 | Greater Bay Area

2nd Roundtable of Wetland City Mayors

6.08-6.10 | Amiens, France

Daring Cities 2023

6.11-6.13 | Bonn, Germany

Urban-Rural Assembly: Science-Policy Dialogues #3

6.21 | Online

Capacity Building for Local Governments on Urban Sustainability for Chinese Cities

6.29-7.13 | Seoul, South Korea, Online

Eco Forum Global Annual Conference Guiyang 2023

7.08-7.09 | Guiyang, China

3rd International Forum on Low Carbon Cities at the Korea Global Adaptation Week 2023

8.29 | Incheon, South Korea

Urban-rural Assembly Capacity Building Workshop

8.31-9.01 | Taizhou, China

2023 Beijing International Forum for Metropolitan Clean Air and Climate Actions

9.05-9.06 | Beijing, China

Nature in the City — Advancing Social Impact through NbS

9.25-9.28 | Hamburg, Germany

GEF-7 UrbanShift Asia Forum

9.25-9.28 | New Delhi, India





World Coastal Forum

9.25-9.27 | Yancheng, China

CLEARING HOUSE-REGREEN: UrbanByNature China Webinar (2/2)

September | Online

GCoM Asia National Workshop for Chinese Cities

10.17-10.18 | Beijing, China

EURESFO

10.18-10.20 | Cascais, Portugal

8th Asia-Pacific Urban Forum & 10th Anniversary of EcoMobility Festival Suwon

10.23-10.26 | Suwon, South Korea

24th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM) Local Governments Forum

10.26 | Online

2023 Seoul International Climate and Environmental Forum

10.31 | Seoul, South Korea

World Cities Day China Event

10.31 | Shanghai, China

3rd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

October | Beijing, China

Urban Biodiversity International Forum

11.8-11.10 | Kunming, China

Resilient City China Forum and Capacity Building Series

11.8-11.10 | Kunming, China

2023 Shenzhen International Low Carbon City Forum

November | Shenzhen, China

Re-greening cities with Nature-based Solutions in Europe and China

11.27-11.29 | Brussels, Belgium

UNFCCC COP28

11.30-12.12 | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

2023 Mongolian Carbon Neutral Cities Forum

November / December | Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

GEF-7 UrbanShift City-Business Collaboration Accelerator Workshop

Q4 | China



MEET OUR TEAM

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Eunkyung Oh
Regional Administrator

Hyemin Lee
Financial Officer

Ge Liu
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Xuan Xie
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Yeajee Kim
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Hyeji Jung
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Xiaoqian Zhou
Communication and Knowledge
management Officer

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Young Professional

Siaqiao Yuan
Program manager

Merlin Lao
Advisor

Beijing Office

Monika Zimmermann
Senior Advisor

Linlin Wang
Operation Officer & Assistant to
Chief Representative

Ying Wang
Program Manager

Guyu (Kelly) Dai
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Huan Zheng
Program Officer & the Greater Bay
Area Coordinator

Yi Jiang
Project Coordinator

Ji Xu
Project Coordinator

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