

# 2023 Annual Report





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABBREVIATION	1
FOREWORD	1
ABOUT ICLEI	2
GOVERNANCE	3
2023 OVERVIEW	4
2023 HIGHLIGHTS	6
PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES	11
OTHER PROJECTS	26
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT	28
KNOWLEDGE SHARING	29
2024 PREVIEW	30
MEET OUR TEAM	33





# ABBREVIATION

Abbreviation	Definition
ADB	The Asian Development Bank
AFD	The Agence Française de Développement
AIIB	The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
APUF	Asia-Pacific Urban Forum
BMBF	German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
BMU	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
CBI	City Biodiversity Index
CHAMP	Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnership
COP	Conference of the Parties
dena	German Energy Agency
FECO	Foreign Exchange and Cooperation Center of the Chinese Ministry of Ecology and Environment
GexCom	Global Executive Committee
INTERACT-Bio	International Biodiversity Collaborative Action Project
LBSAPs	Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans
LGMA	Local Governments and Municipal Authorities
MCR2030	Making Cities Resilient 2030
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
NBSAPs	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
NDB	The New Development Bank
RexCom	Regional Executive Committee
SHRDC	Seoul Human Resources Development Center
SIFCE	Seoul International Forum on Climate and the Environment
SMG	Seoul Metropolitan Government
UNDP	The United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEP	The United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNITAR CIFAL Jeju	United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Centre International de Formation des Autorités et Leaders (CIFAL)
URA	Urban-Rural Assembly

# FOREWORD

The current global urban population exceeds fifty percent, showing the significant impact of rapid urbanization on sustainable development. Despite facing challenges such as the global economic downturn, regional conflicts, and climate change, ICLEI cities have persistently pursued sustainable development. Guided by ICLEI’s five development pathways—namely, low-carbon, nature-based, equitable, resilient, and circular, the cities are focused on bolstering the resilience and capacity of local communities, promoting innovative solutions, advocating for policy reforms, prioritizing the needs of the vulnerable, and conserving the earth’s finite resources.

Regarding low carbon development, ICLEI has been actively promoting knowledge sharing and capacity building among East Asian cities in partnership with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Asia (GCoM Asia). We have also published a Regional Roadmap for the Building and Construction Sector in the Greater Bay Area in partnership with the German Energy Agency (dena) and the China Academy of Building Research (CABR). In July 2023, we co-organized specialized training for climate action for city officials from China and Mongolia with the Seoul Human Resources Development Center (SHRDC). Furthermore, we continued to support the Seoul International Forum on Climate and the Environment (SIFCE) and the Beijing International Forum for Metropolitan Clean Air and Climate Actions in 2023.

In 2023, the Nature-Based Development program produced significant results. The Clever Cities project released tools and a catalog of Nature-Based Solutions practices. Additionally, ICLEI signed an MOU with Ramsar to strengthen collaboration and promote wetland cities in East Asia.

One of the highlights of INTERACT-Bio 2023 was the successful International Forum on Urban Biodiversity held from November 8 to 10, 2023, in Kunming, China. Supported by FECO, as well as Kunming and several other major partners and initiatives, the event was dedicated to exploring the implications of the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework for cities and subnational governments.

In the field of resilient development, a series of capacity-building activities were jointly organized by the ICLEI



East Asia Secretariat and the UNDRR Northeast Asia Office under the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative. The objective of these activities was to support Chinese cities in improving disaster management, climate adaptability, and urban resilience. On November 9-10, the ICLEI East Asia Secretariat and UNDRR co-hosted the China Resilient Cities Symposium and Capacity Building Training in Kunming, Yunnan Province.

In 2023, ICLEI has been working with the Technical University of Berlin and Tongji University on the Urban-Rural Assembly (URA) project. As part of this project, ICLEI organized the URA Science-Policy Dialogue, the URA Symposium, and the Raumbild Planning Workshops. Additionally, in 2023, with the support of ICLEI and partners, the GEF-7 UrbanShift project has arranged a series of influential events and conferences, including the UrbanShift Asia Forum.

Lastly, ICLEI has also supported and assisted in a number of regional events to promote sustainable development and friendly inter-regional exchanges in East Asia. Some of these events include the Capacity Building Workshop of the UNITAR Training Center on Jeju Island, Korea, the Climate and Clean Air Conference 2023, and the 3rd International Forum on Low Carbon Cities.

In 2023, Dubai, UAE hosted the UNFCCC COP28, which is considered as one of the most significant global events of the year. During the event, the first global stocktaking was conducted since the Paris Agreement came into force, and the UAE Consensus was reached on various issues, such as mitigation, adaptation, finance, loss and damage, and a just transition. ICLEI, through LGMA, actively supported local governments to participate in the COP28 agenda and work.

Creating sustainable cities is an ongoing process that requires collective action. The urgency of our work has increased due to climate change, urban sprawl, and inequality. We must strive harder to build inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities that leave no one behind.



# 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 2023, 107 local governments in the East Asian region have joined and are actively participating in ICLEI's global network.

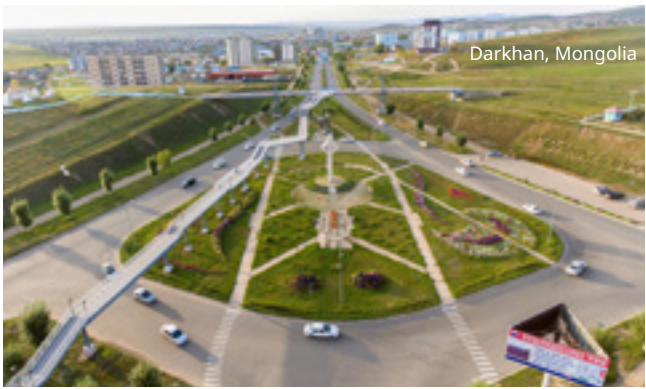
## New Members

### Dongying City, China

Dongying, situated in the eastern Shandong province of China, is known for its vibrant economy and abundant natural habitats, including

the famous Yellow River Delta. The city has recently joined ICLEI, with plans to utilize ICLEI's worldwide network and expertise to bolster its green initiatives. These initiatives center around renewable energy, wetland, biodiversity conservation, and eco-friendly urban planning. Dongying's strategic location and commitment to ecological preservation align with ICLEI's mission of shaping a sustainable and resilient urban future, reflecting the city's dedication to sustainable urban development and environmental conservation.

### Darkhan-Uul Province, Mongolia



The Darkhan-Uul Province is situated in the heart of Mongolia's road network and serves as the country's second industrial center. The province has a total population of 104,737 and is committed to sustainable development by adopting low-emissions and nature-based development strategies. In 2022, the province started collaborating with ICLEI East Asia by joining the City Gallery as part of the ICLEI World Congress and taking part in a capacity-building training on sustainable transport in Ulaanbaatar. In 2023, the city invited ICLEI East Asia to their event, the Sustainable and Green Finance Forum, and later participated in the Local Climate Action Summit hosted by the UNFCCC COP28 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies, with support from leading networks of local government leaders including ICLEI.



# 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 6 appointed Members and Representatives from the 9 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

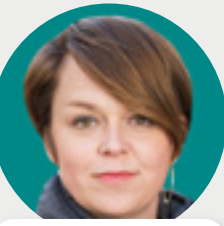
Weishu Li | Portfolio | Vice Mayor of Changchun

Her-Ran Liou | Portfolio | Deputy Mayor of New Taipei

Dr. Kazuhiko Takemoto | Advisory Member | Council Chair, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis & Chair, ICLEI Japan

Alex Zhang | Advisory Member | Secretary General, Eco Foundation Global

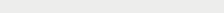
## GexCom Members



Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh



Minna Arve



## RexCom Members



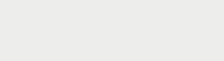
Eui-Seung Kim



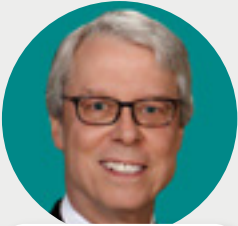
Weishu Li



Dr. Kazuhiko Takemoto



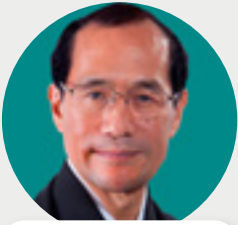
Alex Zhang



Frank Cownie



Atishi Marlena



Daisaku Kadokawa



Dong-yeon Kim



Her-Ran Liou



Alex Zhang



# 2023 OVERVIEW

## Webinars and Trainings

**ICLEI-UNDRR Disaster Resilience Building Series**  
4.10-4.11 | Guangzhou

**Capacity Building for Local Governments on Urban Sustainability for Chinese Cities**  
6.29-7.13 | Seoul, South Korea, Online

## workshops

**INTERACT-Bio Project Workshops**  
Whole Year | Kunming

**GCoM Regional Workshop for the East Asian Cities**  
4.18-4.19 | Seoul

**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

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

**Urban-Rural Assembly: Science-Policy Dialogues #3**  
6.21 | Online

**Urban-Rural Assembly Capacity Building Workshop**  
8.31-9.01 | Taizhou, China

**Nature in the City — Advancing Social Impact through NbS**  
9.25-9.28 | Hamburg, Germany

**GCoM Asia National Workshop for Chinese Cities**  
10.17-10.18 | Beijing, China

**Re-greening cities with Nature-based Solutions in Europe and China**  
11.27-11.29 | Brussels, Belgium



Songyin Stream, Lishui, China

## Global Forum

**Zero Carbon City International Forum 2023**  
3.01 | Tokyo, Hybrid

**6th High-Level International Forum on Sustainable Urban Development**  
4.25-4.27 | Chengdu

**Urban-Rural Assembly International Conference**  
5.04-5.06 | Apolda, Germany

**2nd Roundtable of Wetland City Mayors**  
6.08-6.10 | Amiens, France

**Daring Cities 2023**  
6.11-6.13 | Bonn, Germany

**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

**2023 Beijing International Forum for Metropolitan Clean Air and Climate Actions**  
9.05-9.06 | Beijing, China

**GEF-7 UrbanShift Asia Forum**  
9.25-9.28 | New Delhi, India

**World Coastal Forum**  
9.25-9.27 | Yancheng, 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 Forum on Climate and Environment**  
10.31 | Seoul, South Korea

**World Cities Day China Event**  
10.31 | Shanghai, China

**Urban Biodiversity International Forum**  
11.8-11.10 | Kunming, China

**Resilient City China Symposium and Capacity Building Series**  
11.9-11.10 | Kunming, China

**2023 Shenzhen International Low Carbon City Forum**  
11.26-28 | Shenzhen, China

**UNFCCC COP28**  
11.30-12.12 | Dubai, United Arab Emirates



# 国际城市生物多样性论坛 “创建韧性城市2030”能力建设培训

Urban Biodiversity International Forum  
Make Cities Resilient 2030 Capacity Building and  
Resilient City China Symposium

2023年11月8-10日 云南昆明  
8-10 November 2023 Kunming City, China



## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

With climate issues becoming more severe and natural disasters occurring more frequently worldwide, it is imperative for local governments to take action. Implementing resilient and Nature-based Solutions (NbS) is a promising approach to building sustainable cities. In 2023, representatives from various cities in China and abroad, along with government departments, international organizations, scientific research institutions, and the private sector, came together to discuss the local biodiversity conservation actions and strategies for developing resilient urban areas.

From November 8th to 10th, 2023, ICLEI organized the International Urban Biodiversity Forum and the “Making Cities Resilient 2030” Capacity Building and Resilient City China Symposium in Kunming, Yunnan Province. In collaboration with partners, ICLEI aims to facilitate knowledge sharing and mutual learning among local governments, improve urban biodiversity management and technical skills, promote the construction of resilient cities and communities, and establish a platform for exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and foreign cities. This event attracted over 200 in-person attendees and more than 100 online participants.

### International urban biodiversity forum

The International Urban Biodiversity Forum, hosted by ICLEI and supported by the Foreign Environmental Cooperation Centre of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, with assistance from Kunming City, aims to carry forward the results and consensus achieved at COP15. It encourages local governments to take coordinated actions and actively participate in the implementation of global goals. Several esteemed guests, including Gino Van Begin, Secretary General of ICLEI, David Cooper, Acting Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity, Amy Frankel, Executive Secretary of United Nations Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Wild Animals, Zhang Yujun, Director general of the Foreign Environmental Cooperation Centre of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, Zhao Zijie, Party Leadership Group Member and Deputy Director of the Yunnan Provincial Department of Ecology and Environment, Zhang Yan, Vice Mayor of the Kunming Municipal People’s Government, delivered speeches either online or in-person.

Representatives from various cities around the world, including Kunming, Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu, Dongying, Changchun, Shenzhen, Hong Kong, Foshan, Yancheng, Lishui, Taizhou, Cangzhou, Xiangtan, Panzhihua City, Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City, Nagoya (Japan), Finland, Scotland, Singapore, Berlin, Bonn (Germany), and London, joined the meeting either online or offline to share their experiences in biodiversity protection and promote multi-party cooperation. Experts from international organizations such as the United Nations Development Program, the Paulson Institute, the Mangrove Foundation, the ASEAN Biodiversity Center, Hong Kong Community Partners, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), and the New Development Bank (NDB), as well as scientific research institutes such as Kunming Institute of Zoology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Yunnan University, also shared their insights on biodiversity conservation.



Urban Biodiversity International Forum (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)



ICLEI released the *City Biodiversity Index (Chinese version)* (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)



Dongying, China has become a new ICLEI member (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)



ICLEI and Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia signed a MOU (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)

At the conference, ICLEI unveiled an array of knowledge products, comprising the *City Biodiversity Index (Chinese version)*, *Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Guidelines (Outline)*, *Guide on Biodiversity Finance for Local Governments*, *CLEVER Regional Solutions Catalogue*, and other resources. The intention is to provide cities with a wealth of knowledge, guidance, and tools to enable them to effectively protect biodiversity in their respective regions.

At this forum, ICLEI and Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia signed a MOU with the aim of increasing awareness of wetland protection among cities. Additionally, ICLEI also welcomed Dongying City as its newest member and presented them with a membership certificate. Dongying City is located in the center of the Yellow River Delta, where the Yellow River, the mother river of the Chinese nation, flows into the sea. The wetland in the Yellow River Delta, which spans 1,530 square kilometers, is the most comprehensive wetland ecosystem in China’s warm-temperature zone. Dongying City also took advantage of the opportunity to announce their plans for the 2024 International Wetland Cities Mayors Roundtable.



## Biodiversity Finance Training

On November 9th, a Biodiversity Finance Training session was conducted as part of a forum. The training was an important delivery of the INTERACT-Bio program. The session covered various aspects of financing biodiversity, which included identifying gaps in funding, developing innovative financing mechanisms, and implementing effective policies to support conservation efforts. The training brought together experts from diverse backgrounds, including policymakers, finance professionals, and conservationists, to exchange ideas and share their experiences. The objective of the training was to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to address the complex challenges of financing biodiversity and promote sustainable development.

## Site Visits

During the forum, ICLEI organized two on-site visiting groups to visit the Dianchi Baofeng Wetland and the Haobang Group, an ecological industry. The Baofeng Wetland is located in Guandu District, Kunming City, and provides a suitable environment for various animals and plants. It is one of the outdoor exhibition areas in the first phase of COP15. The wetland showcases the achievements made in the protection and management of Dianchi Lake and biodiversity protection to participants from all over the world.

Representatives and experts from Chinese cities, outstanding enterprises in the field of sustainable development, banks, and other financial institutions visited the Haopy Pharmaceutical



Baofeng Wetland visit (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)



Discussion and exchange of views on the theme “Mechanisms for cooperation between local governments and financial institutions”(image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)

Group on Bioeconomy and Eco-industry and learned about the Urban Ethnobotany and Man—Nature Symbiosis City Projects. They participated in round-table exchanges and on-site research to understand the technical paths and solutions for enterprises to achieve sustainable urban development. The tour-visit aimed to create a platform for cities and enterprises to seek urban sustainable solutions and explore the innovative cooperation model of “city + business” to deal with the ecological problems that arise in the transformation of urbanization and environmental challenges. The tour showcased excellent paths and cases of enterprises achieving sustainable development and ultimately created new momentum for urban development.



Excursion to Haopy Pharmaceutical Group on Bioeconomy and Eco-industry (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)

## Making Cities Resilient 2030: Resilient City China Symposium & Capacity Building

Cities are facing increasingly complex disaster impacts caused by factors like climate change as urbanization progresses rapidly. This situation has created an urgent need to reduce disaster risk and enhance resilience. To support Chinese cities in promoting resilience building, the ICLEI East Asia Secretariat and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) co-launched the “Making Cities Resilient 2030” initiative. As part of this project, ICLEI and UNDRR jointly organized the capacity-building events in Kunming on November 9-10, 2023.

The Resilient City China Symposium was held on November 9, and opening remarks were delivered by Zhu Shu, Director of the ICLEI East Asia Secretariat, Sanjaya Bhatia, Head of the Office of UNDRR ONEA-GETI, Gao Kun, Director of Multilateral Cooperation Division of the Department of International Cooperation and Rescue of the Ministry of Emergency Management of China, and Chen Jun, Deputy Head of the Comprehensive Group of the Kunming Preparatory Office of COP15 and Member of the Party Group and Deputy Director of the Kunming Ecological Environment Bureau.

The first session of the seminar, “Resilient City Concepts and Practices” focused on the concept and framework of resilient cities, disaster risk assessment and management, climate change and its impacts, strategies, and actions to adapt to climate change, and promotion through international cooperation. Four experts including Stanley Yip, Adjunct Professor of the Energy Research Institute of Nanyang Technological University, Qiu Aijun, Deputy Director General of the Centre for International Cooperation, National Development and Reform Commission, Zhang Yongxiang, Deputy Director of the National Climate Center of China Meteorological Administration, Hou Fang, Deputy Director of the Department of International Cooperation and Exchange and the Department of Climate Change of the Ministry of Ecology & Environment conducted exchanges and discussions from several perspectives including climate resilience, international cooperation, scientific progress, and national strategy.

Experts in the field of resilient development from local city representatives, international organizations, national ministries, universities, and scientific research institutions delivered insights at this Symposium, and focusing on disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, nature-based solutions, resilience planning, discussions and case sharing on investment and financing among other related topics.



China Resilient Cities Report

At the Resilient City Symposium, ICLEI released the China Resilient Cities Report: Summary for Policymakers to provide guidance and suggestions for local governments in decision-making and planning related to resilient cities. Furthermore, ICLEI and UNDRR jointly issued certificates to five Chinese cities selected for Making Cities Resilient 2030: Chengdu, Guangyuan, Lishui, Changning District of Shanghai, and China -Singapore Tianjin Eco-City.



Five Chinese cities selected for Making Cities Resilient 2030: Chengdu, Guangyuan, Lishui, Changning District of Shanghai, and China -Singapore Tianjin Eco-City (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)



## Scorecard Training for Resilient Cities City Biodiversity Index

On November 10th, the Scorecard Training for Resilient City was held, inviting about 20 representatives from various departments such as ecology and environment, emergency management, planning and natural resources, housing and urban and rural development, meteorology, water affairs, civil affairs, and transportation. This training used the 10-Essential Scorecard for Disaster Resilience and allowed participants to simulate a preliminary assessment of urban resilience through interactive discussions. The training served as a methodological reference for resilient city planning and construction and promoted communication and collaboration among different departments.



Scorecard Training for Resilient Cities (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)



Image: ICLEI East Asia

# 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 and 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.

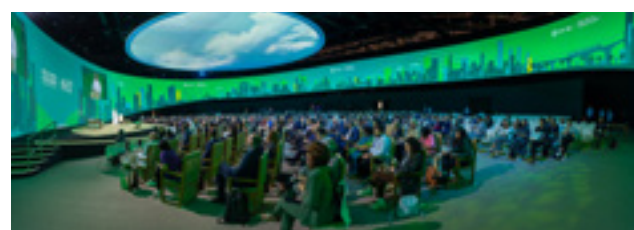
Contribute to SDGs



## UNFCCC COP28 and the Local Climate Action Summit

The 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (hereinafter referred to as “COP28”) was held from 30 November to 12 December 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The conference conducted the first global stocktake since the Paris Agreement came into effect and reached the “UAE Consensus” on multiple issues such as mitigation, adaptation, finance, loss and damage, and just transition. The number of participants in COP28 is unprecedented. According to statistics, about 100,000 people, including heads of state, members of government delegations and business representatives, representatives of local governments, representatives of international organizations, and non-governmental organizations, have registered to attend. COP28 sends a strong positive signal to the international community and is an important milestone in advancing the global climate process.

ICLEI plays a special role within the COP space. For over twenty years, the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency has been a driving force in bringing the voices of local governments to the forefront of global climate discussions, and ICLEI serves as the official focal point of the LGMA to the UNFCCC. This year, ICLEI has also pioneered local stocktakes in 30+ cities in 17 countries across six continents and welcomes the alignment of assessments of local-level progress with future iterations of the Global Stocktake. Over 70 countries have signed the landmark COP28 Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnership (CHAMP), initiative for Climate Action to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels, and ICLEI is ready to work with these countries to implement the goals of CHAMP towards COP30.



UNFCCC COP28 Local Climate Action Summit



Beijing Municipal Ecology and Environment Bureau (BEE) and the ICLEI team at the Multilevel Action & Urbanization Pavilion (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)

The Local Climate Action Summit (the Summit) took place on December 1-2 and was co-hosted by the UAE COP28 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies, with support from partners such as ICLEI, C40, UN-Habitat, and others. The event was attended by 450 guests from over 60 countries, including 250 local government leaders. The Summit’s focal points encompassed transforming local climate finance, integrating local contributions to fortify global action, expediting the local energy transition, and bolstering local resilience and adaptive capacity. The primary aim was to underscore the pivotal role of local governments in expediting climate progress.

During COP28, ICLEI participated in and supported several side events at the China Pavilion. On November 30, ICLEI and the Beijing Municipal Ecology and Environment Bureau co-hosted the first local government side event of China Pavilion on the theme of “Actions and Progress for Addressing Climate Change and Reducing Pollution and Carbon Emissions in Beijing”. ICLEI Secretary General, Gino van Begin, attended as a representative of the co-hosts and delivered a speech. On December 3, the “Guangdong’s Solutions for Climate Change” side event took place at the China Pavilion, featuring a keynote speech by Angie Fyfe, Director of the U.S. Office of ICLEI. On December 4, the Department of Climate Change of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China successfully hosted a side event on “Green and Low Carbon Development in Cities”, including a roundtable discussion with Yunus Arian, Director of International Advocacy at the ICLEI World Secretariat. Finally, on December 5th, Kobie Brand, ICLEI Deputy Secretary General, participated in the High-Level Dialogue at the Shenzhen Side Event.



Speech by Gino Van Begin, Secretary General of ICLEI (ICLEI) (Photo: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)



Angie Fyfe, Director of the ICLEI U.S. Office, delivering the keynote address at the Guangdong Province side event (Photo: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)



Yunus Arian (second from left), Director of International Advocacy, ICLEI World Secretariat, at the roundtable discussion on “Green and Low Carbon Development in Cities” (Photo: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)



Kobie Brand (first from left), Deputy Secretary General of ICLEI, was invited to attend the Shenzhen side event (Photo: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)



## Seoul International Forum on Climate and Environment 2023

The Seoul International Forum on Climate and Environment 2023 (SIFCE) was held at Seoul City Hall on October 31, 2023. Themed “Justice for All: Climate Action Together,” this year’s Forum focused on addressing the disproportionate impacts of the climate crisis on vulnerable groups and emphasized climate justice and youth climate activities. As part of this significant event, ICLEI organized a special session, bringing together major East Asian capital cities and a European member city to showcase the progress of their climate action policies.



ICLEI session at the Forum (image: ICLEI East Asia)

During this insightful session, Mustaq Menon from UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific discussed the three planetary crises and the circular economy model in cities. Ms. Chunmei Li from Beijing highlighted the success of the ETS scheme and voluntary carbon credit system, while Mr. Batshagai Bayagalan from Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, shared insights on combating air pollution at the country and city levels. Ms. Toshiko Chiba from Tokyo showcased the accomplishments of Tokyo’s building energy efficiency program, and Mr. Risto Veivo from Turku, Finland, presented Turku’s achievements in addressing climate change and biodiversity loss. This dedicated ICLEI session served as an impactful platform for cities to spotlight their substantial efforts in addressing climate crises. It not only underscored the pivotal role of local governments in implementing effective climate actions but also emphasized the critical importance of engaging the public and various stakeholders in these collective endeavors.

## 2023 Beijing International Forum for Metropolitan Clean Air and Climate Actions

The 2023 Beijing International Forum for Metropolitan Clean Air and Climate Actions took place on September 5-6, 2023. The theme of the forum was “Innovation-driven Carbon Emissions and Pollution Reduction.” The event was attended by representatives from international organizations, scientific research institutes, industry experts, and representatives of typical cities in China. The main focus of the forum was to share information on challenges and solutions related to combating air pollution and climate change. It also highlighted the actions and results achieved by international metropolises in these areas, with a specific focus on the path of sustainable development under the vision of carbon neutrality. The forum lasted for two days and included one main forum and three sub-forums covering various topics related to pollution control and climate adaptation strategy.

The ICLEI East Asia Secretariat helped the organizers by inviting guest speakers and moderating a roundtable discussion on the theme “Policy and Mechanism Innovations in Support of Green Transformation of Cities” during the conference. Representatives from Chinese and foreign cities, as well as international organizations, shared their experiences and effectiveness of urban policy innovations. They also discussed potential opportunities for the future of the carbon market and climate investment and financing. In addition, ICLEI presented at the sub-forum “Climate Adaptation Strategy Research and Actions,” sharing its practical experiences and explorations globally, in East Asia, and domestically.



2023 Beijing International Forum for Metropolitan Clean Air and Climate Actions

## International (Shenzhen-Central Asia) Zero Carbon City Industrial Cooperation Roundtable

On November 27, 2023, ICLEI, in collaboration with the Shenzhen Development Center of International Low Carbon Forum, and with substantial support from the Nordic International University in Uzbekistan and the Center for Study of International Academic Organizations at Southwest Jiaotong University, hosted the International (Shenzhen-Central Asia) Zero Carbon City Industrial Cooperation Roundtable in Shenzhen. This event was a pivotal component of the 2023 Carbon Peak and Carbon Neutrality Forum as well as the Shenzhen International Low Carbon City Forum, playing a vital role in facilitating dialogue and collaboration on achieving zero carbon cities between China and Central Asia and elevating bilateral partnerships to new heights.



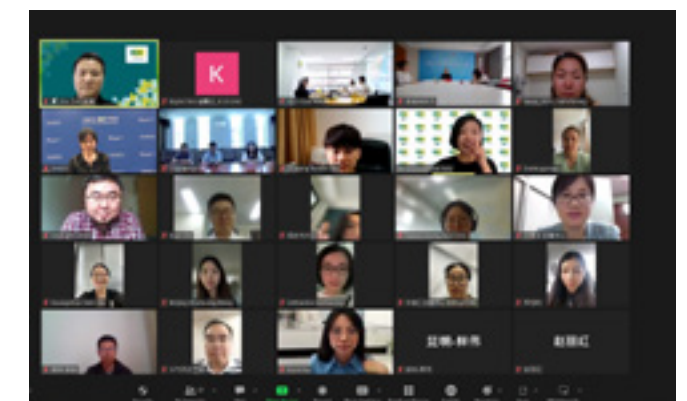
Shenzhen-Central Asia Roundtable

The roundtable unfolded in two segments. Initially, approximately 30 distinguished representatives from government and industry engaged in an in-depth discussion, sharing insights on policies and technological innovations towards the realization of zero carbon cities. They also explored potential collaborative ventures for low-carbon technologies and industries. Subsequently, the Uzbekistan delegation visited the Shenzhen Leo-King Enviro. Group, where they were introduced to advanced technologies in waste management and bio-fuel production.

The successful execution of this roundtable marks a notable achievement in ICLEI’s ongoing mission to foster climate cooperation between East Asia and Central Asia. Furthermore, it underscores ICLEI’s contribution towards global climate change mitigation efforts. Moving forward, ICLEI is committed to orchestrating additional initiatives aimed at promoting regional low-carbon development and enhancing climate cooperation.

## ICLEI-SHRDC Training Program on Building Efficiency and Energy Transition for Climate Ambitions

As a part of the longstanding collaboration since 2016, the ICLEI East Asia Secretariat and the Seoul Human Resources Development Center (SHRDC) co-organized a specialized training program for Chinese and Mongolian city officials on climate action in July 2023, with strong support from the Seoul Metropolitan Government. Focusing on “Building Efficiency and Energy Transition”, the program aimed at enhancing low-carbon transformations in building and energy sectors, successfully attracting 58 representatives from 10 Chinese local governments and 5 officials from Mongolia. This year’s training, combined online self-paced lectures with interactive live sessions, provided the insights into Seoul’s climate strategies, and successfully facilitated knowledge exchange on global best practices in the areas such as carbon neutrality and hydrogen energy strategies for boosting policymakers’ capacities for implementing impactful climate initiatives within their cities. This training program highlighted ICLEI’s commitment to enhancing local governments with the tools and strategies necessary for advancing towards carbon neutrality and sustainable urban development.



SHRDC training on July 13, 2023 (image: ICLEI East Asia)



## Energy Transition Accelerator for East Asian Cities

In 2023, thanks to financial support from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation - Regional Programme Energy Security and Climate Change Asia-Pacific, ICLEI initiated the Energy Transition Accelerator for East Asian Cities. This endeavour is dedicated to promoting the adoption of innovative and viable clean energy technologies, thereby facilitating urban areas on their journey towards net-zero emissions.

Within the framework of this project, ICLEI has achieved several significant milestones. The organization developed a comprehensive database documenting energy transition policies across major East Asian cities and released two case studies titled “Promoting Renewable Energy Consumption” and “Pioneering Hydrogen Energy Solutions in Cities.” These publications serve to showcase leading-edge energy solutions that can inspire similar initiatives. Additionally, ICLEI hosted a dedicated workshop focusing on the development of clean hydrogen technology in urban settings. This event brought together experts from both Korea and Germany, providing a platform for them to exchange insights on the progress and obstacles encountered in hydrogen technology development in their respective regions. The discussions also explored how to enhance international collaboration to further develop hydrogen energy solutions.

The workshop invited experts from Korea and Germany to share progress and challenges facing hydrogen development in their regions, and the experts discussed how to strengthen international cooperation for hydrogen development.

Through these concerted efforts, ICLEI has significantly contributed to broadening stakeholders’ understanding of the clean energy transition. Moreover, it has bolstered the capacity of policymakers to craft and execute effective clean energy strategies, marking a substantial step forward in the regional push towards sustainable energy practices.



GCoM East Asia Regional Conference (image: GCoM Asia)

## GCoM Regional Workshop for East Asian Cities and National Workshop for Chinese Cities

Throughout 2023, ICLEI actively engaged in fostering knowledge sharing and capacity building among East Asian cities, in partnership with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Asia (GCoM Asia). A notable event, the GCoM Regional Workshop for East Asian Cities, was hosted in Seoul in April 2023. This gathering marked one of the initial majors in-person international events post-pandemic, bringing together nearly 100 participants. The participants come from national and local governments, research institutes, and international bodies across Korea, Japan, China, and Europe. The workshop served as a pivotal platform for reigniting direct communication and promoting the exchange of insights, peer-to-peer learning, and networking focused on climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.



National Workshop for Chinese Cities (image: GCoM Asia)

In a further initiative, October 2023 saw ICLEI collaborating with GCoM Asia and the Chinese National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation (NCSC) to organize the GCoM National Workshop for Chinese Cities in Beijing. This event provided a forum for experts from China and Europe to disseminate best practices on climate change mitigation and adaptation at the local level. The workshop was attended by representatives from 12 provinces and cities, including Beijing, Chongqing, and Changchun, fostering a rich dialogue on pivotal climate challenges and the exploration of avenues towards the creation of low-carbon, resilient urban environments. ICLEI played a crucial role in moderating discussions on Low-Carbon Transition for Sustainable Urban Development and facilitated an insightful site visit to the Beijing Goldwind Yizhuang Smart Industrial Park. The workshop underscored the importance of international collaboration, setting a robust foundation for ongoing partnership and supporting sustainable urban development initiatives in the participating cities.

## Regional Roadmap for Building and Construction in China’s Greater Bay Area

On 1 June 2023, ICLEI, in partnership with the German Energy Agency (dena) and the China Academy of Building Research (CABR), launched the Regional Roadmap for Building and Construction within China’s Greater Bay Area. This launch event was marked by the participation of over 50 delegates from government, business, and think tanks. The session was an opportunity for the project team to present significant findings and for experts to exchange best practices in the field.

The initiative didn’t stop at the workshop; ICLEI and dena subsequently visited Foshan and Shenzhen, two of the most vibrant cities in southern China. These visits were aimed at examining exemplary green building projects firsthand and discussing potential collaborative ventures with local entities.

This roadmap represents one of the pioneering long-term, cross-sectoral blueprints aimed at

guiding the building and construction industry towards sustainability in the Greater Bay Area. It has played a crucial role in elevating stakeholder awareness and establishing a common language towards achieving net-zero and resilient buildings. The combined efforts of the workshop and subsequent city tours have not only facilitated meaningful dialogue among various stakeholders but have also laid a strong foundation for future projects aimed at transforming the region’s building and construction landscape.



launch of the Regional Roadmap for Building and Construction within China’s Greater Bay Area



visit to Foshan Sanlongwan



Project team visited Shenzhen Academy of Building Research





## 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



### EU-China Horizon 2020 Projects

2023 marks a harvesting year for EU-China collaboration on urban NbS explorations. With most of the projects reaching to the end, many practice-based, solution-oriented outcomes are generated through this transdisciplinary collaboration.

#### CLEVER Cities

After a 5-year journey, we successfully hosted the final conference “Nature in the City” in Hamburg, Germany in 2023. During the conference, we presented a series of resources and tools including factsheets, NbS guidance platform, and Local Innovation Screening Tool (LIST), and city driven NbS roadmaps. Led by ICLEI, CLEVER Regional Solutions Catalogue, showcases good practice of NbS interventions and enablers from China, Europe and Latin America. The catalogue illustrates the various benefits that urban NbS can generate for the environment, society and economy through a rich compilation of case studies. In addition, the publication outlines relevant models that cities and regions can use to support NbS planning, implementation, and maintenance.



Clever Cities Guidance website

#### REGREEN

Later in the end of October, the International Conference of REGREEN was also hosted in Ningbo of China, by our project partner Institute of Urban Environment at Chinese Academy of Science. This conference greatly encouraged dialogue and deepened understanding of project outputs between partners. This comprehensive urban NbS project taken in Urban Living Labs (ULLs) also delivers an impressive range of tools and findings.

Through close collaboration among academia, local authorities, public institutes and research centres, advanced findings and explorative tools for best practices; quantifying ecosystem services; mixed-methods approach for benefits and values; governance and planning system; children and youth's engagement with natural environment and NbS; NbS design and planning; business investment, and so on. In the ICLEI-led deliverable The REGREEN NBS Handbook: from concept to action for ecosystem restoration & urban resilience, you can find more information about them.



The International Workshop on “REGREEN: Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) for Smart, Green, and Healthy Urban Transitions in China and Europe” held in Ningbo, China (image: Regreen)

Besides, the ten-year anniversary of the European Urban Resilience Forum also took place in Cascais of Portugal. As cost-effective, multi-beneficial solutions, NbS are widely recognised and used for enhancing urban resilience and generating social, ecological and economic impacts at scales. More than 100 speakers and 350 participants from 44 countries participated.

To further accelerate the knowledge sharing, the platform of NetworkNature will continue to share best practices, open tools, lessons learned of urban NbS and resilience.



ICLEI East Asia, Dongying City, and RAMSAR Regional Center - East Asiamet at the World Coastal Forum (image: ICLEI East Asia)

### Wetland Cities

Exploration of Urban Wetlands and Wetland City in the East Asia Region is another highlight of the year. As one establishment member and co-lead of the Local Government and Subnational Engagement Task Team on World Coastal Forum, we are delighted to contribute to and participate in the first forum taking place in Yancheng City of China. Beyond the traditional scope, we are also seeking synergies of enhancing city climate resilience through effective and wise use of urban wetlands with cities and partners. After years of close work, together with ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Centre, we signed the MoU with Ramsar Regional Centre - East Asia, to consolidate our collaboration in the East Asia Region.

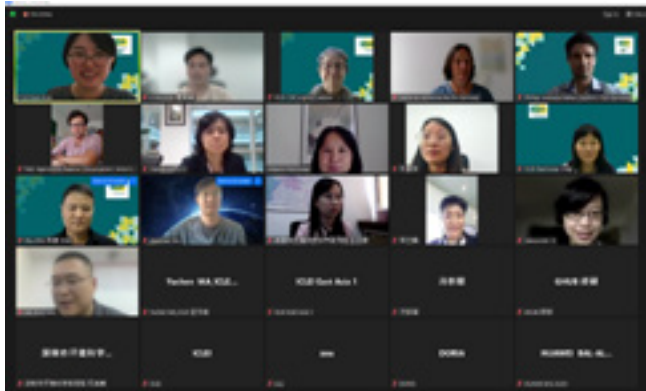
For upcoming years, we will continue the work with partners and cities sharing the same passion, to utilise the potentials of urban wetlands for an integrated, sustainable, and shared future for all.

### INTERACT-Bio Integrated Regional Action on Biodiversity

Supported 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 improve the utilization and management of nature within fast-growing cities and their surrounding regions. Aiming to provide expanding urban communities with Nature-based Solutions and associated long-term benefits, the project will enable governments at all levels – from local to national – to integrate their efforts for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into core subnational government functions such as spatial planning, land-use management, local economic development and infrastructure design. INTERACT-Bio is being implemented in Brazil, India and Tanzania, China, Colombia and South Africa. The project kicked off in China in late 2022.



In the year of 2023, two project dialogues were held online, with one involving representatives from diverse levels of Chinese and German government departments, research institutions, and cities, aiming to establish a platform for dialogue among Chinese and German cities, national and local stakeholders, policymakers, and scientists. It facilitated the sharing and showcasing of local initiatives from various perspectives to inspire actions, ambitions, and foster global cooperation among local governments in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework. The second dialogue specifically centered on biodiversity assessment and planning, with a focus on the integration of Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (LBSAPs) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Participants included national and local actors actively involved in the compilation of LBSAPs and NBSAPs.



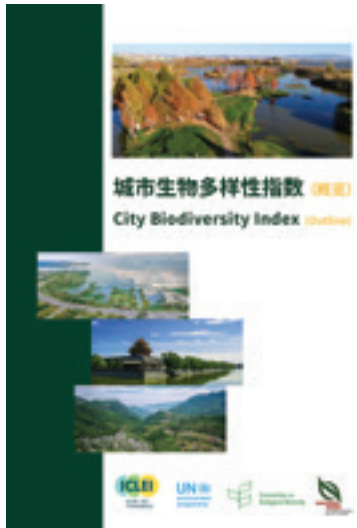
Interact-Bio webinar: Deepening local action to operationalize the “Kunming-Montreal Framework” - a vision of local action from the “Berlin Convention on Natural Cities”.

Being a highlight of the project year, the Urban Biodiversity International Forum, a multi-disciplinary, multi-stakeholder gathering, took place successfully in Kunming City, China, from November 8 to 10, 2023. With the support of the Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center (FECO) of MEE China, as well as Kunming city and several other important partner and initiatives, the event was dedicated to exploring the

implications of the GBF and Decisions for cities and subnational governments as key partners in developing and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to reaching the 2030 targets. It is also designed to enhance vertical and horizontal alignment and integration of biodiversity management into land-use planning and development of decision-making processes. Over 200 guests from various sectors, including representatives from more than 20 local governments both domestically and overseas, actively participated in the event onsite. Additionally, over 100 guests joined the forum online.

**The City Biodiversity Index (Localised Chinese Version) launched at the Urban Biodiversity International Forum**

The City Biodiversity Index is a useful tool for most local governments to assess and evaluate local biodiversity protection and management practices. Localisation and revision of the City Biodiversity Index in China is to provide support in assessing and monitoring the biodiversity actions towards GBF goals and targets in the local context.



The City Biodiversity Index (Localised Chinese Version)

**Guidelines of LBSAPS in Chinese Context (outline) launched at the Urban Biodiversity International Forum**

The Guidelines of Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in China is developing under the new GBF and is to give local governments, institutions and other organizations a comprehensive guide and showcases how the LBSAPS collaborates and synergies with NBSAPS, and GBF. It is developed to bridge the gap between NBSAP commitments and local biodiversity actions and tries to provide a step-by-step guide on how to make LBSAPS in Chinese context.

Back-to-back with the Urban Biodiversity International Forum, the Biodiversity Finance Training was held on 9 Nov 2023 in Kunming, China, with the purpose of enhancing local governments’ understanding of biodiversity finance-related mechanisms, tools and cases, promoting the value transformation of ecological products, enhancing the construction of diversified investment and financing mechanisms for local ecological protection, etc. Representatives from government departments, international organizations, financial institutions, scientific research institutions, and various sectors actively engaged in the training session.



Guidelines of LBSAPS in Chinese Context (outline)

**Biodiversity Financing Toolkit launched and introduced during the Urban Biodiversity International Forum and the Biodiversity Finance Training**

Developed under the INTERACT-Bio project by ICLEI, the toolkit includes a Guide to Biodiversity Financing for Cities and Regions, Catalogue of Financing and Technical Assistance Opportunities, and Biodiversity Finance Decision-Making Tree, offering solutions for local governments and regions on biodiversity finance.

For upcoming years, we will continue the work with partners and cities sharing the same passion, to utilise the potentials of urban wetlands for an integrated, sustainable, and shared future for all.



Guide on Biodiversity Finance for Local Governments





## 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 Guangzhou workshop (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)

### Making Cities Resilient 2030: Strengthening Local Disaster Resilience in China

In order to further support Chinese cities in improving disaster management, climate adaptability and urban resilience, the ICLEI East Asia Secretariat and the UNDRR Northeast Asia Office jointly carried out a series of capacity building activities in China under the initiative of the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030). From April 10 to 11, 2023, the Resilient City Capacity Building Workshop was held in Guangzhou. The event was jointly organized by ICLEI EAS, UNDRR and the Foreign Affairs Office of the Guangzhou Municipal People's Government. Experts and representatives from relevant government departments, and research institutions in Guangzhou and Foshan were invited to discuss the challenges, opportunities and prospects of resilience building in the Greater Bay Area and beyond. Guangzhou and Foshan sent management and technical personnel from emergency management, ecology and environment, planning and natural resources, housing and urban planning, water affairs, civil affairs and other departments at the municipal and district levels, with a total of about 50 representatives attending the meeting.

From November 9 to 10, the Resilient City China Symposium and capacity building training were successfully held in Kunming, Yunnan Province. This event was jointly held by ICLEI East Asia and UNDRR and received strong support from multiple cooperation agencies and partners. About 120 representatives attended the meeting, from the Ministry of Emergency Management, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the International

Cooperation Center of the National Development and Reform Commission, the National Climate Center of the China Meteorological Administration, the National Climate Change Strategy Research and International Cooperation Center, as well as Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Chengdu, Xiangtan, Lishui, China-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, etc. The organization of the MCR2030 initiative provides valuable experience exchange and learning opportunities for the building and development of China's resilient cities and contributes to sustainable urban development. In 2023, 6 Chinese local governments officially joined the MCR2030

network, namely Chengdu City, Guangyuan City, Lishui City, Changning District of Shanghai, Zhuji City, and China-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City.

This program assists Chinese cities in actively formulating resilient city strategies and action plans tailored to local conditions, in order to effectively respond to disasters caused by climate change and other factors. Through the implementation of relevant activities, the program receives positive feedback as their understanding and action capabilities of multiple government departments in disaster prevention and reduction, climate adaptation and resilience building have been significantly improved.

## Welcome



GUANGYUAN

LISHUI

CHENGDU

SHANGHAI CHANGNING

TIANJIN ECO-CITY



## TO MCR2030

#MCR2030





## EQUITABLE AND PEOPLE-CENTERED DEVELOPMENT

builds more just, liveable and inclusive urban communities and addresses poverty. It is inclusive development that safeguards the natural support system for human life.

Contribute to SDGs



### GEF-7 UrbanShift

UrbanShift, brand name for the Sustainable Cities Impact Program, is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). It aims to transform cities for people and the planet through integrated urban development. It engaged with more than 23 cities across 9 countries (China, India, Indonesia, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Morocco, Costa Rica, Brazil and Argentina). ICLEI EAS has been supporting China participating in UrbanShift Global Platform activities.

Throughout the year, UrbanShift, ICLEI, and various partners have engaged in a series of impactful events and meetings. In March, the UrbanShift global platform orchestrated an executive meeting to facilitate updates on the progress of each country's projects. The 6th High Level Dialogue on Sustainable Development, co-organized by CCUD, Chengdu Municipal Government and ICLEI on April 26, saw fruitful key works on biodiversity and low carbon development that Chengdu has been doing. During the event, ICLEI EAS organized bilateral discussions with local stakeholders in Chengdu to share GEF UrbanShift implementation and exchange annual plans for this year. Notably, ICLEI WS hosted an UrbanShift Webinar on Energy Exchange in August, drawing participation from the City of Shenzhen.

The UrbanShift China Finance Academy in Beijing, organized by C40 in September, played a crucial role in improving the capacity of Chinese cities for financing and project development. Cities including Beijing, Shenzhen, Chengdu, Wuhan and Hong Kong have participated in this event. Later that month, the UrbanShift Asia Forum in New Delhi witnessed active involvement from Beijing, Shenzhen, and Chengdu. As the year progressed, the China Project annual meeting convened by the World Bank China Team in November served as a key occasion for UrbanShift stakeholders to exchange and share on critical issues including carbon neutrality and urban biodiversity. Finally, during the COP28 in Dubai, UAE in December, ICLEI EAS actively supported CCUD' engagement in the side event "UN raising ambition and delivery on the ground: multilevel climate action for local resilience", further enhancing the global impact of their initiatives on sustainable development.



The 6th High Level Dialogue on Sustainable Development (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)



UrbanShift Asia Forum (image: UrbanShift)

### Urban-Rural Assembly Project (URA)

Partnered with the Technical University of Berlin and Tongji University and funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), this project aims to incorporate Chinese governance and policy framework into interdisciplinary contextual research. ICLEI East Asia continued to work on the policy research report named Fostering sustainable, inclusive, and high-quality urban-rural integrated development in China: Learning from Taizhou-Huangyan, Zhejiang Province. The interim report has been shared with URA partners for feedback and consultation.

On 21 June 2023, the third Science-Policy Dialogue of the Urban-Rural Assembly (URA) was organised to further introduce the URA project to a wider audience, including Chinese cities and policymakers, academia, local communities and NGOs, as well as establish partnerships with vital Chinese partners. The theme is Ecological Restoration in Urban-Rural Linkages. In addition, ICLEI EAS participated in the URA conference between 2-3 May in Weimar and Aploda and supported the organisation of URA Symposium and Raumbild Planning Workshops in Huangyang, Taizhou between August 31-September 2, 2023.

What's more, during the Urban Biodiversity International Forum organized by ICLEI in Kunming City, a special session on biodiversity conservation and management was designed for URA stakeholders in China. Taizhou and observer cities (Chengdu and Foshan) have actively participated in the event. Lastly, regular exchange with Chinese partner cities/urban regions on issues of sustainable urban-rural relations are ongoing in order to support the R&D activities in the study region Huangyan-Taizhou and to discuss and prepare a possible transfer of the project results to other Chinese regions.



URA SPD Dialogue on 21 June 2023 (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)



URA workshop in Huangyan 2023 (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)



URA workshop in Huangyan 2023 (image: ICLEI East Asia Secretariat)



# OTHER PROJECTS

## 2023 UNITAR CIFAL Jeju – ICLEI Capacity-Building Workshop

Given the increasing demand for sustainable transport in the Asia region, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju and ICLEI co-hosted a hybrid capacity-building workshop on 2-4 May in Jeju, South Korea, back-to-back with the International Electric Vehicle Expo. A total of 14 public servants from Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Vietnam participated in the three-day training, while more than 100 participants virtually participated in the online sessions provided on the second day of the event. On-site and online participants from 42 countries deeply dived into low-carbon transport measures on public transport, commercial fleets, two- and three-wheelers from policy and technology-wise approaches. Throughout the event, ICLEI East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and World Secretariats provided coordination and technical support to present local practices and policies, facilitated knowledge sharing and discussions between participants, and promoted the decarbonization of transport at the regional level.



2023 UNITAR CIFAL JEJU - ICLEI Capacity-Building Workshop

## Climate and Clean Air Conference 2023: Air Quality Action Week

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) hosted a week-long event to bring topics of air pollution and climate change to a regional knowledge exchange and discussion platform where experts, government representatives, decision-makers, intergovernmental bodies, donors, civil society organizations, and relevant stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region convened. A series of plenary and breakout sessions highlighted the latest insights, proven solutions, and new progress in addressing the pressing environmental challenges at the global and regional levels. As a part of it, the Capital Metropolitan Region of the Republic of Korea – comprising of Seoul, Incheon, and Gyeonggi – presented key findings from a new air quality assessment on the effectiveness of local policies and measures. Joining a panel discussion, ICLEI East Asia contributed to enriching the discussion and promoting regional collaboration by sharing its expertise and insights on co-controlling air quality improvement and climate actions in the East Asian region.



Climate and Clean Air Conference 2023\_ Air Quality Action Week

## 3rd International Forum on Low Carbon Cities: City-led climate actions in North-East Asia

The International Forum on Low Carbon Cities has served as a regional knowledge-sharing platform, enhancing the institutional arrangements of local governments in East Asia since 2021. This year, the 3rd forum took on a hybrid format on 28 August, held back-to-back with the Korea Global Adaptation Week 2023, attracting participants from local governments, international and regional organizations, national and regional city networks, and academia.

In collaboration with ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office, Incheon Metropolitan City, Green Climate Fund, and other expert organizations and partners, the ICLEI East Asia Secretariat and Japan Office provided technical, coordination, and operational support to accelerate knowledge dissemination and collaboration at the international and regional scale.

Furthermore, the ICLEI East Asia Secretariat and Japan Office expanded technical support to publish a compendium of local climate actions in collaboration with ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office and the innovative Green Development Program. They presented local low-carbon and climate-resilient policies in South Korea and Japan, offering in-depth insights and analysis based on ICLEI's five pathways. The compendium was officially launched during the 8th Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF-8), emphasizing the crucial roles and responsibilities of sustainable cities in promoting coordinated and multilevel climate actions.



3rd international Forum on Low Carbon Cities



Image: ICLEI East Asia



# STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

In 2023, ICLEI East Asia deepened its commitment to global sustainability through strategic partnerships, particularly with, the Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia, the International Nordic University and through the formation of the Alliance for Corporate Cross-border Sustainability Services. These collaborations have been pivotal in advancing sustainable urban development, biodiversity conservation, etc., aligning closely with our mission.

The MoU between ICLEI, the Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia, and the ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center marks a significant step towards biodiversity conservation and sustainable urban development. This partnership supports local governments in sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation, emphasizing the importance of wetlands, promoting regional cooperation, advocating for sustainable urban planning, and contributing to global environmental sustainability goals.

ICLEI East Asia and the International Nordic University have partnered to strengthen sustainable urban development in East and Central Asia. This partnership focuses on climate action, renewable energy, and biodiversity, aiming to exchange knowledge and promote green business investments. By fostering collaboration and supporting the inclusion of Central Asian cities in the ICLEI network, this partnership contributes to the region's sustainable and resilient development.

ICLEI East Asia and the International Cooperation Center of the NDRC launched the "Alliance for Corporate Cross-border Sustainability Services" to promote sustainable cross-border investment and enhance the Belt and Road Initiative's sustainable development. The initiative aligns with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and is included in the "Practical Cooperation Projects List" of the third Belt and Road International Cooperation Summit Forum.



# KNOWLEDGE SHARING



**Regional Roadmap for Buildings and Construction in China's Greater Bay Area**

2023 June / English



**Energy Transition Accelerator for East Asian Cities**

2023 May / English



**China Resilient Cities Report: Summary for Policymakers**

2022 Oct / English, Chinese



**2022 Annual Report**

2023 Sep / English, Chinese



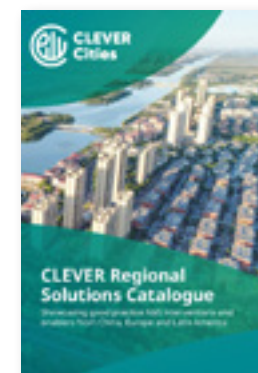
**Promotion Renewable Energy Consumption**

2023 Dec / English



**Pioneering Hydrogen Energy Solutions in Cities**

2023 Dec / English



**CLEVER Regional Solutions Catalogue: Showcasing good practice NbS interventions and enablers from China, Europe and Latin America**

2023 Dec / English, Chinese



# 2024 PREVIEW

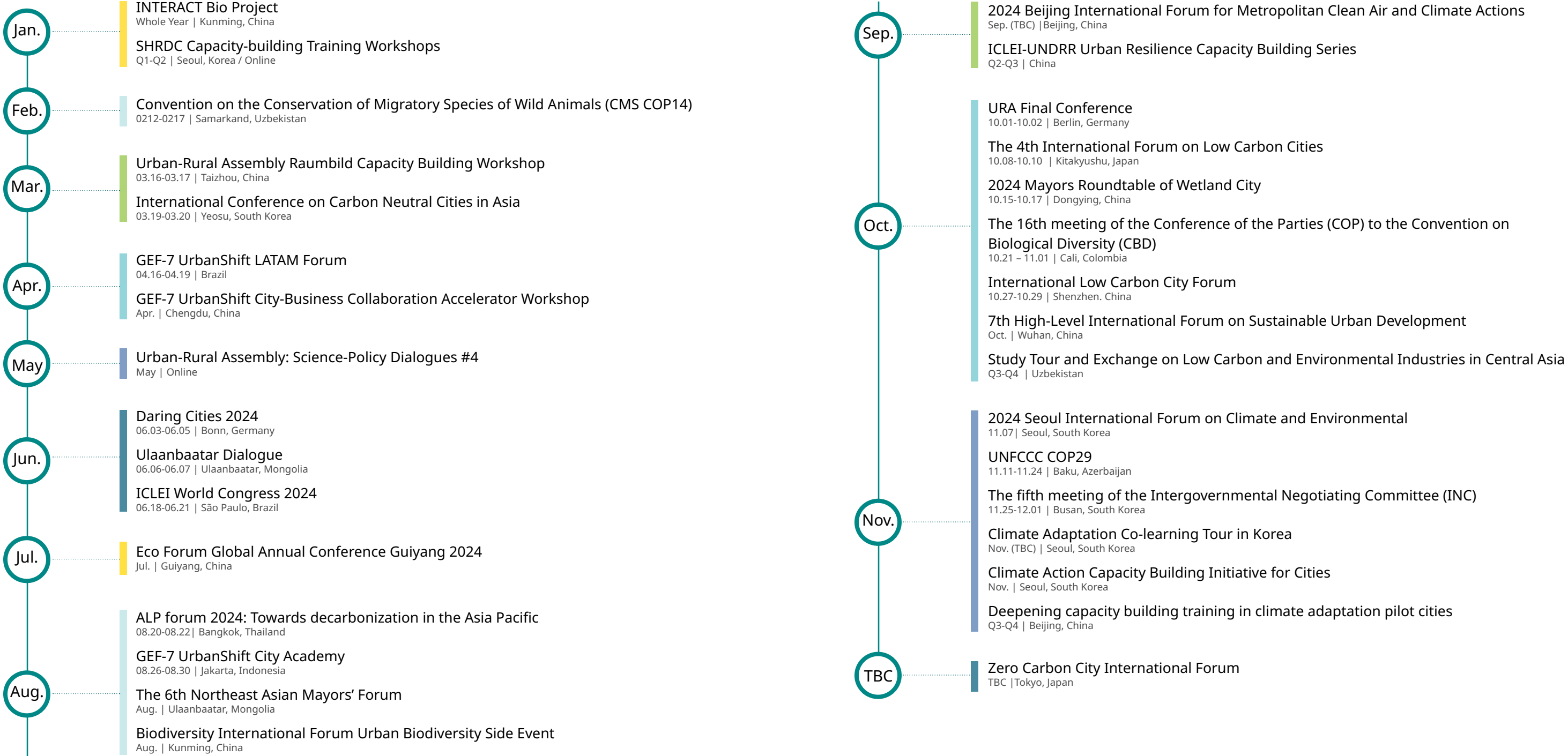




Photo by Dmitrii Eliuseev on Unsplash

# MEET OUR TEAM

**Shu Zhu**, Regional Director & China Representative

## East Asia Secretariat

**Konrad Otto-Zimmermann**  
Senior Advisor

**Sohyun Lee**  
Regional Administrator

**Hyemin Lee**  
Financial Officer

**Ge Liu**  
Strategy Manager

**Xuan Xie**  
Program Officer

**Yeajee Kim**  
Program Officer

**Hyeji Jung**  
Operations Officer

**Xiaoqian Zhou**  
Communication and Knowledge  
management Officer

**Siaqiao Yuan**  
Program manager

**Merlin Lao**  
Advisor

**Haeun Kang**  
Intern

## Beijing Office

**Monika Zimmermann**  
Senior Advisor

**Linlin Wang**  
Operation Officer & Assistant to  
Chief Representative

**Guyu (Kelly) Dai**  
Program Officer

**Huan Zheng**  
Program Officer & the Greater Bay  
Area Coordinator

**Yi Jiang**  
Project Coordinator

**Ji Xu**  
Project Coordinator

**Yuchen Ma**  
Senior Program Officer

**Yunfan Cheng**  
Intern

## Departed Staff

**Eunkyung Oh**  
Regional Administrator

**Kyunglim (Kayla) Choi**  
Young Professional

**Ying Wang**  
Program Manager



Follow us on WeChat

## ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

[eastasia.iclei.org](http://eastasia.iclei.org)

### East Asia Secretariat

14/F, Seoul Global Center Building, 38 Jongno,  
Jongno-gu, Seoul, 03188, South Korea

Tel. +82-2-3789-0496

Fax. +82-2-3789-0497

Email. [iclei-eastasia@iclei.org](mailto:iclei-eastasia@iclei.org)

### Beijing Office

1209B Diyang Tower, NO.2 North Road East  
Third Ring, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China  
100125

Tel. +86-10-57125289

Email. [iclei-china@iclei.org](mailto:iclei-china@iclei.org)

The material of this publication is copyrighted. Requests to reproduce the material, in part or in full, should be in writing to the ICLEI East Asia Secretariat. © 2023 ICLEI East Asia Secretariat.

Layout and Design: Xiaoqian ZHOU

Cover Photo: Dongying City, China / photo by Guangxue ZHOU, Dongying News

ICLEI East Asia Secretariat is generously supported by:







# ICLEI WORLDWIDE

— Since 1990 —

**Cities Biodiversity Center** / Cape Town • **Carbons Center** / Bonn

**Capacity Center** / Bonn • **Local Renewables Center** / New Delhi

**Sustainable Procurement Center** / Freiburg

**Kaohsiung Capacity Center** / Kaohsiung

/ **Africa** / Benin • Botswana • Burkina Faso • Burundi • Cameroon • Ethiopia • Eswatini • Ghana • Ivory Coast • Kenya • Liberia • Malawi • Mali • Mauritania • Mauritius • Morocco • Mozambique • Namibia • Niger • Nigeria • Rwanda • Senegal • Sierra Leone • South Africa • Tanzania • Togo • Uganda • Zambia • Zimbabwe / **East Asia** / China • Chinese Taipei • Japan • Korea • Mongolia / **Europe** / Albania • Armenia • Austria • Belgium • Bosnia and Herzegovina • Bulgaria • Croatia • Cyprus • Czech Republic • Denmark • Estonia • Finland • France • Germany • Greece • Hungary • Iceland • Ireland • Israel • Italy • Jordan • Lithuania • Luxembourg • Netherlands • Norway • North Macedonia • State of Palestine • Poland • Portugal • Romania • Serbia • Slovenia • Spain • Sweden • Switzerland • Türkiye • United Kingdom / **Mexico, Central America & Caribbean** / Costa Rica • Dominica • Dominican Republic • Honduras • Jamaica • Mexico / **North America** / Canada • United States / **Oceania** / Australia • Fiji • Kiribati • New Zealand • Solomon Islands • Vanuatu / **South America** / Argentina • Bolivia • Brazil • Chile • Colombia • Ecuador • Peru • Uruguay / **South Asia** / Bangladesh • Bhutan • India • Maldives • Nepal • Sri Lanka / **Southeast Asia** / Indonesia • Malaysia • Philippines • Thailand