

ISSUE No. 07

# RECIPRO: CITY **Celebrating 5 Years** of the Urban SDG **Knowledge Platform**









The Urban SDG Knowledge Platform initiative is a follow-up of the 2016 international forum on Urban Policy or Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) held in Seoul Republic of Korea; and a response to the 2015 Sixth Asia Pacific Urban Forum (APUF-6) Jakarta Call for Action held in Jakarta, Indonesia. Both forums were held in order to deliberate and contribute action-oriented recommendations to the region's leaders focused strongly on an implementation agenda, including scaling up existing successful practices by fostering knowledge sharing.









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# RECIPRO: Celebrating 5 Years of the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform





RECIPRO:CITY was created as the annual publication of the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform to support all readers in sharing best practices on urban policies and to introduce the connected activities under the platform. This 7th issue focuses on the SDG Awards Ceremony carried out at the 9th CityNet Congress to celebrate the dedication of CityNet members to knowledge-sharing and SDGs localization. It also introduces the Platform's new SDG online course offerings.

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ABOUT THE URBAN SDG KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM

The Urban SDG Knowledge Platform was established in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) and CityNet to promote and support knowledge sharing and city-to-city cooperation for sustainable urban development.

The Urban SDG Knowledge Platform supports local action for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by:

- · Providing a repository of policies, initiatives and best practices at the city level by municipal governments and other stakeholders;
- · Facilitating north-south, south-south, and triangular cooperation by linking cities that have developed specific policies and strategies with other cities interested in learning from and replicating them;
- Enabling regional follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's implementation by providing a platform for local governments to share progress and lessons learned;
- Offering free assessment tools that enable city government officials to measure the amount of progress made in localizing the SDGs in their city as well as measuring the probability that another city's best practice can be successfully localized in their city.

# ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

### CITYNET SECRETARIAT

CityNet is the largest association of urban stakeholders committed to sustainable development in the Asia Pacific region. Established in 1987 with the support of UNESCAP, UNDP and UNHabitat, the network of cities has grown to include over 170 municipalities, NGOs, private sector entities and research centres. CityNet connects actors to exchange knowledge and build commitment to more sustainable and resilient cities. Through capacity building, city-to-city cooperation and tangible projects, we help our members respond to Climate Change, Disaster, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and rising Infrastructure demands.

### SEOUL METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) is the administrative organization of the city of Seoul. Seoul is the capital city of the Republic of Korea and has been the centre of the country throughout its long history from the prehistoric era to the present day. In addition, in just five decades, Seoul has seen its population increase by 43.3 percent and GDP soar by 1,389 percent. Along with this fast and tremendous development of Seoul, the city made strenuous efforts to tackle urban challenges. Due to those efforts, Seoul is now one of the most prosperous cities in the world.

### **UN ESCAP**

Headquartered in Bangkok, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) serves as the United Nations' regional hub promoting cooperation among countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. As the largest regional intergovernmental platform with 53 Member States and 9 associate members, ESCAP has emerged as a strong regional thinktank offering countries sound analytical products that shed insight into the evolving economic, social and environmental dynamics of the region. The Commission's strategic focus is to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.





# A Message from CityNet's CEO

Five years ago, at the 8th CityNet Congress in Colombo, the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform was revealed. As a joint creation of UN ESCAP, Seoul Metropolitan Government, and CityNet, the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform was an ambitious experiment to see if a database of sustainable development projects and policies centred around cities in the Asia Pacific could be successful. At the time, we knew that the Asia Pacific was rapidly urbanizing and that the region would be home to over 20 megacities by 2030. We knew that these growing cities would need to learn from one another to avoid developmental pitfalls and grow sustainably.

I'm proud to announce that, in the five years since the Platform was launched, it has gathered a database of over 400 case studies spanning cities from all over the Asia Pacific region. The best practices available on the website allow for North-South, South-South, and triangular exchanges of knowledge between cities. All 17 Sustainable Development Goals are covered in the database and, in total, have addressed the SDGs on a local level over a thousand times This is all thanks to you. The generosity and openness of CityNet members have enabled hundreds of innovative projects to be freely shared within our great network.

Although the success of the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform has been a remarkable achievement of our network, barriers to peer to peer knowledge sharing still exist. CityNet members still need to be engaged more effectively to enable them to replicate the best practices between cities. In the face of mounting challenges, and in order to implement the best solutions, city governments must transition

to decentralized, participatory methods where city officials and key stakeholders can design sustainable solutions together.

CityNet must take advantage of its excellent network to co-create these solutions for Asia Pacific cities through dialog and accessible learning strategies. Therefore, I am pleased to officially announce the launch of our new online courses programme, which is being run on the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform. This year, the Secretariat has been collaborating with CityNet members to develop engaging courses that will share how to practically implement the best practices that our members have effectively implemented in their cities. The courses will be available on the Platform for CityNet members to take at any time, completely for free. By targeting technical officers, the courses will be a way to provide real understanding of the demands of sustainable development, thereby acting as crucial education for the work that needs to be done.

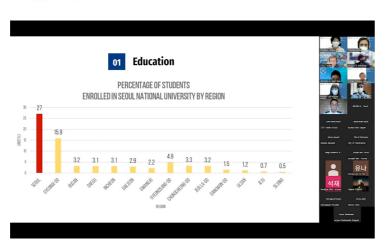
Online education enables lifelong education. Learning should be a lifelong pursuit, especially for city civil servants, because you have the profound responsibility of shaping the built environment and ensuring the wellbeing of billions of people. We welcome all CityNet members to design an online course to guide your peers to implementing best practices, to encourage learning through discussion, and connect key actors to commit to sustainable development projects.

Jeong-kee Kim, CEO of CityNet

# YSAP PROGRAMME INTRODUCTION

The Youth SDGs Action Programme is a **youth-oriented** pilot online course that is currently underway. University students from four countries (South Korea, Japan, Nepal, and the Philippines) are meeting to **discuss the issues and needs for development that they perceive in each of their countries,** to share a youth perspective on issues relevant to our platform. The groups are tasked to analyze the SDGs and either choose sub-goals that do not sufficiently address their concerns or create new sub-goals that better pertain to youth. Each group will then go on to document an issue of their choice and present their perspectives and proposals at a forum organized by CityNet in early 2023.





### **UPCOMING COURSES**

### + Think City - Urban Safety & Inclusive Spaces Masterclass

Think City presents a capacity-building course to tackle the historical monopoly of the able-bodied man's perspective over the urban planning process, which has led to unsafe public areas and loss of opportunities for vulnerable groups. In the course, they will present methods and learnings from safety audits conducted together with Safetipin to build inclusive, safe and accessible cities.

Thinkcity
REJUVENATING THE CITY TOGETHER

The course takes place over 4 weekly 1 hour-long sessions with lectures, reading suggestions, online assignments, and live Q&A. Participants will identify exclusions in urban spaces and utilize various tools and techniques to build innovative solutions to evaluate and address urban safety areas.



### + Seoul Tourism Organization – Approaches in Sustainable Tourism: Lessons from Seoul

The Seoul Tourism Organization will be showcasing insights and lessons learned from its Smart Tourism City Seoul and Seoul Tourism Plaza projects in its 3-week online course. Content covered will range from explanations of key concepts in sustainable tourism and smart tourism cities to the presentation of Seoul's best practice initiatives for fostering the tourism industry.

The course consists of 3 main sessions with accompanying exercises that include the SDG Platform's Localization Toolkit.



### + URDI – Live Online Training On Collaborative Smart Governance

The Urban and Regional Development Institute presents an online training course co-created with CityNet to promote knowledge development on collaborative and smart governance strategies for climate change issues. The course is designed to increase urban stakeholders' contextual understanding and long-term capacities involving global smart city issues.

Through lectures, Q&A sessions, quizzes, and discussions, participants will learn from case studies of pilot projects and develop strategic plans utilizing the **Actor Relational Approach** (ARA) method, as well as obtain the foundational skills needed to build and improve Collaborative and Smart Governance Networks.

# **URDi**



# + Plus Arts – Japanese case study of creative approaches toward strengthening society resilience

Plus Arts NPO, in partnership with CityNet-Plus Arts Centre for Creative Partnerships, is hosting a knowledge-sharing course on creative, innovative, and participatory approaches to addressing global social issues, with a focus on strengthening the resilience of a society. Plus Arts works to develop quality resilience education programmes that are interactive, accessible and entertaining to participants, which are then delivered to cities worldwide to carry out and foster.

The course is divided into 3 sessions with 2 hours of recorded lectures each, which provide detailed explanations of specific practices for creative resilience education. Each session revolves around a specific topic, which include: developing creative disaster prevention education materials, enhancing resilience with the private sector, and creative approaches to addressing urban social issues.











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### **SDG AWARDS PROGRAMME AND CEREMONY**



In time for the 5th anniversary of the **Urban SDG Knowledge Platform**, CityNet launched **the SDG Awards programme** to recognize some of the very best practices that have been published in the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform's case study database.

At the 9th CityNet Congress, an **SDG Awards Ceremony** was held to celebrate the 12 Finalists case studies selected among the nominees for their quality and replicability.

The highlights of the session were the **Q&A panel discussion** where all Finalists had the opportunity to elaborate on their case's learnings, and the live voting on the part of CityNet General Council members and 3 esteemed Judges to determine the 3 SDG Awards Winners.





+ Nominations were accepted from CityNet members for case studies in **six categories**, selected on the basis of continuous member interest and correspondence with the SDGs commonly targeted by cases uploaded to the platform.

The sixth category was specially created to provide more visibility to the members who received a grant from the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform to develop its inaugural online courses.

- 1. Sustainable Cities & Communities
- 2. Environmental Protection & Climate Action
- 3. Urban Mobility & Infrastructure
- 4. Economy, Industry, & Jobs
- 5. Energy & Resource Management
- 6. Knowledge Exchange & SDGs Localization



Over 50 case studies were submitted to be considered for the SDG Awards. Category 1, Sustainable Cities & Communities, received the most submissions, reflecting CityNet members' interest and efforts in community-based urban sustainability.

Each Finalist case study was judged based on the following criteria:

- + Replicability
- + Clarity of Implementation
- + Positive outcome/impact
- + Innovation/Creativity
- + Leadership/Governance
- + Long-term Sustainability





- Category 2

  Category 4
- Category 4 ■ Category 5







+ Our moderator for the SDG Awards Ceremony was **Madam Khairiah Talha**. Madam Talha, head of the award-winning planning firm KW Associate Planners, has over 40 years of experience as an Urban Planner and has been active as president, board member, and advisor in numerous national and international town planning organizations, notably serving as the first female president of the Malaysian Institute of Planners and Secretary General of EAROPH.

She specializes in matters of low carbon and green cities, transit-oriented developments, advocacy planning, and age friendly cities.

+ Our esteemed judges:

Jei Hyun Han, Seoul Metropolitan Government Vice Mayor Mary Jane Ortega, CityNet Special Advisor Dato Lakhbir Singh Chahl, CityNet Special Advisor



In response to the enthusiastic participation from CityNet members, the CityNet Secretariat is considering hosting the SDG Awards as a recurring event to celebrate new best practices of SDG localization that have been uploaded to the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform.

Scan this QR code to watch a compilation of introductory videos for each Finalist case study!



# **Category 1: Sustainable Cities & Communities**



Kuala Lumpur: SDG Centre





Kuala Lumpur City Hall has recently opened the SDG Centre KL, the first of its kind in the Asia Pacific, to promote SDG 17, partnership for the goals. The Centre connects ministries, civilians of all ages, and grassroots organizations to provide a collaborative and accessible platform for inclusive development by knowledge sharing and highlighting marginalized voices.



Suwon: Haenggung Village Urban Regeneration Project







F 20K I ET K

Suwon City's Haenggung Village has been the stage of an incredible urban regeneration project, where the stagnant neighbourhood embraced by the Suwon Hwaseong Fortress, a World Heritage site, went through an economic and social revival. Haenggung Village called into focus not only SDG 11, but also SDGs 8 and 9, as they started community projects to bring revenue back to the locals and the area.

# **Category 2: Environmental Protection & Climate Action**



Matsuyama: Community Disaster Prevention Education for all Generations





Matsuyama City has successfully harnessed the potential of its local residents to build disaster resilient communities through a project targeting SDGs 4, 11 and 17. It is training residents ranging from young students to company employees to become 'bousaisi': disaster response and prevention personnel through publicly funded courses, clubs and meetings.



Colombo: "Let's Grow. Be Prepared" – Urban Harvest







Colombo Municipal Council has presented a new urban agriculture project with the aim of utilizing open city lands to tackle food shortage issues in marginalized communities, implementing both SDGs 2 and 3. Through knowledge and skill sharing and activities like community kitchens, residents in underserved settlements are included in urban society and ensured healthier lives.

# **Category 3: Urban Mobility & Infrastructure**



Sidoarjo Regency: SiCantik: Preventing Maternal & Child Mortality





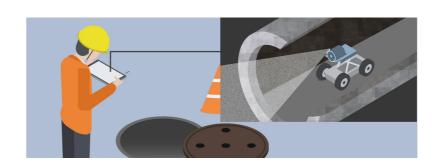
Sidoarjo Regency has launched an innovative healthtech application called 'SiCantik' to monitor and provide accessible, standardized support to pregnant and postpartum women, promoting SDG 5 in the healthcare sector. Maternal and neonatal deaths can be greatly reduced by utilizing the application to detect issues early on in pregnancy, with the data logged by users simultaneously becoming a valuable asset to the district health office.



Seoul Digital Foundation: Al-based Sewage Pipeline Defect Detection System







Seoul Digital Foundation, in collaboration with the Seoul Metropolitan Government, has developed a method to identify pipe defects in Seoul's sewers with an Al-based system, addressing the localization of SDGs 6 and 11. Through digital innovation, they were able to efficiently save time and labour while securing the safety and sanitation of residents.

# **Category 4: Economy, Industry & Jobs**



Lalitpur: Heritage Tourism in Bungamati











Lalitpur Metropolitan City launched a cultural heritage recovery and tourism programme in the heritage-rich town of Bungamati, which had previously suffered heavy damage from an earthquake. The local community came together with the municipality, ministries and development partners to have their heritage preservation requests heard and to aid in sustainably building the town's livelihood back together, showcasing great efforts towards resilience and SDGs 8, 11, 12, and 13.



Seberang Perai: Welcome to Kota Aur Village





Kota Aur Village, located in Seberang Perai, has strived to fully utilize its rich natural resources and cultural heritage to create a low-carbon agro-eco tourism destination known for its homestays and experiences of traditional Malay culture. By developing the village through tourism packages, Kota Aur has grown economically while strengthening its community bonds and remaining sustainable, taking the lead in the localization of SDG 11.

# **Category 5: Energy & Resource Management**



Quezon City: Trash to Cashback Programme











Quezon City was able to transform waste management issues from excessive trash into an opportunity to localize SDGs 11, 12, 13 and 17. By collaborating with stakeholders in the private sector to provide a programme that would trade brought-in recyclable waste with benefits, they were able to incentivize residents to participate in more responsible consumption and a sustainable lifestyle.



# Ha Noi : Hoan Kiem District-Phuc Tan Public Art Project







A spontaneous landfill alongside an historical river that once lowered locals' quality of life in the Phuc Tan area of Ha Noi has taken on new life in the form of a unique cultural space. Junk art pieces, which were made out of scrap from the old landfill and designed to promote local history and culture, now light the way and aid in the localization of SDGs 3 and 11 by keeping Phuc Tan clean.

# **Category 6: Knowledge Exchange & SDGs Localization**

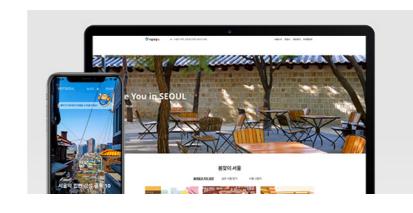


Seoul Tourism Organization: Seoul: Smart, Sustainable Tourism City









The Seoul Tourism Organization, in collaboration with its partners, has transformed Seoul into a Smart Tourism City, which utilizes ICT to provide real-time, customized services. They have created an index to measure smart tourism city competitiveness and built up their capacities relative to each indicator, which range from smart convenience and accessibility to digital preparedness. In this way, they have created a new tourist experience that supports the localization of SDGs 9, 11, and 12.



Think City: Urban Safety & Inclusive Spaces Safety Audit











Think City collaborated with the tech platform Safetipin to conduct a safety audit of Johor Bahru, where they utilized street-view photography and on-ground evaluations to assess the physical infrastructure and social usage of public spaces. By analyzing the information collected with inclusive safety parameters like lighting and gender usage, their audits can provide tailored recommendations for a city to become safer and advance towards SDGs 3, 5, 8, 10 and 11.

A highlight of the SDG Awards Ceremony was the **Panel Discussion**, where representatives of each Finalist member city or organization shared motivations, goals, considerations made, and insights gained from their case studies.



# **Kuala Lumpur**

YBhg. Datuk Hj. Zulkurnain Bin Hassan

Director of City Planning Department, KLCH

Q How does the programming at the SDG Centre bring in stakeholders at all levels of society to ensure that the public continues to localize SDGs throughout the city?

The SDG Centre Kuala Lumpur is a milestone for the city that focuses on public awareness and engagement through various programmes and online enhancements. The centre is committed to provide a people-oriented space and societal platform for sharing resources in the form of knowledge-building activities, data, results and up-todate information. Two of the key objectives of the centre are to initiate programmes for SDG outreach and awareness and to empower various segments of society to develop local programmes and initiatives that will be showcased in the Centre. We believe that by focusing on these objectives, we can encourage the public to continue to localize the SDGs.



### Suwon

Mr. Gyu-tae Choi Suwon City Urban Regeneration Division Manager

Q Could you explain how your resident-led urban regeneration projects have been designed to be sustainable in the long-term?

The key to sustainability is to allow the community to share rather than focus the responsibility or need to produce revenues on a group of individuals. A portion of project revenue was compulsorily reinvested in the local community and rent in the area was also reduced to maximize community profits. The organization entrusted with managing the project, Suwon City Foundation, also played the important role of providing business management and product manufacturing consulting. With this aid, we created projects that ensured a certain amount of revenue for local residents, making resident participation sustainable. The strong camaraderie and love for the village that local residents developed while participating in the project also became a driving force for sustainable participation.



### Matsuyama

Mr. Daisuke Shiba

Matsuyama City Disaster & Crisis Management Division Chief

Q How did you reach out to target such diverse groups of community members such as students, women, and office workers for your training courses?

Disaster prevention education for various occupational fields and generations requires cooperation. In Matsuyama City, the local Ehime University and the University of Tokyo signed a three-party agreement to promote disaster prevention education. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry and local voluntary disaster prevention organizations are also involved in this effort, working together with industry, government, academia, and citizens to create and implement education programmes for all generations. We worked hard to create an environment where people could learn while enjoying the content. As a result, the local community is nurtured well and children grow up with an attachment to the idea to take ownership of their communities and the city.



### Colombo

Hon. Bernadine Rosy Senanayake
Mayor of Colombo

**Q** What methods have you considered for monitoring and recording urban farming initiatives to ensure they are sustainable in the long term?

UN agencies, together with the government, did an assessment in Colombo and found alarming statistics that pointed towards a possible food shortage towards the end of this year, because of the economic crisis and what we were going through. Urban farming was something very new to us, not something that the city was used to. We collaborated with UN agencies and the private sector to create short, mid and long-term plans to use bare spaces for urban cultivation. Alongside urban farming, we've also started community kitchens, where the products of urban harvesting are utilized. The community reacts very positively because what they grow is given back to underserved communities. who can barely manage daily meals.



### Sidoarjo Regency

Ms. Ely Widia

Head of Cooperation Sub-division, Sidoarjo Regency

Q How will the data collected by the application be useful in improving Sidoarjo's health sector?

The data collected from this app is strongly helpful for Sidoarjo Regency since it contains the record of mothers and babies, by name, by address, and by the gestational age. So, we can monitor as well as pay attention to pregnant women and babies who require special needs. Based on the data from 2017 until 2022, there is an encouraging trend where the rate of maternal and neonatal mortality is decreasing. Through the use of data, this app will be able to massively decrease maternal and neonatal mortality rates in the Sidoarjo Regency.



Seoul Digital Foundation

Mr. Yosik Kang

President of Seoul Digital Foundation

Q How would a system like yours prevent losses from environmental disasters from recurring in the future or expedite the recovery process?

The causes of sewage pipeline defects are not only the ageing infrastructure but also the shaking of the ground due to construction work, the increase in traffic, and disasters like heavy rainfall. With Al, we changed the paradigm of sewage pipe maintenance through a system designed to achieve scientific administration. This change will reduce the time and cost to prevent natural disasters such as heavy rainfall. I believe that it will contribute to ensuring the safety of citizens from natural disasters.

PANEL DISCUSSION \_\_\_\_\_ RECIPRO:CITY



### Lalitpur

Hon. Chiri Babu Maharjan Mayor of Lalitpur

Q Please explain your vision behind making special efforts to reconstruct and revive the tourism industry of the Bungamati area while rebuilding back from natural disasters.

Nepal had massive earthquakes in 2015 that heavily damaged many villages and towns, and hurricanes right after that, before we could fully rebuild. My answer is that micro-tourism and small and medium businesses contribute to their communities by bringing growth. Small businesses also provide employment to people who may not be employable by larger corporations. They tend to attract talent, who invent new products or implement new solutions for existing ideas. **Growth in the tourism** industry has the potential to stimulate economic development. We can sustain the local economy in line with the tourism industry and generate unique attractions through our traditional gastronomy and craftmaking.



### **Seberang Perai**

Mr. Mohd Ridzal bin Abdul

Director of Tourism, Arts and Heritage Department, Seberang Perai

**Q** This case is nestled under Seberang Perai's Climate Action Strategy. How does this case respond to climate change while also increasing economic competitiveness?

Seberang Perai City Council took action to preserve the green environment in Seberang Perai through initiatives including 'Paddy Field Zoning' projects to build appropriate infrastructure and preserve paddy cultivation itself. We see that tourism can enhance the socio-economic situation of the Kota Aur Village in the future. Without changing the natural ambiance and while preserving nature, we can proceed to invigorate the rural tourism industry. Concerned about climate change, we are looking forward to helping our mother nature sustain its balance. Rural development needs to be kept minimal to sustain that local environment.



### **Quezon City**

Mr. Michael Victor Alimurung

City Administrator of Quezon City

Q How has the Trash to Cashback programme changed the lifestyle of residents to live more sustainably?

The Trash to Cashback programme transforms people's perceptions of waste from something useless into something valuable, which incentivizes changes in behaviour. This incentive and nudge to change is what is needed to sustain recycling programmes. Trash to Cashback makes this tangible and integrates recycling into our everyday lives by allowing trash to be converted to environmental points, which can be used to buy basic necessities or pay electric bills. In this way, waste becomes something valuable, and we do not throw away something valuable. Another key element of the programme is its mobile application, which shows your points growing and makes the programme engaging and fun, encouraging people to keep using it.



### Hanoi

Dr. Pham Van Bo

Vice President of the Academy of Managers for Construction and Cities

Please explain the significance of the historical Phuc Tan & Red River area and why it was so important to preserve it through this project.

The Phuc Tan ward area along the Red River is the intersection of many cultural and historical elements of Thang Long Market People, which used to be a trading gateway with boats next to the wharf. This is an area with an excellent view of the 124-year-old Long Bien bridge, but it has not been treated like the facade of the city. This area is still considered as the back of the city, an area full of potential that has fallen asleep, becoming a spontaneous dump. Everyone needs to wake up at this place. Phuc Tan public art project has brought useful values to the residential community such as awakening forgotten historical and cultural values, raising awareness of environmental protection, and creating a space for people to play.



# **Seoul Tourism Organization**

Mr. Ki Yon Kil

President & CEO of Seoul Tourism Organization

**Q** What initiatives do you recommend to cities looking to embark on smart tourism city transformations but are limited in resources?

STO's knowledge-sharing online course on the Urban SDG Platform will feature Smart Tourism City Seoul and Seoul Tourism Plaza. Digital innovation and infrastructure can motivate competition within the tourism industry, generating employment and income. The process of tourism digitalization and having a tourism hub will enable the city to be inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable to global tourists. We recommend creating a social media channel to promote the online content like images, videos and real time information. Communicating constantly with visitors is crucial. When your channel is stable, collaborate with public organizations or private brands to gain more interest and visitors. It will naturally produce inspiration to travel to your city.



**Think City** 

Mr. Duncan Cave

Programme Manager, Think City

**Q** What were some trends in urban safety, or lack thereof, that you discovered in Johor Bahru (JB)? Which changes do you believe will most positively impact citizens' lives?

We were working on issues of inclusive urban safety in our JB safety audit. Cities have traditionally been planned around the 'average citizen', who is pictured as an ablebodied man. Women, children and the elderly are excluded from the planning process in this way and can find areas of the city to be unsafe. A trend we've seen in many cities is the usage of a high number of CCTVs to address issues of safety. The same effect can be achieved, however, by activating a public space and making it comfortable and attractive. This will attract more people, or "eyes" and naturally create a safer space.

# **Kuala Lumpur: SDG Centre**

KUALA LUMPUR | MALAYSIA





+ Top Judge Criteria

Kuala Lumpur received full scores from our judges
in the categories of replicability, positive impact, good leadership, and notably, long-term sustainability.

- + Population 1,750,000
- + Area(KM²) 243
- + GDP Per Capita USD 25,500
- + Implementation Period 2020~2021

### + SUMMARY

A commitment to the SDGs and their localization. Kuala Lumpur City Hall's efforts to localize and implement the Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda are being consolidated at the Kuala Lumpur SDG Centre. **The Kuala Lumpur SDG Centre promotes partnerships, programmes, and projects to achieve the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and as such, is an effective platform to share and disseminate information with other stakeholders. The goal is to encourage further collaboration and cooperation with a long-lasting impact.





### + SDGS

As the centre of reference, education and promotion of the SDGs, their localization and implementation in Kuala Lumpur and Malaysia, this initiative essentially covers all 17 SDGs, but with SDG 17 – Partnership for The Goals being the overarching goal.

This is especially true given that the SDG Centre KL is the outcome of close partnership and collaboration among multiple agencies and parties which jointly advance the sustainable development agenda in Malaysia.

This initiative enables Kuala Lumpur City Hall to **drive public** awareness on the importance of SDGs which invites the

**public to get involved.** Kuala Lumpur City Hall firmly believes that collective actions, especially those actively and directly involving the general public, are certain to pave the way towards achieving the SDGs.

In line with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda to achieve global peace and prosperity for people and the planet, Kuala Lumpur City Hall envisions our nation's capital as a city that is truly sustainable, liveable, resilient, safe and inclusive for all. Kuala Lumpur's approach to the SDGs and this initiative is based on three fundamental pillars, namely social, economic and environmental.

This approach ensures that we "leave no one behind" as we shape a sustainable city driven by a vibrant economy and model society. As the national Capital City, Kuala Lumpur believes that the city's commitment to the SDGs, as portrayed

through **exhibits on programmes, progress, achievements and successes of SDGs projects,** will inspire, motivate and lead the entire nation and other cities to also make advancement in adopting, localizing and implementing the SDGs.







### + CHALLENGES

The challenges that the SDG Centre addresses are:

- + Establishing an **informative place in the city centre for the public** to gain more understanding on the SDGs, in particular about Kuala Lumpur's initiatives and progress.

  As the capital city of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur has the highest population in the country, reaching 1.8 million residents.
- + Located in the country's heritage core, a hotspot of tourists as well as locals, highly accessible to students from many of the city university campuses, the SDG Centre serves many patrons on a daily basis and hosts international visitors.
- + The SDG Centre is the first of its kind in the Asia Pacific

- region and establishes numerous partnerships between embassies, government ministries, students as well as grassroots organizations.
- + Many new initiatives have sprung from discussions between experts, practitioners, the private sector, and community members.
- + The goal of the SDG Centre is fivefold: that is to play the role of a Community Centre, Knowledge Sharing Hub, Data Depository, Innovation Hub and Partnership Centre.
- + All these goals should work in synchronicity to lend their strengths and address weaknesses.



### + ACTIONS

Key actions taken prior to this initiative included:

- + Engagement with various stakeholders from government agencies to educators to find a solution on how to address the awareness gaps of SDGs that exist.
- + Community involvement contributed to the process of setting up the Centre as City Hall was already engaging with grassroots organizations on what was needed in the city to spread more awareness and knowledge sharing.
- + Partnerships between multiple departments and ministries were set up for ease of implementing the Centre.
- + Multiple layers of programmes were conducted with the public to activate the Centre through online discussions, community shadowing, and documentation of existing programmes.
- + Many of the communities involved were monitored closely beforehand and chosen as stakeholders for future collaborations.
- + Monitoring took place through visits to the communities on the ground as well as attending workshops with future stakeholders and partners.



+ Visits were held with Majlis Daerah Bau, UCLG ASPAC and the Nordic Embassy.

- + As the SDG Centre was created with various levels of ministries and governmental input, monetary support (enough to cover basic operational costs) was readily available.
- + For the long term, the Centre must produce programmes and projects that are both engaging and impactful on multiple levels in order to secure more funding and grants.
- + The Data Centre is activated as a holistic virtual space to be utilized by all layers of society.

### + OUTCOMES:

An overview of the outcomes and impacts:

- + There have been layers of the population that have been positively affected by the Centre, including students from as young as 10 years old up to senior citizens.
- + **Monthly SDG Deep Dive sessions** at the Centre to address SDG targets in detail have encouraged participatory exercises and inclusiveness.
- + Any concerned person may walk into the Centre and question what the SDGs have done for their community. Our task is to create a safe place for their voices to be heard as well as set up the platform for their questions to be addressed constructively.
- + Success has been found through building partnerships and ongoing programmes that are not one-off, but rather built upon and **adopted by the community as their solution.**

- + There have been groups that have not been able to get their voices heard, (such as AIDS victims who have been discriminated against), who have taken advantage of the SDG Centre to help create a discussion between their community and policy makers with practitioners to come up with solutions.
- Marginalised groups will find a voice through SDG targets, and together with the SDG Centre can
   partner and connect with relevant stakeholders that face similar roadblocks and challenges to mutually benefit each other.

### + REPLICABILITY:

Replication of the SDG Centre functionalities should be considered because:

- + As the SDG Centre is a public space, it benefits the public and connects higher levels with representatives of grassroots organizations.
- + The more replications that can take place at the community level, the better and quicker the public's concerns may be addressed.
- It is particularly successful as an inclusive space that turns a collective concern into an advantageous solution for those affected.



- + The centre aspires to reach many more beyond its physical capacity which is why a virtual / digital platform of its type must exist.
- + There could be **satellite hubs** via city-to-city / sister city SDG Centres that contribute equally to sharing their programmes, projects, and initiatives in order to move quicker and reach larger numbers of people.
- + Lessons learned from one centre can be beneficial when producing programmes and projects on a replication strategy in another centre.
- + By being publicly-funded, a key takeaway is that the SDG Centre is able to **connect public concerns directly to city hall and policy members,** quickly and effectively.
- + It is also a place where financial institutions that have made **certain obligations towards sustainable practices can be connected with active participants** on the ground actually making positive changes relatable and fundable.
- + Many levels of society should be targeted through collaborations and knowledge sharing.





# **Seberang Perai: Welcome to Kota Aur Village**

SEBERANG PERAI | MALAYSIA





+ Top Judge Criteria

The Seoul Digital Foundation received full scores from our judges in the criteria of **positive impact, innovation, and leadership**.

- + Population 26,154
- + Area(KM²) 34.6
- + GDP Per Capita USD 11,600
- + Budget USD 118,078
- + Implementation Period 2017 2020

### + BACKGROUND:

The climate crisis is influencing our ecosystems, our cities and our lifestyles here in Seberang Perai and throughout the entire world. Thus, Seberang Perai took initiative by establishing the Seberang Perai Climate Action Strategy as a policy direction to guide the implementation of projects and programmes that are aimed to mitigate the impact and adapt to the changes that happen in Seberang Perai due to climate change.

### + SUMMARY

Kota Aur Kampung is a village full of heritage, surrounded by green forests and tropical fruit plantations, supporting agro-eco tourism. The agro-eco tourism initiative puts the preservation of the environment, heritage and development of the local economy as key goals.



### + DID YOU KNOW?

Agro-eco tourism is a form of tourism that utilizes local rural culture to create sustainable tourist activities.





The first step in managing climate change was to **manage emissions**. Thus, Seberang Perai committed to become a Low Carbon City driven by Smart City by the year 2022. In order to achieve the goals, four Key Result Areas (KRAs) were identified; namely resilience, inclusivity, green and competitiveness.

These KRAs were important in order to build the characteristics of Seberang Perai as an aspiring city of tomorrow. Each of the KRAs had their own action plans, which were compiled into a five year plan known as Seberang Perai Strategic Planning 2018-2022. Seberang Perai City Council remains committed to ensuring that global warming does not exceed  $1.5^{\circ}$ C to ensure our survival together.



### + DID YOU KNOW?

"Kampung" is the term for a traditional village in Malaysia. Malaysians moved to cities under the "Kampung Baru" (New Kampung) urbanization programme.



### + GOALS:

The Kota Aur Village is located approximately 20 KM from Butterworth Town and 40 KM from Georgetown City. It is a village full of heritage, surrounded by green forests and tropical fruit plantations buffeted by the fresh breezy wind. As one of the agro-eco tourism sites in Seberang Perai, the village is an ideal spot for an exciting vacation. While staying there, tourists may experience a traditional Malay lifestyle.

Kota Aur Village has a vision of tourism that contributes to rural development. Through the development of tourism in Kota Aur, it is possible to develop rural areas through increased economic opportunities. The tourism sector will provide opportunities for the villagers to generate their economy through:

- + Provision of traditional houses as homestays.
- + Promotion of traditional food products.
- + Activities such as embracing local culture, visiting the panorama around the village.
- + Tourism package network, including interesting sites around the village area.
- + Provision of small cottage industries such as processing nira nipah(nipa palm juice).
- + Highlighting the history of the existence of Kampung Kota Aur.

The main goal of Kampung Aur's tourism strategy is to promote culture and life in rural areas rich in agricultural activities. Through this, it can contribute to driving rural development.

Apart from the main economic resource for this area, namely agriculture (paddy fields), the development of tourism provides opportunities for economic improvement for locals. Tourism enables the villagers to have various economic

branches rather than one sole source of income.

At Kota Aur, Malay Traditional culture can be explored in-depth. The uniqueness of a certain culture and tradition illustrate human civilization from another time. To ensure that tradition and culture are not being forgotten, they must be experienced by new generations. The aim of promoting the village is to create a strong link with other UNWTO Best Tourism Villages Network









### + ACTIONS:

SDGs are the driving forces in implementing the development of rural areas. In regards to modernization, rural areas also have good attractions for people to continue to live surrounded by nature. Seberang Perai sees the future of tourism as how to enhance the socio-economic situation of places like the Kota Aur Village.

Without changing the natural ambiance and while preserving nature, we can proceed to invigorate the rural tourism industry. Concerned about climate change, Seberang Perai is looking forward to helping our mother nature sustain its balance. Rural development needs to be kept minimal to sustain that unique local environment.

### + OUTCOMES:

Kampung Aur is well known among local and global tourists. Based on previous achievements in promoting rural lifestyles, Kampung Aur received an acknowledgement from the Ministry of Tourism, Art and Culture to **officially recognize Kampung Aur as one of the Homestay Malaysia sites.** This achievement and promotion has helped bring benefits to the local economy and driven it further toward the tourism sector.

The main success factor of Kampung Aur's homestay is **promotion by the Ministry of Tourism, Art and Culture and Penang State Government** initiative for local homestay owners. Seberang Perai City Council's Tourism, Art and Heritage Department also provides incentives through promotion and creating tourism packages. As a result, Kampung Aur has established itself as a Cultural Malay Village with a breath-taking panorama to experience.





Sustainable tourism development will have an impact on 3 dimensions:

### + ECONOMY

This development will provide economic resources to the local residents. The increase in tourism activities will be able to generate economic resources and provide opportunities for more communities to engage in the economy.

### + SOCIAL

These social and cultural aspects can be further strengthened through either direct or indirect community involvement in tourism development. The strong relationships and cooperation of individuals within the kampung community will enable the development of tourism to be more successful and complementary.

### + ENVIRONMENT

Environmental conservation aspects focus on ensuring that the natural environment is not affected. This sustainable development enables environmental conservation to be unaffected and that nature will continue to be an asset to sustainable tourism development.

### **RECIPRO:CITY**

# **Seoul Digital Foundation: Al-based Sewage Pipeline Defect Detection System**







SEOUL | REPUBLIC OF KOREA

+ Top Judge Criteria

The Seoul Digital Foundation received full scores from our judges in the criteria of **positive impact, innovation, and leadership**.

- + Population 9,765,869
- + Area(KM²) 605.21
- + GDP Per Capita USD 32,427
- + Budget USD 490,000
- + Implementation Period 2020 - 2021



### + SUMMARY

Al Technology is being implemented as a **security measure for underground urban infrastructure.** The Al algorithm analyzes video footage of sewers to detect specific types of sewer defects and read text (subtitles) present on the videos.



### + SDGS

The underground facility safety management system ensures the safety of citizens from risks that may arise from sewer defects. For instance, it contributes to environmental sustainability and citizen health by preventing soil contamination caused by leakage of contaminated water in the sewers. Furthermore, the system secures the safety of citizens from dangers caused by road or ground subsidence or the formation of sinkholes.

The management guidelines were developed using ICT, with a focus on the safety management of underground infrastructure, which is necessary for sustainable urban life. This initiative contributed to the reusability of wastewater through efficient management of underground facilities (SDG 6. 4) and secured the safety of citizens by reducing the negative environmental impact of cities (SDG 11.6).

### + CHALLENGES

- + How have factors such as the city's history, population size, and location influenced the need for this initiative? Seoul is the only city in Korea with a 100% supply rate of sewers, which are 10,000km long in total. An average of 400km of the pipelines in the 25 autonomous districts require management, and a team consisting of five to six members each manage all the pipelines in each autonomous district.
- + What challenges and opportunities faced by the city influenced the development of this initiative?

  Since 2019, the Seoul Metropolitan Government has launched its Artificial Intelligence Team and accumulated data from each office to bring about scientific administration. An Al system in this field could not have been developed without the video and imaging data accumulated while managing the sewers.

### + Why was this particular approach chosen?

Approximately **4TB** of video data was accumulated during the sewer management period in Seoul for three years, from 2017 to 2019. The Seoul Metropolitan Government determined that it would be appropriate to use the image data of sewers as a trial project in Seoul's initiative to introduce Al public service systems since they do not include any personal information and therefore are **relatively easier to implement than other projects**.

### + What are the key objectives/goals of this policy?

Securing the safety of citizens by preventing soil contamination and sinkholes by efficiently managing sewers which are necessary for the urban lifestyle.

### + ACTIONS

### + What key actions and stages were involved?

First, video data was acquired to determine the defects in the sewers.

Second, sensitive information included in the sewers was deleted, and the sewer defects were labelled by type to form the learning data. (Labelling & Annotation)

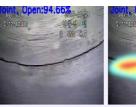
Third, the algorithm was fine-tuned using the established sewer defect data. (Fine-tuning)



Fourth, the performance of the developed algorithm was evaluated by performing beta tests on two autonomous districts through the algorithm that was developed initially. The UI/UX for system configuration was developed by collecting opinions from real users.

Fifth, a system that can realize the algorithm was established, and a user manual was developed in cooperation with the relevant department at the Seoul Metropolitan Government.

















3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE WINNER \_\_\_\_\_\_ RECIPRO:CITY



# + What community engagement or participatory planning processes have been involved?

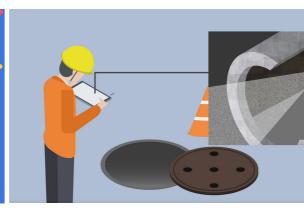
The system was designed so that the AI can be used to identify and solve any possible issues in advance by autonomous district officials who use the AI system.

# + What monitoring and evaluation measures have been put in place?

A beta test was conducted through the developed system by sampling the videos of the actual sewers, which showed overdetection errors related to the existing subtitles in the sewer videos. The issues were addressed by writing additional algorithms.

# + What is the strategy to keep this practice going over the mid- and long-term?

A guideline was created to unify the video and subtitle formats for filming sewers in each autonomous district to improve the Al system's recognition rate. Learning data and countermeasures for the four critical types of defects were also established.



### + OUTCOMES

### + What has been achieved and who is benefitting?

The labor-dependent task of detecting sewer defects became more efficient with the help of the AI system.

### + How has success been measured?

A comparison between the defect reading results conducted by a person vs. the Al system showed that under the same conditions, the Al system was two times faster with an accuracy rate of 96%.

+ What factors and conditions contributed to its success and/or presented challenges? Technologically, this system secured the minimum image quality required for introducing the AI system in the image field and distributed appropriate learning data by defect type. Administrative factors include establishing an environment for compiling data on sewer defect images.

# + How does this initiative benefit disadvantaged and marginalized groups?

The current AI system for detecting sewer defects was developed exclusively for Seoul. Nevertheless, the system may be able to be **expanded at a national level** because its development standards observe the sewer defect classification provided by the government.



### + DID YOU KNOW

"Overfitting" is a data science term for when an AI analysis conforms too closely to a particular type of data and fails to reliably fit other types of data or predict future observations.

### + REPLICABILITY

# + Can this practice or parts of it be replicated or was its success local context-specific?

The sewer defect detection system is designed to **identify specific defect types and provide the locations of the defects.** The system can thus be defined as a form of AI, combining image detection of sewer defects and subtitle detection in videos.

The definition of defect types may differ by country and autonomous district, and detection may be limited for subtitle detection in videos depending on the language, font, size, and location of the subtitles.

# + What are the prospects for scaling up implementation to benefit a larger number of people?

The system has been applied to two autonomous districts as a pilot programme, and there are plans to apply it to the other 25 autonomous districts in Seoul. Discussions on the defect types and the use of subtitles should proceed before expanding the system at a national level.

# + In what urban contexts would this initiative be best-suited for replication?

The conditions to apply the system will be sufficient if the region's definition of defect types is similar to that in Seoul. However, if we consider where a sewer defect detection system would be needed, the **system is suitable for urban areas where sewer maintenance is costly.** 

More sewers are buried in cities than in rural areas, and the distribution rate is also relatively higher. Urban sewer maintenance also calls for many incidental costs in addition to maintaining the pipes, such as breaking the surfaces of roads or moving facilities on top of sewer pipes. The system would be most effective in an environment prioritizing lower maintenance costs and effective maintenance.

# + What are the key takeaway lessons relevant to parties interested in replication?

More precise learning data can be accumulated if an expert on sewer maintenance comes on board to provide tips on classifying the defects.

The data balance for solving the problem of overfitting should also be considered.

**NOMINEE PHOTO WALL RECIPRO:CITY** 



Baguio: Micro-Baguio: A 15-minute City



**Bogor City:** BOTAK (Bogor Tanpa Kantong Plastik)



Kuala Lumpur: Wangsa Maju Carbon Neutral Growth Centre 2050









Sidoarjo Regency: Ecolindi







The North Seafront: Strengthening the Esplanade Seawall













Nadee Healthy and Zero-Waste City

NOMINEE PHOTO WALL \_\_\_\_\_ RECIPRO:CITY



**All India Institute of Local Self Government:**Capacitating CSOs & Empowering Women & Girls through Social Entrepreneurship



**City Government of Legazpi:**Septage Management Programme



**City Council of Penang Island (MBPP):**Back Lane Transformation



HELP-0 / Galle:
Energy Pit Concept with
Multiple Green Solutions









Hue City People's Committee:
Plastic Waste Management in
Central Vietnam



Surabaya:
Economic Empowerment of
Low Income Communities



**Plus Arts:** Training of disaster prevention education leaders and development of teaching materials in Nepal











# **SDG NAVIGATOR**

### **ABOUT**

The SDG Navigator, a tool of the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform, is designed to facilitate local assessments of ongoing efforts to achieve the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the city level. It is a self-assessment tool created to help cities evaluate their current performance on the implementation of the SDGs, based on official UN SDG targets.

Although the UN SDGs were designed to be evaluated at a national level, the SDG Navigator aims to help bring this assessment to a level that is relevant for cities.



In the SDG Navigator, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are re-categorized into the following 10 themes:



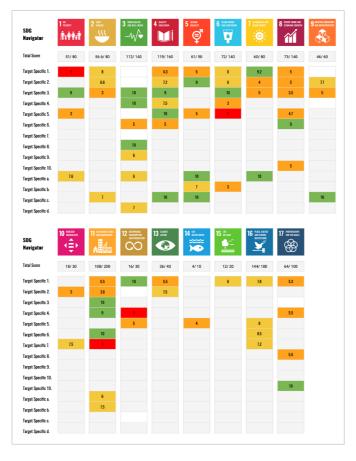


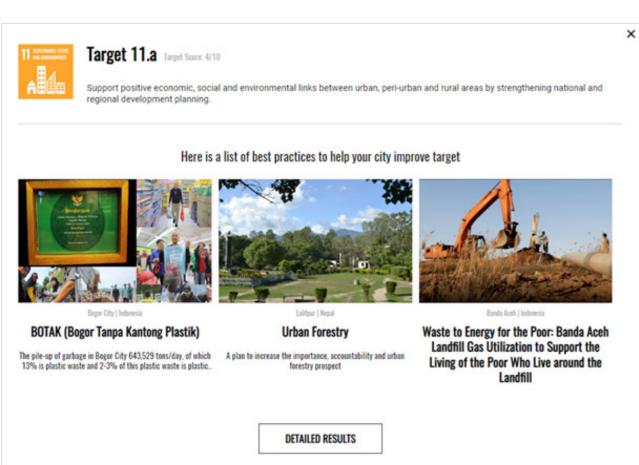


Since many of the indicators chosen to measure progress on SDGs tend to be at the national level, there has been a growing effort to provide comparable indicators at the city level. The indicators are to be interpreted in accordance with the context of the specific goal and target. The target specifics are displayed as in the examples to the right.

Additionally, based on the responses to the questionnaire, the SDG Navigator will suggest best practices from the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform that will help cities address their challenges in SDG implementation.

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### **TOOLKIT ON LOCALIZATION OF URBAN PRACTICES**











The biggest challenge for cities pursuing sustainable development is the implementation of best practices into their cities. The Toolkit on Localization of Urban Practices is a diagnostic tool that aims to assess if best practices and projects from one city can be localized and implemented into another. Users will complete a self-assessment survey on five key dimensions and receive detailed results on potential adaptation challenges and aspects to pay attention to, enhancing the possibility of policy and project implementation.

The toolkit can be applied to every case study uploaded to the database, so as to directly provide users with a rating and scoring on the replicability of a specific case in one's city.

### + EXAMPLES OF ASPECTS ANALYZED:

### + Nature of the project: Relevance, Sustainability

+ Stakeholders:
Project officers of

implementation agency

### + Resources:

Human resources, Financial resources

### + Institutional Framework: Legislation

+ Project Environment: Political Environment Nature of the project

Nature of the project

A. Relevance

Very unlikely

Unlikely

Likely

Very likely

Is the project/policy relevant to address the problems you are trying to solve in your city?

B. Clarity

Are the project objectives, goals, actions, and results clearly defined and comprised of concrete elements and steps to take?

C. Sustainability

Can the policy be implemented in a stable and sustainable way while remaining beneficial in the long term?



# REGIONAL NETWORK OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

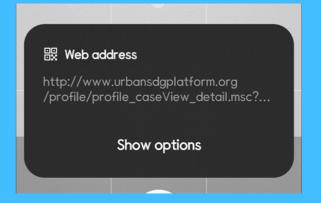




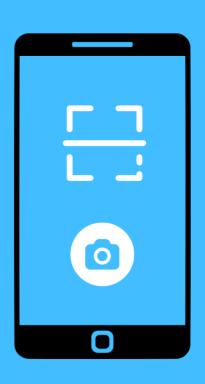


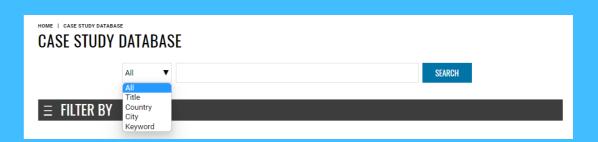


# Find best practices on the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform



QR codes in this issue of RECIPRO:CITY can be scanned to send you directly to the relevant case study page on the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform. To scan a QR code, open the camera app on your smartphone and point your camera towards the code. You may have to zoom in on the code. You do not have to take a picture. Once a link pops up on the bottom of your screen, tap it to be redirected to the site.





The Case Study Database can be searched by case title, country, city or keyword. Once you've completed the SDG Navigator survey, you will also be recommended cases on the Database that will help your city make progress on the SDGs it still has to accomplish.



Try scanning this QR Code It will take you to the Case Study Database page.

urbansdgplatform.org

