

WORLD CITIES SUMMIT 2026 – ACTING NOW AND BEYOND THE SUMMIT FOR A LIVEABLE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Singapore, 17 June 2026 – The World Cities Summit (WCS) 2026 concluded its milestone 10th edition, welcoming close to 4,200 delegates and trade visitors from 263 unique cities, including 112 mayors and city leaders at the Mayors Forum, from 14 – 16 June. The Summit brought together global leaders, industry experts, academia, young leaders, innovators, start-ups and entrepreneurs in conversation and ideas exchange on cities, address urban liveability and sustainability challenges.

2. This year's theme **Liveable and Sustainable Cities: ACT Now! – Accelerate, Collaborate, and Transform**, enabled attendees to also share integrated urban solutions, and forge new partnerships to accelerate the shift from dialogue to the delivery of sustainable urban outcomes. Over 40 international exhibitors and presenters showcased a diverse range of innovative projects and practical urban solutions through interactive physical booths and concept pitches at the WCS exhibition.

3. In her Keynote Address at the Future Cities Leadership Plenary, Indranee Rajah, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Finance and Second Minister for National Development, spoke about the three critical shifts in how cities are thinking about urban challenges.

- **From pilots to scale** for example Freetown's #FreetownTheTreeTown programme which saw 1.2 million trees planted last year with digital tracking.
- **From sectoral to systems thinking** HafenCity University Hamburg's digital system platform linking Geographic Information System-based city models to resilient assessment metrics which is being scaled for use across Europe.
- **From government-led to whole-of-society** Platforms such as the WCS 2026 Young Leaders Symposium bring together participants from diverse backgrounds to develop practical, actionable ideas grounded in local contexts and adapted to different urban challenges.

Announcements in Minister Indranee's speech

- Launch of the next phase of the Ministry of National Development's (MND) Cities of Tomorrow R&D Programme with a S\$115 million grant to support land, sea and underground space optimisation, urban heat and noise management, and nature-based solutions in Singapore's continued push to invest and build tools and knowledge to enhance liveability while managing density of our built environment and adapting to a changing climate.
- The third iteration of the **WCS Knowledge Council**, comprising 15 industry and thought leaders across diverse backgrounds and sectors, will provide expert insights on future-oriented solutions to shape liveable, sustainable, and resilient cities amid today's complex



10th Edition

global issues.

4. Beyond the strategic discourse, insightful sessions and knowledge exchange, the Summit provided a platform for both public and private-sector stakeholders to strengthen collaboration, renew existing partnerships, and explore new partnerships. Details on partnerships signed at the Summit are provided in the Annex.

5. WCS continues to serve as a trusted convenor of city and urban leaders by providing a global platform to share insights and springboarding the next decade of city leadership and collaboration to shape more liveable and sustainable urban futures. The next edition of World Cities Summit will be held from 11 – 13 June 2028 in Singapore. The World Cities Summit Mayors Forum 2027 will be held in the second half of 2027, hosted by the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize 2024 Laureate – Mexico City.

For more information on World Cities Summit, please visit <https://www.worldcitiessummit.com.sg/>.

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About the World Cities Summit

The biennial World Cities Summit (WCS) is a platform for government leaders, industry experts and academia to address liveable and sustainable city challenges, share integrated urban solutions and forge new partnerships.

Jointly organised by Singapore's Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC) and the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), WCS brings together a diverse urban ecosystem to share integrated solutions, showcase real-world case studies, and forge impactful partnerships.

Visit <https://www.worldcitiessummit.com.sg/> for more information.

About Centre for Liveable Cities

Set up in 2008 by the Ministry of National Development and the then-Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, the Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC) aims to distil, create and share knowledge on liveable and sustainable cities.

The CLC's work spans four main areas: Research, Capability Development, Knowledge Platforms, and Advisory. Through these activities, it hopes to provide urban leaders and practitioners with the knowledge and support needed to make our cities better.

For more information, please visit www.clc.gov.sg.

About Urban Redevelopment Authority

The Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) is Singapore's land use planning and conservation agency. Our mission is 'to make Singapore a great city to live, work and play'. We strive to create an endearing home and a vibrant and sustainable city through long-term planning and innovation, in partnership with the community.

URA's multi-faceted role includes being the main government land sales agent. We attract and channel private capital investments to develop sites that support planning, economic and social objectives. We also partner the community to enliven our public spaces to create a car-lite, people-friendly and liveable city for all to enjoy. In shaping a distinctive city, URA also promotes architecture and urban design excellence.

Visit www.ura.gov.sg for more information.

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World Cities Summit

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Cities of Tomorrow (CoT) Research and Development Programme

Background

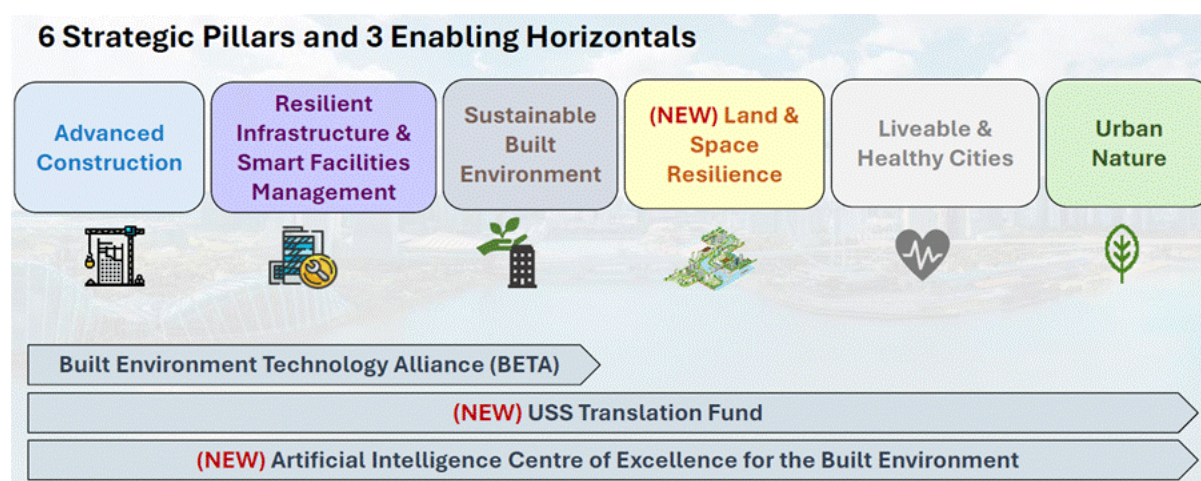
Launched in 2017, MND's Cities of Tomorrow (CoT) R&D Programme is the Urban Solutions and Sustainability (USS) domain's flagship programme to drive Research and Innovation (R&I) for Singapore's Built Environment (BE) sector under the Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) 2030 tranche.

Initially conceptualised to develop cutting-edge urban solutions, CoT's research focus areas have evolved over the years to also address existential challenges (e.g. impact of climate change on our liveability and health) and support national plans and aspirations (e.g. BE Industry Transformation Map (ITM), Singapore Green Plan 2030). Driven by our limited space as a small city-state, CoT's efforts have been centred around the need to plan, build, maintain, and redevelop in a productive, safe and sustainable manner, to support population, social and economic needs in the long-term while ensuring liveability in light of increasing urbanisation.

CoT RIE2030

In RIE2030, CoT will focus on six strategic research pillars and three enabling horizontals (Figure 1) to tackle pressing national challenges and foster a future-ready BE sector.

Figure 1



Note: (1) USS Translation Fund, (2) Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence for the BE, and (3) Centre of Excellence for Marine Science (not shown in Figure 1, but are under Land & Space Resilience strategic pillar), have been announced earlier at USS R&I Congress (Feb 2026) and MND's Committee of Supply (Mar 2026).

New Initiatives to be announced at WCS 2026

i. Land and Space Resilience Funding Initiative (LSR FI)

The LSR FI aims to strengthen efforts to (a) align research agenda with Singapore's long-term development goals and strategic needs; and (b) build capability and capacity in critical areas to

support land and space resilience, to enable Singapore to achieve our long-term development goals in a sustainable manner.

Led by the Ministry of National Development (MND), the **S\$39.4M** RIE2030 LSR FI will (a) double down on innovations to create and/or optimise land and sea space to support our long-term land needs, and (b) build knowledge in impact mitigation to ensure that Singapore can continue to develop and optimise space, while safeguarding our terrestrial ecosystems and rich biodiversity.

In RIE2030, the LSR FI will focus on the four key research areas below:

1. **Underground.** Research will focus on overcoming cost and technical challenges to enable continued development of our underground spaces and unlock new underground uses.
2. **Reclamation.** Research will focus on enabling more productive and cost-effective reclamation, while developing alternative space creation methods.
3. **Sea Space.** Research will focus on increasing the development potential of sea space and enabling synergistic uses of sea space. This will complement existing efforts in sea space planning to optimise uses, and other sea space optimisation studies.
4. **Mitigation Science.** Research will focus on deepening knowledge, and informing and developing mitigation solutions for the terrestrial ecosystems to enhance habitat resilience and maintain ecosystem services.

ii. Liveable and Healthy Cities Funding Initiative (LHC FI)

The LHC FI aims to support research that will help Singapore plan and design a city that remains liveable, healthy and resilient in the face of urban change, demographic shifts and climate pressures.

Led by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), the **S\$32M** LHC FI will focus on upstream planning and urban design, to support evidence-based solutions for good quality of life, healthy living, and strengthened resilience of Singapore's built environment for current and future generations.

In RIE2030, the LHC FI will focus on the three key research areas below:

1. **Health and Liveability.** Research will focus on how the built environment shapes health and well-being, including research on healthier and more active lifestyles, stronger social connections, ageing-in-place, and the longer-term health impacts of planning and design decisions.
2. **Noise Mitigation.** Research will focus on improving understanding of how noise affects liveability and well-being, and support the development of strategies and frameworks to reduce the impacts of noise in urban cities like Singapore.
3. **Heat Resilience.** Research will focus on how urban planning, design and infrastructure can improve thermal comfort and help Singapore adapt to rising temperatures.

iii. Urban Nature Funding Initiative (UN FI)

The UN FI aims to advance Singapore's City in Nature vision by developing inclusive, resilient and sustainable urban nature solutions that enhance liveability and strengthen ecological, climate and social resilience – creating safer, healthier and more connected communities living alongside nature.

Led by the National Parks Board (NParks), the **S\$44M** UN FI will support research and development efforts to advance Singapore's City in Nature vision.

In RIE2030, the UN FI will focus on the three key research areas below:

1. **Enhancing socio-behavioural understanding of human-nature interactions to enhance liveability.** Research will focus on improving the understanding of public perceptions, behaviours and attitudes towards nature, wildlife and pets, to inform risk communication as well as design behavioural interventions.
2. **Increasing resilience of urban ecosystems to climate change and anthropogenic stressors.** Research will focus on improving climate resilience of trees to heat and drought, and enhance zoonotic risk mitigation amidst climate change.
3. **Enhancing safety, sustainability and effectiveness of urban nature management.** Research will leverage AI, modelling and automation to enhance operations such as tree inspections.

MOUs and Agreements inked at the World Cities Summit 2026

Date	MOU/Agreement
14 June 2026	Letter of Intent with Mexico City to host the Mayors Forum of the World Cities Summit 2027
15 June 2026	Memorandum of Understanding between the Centre for Liveable Cities and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
15 June 2026	Memorandum of Understanding between the Centre for Liveable Cities and Google Asia Pacific
15 June 2026	Memorandum of Understanding between the Centre for Liveable Cities and SJ Group
15 June 2026	Memorandum of Understanding between the Centre for Liveable Cities and the Urban Land Institute
15 June 2026	Memorandum of Understanding between the Centre for Liveable Cities and Arup Singapore Private Limited
15 June 2026	Memorandum of Understanding between the Centre for Liveable Cities and Singapore-ETH Centre
15 June 2026	Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Jakarta and the City of Heidelberg
15 June 2026	Memorandum of Understanding between BCA International and the China-Singapore Green Development Research (Suzhou Industrial Park) Co., Ltd.
15 June 2026	Arrangement between the Centre for Liveable Cities and the Jakarta Capital City Government
16 June 2026	Memorandum of Understanding between National Parks Board and Santiago de Cali
WCS 2026	Memorandum of Understanding between SJ Group and the Abu Dhabi Department of Municipalities and Transport (DMT)
WCS 2026	Declaration of Collaboration between the International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) and Coimbra, Gangtok, Seberang Perai, Leh, Prato, Messina and Jeonju