



World Cities Summit 2026 Concept Note

ABOUT THE WORLD CITIES SUMMIT (WCS)

The biennial World Cities Summit (WCS) is a global platform for government leaders and industry experts to address liveable and sustainable city challenges, share integrated urban solutions and forge new partnerships. Since 2008, WCS has seen the participation of over 250 unique cities from around the world, represented by leaders from government, business, international organisations and academia.

As the convening platform for global mayors, business leaders and knowledge experts to exchange and co-create city solutions for liveable and sustainable cities, WCS will engage cities, businesses and experts at the highest levels.

World Cities Summit 10th Edition

The 10th edition of the World Cities Summit will be held from 14 to 16 June 2026, in Singapore. Themed “**Liveable and Sustainable Cities: ACT Now!**” WCS 2026 conveys the need to **Accelerate, Collaborate, and Transform** – for the creation of more liveable, resilient, and sustainable cities.



The pace of urban change and development demands decisive action. Cities are rapidly scaling up climate resilient solutions, deploying cutting-edge AI technology and fast-tracking sustainable infrastructure. This momentum requires accelerated decision-making, collaboration in implementation, and innovative solutions that prioritise residents' well-being.

Dynamic partnerships bring together resources, expertise, and technologies, allowing cities and stakeholders to accelerate concept to implementation, effectively meeting future challenges by developing new approaches in urban rejuvenation and planning.

World Cities Summit 2026 celebrates how cities are transforming through bold leadership and partnerships, to actively shape a more liveable future for all.

Delegates will engage across six thematic tracks: **Cities for People, Resilient & Regenerative Cities, Smart Cities, Financing for Cities, Future Cities** and the ***WRLDCTY Connections Stage***. Each track comprises plenaries and in-depth discussion sessions, special convenings and roundtables, organised with strategic partners to ensure a rich and diverse discussion.

EVENT FORMAT

This 3-day event comprises the main conference and other key events such as the Mayors Forum, Site Visits, WCS Opening Plenary, WCS Young Leaders Symposium, the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize, the Science of Cities Symposium and an exhibition.

OPENING PLENARY

From Aspiration to Acceleration: Implementing National Policies in Urban Contexts

As the world faces converging challenges—climate crisis, urban inequality, infrastructure gaps, and shifting demographics—the urgency to accelerate transformation in our cities has never been greater. This high-level leadership plenary addresses a critical question: How can national goals and priorities for liveable, inclusive, and sustainable cities be implemented faster and more effectively at the local level?

Through the lens of real-world urban action, the session explores how cities act as engines of transformation, and how strategic collaboration across public, private, and civic sectors enables the rapid deployment of innovative, scalable solutions.

WCS THEMATIC TRACKS

Cities for People

Can cities keep up with the needs and aspirations of their residents?

Are cities good for your health?

Cities must evolve continuously to meet the needs of their residents. Effective transformation can only happen through a collaborative approach to balance planning, infrastructure, cultural and societal needs. This can ensure our cities will be liveable, sustainable and enriching for all.

Resilient & Regenerative Cities

Can we create cities in nature through regenerative design?

How do cities achieve resource circularity and low-carbon futures?

Climate change and rapid urbanisation are creating unprecedented challenges for cities. Innovative solutions and data-driven decision making are needed for climate adaptation plans. Better integration of nature-based solutions, carbon positive developments and resource circularity can enhance resilience and liveability.

Smart Cities

How can AI enable our cities to be even smarter?

Can smart cities love humans?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies offer to revolutionise urban life. Access to quality data can drive impactful decision making and human-centric solutions. However, a balance between technological advancement and creating value for communities must be struck to ensure desirable and equitable outcomes for residents.

Financing for Cities

How can cities optimise green financing solutions?

Cities juggle meeting climate goals with economic and social demands. There is an estimated trillion-dollar climate financing shortfall. Green financing and philanthropic sources offer to bridge the funding gap.



Future Cities

How do we build new cities?

How can we make density and polycentricity work for cities?

New cities are canvases for future urban life. The working and lifestyle needs of tomorrow's residents are complex to predict and difficult to measure in advance. Fresh approaches, innovation and paradigm shifts in data analytics, planning and development are required.

The *WRLDCTY Connections Stage*

WRLDCTY is a collective of visionaries, city-shapers, and designers whose diverse ideas and experiences are shaping the world's best - and next - cities. As a global forum for urban innovation, the *WRLDCTY stage* is a place for inspiration, provocation, and progress towards better urban futures.

Meet the world's leading urban innovators at *WRLDCTY* – bold minds who have made it their mission to flip ideas on their heads and take unconventional approaches to experimenting, building and shaping better cities for tomorrow.

You will be shoulder-to-shoulder with the world's most imaginative leaders impacting the future of cities today. Prepare to be inspired and challenged in this transformational forum

BACKGROUND INFORMATION - WORLD CITIES SUMMIT

Components of the World Cities Summit

- **Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize:** Inaugurated in 2010 and named after Singapore's first Prime Minister, the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize is a biennial international award that honours outstanding achievements and contributions to the creation of liveable, vibrant and sustainable urban communities. The 2026 Prize Laureate will be presented the award at the Lee Kuan Yew World Prize Award Ceremony and Banquet.
- **Mayors Forum of the World Cities Summit** is a by-invitation-only, global platform for mayors and city leaders to discuss pressing urban challenges and share best practices. WCS Mayors Forum 2026 will comprise a programmed lunch and the Mayors Forum discussion.

- **WCS Tracks:** Delegates will convene over six thematic tracks: **Cities for People, Resilient & Regenerative Cities, Smart Cities, Financing for Cities, Future Cities** and the **WRLDCTY Connections Stage**. Thematic tracks will comprise plenaries and sessions of different formats, organised with strategic partners.
- **Plenaries:** Insights sharing by leaders in the governments, international organisations, urban experts and industry sectors on cross-disciplinary policies, management strategies and solutions.
- **Sessions:** Deep dives within each thematic track, featuring panel discussions, special convening sessions and by-invite-only roundtables.
- **Masterclasses:** Focused learning sessions designed as consultative learning opportunities where mayors and delegates can gain in-depth knowledge on specific topics from key experts.
- **WCS Science of Cities Symposium:** Targeted at academics, the SoC Symposium convenes international researchers, city, and industry leaders to share their scientific insights and methodologies on tackling urban challenges.
- **WCS Young Leaders Symposium:** World Cities Summit Young Leaders are a select group of change-makers from diverse sectors who shape the global urban agenda.
- **WCS Exhibition:** WCS 2026 provides a platform for cities, corporates and others to profile themselves on a global stage through physical booths and pavilions within the exhibition area. Key highlights include the Singapore whole-of-government pavilion, booths by Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize laureate cities and CLC partners, as well as other booths and pavilions by participating cities and corporations.
- **Site Visits:** The World Cities Summit 2026 offers a selection of in-person site visits for delegates to experience Singapore as a sustainable, liveable and innovative city.
- **Co-located Events:** Co-located events are organised by our partners and can range from closed door meetings and workshops to public lectures and complement the main programme of the WCS.



WCS PARTNER EVENTS

Asia Infrastructure Forum

A WCS partner event, the Asia Infrastructure Forum (AIF) is the foremost platform for infrastructure players and thought leaders to discuss key issues such as the future state of infrastructure, sustainable financing, technological innovation and collaboration. AIF is co-organised by Infrastructure Asia, Ministry of Finance of Singapore, Enterprise Singapore and the Monetary Authority of Singapore, with World Bank Group as Strategic Partner. AIF will take place on 16 and 17 June 2026.

SIWW

Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) is one of the world's premier platforms to share and co-create innovative water, coastal and flood solutions to meet urban water and associated climate challenges.

Organised by Singapore International Water Week Pte Ltd, a subsidiary of PUB, Singapore's National Water Agency, SIWW comprises the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize, Leadership Roundtables and Summits, Water Convention, Water Expo, Technical Site Visits and TechXchange, the biennial event delivers a range of flagship programmes and platforms that gathers stakeholders from governments, cities, utilities, academia, and industry to share best practices and solutions, showcase the latest technologies and harness business opportunities.