



**WORLD CITIES SUMMIT 2024**  
***Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Rejuvenate, Reinvent, Reimagine***  
2 – 4 June 2024, Singapore

**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 cities from around the world, represented by leaders from government, business, international organisations and academia. Jointly organised by Singapore's Centre for Liveable Cities and the Urban Redevelopment Authority, the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of WCS in 2024 will be held in conjunction with our key partner, the Asia Infrastructure Forum. Highlights of the Summit include the WCS Mayors Forum and the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize (LKYWCP) Award Ceremony and Banquet.

**ABOUT WCS 2024**

The theme of WCS 2024, ***Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Rejuvenate, Reinvent, Reimagine*** conveys the need for cities to rejuvenate, reinvent and reimagine to become smart, resilient and regenerative cities of the future.

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 to discuss how cities can emerge stronger through prolonged and unpredictable disruptions.

**EVENT FORMAT**

WCS 2024 will be a 3-day event comprising the main conference and other key events such as the WCS Mayors Forum, WCS Young Leaders Symposium, the Lee Kuan Yew World Prize Award Ceremony and Banquet, and an exhibition.

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

## **::: CONFERENCE PROGRAMME:::**

### **WCS Opening Plenary**

#### ***Liveable & Sustainable Cities: Rejuvenation, Reinvention, Reimagine***

Cities are dynamic, human ecosystems. While cities across the world are subject to disruptions, stresses and financial constraints, they also have great capacity to evolve and adapt. The WCS Opening Plenary discusses the opportunities and approaches to achieve smart, resilient and regenerative cities.

## **::: WCS THEMATIC TRACKS :::**

### ***CITIES FOR PEOPLE***

#### ***What makes a good city?***

A "good city" is not just a collection of buildings and infrastructure, but a place where people can live fulfilling lives with access to necessities, opportunities and a sense of community. City leaders must be committed to continually rejuvenate their cities and plan for the long-term, while remaining flexible and responsive to the changing needs of residents.

#### **Plenary I: How can cities rejuvenate for the better?**

Developing and mature cities alike need to constantly revitalise themselves to maintain liveability. Yet, it can be hard to make changes, especially in older cities, when things are already built or running in a certain way. This plenary discusses how successful urban renewal can be achieved if planning and governance are organised in ways that prioritise well-being and inclusivity across communities and generations.

#### **Plenary II: Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Lecture and Forum**

Delivered by the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Laureate, the Prize Lecture celebrates the 2022 Laureate's achievements in the creation of liveable, vibrant, and sustainable urban communities with a high quality of life. The Prize Forum features the Special Mention cities, who will share their urban development experiences, highlighting their unique contexts, challenges faced, and urban solutions deployed.

## ***RESILIENT & REGENERATIVE CITIES***

### ***How can cities progress to net-positive when they cannot even achieve net-zero?***

The world is on a critical path towards 1.5°C (or more) and experiencing major climate tipping points and disruptions. With cities accounting for 70% of global greenhouse emissions, it is vital for them to take on resilience and regeneration strategies, to move towards a path of net-positive growth.

#### **Plenary I: How do we manage the uneven impact of the net-zero transition in cities?**

Moving to net-zero is an urgent priority, but transition risks and impacts may be unevenly distributed across the city. Some people and communities will experience greater disruptions while others may benefit from the push to decarbonisation. How can cities prioritise equity in their climate action and resilience plans?

#### **Plenary II: What are regenerative strategies for a net-positive and green future?**

This plenary explores how advances in circular and regenerative strategies can move both emerging and established cities towards a net-positive future.

## ***SMART CITIES***

### ***How should technology shape human-centric cities of tomorrow?***

Artificial intelligence, advanced smart grid systems, the advent of the Metaverse – there has been an unprecedented surge in smart technologies in recent years. How can the transformative potential of these smart tools be unlocked to reinvent liveable cities for all?

#### **Plenary I: How do we create human-centric smart cities?**

Cities should not be 'smart' for smart's sake. This plenary explores how technologies can be harnessed to overcome social challenges and build trust, inclusivity, safety and accessibility for people.

#### **Plenary II: What makes a city truly smart?**

Cities are complex adaptive systems. Technologies need to be sensitively designed and implemented to synergise long-term infrastructure development with responsive urban governance and management. This plenary discusses how developing a science of cities, backed by data and scientific analysis, can enhance understanding, and support, how cities work.

## ***SUSTAINABLE FINANCING OF CITIES***

### ***How do we close the urban infrastructure gap through Sustainable Finance?***

Countries have agreed to fund climate-related loss and damage to assist vulnerable communities. However, there continues to be a large gap in the financing of sustainable urban infrastructure. How can cities move from the rhetoric of ESG strategies to action and implementation?

#### **Plenary I: What are the innovative approaches to the sustainable financing of cities?**

To address the financing gap, cities need to explore and urgently adopt innovative approaches such as blended finance, impact investing, and alternative financing mechanisms such as land value capture.

#### **Plenary II: How can we optimise cities' potential for sustainable finance?**

This plenary discusses how cities need to incorporate ESG meaningfully into their risk management and infrastructure planning, to improve their credit worthiness and drive sustainable financing of infrastructure.

## ***FUTURE CITIES***

### ***What are the new frontiers for urban life?***

New cities are being built from scratch, while other cities are developing new regions and districts on greenfield sites.

How can planners, developers, businesses and the community take the opportunity to jointly develop “cities of the future” on a clean slate, with revolutionary urban and social paradigms that support the liveability of cities across generations?

#### **Plenary I: What are the paradigm shifts needed to build future cities?**

The world is facing resource constraints, climate stresses, and new divides are forming along values and generational lines. This plenary discusses how new approaches in the way we live and work. Further deep dive into how play, learn, move, consume and interact are needed to build liveable cities now and for future generations.

#### **Plenary II: From Vision to Reality: Developing Future Cities**

This closing plenary explores how partnerships with businesses, communities and people should be included in planning processes and governance approaches in the development of future liveable cities.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON 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 2024 Prize Laureate will be presented the award at the Prize Award Ceremony and Banquet. The Laureate and Special Mentions cities will also share their achievements and experiences at the Prize Lecture and Forum.
- **WCS Mayors Forum** is an exclusive, by-invitation-only, global platform for mayors and city leaders to discuss pressing urban challenges and share best practices. WCS Mayors Forum 2024 will comprise a programmed lunch and the Mayors Forum discussion.
- **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 Thematic Tracks:** Delegates will engage with the 3R theme via five thematic tracks: Cities for People, Resilient & Regenerative Cities, Smart Cities, Sustainable Financing of Cities and Future Cities. Thematic tracks will comprise Plenaries and sessions of different formats, organised with different strategic partners.
- **Plenaries:** Insights sharing by leaders in the governments, international organisations 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.
- **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 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 Exhibition:** WCS 2024 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.