



## ADB UCCRTF and CDIA Champion Urban Resilience and Inclusivity at the 8<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Urban Forum

Sunghoon Kris Moon of ADB (second from left) joins other partners during the launching of the flagship report “Crisis Resilient Urban Futures: The Urban Future of Asian & Pacific Cities 2023”

### Event Details

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF-8)

23–25 October 2023, Suwon, Republic of Korea

*Sessions co-organized by ADB-managed Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund (UCCRTF) and Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA), with development partners:*

**Parallel Session (PS) #11 – Bridging the Gap: Strategic Urban Governance Approaches Towards Inclusive and Resilient Cities in Southeast Asia**

*Organized by CDIA, Kota Kita and Technische Universität Berlin*

**PS#23 – Urban climate resilience: A key to sustainable urbanization**  
*Organized by Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Making Cities Resilient 2030, and UCCRTF*

**PS#40 – Unlocking Finance for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience: Bottlenecks and Opportunities**  
*Organized by CDIA, UCCRTF and ADPC*

### Reforging Post Pandemic Pathways to Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development in Asia-Pacific

The APUF-8 took place in Suwon City, Republic of Korea from 23 to 25 October 2023. The event builds on over three decades of legacy as the region’s premier multi-stakeholder forum on sustainable urban development.

Co-organized by UNESCAP and Suwon City in collaboration with various partner organizations, the event convened thought leaders, government officials, and stakeholders, highlighting the pressing need to address compounding challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and infrastructure deficits. More information [HERE](#).

The inaugural session echoed a resounding call for local and national governments to intensify their efforts in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Paris Agreement, and New Urban Agenda. UN-ESCAP Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana emphasized the exacerbated urban challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, necessitating decisive actions to address climate change, infrastructure gaps, urbanization, inclusivity, and resilience in Asia’s urban centers.

Marking a significant moment during APUF-8 was the launch of the flagship report, “Crisis Resilient Urban Futures: The Urban Future of Asian & Pacific Cities 2023” made possible through financial support provided by Suwon City and ADB, via [TA-9919 REG: Integrated and Innovative Solutions for More Livable Cities](#) co-financed by UCCRTF, and in research partnership

with the Melbourne Centre for Cities at the University of Melbourne. The report presents actionable insights for cities to address inclusivity, stakeholder engagement, and innovation. It outlines four fundamental pillars to achieve these goals: (i) urban territorial planning; (ii) building resilient cities; (iii) digital transformation; and (iv) urban finance.

**Interconnected urban and climate problems require significant funding for disaster risk management, cause economic disruptions, infrastructure damage, food insecurity, and heightened health and pollution concerns. Integrated, holistic and tailored responses are essential to address these complex challenges.**

Furthering ADB’s active engagement at APUF-8, two of its managed trust funds under the Urban Financing Partnership Facility, [UCCRTF](#) and [CDIA](#), co-organized and participated in three parallel sessions, underlining the regional bank’s stronger commitment to collaboratively address the complex challenges of urbanization and climate change in the Asia and the Pacific region.

#### **Parallel Session (PS) #11 | Bridging the gap: Strategic urban governance approaches towards inclusive and resilient cities in Southeast Asia (23 October 2023)**

Co-organized by CDIA in collaboration with [Kota Kita](#) and [Technische Universität Berlin](#), this session delved into strategies for boosting urban climate resilience, and localizing the New Urban Agenda and SDGs in Southeast Asia’s fast-growing cities.

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## Key takeaways:

- **Moving beyond traditional top-down strategies** needs new, dynamic, and cross-sectoral inclusive processes and tools for future-oriented and climate-responsive urban development.
- Achieving inclusive and climate-resilient cities requires **strategic urban governance approaches**. This entails implementing parallel solutions, building community trust over time, aligning citizens and political leaders' priorities, experimenting with innovative urban data collection, and ensuring inclusive project designs.



PS#11 | Bridging the gap: Strategic urban governance approaches towards inclusive and resilient cities in South-East Asia (23 October 2023)

## PS#23 | Urban climate resilience: A key to sustainable urbanization (24 October 2023)

The session co-organized by the [ADPC](#), [Making Cities Resilient 2030](#), and UCCRTF showcased innovative and practical measures to address growing climate change risks in our cities, underscoring the significance of systematic risk assessment tools for understanding cities' strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities, and engaging stakeholders in city planning and design. Presenters shared a range of support mechanisms and highlighted specific interventions from different regions such as the resilience roadmap in the Philippines, stakeholder engagement strategies in My Tho and Nam Dinh cities in Viet Nam, and the Heatwave Action Plan in Incheon City, Republic of Korea.

### Key takeaways:

- **Resilience demands integrated solutions**, that in alignment with sustainable urban development, span across scales and sectors, encompassing various dimensions of ecosystems, infrastructure, economics, finance, and people and institutions.
- **Planning and systematic risk assessment** tools are crucial for understanding a city's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and engaging stakeholders in effective city planning and design. Livable City Action Plans (a.k.a. Solutions for Livability) offers participatory



(Left to right) Panelists Sobia Pervaiz (TA 9329), Lara Arjan (ADB), and Le Thi Lan Phuong (Nam Dinh, Viet Nam) at PS#40 | Unlocking finance for climate change adaptation and resilience: Bottlenecks and Opportunities (25 October 2023)

approach that focuses on bringing city resilience to shocks, climate, finance, institutions and livelihood. The UNDRR Climate Resilience Scorecard is a self-assessment tool that identifies 10 essential components for city resilience that cities can use to design actions strengthen adaptation and disaster risk reduction capacities.

**“In order for a city to be resilient, it needs to be planned better, understand where you are, what you have, and what is needed.”**

- Sunisa Soodrak, Associate Program Management Officer, UNDRR, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (PS#23)

## PS#40 | Unlocking finance for climate change adaptation and resilience: Bottlenecks and opportunities (25 October 2023)

Co-organized by CDIA, UCCRTF, and ADPC, this session featured urban experts and community and city leaders from My Tho, Viet Nam, Patuakhali, Bangladesh, and Abbottabad, Pakistan. They discussed bottlenecks and opportunities to

Despite increasing commitments to address climate change, financing has been beset with bottlenecks. For example, only 99% of investments flow to climate adaptation, undermining the cities' capacity to respond to risks affecting them.

overcoming finance challenges for adaptation and resilience and preparing bankable climate-resilient projects.

### Key takeaways:

- Cities encounter common **hurdles when seeking climate finance**, including the project scale, limited government capacity, diverse funding sources, and complex requirements from funding agencies. Many developing nations lack mechanisms and mandates for climate resilience integration.
- To overcome financial challenges, it's crucial to establish an enabling climate finance environment at the city level, align subnational plans with national strategies, diversify funding sources, and boost project preparation support.
- **Successful funding** hinges on project readiness, requiring feasibility studies and alignment with financiers' priorities, along with addressing cities' capacity gaps, including data quality.

**“Despite the challenges, one of the strongest opportunities is the voice of the people. By mobilizing stakeholders and convincing the government ‘this is what we need,’ they can be persuaded to make financing available for proposed projects.”**

- Sobia Pervaiz, Community Stakeholder Group (CSG) Chairperson, UCCRTF-supported TA 9329, Abbottabad, Pakistan



PS#23 | Urban climate resilience: A key to sustainable urbanization (24 October 2023)

## UCCRTF Financing Partners



## Further information

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