

7th Asia Smart City Conference “Yokohama Declaration”

For the past seven years, we have held the “Asia Smart City Conference” with an aim to enhance city-to-city collaboration and partnership among cities and related international institutions to achieve smart and sustainable urban growth in Asia.

In the meantime, international target such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), New Urban Agenda under HABITAT III, and the Paris Agreement under Conference of the Parties (COP21) were adopted. Recently, international community is accelerating to realize sustainable growth as we see some cities are working together to achieve their challenging goal of zero carbon. With a prominent increase of urban population, cities are getting to play more and more important roles as they directly support citizens’ life. Citizens should be proactively engaged by enabling platforms for collaboration and participatory planning along with government and private sector to co-create innovative solutions to enable inclusiveness and an improved quality of life for Livable Cities.

“Fostering a Marketplace for Co-Innovation” was the main theme for this Conference, and the impact of new exponential technologies on cities was discussed as well as essential topics including water, waste, transport, energy efficiency, and resilience.

In the panel discussion, we discussed integrated urban development, shared the knowledge on innovative technologies and future directions. Based on these arguments, participants deepened their understanding of the importance of learning from each other beyond the border in the plenary session. These discussions lead the participants to the following ideas.

Multilateral discussions by diverse participants are the source for the co-creation of effective and innovative solutions. We will strengthen Peer-to-Peer learning through a platform such as “Asia Smart City Alliance” and other platforms for city collaboration of our development partners and utilize it as an ideal venue to exchange ideas, experiences and innovations. We seek sustainable growth while incorporating new technology appropriately. The Conference also recognized the power and potential of the private sector in achieving development goals to co-create sustainable cities.

We will report the content of this Yokohama Declaration to the Conference of the Parties 24 (COP24), to be held in Poland in December this year, and to other relevant international conferences.