

UN-HABITAT IN ASIA & THE PACIFIC



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LEADERSHIP MESSAGE **Anacláudia Rossbach, Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat**



In August, I visited Japan and met with national and local partners. A key outcome was the signing of a cooperation agreement with JICA. I was also encouraged by the **“Platform for Sustainable Cities in Asia and the Pacific”**, held in Tokyo and Fukuoka, which brought together public, private, academic, and civil society partners to share solutions for sustainable urban development.

October marks **Urban October**, beginning with World Habitat Day and concluding with World Cities Day. This October, UN-Habitat will host events across the world for World Habitat Day on 6 October on the theme of urban crisis response and World Cities Day on 31 October on the theme of people-centred smart cities. I am pleased that many partners from Asia and the Pacific will take part in these important global observances.

The **Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All** has continued its work this year since its historic establishment in 2023 and first meeting in 2024. After online meetings in July and September 2025, the group will meet in person from 22 to 23 October in Nairobi. This process aligns with our **Strategic Plan 2026–2029** which focuses on housing, land and basic services for which our Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific is preparing a **Regional Implementation Plan** to translate strategic priorities into tangible results on the ground.

UN-Habitat remains committed to working with partners across the region and beyond to advance adequate housing for all and build a better urban future for all.

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



With ED, ROAP and
Country Representatives

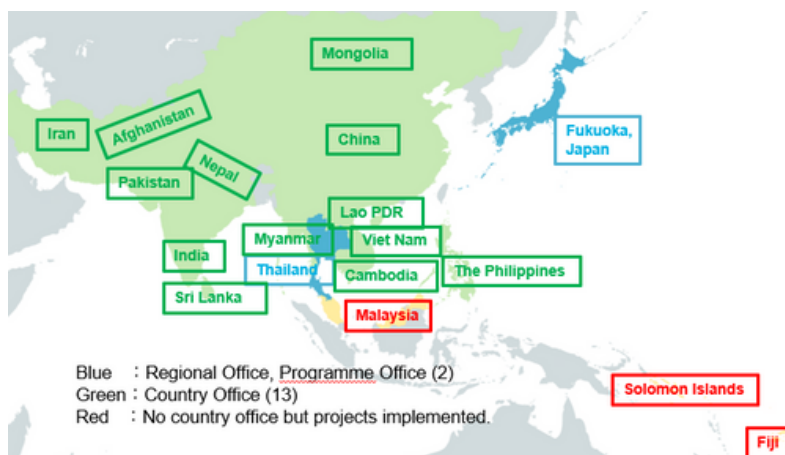
Message from Regional Director **Kazuko Ishigaki**

In August, our Executive Director visited Tokyo, Yokohama and Fukuoka cities and we had intensive meetings with many stakeholders. I appreciate all partners for supporting her mission to Japan fruitful.

In August-September I had a series of mission: 1) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to attend ASEAN Urbanization Forum, 2) Kerala, India to attend the Urban Conclave, 3) Weihai, China to attend the Exquisite City Forum, and 4) Goyang, the Republic of Korea, to attend the UCLG-ASPAC Congress, which theme was self-sufficient city. I was inspired by passionate discussion on urban policy by highly motivated experts in every conferences.

UN Habitat is committed to make these good initiatives into a strong united movement toward sustainable urban development.

Presence in 15 countries



We appreciate support from the following countries/organizations

Adaptation Fund Board/ ASEAN/ Beijing Chaoyang Environment Group Co. Ltd/ Beijing Future Science City Management Committee/ Botnar Foundation/ C Team/ CDHT/ China Centre for Urban Development, Government of China/ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)/ Dinghai District/ District Collectorate, Jaipur, Government of Odisha/ European Commission/ FCDO/ GCF/ IDF/ IFENG.com/ India/ Institute for Advanced Engineering/ IOM/ ISoftStone Smart Technology Company Ltd. (ISSTECH)/ Japan/ JICA/ KOICA/ Korea Land & Housing Corporation (LH)/ KSTRI/ China/ Nanjing Planning and Natural Resources Bureau/ Norwegian Retailer's Environment Fund (NREF)/ Malaysia/ Netherlands/ Raikela Iron Ore Mines, M/S Geetarani Mohanty/ Republic of Korea/ Shenzhen Institute of Building Research Co., Ltd/ Shuangjing Sub-district of Chaoyang District, Beijing/ Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)/ Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)/ UK-PACT/ UNDP/ UNEP/ UN Peace and Development Trust Fund/ UNOPS/ USAID/ Wanxiang/ Weihai Municipality/ WLSP/ WPD/ Xinchao Media/ Xuzhou Housing and Urban & Rural Construction Bureau/ Xuzhou Urban Planning Bureau

Projects in Asia and the Pacific



China - Advancing People-Centered Smart Cities

The UN-Habitat **China Future Cities Council (CFCC)** stands as a pioneering platform bridging China's technological innovation with global sustainable urban development goals. Established in April 2019, the CFCC brings together CEOs and visionary entrepreneurs from China's digital technology sector to contribute forward-thinking solutions for urban management and governance. The CFCC champions people-centered urban sustainable development through digital innovation, offering valuable insights from China's rapidly evolving urban landscape. This strategic partnership demonstrates how technological advancement can serve humanity's urban future while addressing pressing sustainability challenges. The platform's significant global reach is demonstrated by the FCAO 2023 and 2024 online launches, each attracting over 1.3 million viewers worldwide.



Donor: Xichao Media, Wanxiang Group, ISSTECH, C Team

"Participating in the EGMs of CFCC's FCAO 2025 is an opportunity for me to exchange and learn. It has greatly enhanced my understanding of AI and other relevant new technologies applications. The issues we discussed are very valuable references for my work on sustainable urban development."

— Mr. CHEN Xueye, Director of Natural Resources Data Management Center at Shenzhen's Urban Planning and Natural Resources Bureau

Viet Nam - Young Innovators Shaping Better Communities



Donor: Fondation Botnar

Amid Viet Nam's fast-paced urbanization, one pressing challenge is how to harness the country's rich social and cultural assets for sustainable growth. In Da Nang's Hoi An and Tam Ky, young people are stepping forward as catalysts of change. With support from Fondation Botnar, the project **"Promoting Youth and Community Innovation for City Sustainable Development"** is equipping the next generation to co-create solutions with local government and the private sector. Through initiatives such as the Creative Space and Creative Map, youth are shaping vibrant platforms to exchange ideas, spark innovation, and strengthen community bonds. Over time, these efforts are expected to inform forward-looking urban strategies for cities and communities in central of Viet Nam.

"I hope that everyone - from elders to government officials - will gain a deeper awareness of the role of youth in sustainable development and encourage more young people to engage in social, creative economic, and environmental activities."

- Lê Quỳnh Anh, youth leader in Quang Nam

Myanmar - Water for Life Initiative for Earthquake-Affected Communities

In Mandalay, Myanmar, the **"Water for Life"** project was launched in August 2025 to build back better through community-driven, people-centered approaches that leave no one behind. In response to the devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake in March 2025, UN-Habitat, with support from the Japan Habitat Association and ATOM Myanmar, is working to restore dignity and basic services for vulnerable communities. By introducing solar-powered water systems, hygiene promotion, and community-led WASH committees, the project fosters safe, inclusive, and resilient recovery for all.



Donor: Japan Habitat Association and ATOM Myanmar

"I am delighted that UN-Habitat is providing a solar-powered water purification system. This will ensure that more than 800 students at the school, along with the monks and members of the local community, have access to a sufficient supply of clean and safe water."

- Patron Monk, Thar Tha Nar Paing Monastic Education School, Mandalay

Voices from Country Offices

Bangkok Programme Office

In 2023, UN-Habitat strengthened its Bangkok Office into a Multi-Country Programme Office (MCO) as part of an organizational reform to strengthen its support for South and Southeast Asia. It complements the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) in Japan, by acting as a hub for engagement with partners based in Thailand.



The Bangkok Programme Office (BPO) carries multiple critical strategic roles and responsibilities by working with key regional partners including the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO), the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and other partners.

BPO supports Thailand through SDG localization, road safety, and ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation initiatives. Key projects include Voluntary Local Reviews, inclusive Transit-Oriented Development, and ASUS in secondary cities. Efforts span urban planning for eco-smart and resilient cities, urbanization and housing, and multilevel governance, engaging citizens and strengthening urban systems in Thailand.

Mongolia

Over 70% of Mongolian population resides in urban areas, with many living in informal “ger areas” that lack essential infrastructure and are highly vulnerable to climate risks. These conditions contribute to social exclusion and environmental degradation.

Since 2006, UN-Habitat has worked closely with the local governments and communities to improve living conditions through participatory planning and upgrading. With over USD 12 million invested across four districts, these initiatives have empowered residents, enhanced access to basic services, and built local resilience. Current projects, funded by the Adaptation Fund, are strengthening flood protection and sanitation in 18 high-risk sub-districts through inclusive, community-led approaches.



UN-Habitat Mongolia Team Photo

Regional and Country Events



World Habitat Day

Theme: urban crisis response
Global Observance:
6 October 2025
Nairobi, Kenya

Celebrations in the Region

5 October: Sri Lanka
6 October: Pakistan
8 October: India
6 October: Afghanistan
7 October: Iran
13 October: Nepal

World Cities Day

Theme: people-centred smart cities
Global Observance:
31 October 2025
Bogota, Columbia



Celebrations in the Region

26 October: Shanghai, China
31 October: Pakistan
27-29 October: Chongqing, China
31 October: India

Date	Location	Event
6 and 10 October	Vientiane and Pakse Lao PDR	4th Lao National Urban Forum
14-16 October	Toyota City Japan	International Mayors Forum
17 October	Nagoya Japan	Environment Technology Expert Group Meeting (EGM)
22-23 October	Nairobi Kenya	Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert WG on Adequate Housing
29-30 October	Suva Fiji	9th Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (PFSD)
4-6 November	Doha, Qatar	2nd World Social Summit
10-21 November	Belem, Brazil	COP30
25-26 November	Nairobi, Kenya	Executive Board
25-26 November	Bangkok Thailand	9th session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction
25-27 November	Yokohama Japan	14th Asia Smart City Conference

Voices from Japan Team - Actions with Japan

Partnership

Tokyo & Fukuoka
Japan



Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach, Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat made her first visit to Japan to attend the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9). During her mission from 17-23 August 2025, she actively met with national and local partners. Upper row from left, Hon. Takeshi Iwaya, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Hon. Yasushi Furukawa, State Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; Hon. Keiichi Asao, Minister of the Environment; Hon. Manabu Sakai, Minister of State for Disaster Management / Lower row from left: Hon. Yuriko Koike, Governor of Tokyo; Mr. Takeharu Yamanaka, Mayor of Yokohama; Mr. Seitaro Hattori, Governor of Fukuoka; Mr. Soichiro Takashima, Mayor of Fukuoka

Climate Resilience

Yokohama & Fukuoka, Japan



UN-Habitat ROAP organized the second Networking Seminar of the Platform for Sustainable Cities in Asia and the Pacific (SUSCAP) in Fukuoka on 18 August and the one in Yokohama on 21 August 2025. In both cities, more than 150 persons attended and expressed high interest in UN Habitat activities.

Partnership

Fukuoka
Japan



On 18 August 2025, ROAP and the FAVA Onehealth Fukuoka Office formalized their partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance collaboration.

Solid Waste Management

Dire Dawa
Ethiopia



In Ethiopia, UN-Habitat is implementing the Japan funded project "Rehabilitating Dire Dawa's Landfill for a Path to Safe and Sustainable Solid Waste Management Using the Fukuoka Method." In September 2025, Japanese experts and ROAP conducted an onsite technical survey to prepare a detailed design for the landfill site improvement.

Partnership

Nairobi,
Japan



On 7 August 2025, Japanese Parliamentarians led by Hon. Koichiro Genba, Vice-Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Hon. Makoto Oniki, Chairman of Japan Parliamentarians on Habitat visited UN-Habitat HQ and met with Ms. Rossbach, UN-Habitat Executive Director.

Fukuoka
Japan



On 7 August 2025, Ms. Ishigaki, Regional Director, delivered a lecture at the Kyushu Prefectural Assembly Chairpersons' Meeting. She introduced the activities of UN-Habitat and its strategic plan to the chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of the prefectural assemblies across Kyushu.