

UN-HABITAT IN ASIA & THE PACIFIC



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



The thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum, WUF13, held in Baku from 17 to 22 May 2026, concluded with remarkable success, bringing together more than 57,000 participants from 176 countries. Notably, over 14 ministers and vice ministers from across the Asia-Pacific region participated in person, sharing their experiences and perspectives on the Forum's theme, "Housing the world: Safe and resilient cities and communities."

Housing is a human right, yet one we are still failing to fulfil. Today, the world faces a housing crisis affecting up to 3.4 billion people, including 1.1 billion living in informal settlements and slums and more than 300 million experiencing homelessness. This crisis extends across all regions and income levels, affecting both developing and developed countries alike. Climate change, conflict and humanitarian emergencies are further deepening housing challenges and vulnerabilities.

To respond, we must advance solutions that strengthen communities, improve living conditions, secure land and housing tenure, upgrade informal settlements and slums, and expand access to basic services. Above all, we must protect people's health, safety and dignity. We must act with urgency and ambition to house the world.

As we build on the momentum of WUF13, we look forward to continuing our collaboration with governments, local authorities, partners and communities across the Asia-Pacific region to create a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient urban future for all.

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



Presence in 17 countries



Farewell Message from Regional Director Kazuko Ishigaki

This is my last message as Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific. It was my honor and pleasure working at UN-Habitat with excellent colleagues, and being engaged with many exciting, inspiring and meaningful initiatives, including the successful World Urban Forum (WUF13) at Baku, Azerbaijan where we appreciate the attendance of 14 ministers/vice ministers and more than 56 Partner-Led Events and 12 Urban EXPO booths from Asia Pacific region.

I have very high pride in UN-Habitat people-centered projects and will support UN-Habitat from the standpoint of a Member State. Thank you once again for UN-Habitat partners, donors and stakeholders for supporting our activities in Asia and the Pacific.

We appreciate support from the following countries/organizations

Adaptation Fund Board/ ASEAN/ ATOM Myanmar Ltd./ Beijing Chaoyang Environment Group Co. Ltd/ Beijing Future Science City Management Committee/ Botnar Foundation/ C Team/ CDHT/ CDRI/ China Center for Urban Development, Government of China/ China/ Citizens Net for UN-Habitat Fukuoka (CNHF)/ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)/ Dinghai District/ District Collectorate, Jaipur, Government of Odisha/ FCD/ GCF/ IDF/ IFENG.com/ India/ IRAF/ ISoftStone Smart Technology Company Ltd. (ISSTECH)/ Japan/ Japan Habitat Association (JHA)/ JICA/ KOICA/ Luxembourg/ 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/ TMF/ UK-PACT/ UNDP/ 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



Mongolia - Enhancing Ger Community Resilience Project



Donor: Adaptation Fund

In Ulaanbaatar's ger areas, climate-driven floods and winter icing threaten vulnerable households. In the 26th khoroo of Songinokhairkhan District, UN-Habitat constructed 2 km of river embankments and 2 detention basins through **the Ger Community Resilience Project** funded by the Adaptation Fund.

Completed in 2025, the system eliminated impacts on up to 140 households annually, reduced local government mitigation costs from USD 30,000 to 1,500, and strengthened community ownership, demonstrating a scalable resilience model.

*"For the first time in years, no households were affected.
The project has significantly reduced both risks and public costs."*

- Batbayar Bazarragchaa, Governor, 26th khoroo of Songinokhairkhan District

Sri Lanka - Strengthening Socioeconomic Resilience of Communities

The **"Strengthening Socioeconomic Resilience of Communities Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Central and Uva Provinces of Sri Lanka"** was implemented in close partnership with government institutions, local authorities, and community organizations from 2022–2026.

This USD 5.5 million project strengthened the resilience of communities in Nuwara Eliya and Badulla by improving safe access to water, sanitation, healthcare, and livelihoods for over 106,000 people.

Key interventions included improvement of maternal healthcare facilities; community water supply schemes; water purification and water recycling facilities. The project enhanced public health by upgrading sewerage and waste management facilities in hospitals, while supporting farmers with climate-smart agriculture interventions.



Donor: Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)

"My family's health and well-being is now secured through our gravity-fed spring water which is filtered and chlorinated. Every drop we drink is safe and life-sustaining."

- Ms. R. A. Inoka Priyadarshani, Nuwara Eliya

Thailand: ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS) Project – Phase II



Donor: Government of Australia

The ASUS Project – Phase II (2024–2026) strengthens cooperation between the ASEAN Secretariat and UN-Habitat to advance sustainable urbanisation across ASEAN Member States.

Building on the first phase (2020–2022), the project expands participation to 23 ASEAN cities, supports practical urban development solutions, builds local and national capacities, and enhances regional knowledge exchange and stakeholder engagement. Led by the ASEAN Smart Cities Network and the ASEAN Committee on Sustainable Infrastructure and supported by the Government of Australia through the Australia For ASEAN Future Initiative (AUS4ASEAN), the project promotes coordinated action at local, national, and regional levels. It contributes to achieving the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan the 2030 Agenda, and the New Urban Agenda for inclusive and sustainable urban development.

*"As a developing city, Iskandar Puteri can plan its growth sustainably, balancing economic development, environmental responsibility, and inclusivity. **Through ASUS, we design sustainable mobility solutions alongside other ASEAN cities.**"*

- Ungku Ahmad Bin UNGKU HJ. MOHD. ZAKARIA
Director of Community Development of Iskandar Puteri, Malaysia

Voices from Country Offices

Cambodia

UN-Habitat Cambodia has long supported the Government in building inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities and communities in one of Southeast Asia's most rapidly urbanizing and climate-vulnerable countries. Through partnerships spanning national ministries, local authorities, and communities, UN-Habitat delivers programming across resilient housing, coastal infrastructure, water and sanitation, and urban governance. Technical assistance has helped shape a people-centred Smart City Action Plan, integrating technology-driven solutions to improve quality of life and modernize urban governance. Vulnerable communities are being equipped to withstand a changing climate, through resilient housing, mangrove restoration, rehabilitated drainage, and early warning systems. In 2026, the signing of MoUs with the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction and the Ministry of Environment marked a significant step in deepening long-term institutional partnerships.



UN-Habitat Cambodia Team Photo

Malaysia

UN-Habitat Malaysia advances sustainable urban development through national, state, and city partnerships that strengthen climate resilience, public space governance, and regional cooperation. The Penang Nature-Based Climate Adaptation Programme (PNBCAP), funded by the Adaptation Fund, is progressing toward major physical completions in 2026, demonstrating scalable blue-green infrastructure for flood mitigation. Through the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS) Phase II, UN-Habitat supports secondary cities in developing proposals on mobility, resilience, and safety. The My Public Space Project, implemented with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT) and the National Landscape Department, enhances Malaysia's public space standards and recognition mechanisms. The office also leads the Asia-Pacific Urban Agenda Platform (AP-UAP), a regional initiative to accelerate New Urban Agenda reporting and knowledge exchange across Member States.



Malaysia delegation led by H.E. Nga Kor Ming, Minister of Housing and Local Government and President of the UN-Habitat Assembly, together with UN-Habitat at WUF13

Regional and Country Events

Date	Location	Event
7 July 2026	New York USA	High-Level Political Forum 2026
15-17 July 2026	New York USA	General Assembly on the New Urban Agenda Mid-Term Review
17-28 August 2026	Ulaanbaatar Mongolia	COP17 to combat desertification
20-22 August 2026	Ulaanbaatar Mongolia	International Mayor's Forum
2-4 September 2026	Yokohama Japan	Asia-Pacific Circular Cities Forum
20 September 2026	Shaoxing China	World Cleanup Day

The 13th World Urban Forum, Baku, Azerbaijan 17-22 May 2026

At the 13th World Urban Forum (WUF13) in Baku, Azerbaijan, countries from across the Asia Pacific region participated in discussions and events. UN-Habitat ROAP organized two special sessions reflecting key regional priorities: (1) sustainable waste management and the circular economy and (2) urban resilience, the blue economy, and sustainable tourism in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). In addition to these main sessions, partner-led events and Urban Expo exhibitions brought together national and local governments, the private sector, and civil society from across Asia and the Pacific to share experience and solutions for sustainable urban development.



Voices from Japan Team - Actions with Japan

Partnership

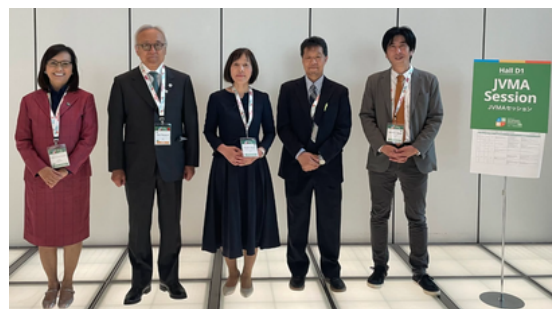
Tokyo
Japan



On 29 May 2026, Patrick Canagasingham, Director of the UN-Habitat Regional Programme Division, visited Hon. Makoto ONIKI, Chairman of Japan Parliamentarians on Habitat; Mr. Hideyuki Shiomi, Vice-Minister for Infrastructure, MLIT; Meeting with Amb. Ryo Nakamura, Assistant Minister, Director-General for Global Issues of MOFA; and JICA, together with Regional Director. He expressed gratitude for the support to date and cooperation with the 13th World Urban Forum held this month, reiterated our strategic priorities until 2029, and requested continued support for UN-Habitat.

Partnership

Tokyo
Japan



On April 22, 2026, UN-Habitat ROAP hosted a session under the theme "Sustainable Urban Development and One Health", at the World Veterinary Association Congress 2026 in Tokyo. UN-Habitat signed a MOU with the FAVA One Health Fukuoka Office in August 2025. During the session, Regional Director presented UN-Habitat's initiatives that also contribute to One Health and discussed with experts from the fields of veterinary science and urban planning on how urban development and One Health can work hand in hand.

Partnership

Tokyo
Japan



On 14 May 2026, Regional Director participated in a panel discussion at the Inaugural Symposium for the University of Tokyo Center for Housing and Urban Regeneration, titled "Transforming Places: Towards Urban and Suburban Regeneration in Non-Metropolitan Regions." After introducing the challenges of urbanization and secondary cities in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly the gap between primary cities and secondary cities, Regional Director emphasized that reducing these gaps through regional planning for spatially balanced development is crucial as a means of ensuring equal opportunities and improving the well-being for all citizens. (Photo by the University of Tokyo)

Partnership

Tokyo
Japan



On 9 June 2026, ROAP held the 3rd Networking Seminar at Tokyo Platform for Sustainable Cities in Asia and the Pacific (Tokyo-SUSCAP). Through two panel discussions, participants deepened their understanding of Japan's international cooperation initiatives, as well as its technologies and expertise. The Co-creation Network Session followed with eight Japanese companies and organizations, provided a meaningful opportunity to share challenges and needs and explore new collaboration opportunities with UN-Habitat Country offices.

Networking

Baku
Azerbaijan



At WUF13, on 19 May 2026, UN-Habitat ROAP co-organized the networking event "Spatial Planning Platform: National Spatial Policies for Building Sustainable Regions through Flows of People" with the National Spatial Planning and Regional Policy Bureau of Japan's MLIT at WUF13. On 20 May 2026, ROAP also co-hosted the networking event "Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and Urban Green Transformation (GX) for Sustainable Urban Development" with City Bureau of MLIT. It also highlighted the upcoming Green EXPO, which will be held in Yokohama, Japan in March 2027.

Strategic

Fukuoka,
Japan



On 28 May 2026, Patrick Canagasingham, Director of the UN-Habitat Regional Programme Division, visited Fukuoka for the first time since assuming his post in April. He held a strategic meeting with ROAP staff to discuss future plans. Although his visit was brief, lasting only one day, lively discussions took place.