



KLRTC 31 – Workshop on Public Spaces: Creating Safe, Inclusive, and Accessible Public Spaces for All

Dates: August 2 to 4th, 2016

Location: Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre

Organized by CityNet, UN-Habitat, and Kuala Lumpur City Hall

Relevance of Public Spaces in the Asia Pacific

Building inclusive, healthy, safe, connected, integrated and productive cities is perhaps the greatest challenge facing city leaders today. There are no easy solutions. And yet a key part of the puzzle lies right in the heart of urban areas: the streets and public spaces. Streets and public spaces are the springboard for revitalizing communities and cities. An attractive, active, well-functioning public space can jump-start economic development. Public spaces help build a sense of community and civic identity as well as promote economic development and culture.

When municipalities are struggling economically, investment in public spaces may be seen as non-essential, but the truth is that even a small investment in quality public space delivers manifold return to the cities with the foresight to see its value. By strengthening the social fabric, providing economic opportunity and boosting the well-being of inhabitants, public space can make limited resources go further and enrich the community both socially, culturally and economically.

There is growing attention to public space. In 2011, at the 23rd Session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, member states mandated UN-Habitat to consolidate agency-wide work on public space, to develop and promote public space policy, coordination, disseminate knowledge and directly assist cities in public space initiatives.¹ The UN's Open Working Group charged with drafting the 2016-2030 Sustainable Development Goals has proposed an eleventh Goal 11 'Build cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.' One of the proposed targets set out is "by 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities".

This 3 days interactive workshop will inform city leaders the importance of public spaces and why should they ensure quality public spaces in their cities for healthy urban life and sustainable urban development.

Learning Objectives

Public spaces take on various spatial forms, from parks and streets, to markets and sidewalks. They also play a critical role in many of the city activities. For this reason, this workshop aims to achieve the following learning objectives.

- To recognize the importance of public spaces in a city
- To understand the relationship of public spaces with other elements of the city.
- To identify the basic considerations needed to plan/improve good public spaces that can be a key asset for a city's livability and economy.
- To identify the role of community engagement in public space management
- To understand the need and benefits of city wide policy and strategy for long term urban development

Overall Schedule (TBC)

- Public spaces in the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11.7
- Public Space Basics – principles, definition, types, benefits of investing in public spaces
- Assessment of public spaces for city planning – inventory of public spaces
- Planning for public spaces – informal settlements, rapidly growing cities, etc
- Design consideration – Safety, accessibility, inclusiveness, and connectivity
- Tools for community engagement – minecraft, placemaking, etc.
- Community participation in public space management – people-centered public space, frameworks to manage – public private, community, local government
- Role of city wide public space strategy for sustainable urban development
- National / local policy for public space planning and management

Event Information

- Venue: Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre (KLRTC).
- Location: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Date: August 2-4, 2016
- Duration: 3 days
- Participants: approx. 30 (International and Malaysian participants)

Participants

- Local and national government officials connected to housing issues and related topics
- Representatives from the private sector and NGOs working to promote urban sustainability

Participants must be able to confidently engage in the workshop using both spoken and written English.

Selection Criteria

Participants will be selected according to:

- Their CityNet membership status
- The relevance of the applicant's position and qualifications to the workshop content
- The pertinence of the workshop topic to the applicant's city/organization
- The participant's ability to contribute to the workshop in English
- The completeness and timeliness of the application.

Participation fees

All participants are required to pay a mandatory registration fee of USD \$250 per person (in cash upon arrival at the workshop).

How to Apply

Register at <http://goo.gl/forms/ANivMIVGmA911vPr1>

Contact Sayel Cortes at partnerdev@citynet-ap.org for more information

Training Partners

CityNet

CityNet is the largest association of urban stakeholders committed to sustainable development in the Asia Pacific region. Established in 1987 with the support of UNESCAP, UNDP and UNHABITAT, the Network has grown to include 130 municipalities, NGOs, private companies and research centers. We connect actors, exchange knowledge and build commitment to more sustainable and resilient cities. Through capacity building, city-to-city cooperation and tangible projects, we help our members respond to Climate Change, Disasters, the Sustainable Development Goals and rising Infrastructure demands. For more information visit www.citynet-ap.org

KLRTC

Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre (KLRTC) was formed as a joint initiative between UNITAR, UNDP, CityNet, the City of Kuala Lumpur and Veolia Environment to promote the exchange of expertise in urban planning and environmental management. KLRTC provides training to city mayors, senior city managers, and urban practitioners in the tools and best practices of sustainable development.

UN-Habitat

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is the United Nations agency for human settlements and for sustainable urban development. UN-Habitat is working towards a better urban future. Its mission is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements and the achievement of adequate shelter for all. For more than forty years, UN-Habitat has been leading urban and human settlements programmes throughout the world. For more information visit www.unhabitat.org.