

5th Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation

Final Assessment by the Jury

Guangzhou, 11 November 2021

We, the members of the Jury, gathered virtually in Guangzhou on 9 and 10 November 2021, are pleased to announce the award-winning cities for the fifth cycle of the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation (Guangzhou Award). We were extremely impressed by the high quality of the submissions and had great difficulty in selecting the finalists. Nonetheless, after reviewing the case materials and participating in the International Seminars on Learning from Urban Innovation in which we were able to examine each one individually, we have selected the following cities and regions. They stood out for their ability to stimulate new policies and strategies, form new partnerships engaging with multi-sector stakeholders and employ technology to their advantage. Of note, we would like to consider the remaining semi-finalists as earning “Medal of Honour” for their having been selected from a field of 273 submissions.

The awardees of the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation are (in alphabetical order of cities/regions):

CHONGQING, CHINA

Innovative Emergency Solutions to Pandemic-Related Urban Medical Waste Disposal

Chongqing is one of the four centrally-administered cities in China with a population of 32,054,200. The Chongqing Municipal Ecological Environmental Bureau used an innovative emergency solution of “3-Level Emergency Mechanism” to dispose urban medical waste in response to growing urban medical waste due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This solution combines a novel technology to deal with urban medical waste disposal with strict supervision of hospitals. It was implemented in Chongqing to ensure effective regulation of medical waste, thus preventing secondary infection and virus spread. Chongqing also helped Wuhan to construct and operate an emergency disposal centre for

COVID-related medical waste that processes medical waste from Lei-Shen-Shan and Huo-Shen-Shan's makeshift hospitals and other 16 districts.

This initiative directly benefitted citizens of Chongqing and Wuhan during the most challenging period of the COVID-19 pandemic. It provided the city of Chongqing with a medical waste disposal capacity of 90 tonnes per day. It also led to the development of an emergency medical waste disposal centre in Wuhan that serves 388 hospitals in the city. The initiative is innovative in that it provides a model of collaboration, which involves a large number of people, including government officials, experts, technicians, medical staff and volunteers, based on a clear division of responsibilities, thus enabling quick responses to an emergency, such as building an emergency disposal centre in just 14 days.

The Jury selected the Chongqing initiative for the outstanding leadership of a local authority in enabling a coordinated response by multiple public and private actors to respond to an emergency situation, overcoming traditional administrative, jurisdictional and sectorial prerogatives. In addition, the city of Chongqing applied lessons learned from a previous pandemic (SARS) to provide timely assistance to the City of Wuhan to deal with COVID-related waste disposal in a record time (14 days).

UNION OF DANNIEH MUNICIPALITIES, LEBANON

Engaging citizens to participate in the COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan

Dannieh municipalities is a union within Lebanon, a country that was facing many economic and political difficulties even before the COVID-19 pandemic. Dannieh is a region rich in resources but one that has a seasonal economy that is largely dependent on agriculture and tourism. The social and economic crises and the COVID-19 lockdown exacerbated the challenges facing the region. The budget is limited and the needs are excessive.

The union of Dannieh has established an Emergency Response Plan with 15 committees of highly educated youth volunteers. A session held with stakeholders from the community who agreed up the importance and need of establishing the crisis cell. The union has coordinated with the 17 municipalities that were under its umbrella and has cooperated with active people in civil society to provide funding and support.

This initiative had relied on the use of technology; it has collected data covering different criteria, such as age, gender, income, and disabilities, among others. This data is shared with other committees. The use of shared folders and WhatsApp groups has helped to facilitate communication between committees inside the cell and with people. Marginalised groups are a priority.

The initiative connects the municipal staff, other municipalities under its umbrella, the 15 committees, citizens and the community at large with information quickly and effectively by using multimedia and technology as well as traditional means. It encourages citizens to be more active and involved, and it has demonstrated their abilities and skills. They were attending meeting, suggesting ideas and implementing projects.

The initiative's efficiency has improved over time compared to the beginning of the crisis as new ideas came from the community. It is now more credible and includes more citizens and entities. Thus, it has proved to be sustainable and can be replicated within the country and region. It has provided assistance to citizens, linking them to a wide range of social and community resources.

The Jury selected the initiative as the Dannieh union of 17 municipalities have collaborated in a crisis situation and involved youth and citizens by giving them an opportunity to play a role in their community and to feel responsible for themselves and others.

They have used social media and other tools to engage the citizens and connect those in need to available community resources.

These citizen volunteers now have a greater sense of belonging to the union. The initiative has grown substantially since the beginning of the crisis and can be replicated within the country and the region.

QUITO, ECUADOR

Eco-Efficiency Tool for the Metropolitan District of Quito

In 2016, Ecuador's capital city, Quito (pop. 1,847,000), passed the Eco-Efficiency Ordinance for the Metropolitan District of Quito, which incentivises the construction of high density "green" buildings (energy and water efficient, and sustainably sourced construction materials) on key transport nodes and with provisions for affordable housing. It passed the Ordinance in anticipation of the inauguration of the city's 13-mile metro, running linearly from the center to the periphery. The Ordinance also provides for land value capture to ensure that the city retains a financial share of increments generated by greater density and land use allowances in designated zones.

The Ordinance not only helps create the conditions for sustained demand for its new public transit system (Metro) and curbs urban expansion, but it also bolsters community and developer support for green building construction and a more equitable distribution of the financial benefits associated with denser development.

The Ordinance has relied on partnerships with community leaders and universities to not only determine the parameters of local area plans around transit stations, but to also finds ways to calculate and recover the uplift generated by development in those areas. The city calculates that it has generated approximately \$10.7 million in revenue from the sale of development rights.

The Jury celebrates Quito's embrace of the latest approaches to promote transit-oriented development and land value capture as a form of project financing, which have been adapted

from examples in neighbouring countries like Brazil and Colombia. The Eco-Efficiency tool for the Metropolitan District of Quito is innovative in that it is a purposeful combination of environmental, transport, housing, and public financing objectives and planning innovations. The use of land value capture also signals the city's determination to ensure that the benefits and burdens of urban development (densification) are equitably shared by the public and private sectors. The initiative is a strong example of ecologically and financially sustainable urban development practices, a core objective of the New Urban Agenda. The successful implementation of the Ordinance will deliver outcomes consistent with the SDG 3, Good Health and Well-being; SDG 6, Clean Water and Sanitation; SDG 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities; SDG 12, Responsible Consumption and Production; and SDG 13, Climate Action.

DEPARTMENTAL COUNCIL OF SAINT LOUIS, SENEGAL

Inter-Municipal Approach to Safeguard Mangrove Ecosystems

The Departmental Council of Saint Louis in Senegal developed an innovative approach to environmental governance, which integrated the restoration of mangrove ecosystems across three municipalities with strategies for addressing urgent urban climate challenges and enhancing livelihoods through the promotion of resilient and structured economic activities around mangroves.

The objective of the initiative was to restore the mangroves of Saint-Louis (1,000 ha), which are threatened with extinction due to climatic and anthropogenic pressures, with a rate of loss of 9 ha/year, mostly due to deforestation resulting from the use of firewood and farming activities. Mangrove restoration activities are critically important to global climate action, as they sequester carbon at a rate of two to four times greater than mature tropical forests and store three to five times more carbon per equivalent area than tropical forests like the Amazon rainforest.

Saint Louis city a population of over 312,369 and is located in the Sahelian Region of West Africa, where poverty is most widespread and resilience is weakened by environmental, political, demographic, economic and security challenges. The mangroves segment 3 municipalities in the Department of Saint-Louis. Prior to the start of the initiative, local elected officials had not sufficiently integrated mangrove protection into their local sustainable development policies. In addition, the community-based conservation initiatives were not coordinated, and urban development strategies did not allow the mangrove ecosystem to play its role.

Over the nine years of the intervention, more than 50 ha of mangrove have been regenerated, which is equivalent to a sequestration rate of 350 tonnes of carbon annually. The mangrove growth rate has risen to 7% per year and the clearance rate is down by 25%. Nearly 80,000 people from over 50 organisations were involved in the initiative, representing local authorities, academics and environmental experts who were engaged to support the local private sector, civil society organisations and community-based organisations.

Alternative fuel sources in the form of biogas were offered to households previously dependent on mangroves for firewood and an effective community awareness programme was launched, including inter-generational dialogues in schools, inviting elders to tell historical stories about the times when mangroves were abundant in order to encourage young people to actively contribute to its regeneration.

The jury selected St. Louis initiative for several reasons. While the initiative was first conceived by a non-governmental organisation, the municipality embraced the initiative and enabled the initiative to grow beyond its environmental objectives to empower low-income groups, especially women, to improve their livelihoods and income. This further led the initiative to cross borders and to induce a coordinated response to mangrove preservation by municipalities in neighbouring countries.

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Werkstadt Junges Wien

The goal of *Werkstadt Junges Wien* is to make Vienna the most child- and youth-friendly city in the world. Over the past 50 years, Vienna has shifted from a shrinking and ageing city into a young and growing one. As such, the city decided it was crucial to create meaningful opportunities for children and young people to experience democracy in a positive, hands-on way. By showing them that their opinions and ideas matter, *Werkstadt Junges Wien* creates a feeling of self-efficacy through many small-scale participation offers. And the project goes the next step by aiming for a more structural, long-term and large-scale approach. The objective is to put social inclusion of all children and young people living and growing up in Vienna at the heart of policy-making and city administration. The innovative process is enabling children and young people of all age groups and backgrounds to connect to a process where they can freely articulate their own ideas for the city. As a result, there have been 193 specific measures and actions taken across the city. The strategy has been adopted by the Vienna City Council and thus is a binding commitment.

The jury selected the Vienna initiative for the award for the following reasons:

- It focuses on the involvement of young people in local activities as a binding commitment in order for them to develop ownership in local and overall democracy and to improve city decisions;
- It includes marginalized groups in a unique way;
- It involves many different departments of the municipality which now integrate children and youth concerns in their respective agendas and work.

Members of the Jury (in alphabetical order by last name)

1. Ms. Eugenie L. Birch, FAICP, RTPi (hon), FacSS; Nussdorf Chair for Urban Research, School of Design, Co-Director of Penn Institute for Urban Research, University of

Pennsylvania; Chair, UN-HABITAT's World Urban Campaign (2014-2016); President, General Assembly of Partners (2015 to present); Co-chair of the 5th Guangzhou Award Jury;

2. Mr. Khoo Teng Chye, Practice Professor, Faculty of Engineering and the School of Design and Environment, National University of Singapore; Executive Director for the Centre for Livable Cities, Ministry of National Development (2010-2020), Singapore; Chief Executive Officer/Chief Planner at the Urban Redevelopment Authority (1992 to 1996); Chief Executive Officer/Group President of PSA Corporation (1996 to 2002), President and Chief Executive Officer of Mapletree Investments and Managing Director (Special Projects) of Temasek Holdings (2002 to 2003) and Chief Executive of PUB, Singapore's National Water Agency (2003 to 2011);

3. Mr. Mpho Parks Tau, Member of Executive Council for Economic Development, Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development, Gauteng Provincial Government; Deputy Minister of Cooperate Governance and Traditional Affairs (2019-2020); Mayor of Johannesburg (2011-2016);

4. Ms. Beate Weber-Schuerholz, Member, European Parliament (1979-1990); Mayor, Heidelberg, Germany (1990-2006); Member, Special Task Force, "Good City Models under the Concept of Ecological Civilization" of CCICED (2014);

5. Mr. Yu Keping, Chair Professor, Director of PKU Institute of Urban Governance, Director of PKU Research Centre for Chinese Politics, Peking University; Co-Chair of the 5th Guangzhou Award Jury.