

2012 ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS CONGRESSO MUNDIAL

LOCAL ACTION, GLOBAL IMPACT



ICLEI World Congress 2012 Highlights

14-17 June 2012 • Belo Horizonte • Brazil

www.iclei.org/worldcongress2012



**PREFEITURA
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Thank You!

We want to give special thanks to all those who contributed to the ICLEI World Congress program. Our program was very dense and full of strategic discussions, fascinating city cases and expert opinions. The hard work, support and preparation of all speakers and contributors were vital towards the success of the World Congress and its achievements!

Involved in the preparations were the World Congress 2012 Team at the ICLEI World Secretariat, the ICLEI South America Secretariat and all regional offices and thematic centers of ICLEI's global work, while the report was compiled in the ICLEI Africa Secretariat.

Your core Congress team: ICLEI Capacity Center: Monika Zimmermann, Director; Joseph Wladkowski and Steven Bland, Officers. South America Secretariat: Florence Laloë; Interim Executive Secretary, Bruna Cerqueira; Membership, Communications and Events Coordinator.

The ICLEI World Congress Series

The ICLEI World Congress 2012 is part of a series of events, taking place every 3 years, in which ICLEI invites all Members and partners to join, exchange and network.

Hosting an ICLEI World Congress is a great opportunity for a Member city to raise the national and international profile of the city, create a boost and lasting legacy for sustainability programs and local people, and to gain experience of sustainable event implementation. Host cities care for local organization and fund the event.

Could your city be the host of the ICLEI World Congress 2015? Bidding for the next ICLEI World Congress in 2015 will start in late 2012. Information will be available in ICLEI communications and under www.iclei.org/worldcongress or contact capacity.center@iclei.org.

LOCAL ACTION, GLOBAL IMPACT!



Konrad Otto-Zimmermann,
ICLEI Secretary General:

“The ICLEI World Congress 2012 has demonstrated: ICLEI is the world's largest and most powerful movement of 12 mega-cities, 100 super-cities and urban regions, 450 large cities as well as 450

small and medium-sized cities and town in 80 countries. ICLEI is promoting local action for global sustainability and supporting cities to become sustainable, resilient, resource-efficient, biodiverse, low-carbon; to build smart infrastructure; to develop an inclusive, green urban economy; and to achieve healthy and happy communities. The Congress presented a networking platform for local governments like no other, and from it took forward achievements, tools, new networks and partnerships that will solidify, strengthen and catalyze further rapid up-scaling of sustainability in cities and local governments globally.”



David Cadman,
ICLEI President:

“It was very strategic that we held the ICLEI World Congress 2012 immediately prior to the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. As the leading global network of cities

and local governments for sustainability we held strategic debates, launched future-oriented initiatives, and sent a message to the UN Summit. We did this not only for the sake of advocacy, but in order to demonstrate to the international community the commitment of local leaders and the strength and effectiveness of local action.



Marcio Araujo de Lacerda,
Mayor of host city Belo Horizonte,
Brazil:

“The City of Belo Horizonte hosted the ICLEI World Congress 2012 with great pride, showcasing its leadership and growing innovation on sustainability. This was done in

a unique setting, one of a first for an ICLEI World Congress, cradled within and around a unique green urban space – a metaphor for the underpinning of green infrastructure within any sustainable city. The ICLEI World Congress has left a lasting legacy: embracing social inclusion of its citizens; providing the city managers and decision-makers a world-class platform for learning and sharing; and contributing towards the greater national efforts towards the sustainability agenda of Brazil as a country”.



Florence Laloë,
Interim Executive Secretary,
ICLEI South America Secretariat:

“The timing of this ICLEI World Congress being held in Latin America speaks not only to the importance of the region in the global economy and in the Rio+20 debate, but also to its

leading and pioneering role in the development and creation of sustainable city's within one of the most rapidly urbanizing regions. The magnitude of citizens from the host city, representatives, managers and mayors attending from Latin America shines a light on the ground-swell in sharing the regions expertise and enabled to achieve the largest World Congress in ICLEI's history.

INTRODUCING THE ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS 2012

Every three years, ICLEI members and partners gather at an **ICLEI World Congress** to showcase their actions over the period and discuss strategies for the following years. The ICLEI World Congress is the main event of our Association of Local Governments for Sustainability and has been hosted previously by dynamic Members such as Dessau, Germany (2000), the Coalition of Municipalities in Athens, Greece (2003); Cape Town, South Africa (2006); and Edmonton, Canada (2009).

In 2012 the ICLEI World Congress was held in the **City of Belo Horizonte, Brazil**, a long term Member of ICLEI. It aimed to address the pressing challenges facing local governments and urban areas in this unpredictable era of change. The Congress brought together our Members, partners, global strategists and experts, academics and NGOs to learn from inspirational speakers and real-life city cases about cutting-edge integrated solutions to the challenges we face.



The event brought together over 1600 participants from more than 70 countries.

“This World Congress 2012 was the largest ever. Testimony to the critical and growing importance of local governments on the road to sustainability and also testimony to the dedication, leadership and innovation shown by each and every participant that attended! This year we welcomed **1664 participants** from over **70 countries**. There were **259 speakers and facilitators**, in **37 parallel sessions and special meetings**, and **8 plenaries**. The 2012 World Congress marks another milestone in the development of ICLEI as a global association and movement, and of its strategies, programs and performance.” **Monika Zimmermann, Director, Capacity Center, ICLEI World Secretariat.**



The event saw a variety of ICLEI Members, partners, global strategists, experts and academics showcasing cutting-edge integrated solutions to the challenges we face towards achieving a sustainable urban future.



The ICLEI World Congress 2012 took place in ICLEI Member city Belo Horizonte and was strategically linked to the Rio+20 conference.

Closely linked to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the ICLEI World Congress demonstrated collective achievements on the road towards urban sustainability, also showcasing the many long-term actions and results triggered over the past 20 years by Local Agenda 21:

- Local consciousness is greater than ever before.
- Local action is not happening in isolation.
- Many forms of local sustainability processes have been established, driven by: local government, civil society, national, international cooperation, and concerted action.
- There is a greater recognition of local actors at national and international level.
- There is a significant increase in awareness of sustainability at a local level.

CONGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

LOCAL ACTION PAVING THE PATH FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE URBAN FUTURE

The ICLEI World Congress 2012 programme was shaped by and reflected the activities of our Members and partners around the world, guided by the **eight ICLEI Agendas** (see page 7 for more). It highlighted the many challenges our humanity faces in the coming century and the pivotal role that local governments have to play in solving these challenges. A variety of speakers – ranging from mayors, technical officials, researchers, to global urban sustainability experts and many more highlighted this throughout the event.

In his keynote address **Martin Lees** provided a reality check on the state of our planet. He imparted a message of humbling responsibility that is bestowed upon today's leaders and decision-makers to ensure a just, safe and sustainable future for the next generation. He argued that Rio+20 must launch us onto a new trajectory, one that implements a genuinely sustainable strategy to meet the challenges of the twenty first century. Most importantly he emphasized that strong leadership from local governments and cities is especially required for radical action.

“Cities are on the frontline of the issues that threaten humanity and they will be key to the future. You are directly in contact with the aspirations and challenges of citizens – use this to press for the radical action we need.” **Martin Lees, Former Secretary General of the Club of Rome**



The eight ICLEI Agendas guided the thematic sessions and discussions of the Congress.



Connecting Leaders: Mayors from Mexico, South Africa and Senegal in discussion at the congress.

Congress Highlights at a Glance:

- Strong message from the World Congress delivered to the Rio+20 Conference
- First meeting of the new ICLEI Council
- New ICLEI Global Executive Committee announced
- Election of the new chair of the World Mayors Council on Climate Change
- Variety of Launches, among these:
 - ICLEI's Happy and Healthy Communities Program
 - Sustainable Events Guide
 - Global Environmental Outlook 5
- Emerging networks including Eco-Cities and URBIS
- Exciting new partnerships established, including ICLEI and WWF, and the private sector including the World Business Council on Sustainable Development
- Increased political commitment via additional signatories to the Mexico City Pact and Durban Adaptation Charter

CONNECTING LEADERS, ACTING AS A GATEWAY TO SOLUTIONS AND ACCELERATING ACTION

Despite the many challenges we face, local governments are leading the way, and the World Congress showcased this. In particular the World Congress was successful in **Connecting Leaders, acting as a Gateway to Solutions and Accelerating Action**:

Connecting Leaders

- A large delegation of over 90 senior elected representatives, including mayors, commissioners, governors and councilors, attended the Congress to **connect** formally and informally.
- The World Mayors Council on Climate Change elected the Mayor of Seoul as its new Chair; the mayor of Belo Horizonte hosted a special mayoral lunch; and many new signatories to the Mexico City Pact and Durban Adaptation Charter were collected during the mayors' strategy session on local governance for sustainable development.
- New friendships, new understandings and new alliances were forged - **growing our learning, doing and pioneering network** of Members committed to sustainable development. Linkages were made between the private and public sector, researchers and practitioners, youth and seasoned professionals. New networks include PANDO, FutureCityLeaders, and the Urban Biosphere (URBIS) Initiative Partnership.

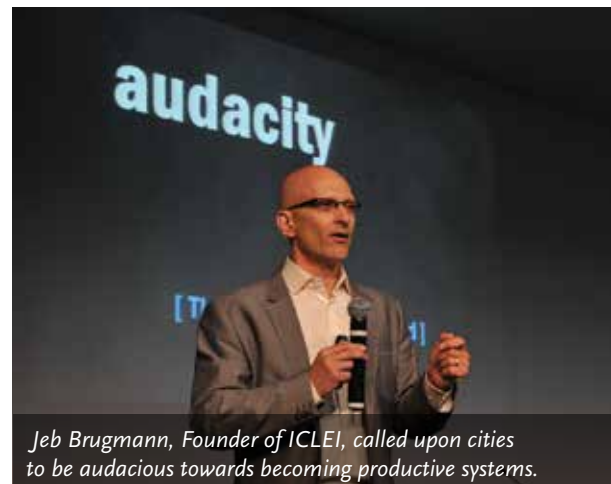
Gateway to Solutions

- **Integrated Solutions:** How do we create smart, innovative and inclusive cities using the latest thinking and technologies? Advanced cities, such as Stockholm, Curitiba, Copenhagen and service providers such as McKinsey demonstrated that it is possible to successfully tackle complex challenges in a holistic way. Innovative solutions were presented throughout the Congress and reviewed by panels of experts.
- **Achieving our Visions:** From cities with integrated climate resilience strategies, to those leading the way in developing strategies for ensuring resource security, to debates over the 'Green Urban Economy' - parallel sessions informed, inspired and provided an opportunity for our members and partners to showcase their work. See the website for many interesting presentations!
- **New challenges:** Such as urban food security and urban agriculture were highlighted and raised for discussion.
- **New solutions!** Pioneering solutions were proposed particularly through inspiring addresses by globally renowned experts such as Gil Peñalosa and Jeb Brugmann:

Gil Peñalosa from the '8-80 Cities' initiative gave a riveting keynote presentation on **'cities for people'** to an overflowing pavilion in the Belo Horizonte Park. There he passionately led the audience on a journey around the world showcasing how cities can develop around people and not around cars. Thus, cities can be safe, nurturing and fulfilling places to live, enabling healthy, happy communities to flourish. He focused particularly on EcoMobility, and shared social, economic and ecological solutions already achieved by local governments.



Jeb Brugmann from 'The Next Practice' introduced **'the productive city'** concept, calling on participants to come up with "weird", forward thinking ideas during his keynote presentation on the final day of the World Congress. He proposed that nine billion people can thrive on earth, but that cities have to be transformed into productive cities, which produce their own energy, water and food.



Jeb Brugmann, Founder of ICLEI, called upon cities to be audacious towards becoming productive systems.

"The time has come to be radical. We need to be audacious."
Jeb Brugmann, Founding Partner, the Next Practice and Founder of ICLEI

Accelerating Action

By bringing together local governments with researchers, experts and international organizations, the ICLEI World Congress created spaces for new agendas of action to be developed:

- **New ICLEI communities of practice for common action** were formed. Groups included eco-cities, city food systems and knowledge cities.
- Initiatives helping to **accelerate action** were showcased, including campaigns (UNISDR - Making my City Resilient), events (ICLEI Resilient Cities Congresses), practical demonstrations (Suwon EcoMobility Festival 2013), to projects, policies and programs (Local Action for Biodiversity, Procura+ and more).
- **Enabling mechanisms for action** were offered, including tools (climate reporting tools like the Cities Climate Registry and HEAT+), workshops (e.g. Urban Nature) and political commitments (Mexico City Pact, Durban Adaptation Charter, URBIS).
- **ICLEI's presence in South America** was strengthened and Lusophone networks promoted.
- **Message to Rio:** Local governments and their partners in youth and business delivered a strong message from the World Congress to Rio+20: demonstrating the action being taken and demanding more than words from national leaders.

The ICLEI World Congress opened with an impressive high level panel on the evening of 14 June, including the Minister of Environment for Brazil, Governor of the State of Minas Gerais, Mayor of Belo Horizonte, the Executive Secretary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, ICLEI President and many more.

CONGRESS THEMES AT A GLANCE

Eight ICLEI Agendas: Key Themes at the Congress

ICLEI's work pursues eight agendas, designed to support Member cities and local governments in their efforts toward sustainability. These agendas also contribute towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals and the emerging Sustainable Development Goals. The ICLEI World Congress 2012 program was shaped by these eight agendas of action:

1. Sustainable City
2. Resource-efficient City
3. Biodiverse City
4. Low-carbon City
5. Resilient City
6. Smart Urban Infrastructure
7. Green Urban Economy
8. Happy and Healthy Community

Additional Congress themes featured in the programme included **'Changing Citizens, Changing Cities'** on the importance of engaging citizens in sustainable strategies, and **'Greening Events'** addressing the legacy and sustainability of large events, in the light of Brazil hosting the upcoming World Cup and Olympics.

The voice of the next generation of policymakers was also an important thread throughout various Congress themes, under the banner of **ICLEI's FutureCityLeaders Initiative**.



The Congress programme was full of strategic discussions, fascinating city cases and expert opinions, guided by the eight ICLEI Agendas.

"I acknowledge the leadership of ICLEI and its Member cities present here - all sectors must work together to have impact and to create network to serve to the core of our cities and municipal. Cities of the world need to join hands to work together on more sustainable future for all." **Xinsheng Zhang, Executive Chairman, Eco-Forum Global, Beijing, China**

FutureCityLeaders Initiative - Empowering committed young municipal leaders to become champions for sustainability within their cities, towns and the global community.

The FutureCityLeaders Initiative is an international network and capacity building program for young municipal officials committed to realize tangible local action for global sustainability. Created at the ICLEI World Congress 2009 through an ICLEI Council decision, the World Congress 2012 was the first opportunity for the participants to meet in person since the main interaction takes place virtually on the FutureCityLeaders online collaboration platform. The World Congress highlighted the importance of young leaders, as said by Konrad Otto-Zimmerman *"we need to capacitate and empower young leaders sooner so that they have the capacity to realize future action for global sustainability"*. As FutureCityLeader Simone Ariane Pflaum emphasized in her keynote speech: *"Right now we are here not only to propose solutions, but also to share our dreams, on which world we want to live in and how we can make it real"*. For more see www.iclei.org/futurecityleaders



The committed young leaders at the World Congress. From left: Mona Ludwigkeit, ICLEI World Secretariat, with young council members Eero Vainio (City of Lahti, Finland), Simone Ariane Pflaum (City of Freiburg, Germany); Dominic Frongillo (Town of Caroline, New York, USA); Jinty MacTavish (Dunedin City, New Zealand).

ICLEI GOVERNANCE REFORM ADVANCES FORWARD AT THE WORLD CONGRESS

THE JOURNEY TOWARDS ICLEI'S NEW GOVERNANCE

ICLEI has undergone key changes in its governance model as it adapts to its incredible growth over the last decade. Following the approval of the 2009-2012 Executive Committee, the ICLEI Council adopted a new Charter and By-Laws in late 2011 built on principles of representative democracy which allows for targeted and timely decision making. The reform shall ensure that ICLEI remains a leading, resilient and effective local government membership association for the future. During the ICLEI World Congress 2012 the **2009-2012 Executive Committee Members** were acknowledged for their role in the organisation, namely:

President: David Cadman, Former Councilor, Vancouver, Canada.

Vice President: Martha Delgado-Peralta, Secretary of the Environment, Mexico City, Mexico.

Africa: Marian Julian Nieuwoudt, Councilor, City of Cape Town, South Africa.

East Asia: Kim Sang-Bum, Vice-Mayor, City of Seoul, Republic of Korea; Daisaku Kadokawa, Mayor, Kyoto City, Japan; Yeom Tae-Young, Mayor, Suwon City, Republic of Korea.

Latin America and Caribbean: Eduardo Jorge Martins Alves Sobrinho, Secretary of Green and the Environment, City of São Paulo, Brazil.

North America: Stephen Mandel, Mayor, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada; Patrick Hays, Mayor, North Little Rock, Arkansas, USA; Margaret Pageler, Urban Sustainability Advisor, Seattle, Washington, USA; Pam O'Connor, Mayor Pro Tempore, Santa Monica, California, USA; Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of the Courts, Miami-Dade County, Florida, USA.

Oceania: Peter Matic, Councilor, City of Brisbane, Australia; Cathy Oke, Councilor, City of Melbourne, Australia.

Southern Asia: Aniruddhe Mukerjee, Secretary of Transport and Managing Director, Madhya Pradesh, India; Hansa Patel, Executive Director, All India Institute of Self Government, India.

Western and Central Europe: Per Bødker Andersen, Deputy Mayor, Kolding, Denmark; Jurgent Nimptsch, Lord Mayor, Bonn, Germany; Jyrki Myllyvirta, Mayor, Lahti, Finland; Dieter Salomon, Lord Mayor, City of Freiburg, Germany.

Brief Overview of the New ICLEI Governance

ICLEI's governance is based on nine defined world regions and a three-year term of office for all bodies. Portfolios for members of the governing bodies have been introduced to ensure strategic movement in defined areas of action. The association is democratically governed by its Members through a global Council – the supreme decision making and oversight body of the global association. The new Council, which had its inaugural meeting during the ICLEI World Congress 2012, is composed of all the members of nine regional Executive Committees. The Council confirms the Global Executive Committee, adopts every three years a strategic Plan with a six-year scope, and has the right to amend the Charter.

Message of appreciation by ICLEI President: "It has been a pleasure to serve as ICLEI President during these past few years and an honor to have worked with this group of committed individuals. We are part of a small group of fortunate persons that have had the opportunity to greatly impact and help ICLEI thrive and develop through the years. It has been a privilege to be at the forefront of such an organization and to contribute in such an active way on the global scale to the improvement of our planet. Thank you for all your time and effort." **David Cadman, President, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability**



ICLEI President David Cadman thanks fellow Executive Committee Members for their commitment and support.

ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS HOSTS INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE NEW GLOBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The new **ICLEI Global Executive Committee for 2012-2015** had its inaugural meeting on 16 June 2012 in the Belo Horizonte City Hall. The Committee, chaired by the President and comprised of nine regional representatives and up to six appointed members, is the representation of the Members of ICLEI at the global level, both generally and before global and international institutions. In its new governance structure, ICLEI is represented by a President, a First Vice President, and two Vice Presidents elected by the Global Executive Committee. The Committee decided in its inaugural meeting to elect the representatives of the global association at its annual general meeting held in October 2012 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. ICLEI is proud to announce the **Global Executive Committee 2012-2015**, consisting of the following distinguished Members:

- **President:** David Cadman, Former Councilor, Vancouver, Canada
- **First Vice President:** Martha Delgado Peralta, Environmental Minister, Mexico City, Mexico
- **Vice Presidents:** Mary Jane Ortega, Secretary General, Citynet; James Nxumalo, Mayor, eThekweni Municipality, South Africa

Regional Seats:

- **Africa:** James Nxumalo
- **East Asia:** Yeom Tae-Young, Mayor, Suwon, South Korea
- **Latin America and Caribbean:** Eduardo Rivera Pérez, Mayor, Puebla, Mexico
- **North America:** Frank Cownie, Mayor, Des Moines, Iowa, USA
- **Oceania:** Cathy Oke, Councilor, Melbourne, Australia
- **South Asia:** Farhad Suri, Councilor OL, South Delhi Municipal Corporation, India
- **Southeast Asia:** Mary Jane Ortega
- **Europe:** Alexandra van Huffelen, Deputy Mayor, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Portfolio Seats:

- **WMCCC:** Park Won Soon, Mayor, Seoul, South Korea
- **Procura+ Campaign:** Pekka Sauri, Deputy Mayor, Helsinki, Finland
- **BiodiverCities Program:** Troy Pickard, Mayor, Joondalup, Australia
- **Resilient Cities:** David Cadman
- **Large, fast growing Cities:** Martha Delgado Peralta

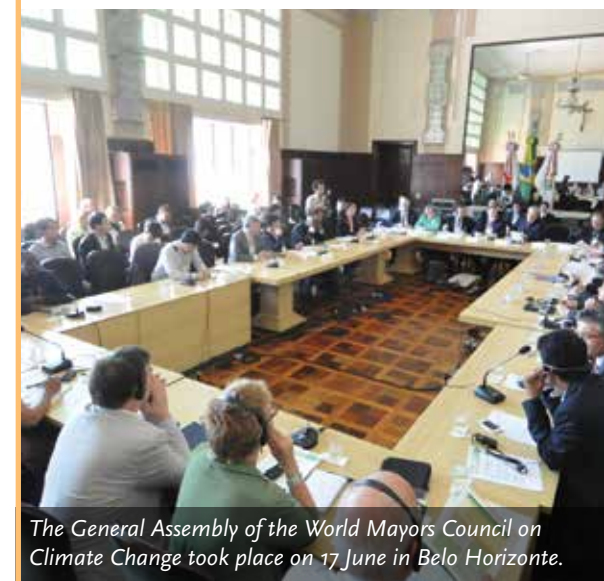


Members of the ICLEI Global Executive Committee for 2012-2015 met for the first time at the ICLEI World Congress 2012.

World Mayors Council on Climate Change elects new Chair

Mayors and other elected representatives of local governments from around the world came together on Sunday 17 June, in the Noble Hall of the Municipality of Belo Horizonte for the General Assembly of the World Mayors Council on Climate Change. In addition to approving the ICLEI World Congress message to Rio that was handed over to representatives of the UN during Rio +20, the participants dealt with other agenda items such as the election of Park Won Soon, Mayor of Seoul, South Korea, as the new chair of the Council.

For more see www.worldmayorscouncil.org/



The General Assembly of the World Mayors Council on Climate Change took place on 17 June in Belo Horizonte.



ICLEI ANNOUNCES NEW SECRETARY GENERAL

Konrad Otto-Zimmermann, who joined ICLEI as Deputy Secretary General for Europe in 1992 and led the global Association as Secretary General since 2002, announced that he will conclude the day-to-day management of ICLEI at year-end

2012 and continue supporting ICLEI's cause in another capacity in the years ahead.

Towards the future - Gino van Begin will take over the reins from January 2013 as ICLEI's new Secretary General after 12 years of serving ICLEI as European Director and 5 years as the Deputy Secretary General.



EIGHT ICLEI AGENDAS: KEY THEMES AT THE CONGRESS



Ambitious cities strive to become a true “eco-city”, “green city” or “sustainable city”. The performance of cities will impact the living conditions of over six billion city dwellers in the year 2050, the global economy and the viability of global ecosystems. Which approaches to sustainable governance, policy setting and management have proven successful? (ICLEI, 2011)

1. SUSTAINABLE CITY

World Congress keynote speakers painted a clear picture of cities being the first and primary point of impact for challenging global trends like population growth, urbanization, climate change or resource constraints. Local leaders, planners and decision-makers must therefore take a holistic, long-term perspective as they devise an integrated sustainability policy. These challenges and opportunities were highlighted through a number of sessions addressing sustainability principles and examples:

- A truly sustainable city requires an integrated approach to city planning and is marked by a healthy & happy community, a green urban economy, smart infrastructure and is resilient, biodiverse, resource-efficient and low-carbon.
- The identification of locally appropriate solutions should be integrated within all levels of the city towards sustainability - e.g. linking waste to energy extraction and transport.
- Effective governance for the sustainable city will require a participatory approach involving the local community and stakeholders as well as cooperation with higher tiers of government. Various ICLEI Members, ranging from **Suwon in Korea** to **Walvis Bay in Namibia** demonstrated key advances on this.



More than 30 thematic break away sessions allowed for in-depth and innovative discussions.

- Local governments should create a city vision which prioritizes principles that will enable implementation in reality. Sustainability visions enable and result in new skill development, job creation, and improved quality of life. A number of cities shared their visions towards becoming sustainable cities, including ICLEI Member cities **Freiburg in Germany** and **Auckland in New Zealand**.

“You must first have a vision of what the city wants to be and have an integrated urban planning approach. It’s not just building parks, stadiums or having more buses - these must all be linked to the city’s sustainability goals and policies.” **Liana Vallicelli, Architect and Foreign Affairs Advisor of the City of Curitiba, Brazil**

Highlights and Achievements emerging from the Congress:

- The **Local Sustainability 2012** report was launched in preparation for the World Congress and Rio+20, documenting a variety of local processes for sustainability that have emerged globally since the 1992 Earth Summit. The report is complemented by a second publication to showcase progress via city case studies.
- UNEP and ICLEI released the **Global Environment Outlook 5** for local government.

“Each city is unique and therefore each acts differently and undertakes a different sustainability path, however local governments must start acting local and not wait for national governments to act first.” **Dieter Salomon, Lord Mayor, City of Freiburg, Germany**



ICLEI launched a study on progress of Local Sustainability since 1992.



Low-risk cities show low vulnerability to climate change, natural and industrial disasters and economic shocks. Resilience upgrades, including climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction planning, will be key to facilitating sustainable communities. ICLEI’s Resilient Cities Initiative offers a platform for knowledge and experience sharing, planning methodology and tools. (ICLEI, 2011)

2. RESILIENT CITY

We are currently facing the perfect storm of sustainability challenges, recession and a changing climate. In order to maintain resilience in the path of such a storm, local governments have many challenges to overcome. Sessions on resilience and disaster risk reduction highlighted the following points, from a range of local government perspectives including the **City of Semarang in Indonesia**, to **eThekweni Municipality (Durban) in South Africa** and **Quito in Ecuador**:

- Resilience requires a need to focus on both slow onset events (ocean acidification, soil erosion) and extreme and sudden events.
- A focus on city-regions in its entirety is vital in order to be effectively resilient.
- Socio-ecological resilience is critical and was a theme throughout the event. Soft measures were continually highlighted as both cost-effective and implementable e.g. ecosystem-based measures.
- A strong science-policy interface can greatly contribute towards increased socio-ecological resilience.
- Complex systems thinking is required in order to properly address systemic challenges that are threatening our resilience.
- Innovation is critical!

“You need to think about the unexpected to be resilient.” **Keith Tidball, Associate Director Civic Ecology Lab, Cornell University**

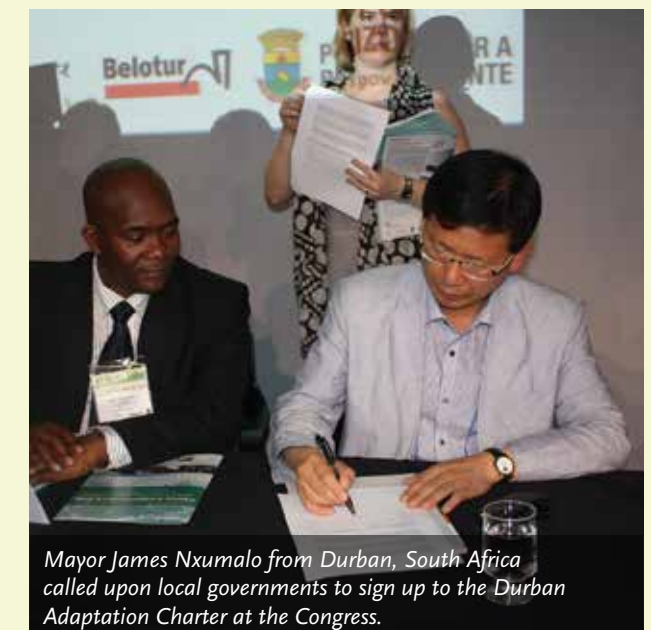
Overall, there was an acknowledgement that although there are contrasts between cities around the world, ultimately they all face the same challenges, the only differences may be in available resources to respond. It was most notable that the global south is suffering from a capacity and resource deficit to respond to disasters and plan for climate change.

“Strong political commitment and good governance is key to building resilience in cities.” **Elmo San Diego - QCRRMC Action Officer, City of Quezon, Philippines**

Highlights and Achievements emerging from the Congress:

- Mayor James Nxumalo from Durban presented on the Durban Adaptation Charter and said: “This (Durban Adaptation Charter) compliments the Mexico City Pact. The two together can transform our cities!”. He further presented that Durban has committed to three initial steps in developing a program of work for the Durban Adaptation Charter: i) developing a web-based questionnaire to provide urban adaptation snapshots; ii) bring local governments together in workshops to develop a shared understanding of climate change adaptation; iii) developing adaptation tracking systems.
- Additional cities signed up to the Durban Adaptation Charter during the Congress demonstrating commitment to climate resilience action.
- Over 1000 cities have signed up to the UNISDR Making Cities Resilient campaign which ICLEI is involved in.

“The great equalizer in all of this, is the threats that everyone has to face in all cities.” **Daniel Lewis, UN-Habitat**



Mayor James Nxumalo from Durban, South Africa called upon local governments to sign up to the Durban Adaptation Charter at the Congress.



Low-carbon cities will be the signposts to sustainability. Responsible local governments establish climate action plans and integrate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency and local renewables into their planning and investment structures. ICLEI's GreenClimateCities Program offers a comprehensive support framework. (ICLEI, 2011)

3. LOW-CARBON CITY

Over the past 20 years cities have demonstrated that they are willing and able to undertake bold actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and be pioneers in the fight against the escalating impacts of climate change. Local governments have in many cases moved on a faster and more ambitious low carbon development path than their national counterparts and effectively used tools such as regulations, procurement, education, and economic incentives. Presentations by ICLEI Member cities and partners highlighted the following points:

- A range of climate reporting tools are available to cities - the success of the tools is however dependent on government and political buy-in, stakeholder engagement, transparent reporting, training and further development of the methodology.
- Local governments and partners recognized the need for enhanced and strengthened public and private partnerships for collaboration on low carbon development and transparent financing mechanisms.
- Participants agreed low carbon commitments by cities are not adequate unless actions are transparent and elevated to national and international levels.
- Cities need to focus on smart and significant initiatives to support growth as well as environmental challenges, supported by awareness raising at both the community and political level. Many ICLEI Members reported on such initiatives, from **Buenos Aires in Argentina and San Francisco in the USA to Tokyo in Japan and Barcelona in Spain.**
- A number of city case studies, ranging from **Quezon in the Philippines to Melbourne in Australia and Copenhagen in Denmark**, highlighted the urgency to be innovative and to diversify options for financing new, comprehensive programs and projects for low carbon urban development.

Highlights and Achievements emerging from the Congress:

- Launch of ICLEI's **GreenClimateCities Program**
- ICLEI and WWF announced a new initiative entitled '**Earth Hour City Challenge**' which encourages cities to report energy reduction targets and achievements through the carbonn Cities Climate Registry.
- As of June 2012, 265 cities have signed the **Mexico City Pact**, with a further 23 local governments joining during the World Congress 2012.



The "Accounting and Reporting of Low Carbon Cities" session included an expert panel consisting of ICLEI Members, officers and partners alike.

"We need the mayors and cities of the world to get involved in the political movement to address the challenges associated with climate change. Through the Mexico City Pact we are demonstrating how mayors are taking leadership to address these challenges – from actions of emission reductions, increased energy efficiency, water management to city planning. Cities are part of the big change that we need to make in order to get more sustainable and livable cities." **Martha Delgado Peralta, Secretary for the Environment, Mexico City, Mexico and ICLEI Vice President**

Key Initiatives and Programs showcased during the Congress:

- Local Government Climate Roadmap (www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap)
- carbonn Cities Climate Registry (www.citiesclimateresistry.org)
- Harmonizing Emissions Analysis Tool Plus (HEAT+): available for 8 countries and in 7 languages (www.heat.iclei.org/)
- Global Cities Covenant on Climate (Mexico City Pact)
- GreenClimateCities Program, ICLEI's methodology and toolkit towards low carbon development
- Global Protocol for Community Scale GHG Emissions, developed by ICLEI, C4o and WRI
- Local Renewables Initiative (local-renewables.iclei.org)



Over 20 local governments joined the Mexico City Pact on the final day of the ICLEI World Congress.



Ecosystem-based local planning and management is an essential component of a sustainable city. The manifold benefits derived from ecosystem-based goods and services underpin most local economics and provide cost-effective and sustainable essential services and green jobs to municipalities and their communities. (ICLEI, 2011)

4. BIODIVERSE CITY

Following the Urban Nature Forum, which preceded the World Congress, themes of biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural and green infrastructure permeated throughout the Congress, demonstrating that local governments are acknowledging that biodiversity underpins the Green Urban Economy. Indeed, the presence of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Director General of the IUCN at the World Congress spoke to the crucial role of biodiversity at the local government level. Local governments sharing their successes ranged across the globe from the **Gold Coast in Australia**, to **Curitiba in Brazil**, to **Jerusalem in Israel** and **Brussels in Belgium**. The following themes were discussed in the Congress:

- There is still a major challenge in articulating the value of biodiversity and ecosystems to local governments. However, local governments are showing many successes: developing local biodiversity strategies and action plans (LBSAPs); implementing ambitious projects and programs; and participating in international action-orientated projects and forums like the Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Pioneer Program, the Cities in Biodiversity Hotspots Initiative, and the Urban Biosphere (URBIS) Initiative.
- The gold standard program on biodiversity, Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) was acknowledged for connecting cities and leaders, initiating local level action and promoting information sharing in an interdisciplinary manner. Indeed, many LAB cities were present and contributing fascinating case studies and innovative methodologies in biodiversity management throughout Urban Nature and the World Congress.
- City-regional planning requires attention as cities assess resource flows and footprints that impact on biodiversity.
- The value of nature needs to be integrated and appreciated both on a monetary basis (through TEEB) and for its intrinsic value as a life support system.

"Cities that invest in biodiversity reap multiple benefits – from cost-effective water services to greater tourism revenues; and from lower healthcare costs to reduced greenhouse gas emissions." **Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General, IUCN**

Highlights and Achievements emerging from the Congress:

- Launch of the **URBIS** Initiative during Urban Nature (see page 19 for more).
- Increased number of 'Local Action for Biodiversity' cities since the previous World Congress.
- Scope for the emergence of francophone and lusophone biodiversity networks.
- Much progress reported on "The Plan of Action on Sub-National Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities on Biodiversity" which will enhance work on achieving the Aichi Targets on biodiversity.
- Announcement of a City and Subnational Biodiversity Summit as part of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 11th COP in Hyderabad on 15 and 16 October.

"We need to think beyond urban nature as being about parks; it goes underground, and into the sea as well." **Toni Pujol Vidal, Urban Habitat, City of Barcelona, Spain (a LAB city)**



The participation of the Executive Secretary of the CBD (far right), together with the Director General of IUCN in various Congress sessions, spoke to the crucial role of biodiversity at the local government level.



Resource-efficient cities will gain a competitive advantage in an era of shrinking resources global resources and growing global and urban populations. Efficiency gains through urban density are thwarted by billions of people adopting resource-consumptive urban lifestyles. Cities need to go beyond minimizing the use of natural resources and become productive systems. (ICLEI, 2011)

5. RESOURCE-EFFICIENT CITY

The need to see cities as able to produce their own resources from within their own boundaries is increasingly becoming imperative for global sustainability. Cities are growing rapidly as the global population increases and resources diminish. As a result there needs to be a shift from cities that consume to those that move even beyond resource efficiency to productive urban systems. The ICLEI World Congress highlighted this theme and showcased examples from cities that are trying to move in this much needed direction such as the **City of Baguio in the Philippines** and the **City of Belo Horizonte in Brazil**.

- The city of the future can deal with the food, water, energy nexus – this is done by drawing production of all three closer to the city and ensuring that the ecosystem services that provide these resources are maintained.
- The old mantra of ‘reduce, re-use, recycle’ is no longer sufficient and needs to now include first ‘produce’ – produce what you need close to home; then ‘avoid’ – avoid what you don’t need, close the loops and be more efficient. Produce - avoid - reduce - re-use - recycle.
- Food security and urban agriculture was a constant theme in both Urban Nature and the World Congress, especially as a critical theme for the global south. The poorest communities spend half of their income on food. As the ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center pointed out “urban agriculture can provide many benefits for cities, mitigate heat island effects, maintain permeable areas and also promote education”.



The Congress saw a range of sessions calling on cities to move even beyond resource efficiency to productive urban systems and eco-efficiency.

- Integrated urban water management was discussed as critical for improving efficiency and even in increasing resilience to flooding in urban areas.
- ICLEI offers numerous tools and guidelines (e.g. EcoBudget; SustainableNow; TEEB); platform exchanges (URBIS) and capacity building opportunities towards promoting resource efficient cities.
- There should be a special focus on emerging towns and cities in developing countries in order to capitalize on the potential for leapfrogging.



Mayor Parks Tau from Johannesburg, South Africa complimented the ‘Productive City’ keynote presentation by providing insights on his city’s vision towards becoming a productive city.

Highlights and achievements emerging from the Congress:

- A new network on Food Smart Cities is being promoted by ICLEI, the Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security (RUAF) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).
- A dedicated plenary session on the Productive City, including key insights by internationally renowned urban expert Jeb Brugmann, and responding ‘on-the ground’ views by the Mayor of the **City of Johannesburg, South Africa**.

“Regular provisions of whole nutritious food are needed for school children and the urban poor to improve the life of all inhabitants. There can be no cities without farms.” **Flavio Duffles, Sub-Secretary of Nutrition and Food Security, City of Belo Horizonte, Brazil**



6. SMART URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE

Devising new and smart ways of using and conserving energy, designing our buildings, and facilitating the journeys of citizens are crucial challenges in our quest for sustainable development. The ICLEI World Congress addressed this theme throughout a range of sessions and showcased examples from cities paving the way towards integrated solutions for smart urban infrastructure planning and implementation.

- The Congress saw a strong call by experts and cities alike for a new paradigm for urban transport, driving improvements in citizens quality of life. The importance of the replication of such successes to other fast growing cities was highlighted.
- A city’s vision for green mobility requires prioritization and innovation related to quality of life, green growth and efficient mobility. A variety of cities from developed and developing countries shared their successes and challenges in achieving this vision, including **Copenhagen in Denmark, Bogota in Colombia** and **São Paulo in Brazil**.
- Major challenges identified by participants included the lack of financial programs and investments for green buildings. Developing countries face varying levels of insufficient infrastructure, increasing numbers of users and limited transport demand management.
- Smart solutions to these complex and inter-connected urban infrastructure challenges need to be addressed in an integrated approach – convening various levels of government, entrepreneurs, business, research institutions and most importantly communities.
- ICLEI, as illustrated in a session with a presentation from the **City of Thane from India**, offers a Local Renewables Program, coordinates an EcoMobility Program and works



Mayor Tae Young Yeom from Suwon, Korea announces the 2013 EcoMobility Festival.

Eco-efficient, resilient and low-carbon city development requires smart urban infrastructure, which in turn depends on smart systems design. Cities increasingly look beyond single technologies and rather at integrated infrastructure solutions, identifying possible efficiency gains through linkages, new operational and business models, as well as financing models. (ICLEI, 2011)

closely with the Green Building Councils and UNEP on offering cities technical advice on green building and sustainable construction.

“We can’t afford expensive solutions, but we CAN afford solutions. Soft investment matters.” **Simon Upton, Director for Environment, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**



Simon Upton from the OECD emphasised the importance of soft investments during a presentation on the role of cities in the green urban economy.

Highlights and Achievements emerging from the Congress:

- The **City of Itu in Brazil** has inaugurated a green City Hall which is the first LEED certified public building in South America.
- ICLEI Member cities ranging from **Oslo in Norway** to **Curitiba and Sorocaba in Brazil** reported about their exemplary work in transforming their cities transport and city spaces through smart and integrated planning initiatives.
- The **Ecomobility Festival 2013**, a partnership between ICLEI and Suwon City was announced to take place in September 2013 in Suwon, South Korea (www.ecomobility.org/festival/).
- ICLEI and UNEP launched the **Sustainable Large Events Guide** that brings together a professional and extended approach guideline with principles and checklists.

“The community connects the city at the local level - the citizen is the key and center to all transport policy.” **Ana Luisa Flechas Camacho, Secretary for Mobility, City of Bogota, Columbia**



The way we produce, distribute and consume determines the sustainability of human civilization. Green, inclusive urban economies will be based on cradle-to-cradle material cycles and an appreciation of human labor over energy- and material-intensive products and services. Sustainable procurement will drive the market green, create green jobs, and support future-oriented industries. (ICLEI, 2011)

7. GREEN URBAN ECONOMY

“The time for a Green Urban Economy has come.” **Evelyn Huytebroeck, Minister for Environment, Energy and Urban Renewal, Region of Brussels, Belgium**

In the lead up to Rio+20 the topic of the Green Urban Economy was gaining attention and traction in the international community. During a dedicated high-level plenary on this theme, panelists debated how cities could assume leadership in turning their urban economy green. ICLEI Secretary General Konrad Otto-Zimmerman stated: “If the Green Economy is what we are aiming for globally then we need Green Urban Economies”. Some key aspects discussed during the World Congress included:

- New models for ‘going beyond GDP’ are required in order to take into account human capital and natural capital costs and benefits. Simon Upton (OECD), reflecting on the current models that allow for wasteful practices: “you have to make pollution more costly, value and price the natural assets and ecosystem services, remove environmental harmful subsidies.”
- Green, inclusive urban economies based on cradle-to-cradle material cycles will have positive impacts on cities. Sustainable procurement can send market signals, create green jobs, and support innovative industries.
- Numerous aspects make up a Green Urban Economy: green procurement, green buildings, green jobs especially for youth, green business, green events, more efficient production, monitoring of resource flows, maintenance of ecosystem goods and services.
- A dedicated session was held on large events, showcasing how greening of such events can create awareness, shift mindsets and promote green procurement, carbon offsetting and job creation.
- Partnerships will be critical for successful Green Urban Economies, especially public-private partnerships.

“It is the local governments who are acting now for more green economy initiatives.” **Didas Massaburi, Mayor of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

Highlights and Achievements emerging from the Congress:

- Ten key items on greening the urban economy as identified during an expert meeting organized by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ), the City of Bonn and ICLEI were presented and help to shape the debate (see <http://local2012.iclei.org/publications/>).
- ICLEI is working on a framework on Green Urban Economy which can help Members to identify relevant actions as cities and local governments expect ICLEI to lead the global debate on greening the urban economy.
- A range of cities reported on innovative efforts to mobilize sustainable procurement practices within their jurisdictions – ICLEI offers a global **Procura+ Campaign** to support cities in accelerating sustainable procurement (www.procuraplus.org/).

High level city representatives shared their experience on the green and inclusive urban economy: **Marcelo Faulhaber, Secretary of Economic Development, City of Belo Horizonte, Brazil**; **Hans Mönninghoff, Deputy Chief Executive, City of Hannover, Germany**; **Didas Massaburi, Mayor, City of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**; **Liu Lisha, Director of Foreign Affairs Office, City of Guiyang, China** and **Farhad Suri, Council Member, Municipality of South Delhi, India**.



Local communities should enjoy health, happiness and a good quality of life. Whether on a modest or affluent economic footing, local governments must promote community health, education, social inclusion, culture and good governance. (ICLEI, 2011)

8. HEALTHY AND HAPPY COMMUNITY

A growing happiness movement is taking shape in both the developed and developing world, focusing on alternative metrics to human progress. For example, the discarding of Gross Domestic Product for Gross National Happiness in Bhutan, or the commissioning by the French government of a high-level study into alternative metrics to GDP. In other areas of the world, the route to creating healthy and happy communities comes in the form of health programs, and creating vibrant, inclusive and accessible public spaces, free from crime, disorder and pollution.

Against this background, ICLEI is developing a new global program to enable city governments to initiate, implement and monitor initiatives to promote the health, well-being and happiness of their citizens. Some key aspects related to this movement discussed during the World Congress included:

- The quest towards ‘Healthy and Happy Communities’ requires the combination of diverse local variables, including environmental, economic and social – all significantly reliant on the important presence of strong political goodwill within a city.
- Gross National Happiness (GNH) is based on the belief that since happiness is the ultimate desire of every citizen, it must be the purpose of development to create the enabling conditions for happiness.
- Cities that are serious about boosting community well-being should prioritize investments for accessible, safe, inclusive, and clean communities, since this is conducive to a healthy and happy population.
- A number of success stories were shared at the Congress, ranging from policy action through the cleaning of polluted lakes in **Växjö in Sweden**; the construction of “linear parks” in **Aguascalientes in Mexico** as part of a “Happy Convivance Program” and improvements in the living conditions of a poor and vulnerable community in **Porto Alegre in Brazil** as part of social inclusion urban regeneration initiative.

“Gross National Happiness (GNH) is a development approach that seeks to achieve a harmonious balance between material well-being and the spiritual, emotional and cultural needs of our society.” **Kinlay Dorjee, Mayor of Thimphu, Bhutan**

Highlights and Achievements emerging from the Congress:

- **Thimphu City from Bhutan** highlighted key achievements reached in their “Gross National Happiness” Index Program which analyses economic and social development; culture preservation and promotion; environment conservation and good governance.
- **Looking ahead:** The establishment and announcement of ICLEI’s new program on Healthy and Happy cities which aims to develop the substantial efforts of the GNH approach to adapt it to cities across the world - with **Växjö in Sweden, Thimphu in Bhutan, and Belo Horizonte in Brazil** expressing interest to participate as pilot project cities.

Mayor Kinlay Dorjee from Thimphu City in Bhutan highlighted key achievements reached in their “Gross National Happiness” Index programme.



Mayor Marcio Araujo de Lacerda from Belo Horizonte in Brazil supported the city in joining ICLEI’s new Healthy and Happy Cities Programme, together with Växjö in Sweden and Thimphu in Bhutan.

CONGRESS PARTICIPANTS OUT AND ABOUT

THE ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS OFFERED PARTICIPANTS A VARIETY OF TECHNICAL VISITS AND NETWORKING EVENTS

Technical Site Visits

On the final day of the World Congress, delegates had the opportunity to participate in technical site visits which showcased and shared lessons on two innovative sustainability projects by the City of Belo Horizonte.



Congress participants visited a subsidised popular restaurant in Belo Horizonte which forms part of a city-wide urban food security programme.

1. Vila Viva Aglomerado Serra and Popular Restaurant Barreiro

The Vila Viva Aglomerado Serra and Popular Restaurant Barreiro technical visit addressed the themes of urban environmental restructuring, social integration and food safety. The visit constituted a trip to one of the municipality's Social Interest Areas, Aglomerado da Serra - the biggest conglomerate of slums in Belo Horizonte. The Vila Viva program is a first of its kind multi partnership initiative led by the City Hall of Belo Horizonte. It involves an intensive series of integrated interventions structured to promote urban reorganization, environmental requalification, sanitation system deployment, the eradication of risk areas, and restructuring of the housing system.

The technical visit concluded with lunch at the Communities Popular Restaurant in Barreiro, one of four subsidised Popular restaurants in Belo Horizonte which provide healthy affordable meals to ~8000 people daily and forms part of a city-wide urban food security program.



The technical site visits included a tour of the Thermolectric Station at the Sewage Treatment Plant Arrudas.

2. Thermolectric Station at the Sewage Treatment Plant Arrudas

This technical visit highlighted the utilization of sewage treatment plants for biogas energy. The participants were guided through a series of technical explanations and a tour through the plant. Currently the biogas plant provides electricity to the plant and the sewage treatment facility. The City of Belo Horizonte also hopes to extend such an approach to the second sewage treatment facility that services the city. The participants were impressed to find out that the City of Belo Horizonte is leading the way in the conversion of waste to energy in Brazil!

Social Networking Events



Engaging discussions resulting from the various thought-provoking presentations and city case studies continued into the evening social events which showcased the best of what Belo Horizonte had to offer. From performances and vibrant entertainment to sustainability fashion flair – delegates were treated to experiences of the dynamic culture of the city whilst having the opportunity to interact and network towards building strategic relations for our sustainable urban future.



Above: The event offered a number of opportunities for participants to interact and network whilst experiencing the dynamic culture of Brazil.

ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS SIDE EVENTS

URBAN NATURE: 13-14 JUNE 2012

Ecosystem Services, food security, urban nature and biodiversity – how do we make it happen?

The 3rd Urban Nature Forum, held immediately prior to the ICLEI World Congress, provided an innovative science-policy implementation interface on urban biodiversity and ecosystem management. The event brought together a unique mixture of mayors, local level councilors, FutureCityLeaders, policy-makers, scientists, town planners, conservationists and other stakeholders from 22 countries and 39 cities around the world! Its importance was demonstrated by the high caliber of speakers, including inter alia: Marcio Araujo Lacerda - Mayor of City of Belo Horizonte; Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias - Executive Secretary, Secretariat of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); Babu M.T. Krishna, Commissioner of Hyderabad; and Thomas Elmqvist - Stockholm Resilience Center. Of the representatives from cities present, a number are members of the Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) program, which Oliver Hillel from the CBD Secretariat referred to as the 'gold standard for cities on biodiversity management' – these were Curitiba and São Paulo in Brazil, Walvis Bay in Namibia and City of Cape Town in South Africa.



The URBIS signing ceremony was overseen by a range of high level dignitaries from ICLEI, the CBD, Stockholm Resilience Centre and Hyderabad.



“When we come together we have the potential to find solutions. This will be a fantastic journey we have started.” **Thomas Elmqvist, Professor, Stockholm Resilience Center, following the URBIS signing ceremony**

The Urban Nature Forum 2012 lived up to its reputation, giving rise to fruitful discussion, interaction and the launching of exciting tools and initiatives. Topics included: ecological economics, policy, research advances, LBSAPs, the Singapore Index, food security, city case studies and more!

Highlights:

- Over 30 organizations and local governments joined the newly launched **Urban Biosphere (URBIS) Initiative** - an open network fostering knowledge exchange through URBIS Dialogues to transcend the science-policy interface and to contribute to the achievement of the CBD Aichi Targets.
- Announcement by the Commissioner of Hyderabad in India, Babu M.T. Krishna, whose city will play host to the next CBD Conference of the Parties, that a **City and Subnational Biodiversity Summit** will also take place in parallel to the COP from 15-16 October 2012.

The Overarching Message from the Urban Nature Forum

Biodiversity underpins our wellbeing, security, and resilience. Cities offer enormous hope: through social organization, resource mobilization, communication, education, efficiency gains, innovation and leadership. Many cities are taking action, but we need more, we need to upscale, to implement, to promote learning exchanges, to foster partnerships, to think out of the box and ultimately rise to the challenge by taking responsibility.

See www.iclei.org/lab for more on the Urban Nature initiative and LAB program.



Urban Nature participants had the opportunity for in-depth discussions in a number of sessions.

“Most decisions that impact biodiversity happen in cities, most of the consumption that impacts on biodiversity happens in cities.” **Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary, CBD**

THE 3RD INTERNATIONAL URBAN RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM: 15-17 JUNE 2012

The 3rd International Urban Research Symposium brought together the largest number of researchers out of any previous ICLEI World Congress with a total of 12 sessions and near to 40 speakers. The Research Symposium was convened by the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG) in Belo Horizonte, Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts and ICLEI, with the 'Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability' as partner.

The symposium allowed researchers to exchange information and ideas in a dedicated 'Researchers Own' program. In addition, researchers and local government policy-makers discussed the bridge between research and policy-making in

sessions integrated within the main World Congress. The sessions asserted that knowledge underpins the ability to create sustainability in cities. As a result, it is important to promote and enhance joint knowledge production by creating linkages between cities, businesses and researchers. Furthermore, it was acknowledged that a knowledge brokerage process needs to be put in place and results communicated to citizens. One such brokerage platform, www.pando.sc, was launched at the World Congress.

Looking into the future, it was acknowledged that profiled initiatives, exchanges and joint knowledge production schemes need to be further strengthened and where not yet in existence need to be built between cities and researchers.

“Sustainable development is about using our unlimited mental resources not our limited natural resources.” **Anonymous**



The ICLEI World Congress aimed to connect leaders, accelerate action and act as a gateway to solutions on the path to sustainable cities and a sustainable future.

MOVING FORWARD:

Emerging messages from the World Congress included:

- Local governments need to be even more ambitious and visionary.
- Measurement and reporting frameworks are critical for success: “What gets measured gets managed”.
- Integration across all aspects of sustainability is critical in delivering systemic change.
- There is a need for more! More innovation, ideas, and action. New alliances between business, youth and local governments can pave the way. Better enabling and financing frameworks from national and international governments can assist.

LEGACY OF THE EVENT

GREENING THE ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS 2012

The City of Belo Horizonte has worked with ICLEI in aiming to integrate sustainability into all phases of preparation of the World Congress. The exercise was proven very successful in introducing these integrated concerns to the organizing working group in the Host City as well as to some of the main service providers for medium/large events in Belo Horizonte. Some highlights include:

- On the path to a greener World Cup 2014, the Municipality created a program for **Certification of Environmental Sustainability** of local enterprises. In selecting **hotels** for staff and speakers, their participation in the program was considered and incentivized.
- The central location of Venues and Hotels was chosen to encourage **walking**.
- **Congress Materials** were carefully chosen. The participant's bag was designed and produced by a local community from reused seat belt and canvas from trucks. The sustainable printer chosen for the event, Eko Footprint, uses Solid Ink technology, which generates 80% less waste and facilitates paper recycling.
- The host partnered with SESC and local NGO Mundo de Ideias for **Waste Management** in the main venues. 13 pickers from Cooperative ASMARE were involved in the work and gathered 2.260 Kg of recyclable material, earning 598,40 reais from the sell.
- Beyond the team and service providers, the local population was also included and involved for **Awareness Raising and Education**. The Plenaries were shown online for greater access to the contents, University Students were given a learning opportunity as volunteers in their areas, and two major parallel events were held: Limpa Brasil, in which citizens cleaned the city center as a symbolic gesture to promote changes in consumption habits and the XVII Exhibition Horizons of Citizenship.
- **GHG emissions were measured** for transportation and came to a total of 3.034,59 TCO_{2e}. A local NGO, Instituto Oksigeno, was responsible for accounting and auditing the sustainable actions of the event, aimed at reducing GHG emissions and impacts in areas not measured. Belo Horizonte now plans to compensate these emissions through a project to plant 21.242 trees, to be audited by the Institute.



LEGACY OF THE EVENT TO THE CITY OF BELO HORIZONTE

As plans were shared within an interdepartmental working group to create a legacy, the City was able to integrate their actions towards sustainability. Exciting launchings during the Congress included:

- Becoming the first City in Latin America to implement TRACE (Tool for Rapid Assessment of City Energy). The Report by the World Bank in partnership with the Secretariat for Environment of Belo Horizonte identifies opportunities for improved energy efficiency.
- The second “Municipal Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions” was published to guide the next steps of the City to the 20% reduction target set until 2030.
- Signature of Protocol of Intentions to join the Istanbul Water Consensus.
- As a result of all the efforts undertaken, the nature and purpose of the event, Mayor Marcio Lacerda and ICLEI Brasil President Pedro Jacobi received from the Governor of Minas Gerais the first Certificate for a Sustainable Event emitted by the State.
- The Urban Mobility Plan – PlanMob-BH – was signed, proposing alternatives for better mobility in Belo Horizonte.
- Mayor Marcio Lacerda has joined the World Mayors Council on Climate Change.

First ICLEI World Congress in Latin America: Renewed Strength to our Work in the Region

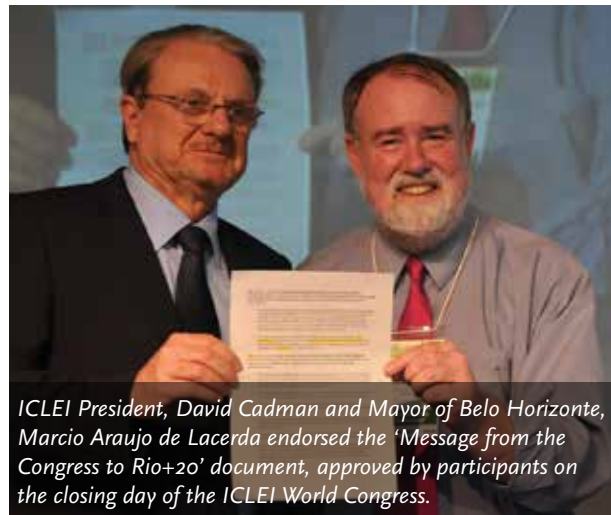
Over 400 participants from the region gathered in Belo Horizonte, around 2/3 of ICLEI's regional members were represented and showcased 46 local cases from Latin America. Along preparations, important partnerships were forged between ICLEI Brazil (acting as the South America Secretariat), the National Front of Mayors of Brazil and Mercocidades, an important local government network in Mercosul countries.

The first face to face meeting with the Latin America & Caribbean ICLEI Regional Executive Committee brought excitement and commitment to the regional membership.

THE ROAD TO RIO

CITIES TO RIO+20: ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS ENDS WITH A CALL FOR A TRANSITION TO A GREEN, INCLUSIVE URBAN ECONOMY

Presentations and experiences of cities from around the world at the ICLEI World Congress 2012 proved that in the last 20 years local advances in implementing sustainable policies were more meaningful than those at the global level. Local governments should be recognized for their critical role in policy implementation, as drivers of sustainable development and as agents of change.



ICLEI President, David Cadman and Mayor of Belo Horizonte, Marcio Araujo de Lacerda endorsed the 'Message from the Congress to Rio+20' document, approved by participants on the closing day of the ICLEI World Congress.

This was the basic premise of the 'Message from the Congress to Rio+20' document, approved by participants in Belo Horizonte on the closing day of the ICLEI World Congress. Strategically linked to the Rio+20 themes, the message highlights the readiness of cities to seize all opportunities to drive the transition towards a resilient and inclusive green urban economy that addresses poverty alleviation and environmental justice.

What is Rio+20?

In December 2009, the UN General Assembly decided to hold the **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD)** - also referred to as 'Rio+20'. The Conference, which was held from the 20-22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, was arranged around two major themes:

- green economy within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication,
- institutional framework for sustainable development.

Rio+20 saw 191 UN Member States and observers, 79 Heads of State and government, about 10,000 representatives of Major Groups, and more than 30,000 other participants gather in Rio de Janeiro to discuss and agree upon commitments towards the future of our planet.

The message, signed by more than 80 mayors and including a number of calls upon the UN Member states meeting at Rio+20, was presented to the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on 21 June as part of the Cities Leadership Day of ICLEI's Global Town Hall at Rio+20.

"In our globalized world, there is little difference between local government and global or federal government. Local is global. Global is local.", Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General during the Cities Leadership Day on 21 June at the Global Town Hall explaining that in today's globalized world, there is little difference between local and federal governments, and therefore cities play an equally important role in achieving sustainability.



The Rio+20 Global Town Hall was hosted by the Rio State Government Pavilion within Athletes Park in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



The 'Message from the ICLEI World Congress to Rio+20' was presented to the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on 21 June as part of the Cities Leadership Day of ICLEI's Global Town Hall at Rio+20.

ICLEI AT RIO+20: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The successful **advocacy advances** by ICLEI towards and during the negotiations resulting in strong clauses related to local and subnational government in the final Rio+20 outcome document.
- The ICLEI '**Rio+20 Global Town Hall**' which took place from 18-22 June, hosted by the State of Rio de Janeiro and endorsed by UNDESA, UNEP, the National Front of Mayors of Brazil (FNP) and others. The program saw 24 sessions with over hundred speakers, and culminated in a special session "Sustainability Leadership for the Urban World 2030" with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, addressed by a mayoral panel from ICLEI Member cities.
- The participation of ICLEI mayors, officials and staff in **over 25 side events** organised by international partner organisations, as well as the successful official UN side event coordinated by ICLEI, entitled "Decisions we need for the city of 2030" – all highlighting the role cities can play in different areas of sustainability.
- A dedicated '**Cities Day**' session at the **Rio Conventions Pavilion** on 22 June organised by ICLEI, entitled 'Sustainable cities through integrated local solutions' including both mayoral and technical panel discussions which demonstrated outstanding commitment to sustainable development.
- A range of **launches**, including the GreenClimateCities initiative and, together with partners, the Global Initiative on Urban Resilience.



ICLEI, in its role as Local Authorities Major Group Co-Organiser partner for the UN CSD drove a number of successful advocacy advances together with UCLG and nrg4SD towards the development of the final Rio+20 outcome document.

Cities as a Solution to our Sustainable Future

20 years ago cities were referred to as a problem rather than as part of the solution. Today cities are acknowledged as a major actor. The Rio+20 outcome document contains unprecedented reference to cities and local governments. However, we are missing a tangible commitment by governments to enhance the capacity of cities to take effective action.

"Cities are the economic hubs across the world. They hold the key for turning their economies into a green urban economy, which combines environmental action, economic growth and social inclusion." Gino van Begin, ICLEI Deputy Secretary General



Running from 18 to 22 June, the Rio+20 Global Town Hall offered a rich program of presentations and debates, co-organized by ICLEI with partners and cities.

Mayor Marcelo Ebrard from Mexico City in Mexico spoke about the Mexico City Pact and the carbon Cities Climate Registry at the Rio+20 Voluntary Commitments press conference held on 22 June in Rio de Janeiro.



"We don't have time to lose and we are losing time. This is not time to talk. It is time to take action!" Marcelo Ebrard, Mayor of Mexico City and previous Chair of World Mayors Council for Climate Change addressing the UN Secretary General

THANK YOU....OBRIGADO!



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