



ILLUSTRATION

GLOBAL PLATFORMS



Through the Years: World Cities Summit— the 10th Edition Special

In 2008, the inaugural World Cities Summit (WCS) was launched to address the challenges of liveable and sustainable urban development. The Summit has since attracted participation from more than 250 cities and launched key events such as the Mayors Forum and the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize.

The biennial event is a global platform for government leaders and industry experts to share innovative urban solutions and forge partnerships. As cities' needs evolve, the open dialogue at WCS remains a vital catalyst for ideas that enable the cities of tomorrow to remain vibrant, inclusive and resilient.

2008



What makes a city successful? Then-Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong, opened the inaugural WCS with a special address. He examined the factors contributing to a city's liveability (good environment, infrastructure and quality of life) and its vibrancy (economically competitive and culturally rich) to explore how cities can thrive as urban populations grow worldwide.

2010



In the wake of the 2009 global financial crisis and the increasing threat of climate change, critical topics discussed included balancing community needs, making public housing accessible, and celebrating diversity in a globalised world. The inaugural WCS Mayors Forum was attended by more than 50 mayors.

2012



The Summit celebrated cities that are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable, people-centric and underpinned by public-private partnerships. Delegates further considered methods to increase connectivity, mitigate the effects of climate change on urban landscapes, and support ageing societies.

71

2014



What does the ideal city look like? Key discussion themes put forward at the Summit ranged from advocating for integrated infrastructure and strengthening community bonds, to increasing civic engagement. The first WCS Young Leaders Symposium was held, paving the way for the next generation of leaders to shape the global urban agenda.

2016



Discussions centred on long-term planning through inclusive development amid rapid ageing and growing inequality. The Summit also emphasised the importance of public education on sustainability, and the need to build social capital. City leaders were urged to seize opportunities for collaborative dialogue.

2018



High-level speakers included Kristalina Georgieva, former Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank Group, and Ranil Wickremesinghe, former President and Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. To encourage people-centricity, they proposed adding a fourth “P” (people) to the traditional “3P” (public-private partnerships) to reflect an increasingly active and vocal citizenry.

2021



Delegates brainstormed on how cities could adapt to an increasingly volatile world, and shared insights on policies and strategies to ensure a resilient future. This was a hybrid edition held during the COVID-19 global pandemic, with over 4,700 delegates participating remotely.

72

2022



The COVID-19 pandemic and climate-induced crises intensified urban challenges but created greater impetus for building more resilient, liveable cities. This edition explored how cities could achieve sustainable growth while remaining cohesive and collaborative. Notable attendees included city and country leaders Oh Se-hoon, Bart De Wever and Patricia de Lille.

2024



Against the backdrop of stressors arising from social, economic and climate change, city leaders examined balanced and forward-looking urban governance approaches, and stewarded initiatives for ground-up innovation to develop inclusive, future-proof solutions for cities.



10th Edition

World Cities Summit



Liveable and Sustainable Cities: ACT Now!
Accelerate, Collaborate, Transform

14 – 16 June 2026
Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre

This milestone 10th edition underscores the value of knowledge-sharing among cities, advances the importance of innovation for urban development, and encourages collaboration and partnership to shape liveable and sustainable cities of tomorrow.