

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Four ‘C’s for well-planned and sustainable urban development**

*Largest-ever gathering of over 100 governors and top city leaders at World Cities Summit Mayors Forum*

1 Over 100 governors, mayors and top leaders from 98 cities and regions discussed challenges and innovative solutions to build liveable cities and foster harmonious communities at the World Cities Summit Mayors Forum (WCSMF) earlier today. At the forum which was themed “Liveable and Sustainable Cities”, Chairperson of the Forum and Minister of State for National Development and Trade & Industry Mr Lee Yi Shyan highlighted the four ‘C’s as hallmarks of well planned and sustainable urban development:

- Courage to do the right things and take risks, sometimes against public opinion so as to build the foundations of a good city;
- Capacity of municipality and cities in terms of organisation, financial resources and competence;
- Continuity to ensure consistency of policy; and
- The need to engage the Community to engage residents and seek public support

2 City officials echoed Mr Lee’s sentiments about the importance of continuity of strategic plans and policies and the need to take a long term view. They also shared the need to involve all stakeholders such as government, civic organisations, academia and the private sector to discuss socio-economic issues in relation to transparency and trade-offs in the planning process. Compact cities, rather than sprawling cities, represent a good model for achieving economic growth, social

inclusion and environmental sustainability as they promote connectivity and mobility. Lastly, officials agreed that community engagement is required to build trust between people and the government through feedback and ideas from residents.

3 Held for the third year, the WCSMF 2012 saw a stronger and more diverse gathering of mayors with a threefold increase from 2011. It is the single largest ever gathering of top city leaders in the world with half being new participants from ASEAN, Africa, South America, India and Russia. Also present were dozens of leaders and experts from international organisations, like the World Bank, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), UN-HABITAT and Asian Development Bank.

4 Concluding the half-day session, Mr Lee said, “The challenges facing governors and mayors today are many. Every city is different and based on its needs, priorities and stages of development, it requires customised solutions. With our collective wisdom distilled in this Forum, I hope we can continue to interact as a group by mutual visits and bilateral communications beyond the physical and time limit of this forum. Singapore remains committed to this process of mutual learning and exchange of views. I invite all to continue to visit Singapore so that we can further our bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the areas of sustainable development.”

5 Mr Trac Thai Sieng, Vice Governor of Phnom Penh Municipality, said, “Phnom Penh faces a pressing challenge of providing 10,000 new housing units annually. We expanded the capital, built six satellite cities and more high-rise buildings to meet the housing needs of our growing population. This is the third time we are attending the Mayors Forum and hearing from the various mayors on how they solved the public housing challenges in their various cities had provided useful ideas for us in planning for our city.” Mr Gregor Robertson, Mayor of Vancouver, Canada, said, “The natural setting of Vancouver informs every aspect of planning, design and liveability in our city. The boldness of policy-making allows us to strive for an ever better city, focusing on sustainability and liveability, with the goal of becoming the world’s greenest city by 2020”.

### **Collection of best practices “City Portraits”**

6 To document the sharings and knowledge gleaned from all three WCSMs, the Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC) has compiled a collection of member cities’ best practices into a publication titled “*City Portraits*”. City leaders who wish to continue remain in touch with their peers or solution providers after the Forum can do so via a new virtual network called “Connect@WCS”.

### **World Cities Summit Mayors Forum 2013**

7 Mr Lee also announced that next year’s WCSMF will be held in Bilbao, Spain. The city was the winner for the inaugural Lee Kuan Yew World Cities Prize in 2010. Mr Lee said, “Bilbao City Hall has been instrumental in regenerating and transforming the city of Bilbao from an obsolete and dilapidated industrial city into a knowledge-based economy. The success of Bilbao is largely attributed to its integrated and holistic approach to achieve economic, social and physical transformations. I am sure we will learn a lot from the experience of Bilbao. And the best way to learn is to go and see for ourselves what they have done.” The WCSFM will return to Singapore in 2014.

8 Mr Greg Clark, Chairman of the OECD LEED Forum and Senior Fellow of Urban Land Institute, who was also the moderator for the Forum, said, “Over the years, the WCSMF has gradually evolved and established itself as one of the most important platforms in the world for city leaders to come together to discuss urban issues. Next year’s session at Bilbao will elevate the Forum to another level.”

9 The WCSMF is a key highlight at this year’s World Cities Summit (WCS), a global premier platform for city leaders and experts to exchange new ideas on liveable and sustainable urban solutions, explore the latest technologies and forge new business partnerships. The third edition of WCS is currently being held from 1 to 4 July 2012 at the Sands Expo & Convention Center, Marina Bay Sands, in Singapore.

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**About the Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC)**

The Centre for Liveable Cities is a thought centre on urban governance and management jointly established by the Ministry of National Development and the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources. The Centre seeks to bring together Singapore's expertise on sustainable urban development in the areas of good governance, urban planning, effective resource management, quality living environment, affordable housing and sustainable transport solutions. The Centre facilitates the sharing of knowledge and best practices among cities in the region and globally. Visit us at [www.clc.org.sg](http://www.clc.org.sg).

**About World Cities Summit, Singapore International Water Week and CleanEnviro Summit Singapore**

The third edition of the World Cities Summit, the fifth edition of the Singapore International Water Week and the inaugural CleanEnviro Summit Singapore will be held from 1 to 5 July 2012 at Sands Expo & Convention Center, Marina Bay Sands, in Singapore. All three events provide an integrated global platform for government and industry leaders to share solutions for sustainable urban development and the latest innovations in water and clean environment solutions. The co-location of the three events will enable exhibitors and participants to explore synergies, network and forge partnerships with a wider range of global industry leaders, policy makers and experts. Together, the three events showcase Singapore's global thought leadership in sustainable development. For more information on WCS, visit [www.worldcitiessummit.com.sg](http://www.worldcitiessummit.com.sg)

## **ANNEX A - Extracts of Cities’ Best Practices from “City Portraits”**

### **1) Da Nang | Vietnam**

One of the best practices in urban development that Da Nang City has exercised is to resettle 268 families from the Nai Hien Dong fishing “slum” in Son Tra District into new residential areas. These residents had been living on stilt houses for more than 40 years. As their houses were built fragiley using wood piles or bamboo trunks, dwellers of this fishing village were exposed to natural elements, and could not access basic services like electricity or clean water.

In 2004, the city’s People’s Committee made a bold investment of VND15 billion to build 268 new houses, and then relocated all families into these new houses. Each house, worth VND30 million, is equipped with steel roofing and tile flooring. The public housing plan is included in a bigger urban development scheme of the city, namely “5 Nos and 3 Yeses”:

<b>5 Nos</b>	<b>3 Yes</b>
1. No extremely poor households	1. Yes, all residents are housed
2. No illiteracy	2. Yes, all residents are employed
3. No beggars	3. Yes, the city has a civilized urban living environment.
4. No drug addicts in the community	
5. No murders in robbery cases	

### **2) Saskatoon | Canada**

The City of Saskatoon’s Community Engagement Process has become an integral part of civic planning. Saskatoon is a fast growing city, and the level of growth experienced over the past decade is expected to continue. As Saskatoon looks ahead, it needs to respond to global trends affecting all cities. To keep Saskatoon one of Canada’s most attractive, liveable, and prosperous cities, the City embarked on the most ambitious and inclusive community engagement process in the city’s history. Between 7,000 and 10,000 citizens participated and told us what matters to them, what they like and value about Saskatoon, and what they aspire to achieve as Saskatoon grows over the next 50 to 70 years.

Community visioning and civic engagement played an important role in developing Saskatoon’s 10-year Strategic Plan. It outlines strategic goals around the areas of creating a Culture of Continuous Improvement, Asset & Financial Sustainability, Quality of Life, Environmental Leadership, Sustainable Growth, Moving Around and Economic Diversity & Prosperity. The community values and Strategic Plan are being used to develop other important documents to help create a sustainable city. For example, Council identified a 10-year strategy to develop its Integrated Growth Plan which includes transit, land use, roadway, and water and servicing strategy for a population of 500,000. An “Innovation Team” was established to develop a high-level vision and set of policy and principles that could be used to guide Saskatoon on how it can grow sustainably.

### **3) Makassar | Indonesia**

Karebosi Square was in bad condition as a public space, where it was very dusty in the dry season and there was flooding in the rainy season. As a result, the space could not be optimally utilised by the public, for example as a jogging track, sport area, for music concerts, and for religious activities. Thus, the community asked the City Government to redevelop the area to be

more attractive, comfortable, and optimal as a public space. Due to limitations of the Government's budget, the Government tried to find a solution. First, an open competition for the design of Karebosi was held, competitors were sought from university students, academics, and consultants. This competition was at the national level, and there were almost 100 participants. From this competition, the Government found the best design based on the community's selection. Second, the Government of Makassar made open bidding for investors to revitalise Karebosi Square through public announcements in the newspapers, where the winner of the open bidding could develop the underground space as a commercial area, and the square as a public space.

Now, the revitalization of Karebosi square has given much benefit, not only to the Government of Makassar, but also the community and the private sector investors. The Government obtained revenue, the community can use it as public space and shopping centre, and the investor benefitted from the utilisation of underground space as a commercial area. Karebosi is now one of the strategic places in Makassar City.

#### **4) Bilbao | Spain**

Bilbao in the last 25 years, has successfully transformed its economy and deteriorating urban environment into a modern and advanced city. While the world is currently situated in a crisis and an economic recession environment, the city of Bilbao is in an excellent financial and economic situation.

The transformation of the city and governance are two values of Bilbao that can serve as an example that we wish to share, but we also believe that the experience of our companies can be useful in other environments involved in transformation processes.

However, Bilbao is facing a new transformation where the urban population must be conscious about sustainability and efficiency. But the big challenge is to continue with the economic transformation of the city, as a reference point of Western Europe in innovation, technology, energy and knowledge.

#### **5) Jilin City | China**

Jilin City and Singapore are jointly building the Sino-Singapore Jilin Food Zone. With survival and development as its themes, it aims to safeguard human food supply and food quality safety, relies on its own advantages in location, resources and environment, and fully uses the advanced Singaporean development concept and management experience.

Following the sustainable concepts of safety, health, ecology, environmental protection, circulation, as well as relying on the technological standards, scientific research achievements and sales markets in the Chinese, Singaporean and global agriculture and food industry, through industrialised and integrated management, the Sino-Singapore Jilin Food Zone builds a complete industrial chain from fields and farms to R&D and processing of safe and healthy food for consumption at the end. Five major areas are to be built including planting and breeding base, food processing area, storage and logistics centre, food inspection and monitoring centre, R&D and human resources training base.

Finally a world-class demonstration zone of safe and healthy food production and modern agriculture development will be built. It will serve as a new driving force for the sustainable development of Jilin City as well as a model of the harmonious development of human and nature.