



Valuing our communities and cities



Concept Note

Building People-Focused Smart Cities – The Future is Now

Presented by FIABCI-USA – Hawaii Council as an official Partner of the UN-Habitat World Urban Campaign

Background

The world is rapidly urbanizing. In 2008, the important milestone of more than 50 percent of the world's population living in urban areas was reached, a figure that is estimated to rise to 70 percent by 2050. At the same time, the world is rapidly becoming more digital. Data, artificial intelligence, connectivity and the new digital economy are shaping the future of our societies. Digital technologies have the potential to serve people, improve public services and working conditions. But persistent digital divides remain, and the digital revolution must be directed and governed in a democratic and inclusive way.

Digital technologies, depending on their use, can be a force that widens social gaps or reduces them. The explosion in digital technologies is playing a major role in shaping cities – from the internet of things, to digital platforms for service delivery and 5G for autonomous mobility – and our challenge is to set a new direction that favors inclusive, resilient and sustainable use of technologies by local governments. These technologies, if well governed, can contribute to sustainable development by reducing carbon emissions and facilitating the ecological transition, increasing access to affordable housing, enhancing participation in policy making for citizens, and ensuring access to inclusive services for communities.

We have a collective responsibility to give direction to new technologies so that we maximize benefits and prevent unintended consequences. For instance, Artificial Intelligence and data can be used for the public good, but can also be used to monitor and manipulate behavior, to manipulate voters, to track human rights defenders and to stifle expressions of dissent.

In the absence of public oversight and accountability, data on individuals and communities is being extensively recorded, often by private companies, raising concerns around privacy, surveillance, data sovereignty and individual autonomy. We need to ensure that human rights obligations apply online as they do offline.

The Cities Coalition for Digital Rights is a platform where more than 60 cities globally pledge to shape a digital future that puts people first and helps bridge the social divide. Smart cities should serve the people and improve living conditions for all.

SDGs to be Addressed

These initiatives on smart cities directly contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7 on Affordable Clean Energy, SDG 10 on Reduced Inequalities, SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities, and SDG 17 on Partnerships.

Expected Outcome 1

To understand how real estate developers can align with global trends toward smart, sustainable cities, building in "competitive differentiators" with smart holistic design and technology. "Future proofing" developments is vital and by working closely together with global sustainability experts across the "design-build-operate" spectrum developers can avoid over-investments, enhance profitability and develop successful business models for smarter cities.

Expected Outcome 2

An exploration of Tianfu New Area, Chengdu, China. In this completely new city, priority is given to technical innovation, big data, cultural and creative industries, engineering design, global cooperation on production capacity, emerging finance, private equity funds, E-finance, financial services, energy conservation and environment protection.

Expected Outcome 3

A look into the future and how real estate policy, management and technical innovations can contribute to energy efficiency, housing for marginalized groups and an integrated community.

Main Activities and Timeline

Monday October 26, 2 – 4 pm HST (7 – 9 pm Central, 8 – 10 pm Eastern) Online



Invited Speakers:

Welcome Session – Messages

Eugenia Foxworth, FIABCI-USA President-Elect

Wataru Kawasaki, Program & Planning Officer, UN-Habitat

Jordi Ribó Casanovas, FIABCI World President-Elect (Video message)

Re-imagining Cities

Chungha Cha, Co-founder & Chair, Re-Imagining Cities Foundation, Seoul, Korea

The Future is Now

City Officials from Tianfu New Area, Chengdu, China

Legos Smart City

City Officials from Legos State Government (Video message)

Panel Discussion

Jeffrey Daniel Lau, Attorney, Ogawa Lau Nakamura & Jew, Moderator

Discussant and wrap-up of session

William Endsley, Principal, World Citizen Consulting

Measure of Success

Two hundred participants over the three sessions.