

Climate Resilience and Innovation Forum (CRIF) 2025



United Cities and
Local Governments
Asia-Pacific

Proceedings



UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS ASIA PACIFIC
(UCLG ASPAC)

Jakarta and Banyumas,
Indonesia
21 – 23 May 2025

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ABOUT CRIF

The Climate Resilience and Innovation Forum (CRIF) 2025 served as a high-level regional platform to reflect on the progress, learnings, and impact of the Climate Resilient and Inclusive Cities (CRIC) Programme. The event was organised by UCLG ASPAC in collaboration with the Jakarta Special Capital Region and the Ministry of Home Affairs, with support from the European Union. Aims to be a high-visibility event, fostering inclusive dialogue and delivering practical outcomes to enhance climate resilience across the Asia-Pacific region, the forum brought together 322 participants (60% male, 38% female) from across Asia-Pacific and beyond. These included mayors, governors, local and national government officials, experts, and civil society groups who are committed to strengthening city-level action for climate resilience. Held in Jakarta at the Park Hyatt Hotel and Banyumas from 21 to 23 May 2025, CRIF 2025 focused on empowering cities and local governments through peer learning, knowledge exchange, and collaborative innovation.

Final agenda of the Forum is shown below:

Climate Resilience and Innovation Forum (CRIF) 2025:
Empowering Cities and Local Governments for a Climate-Resilient Future
Park Hyatt Jakarta, 21-22 May 2025

Day 1 – Wednesday, 21 May 2025

Time (Jakarta Time/ WIB)	Agenda
08:30-09:00	Registration and Networking
09:00-10:45	Opening of the Forum - National Anthem of Indonesia - Cultural Performance Opening Remarks - Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC Welcome Remarks - H.E. Mr. Denis Chaibi, the Ambassador of the European Union in Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam - H.E. Mr. Tito Karnavian, Minister of Home Affairs, Indonesia Keynote

- Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Executive Director of UN-Habitat (2017-2024)

Official Launch and Recognition Session

- Awarding of GCoM (Global Covenant of Mayors) Compliant Badges to recognised cities in Southeast Asia
 - Mr. Pramono Anung, Governor of Jakarta Special Region, Co-President of UCLG ASPAC
 - Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Executive Director of UN-Habitat (2017-2024)
 - Ms. Datin Sapiah Haron, Mayor of Hang Tuah Jaya
 - Mr. Edi Rusdi Kamtono, Mayor of Pontianak
 - Mr. Tay Kok Wea, Town Councillor of Segamat City
- Launch of CAPs Guideline and Official Handover of the 10 Climate Action Plans (CAPs) by Mayors.
 - Mr. Agung Nugroho, Mayor of Pekanbaru
 - Mr. Efendi Edo, Mayor of Cirebon
 - Dr. Andi Harun, Mayor of Samarinda
 - Mr. HM. Yamin HR, Mayor of Banjarmasin
 - dr. Christian Widodo, Mayor of Kupang
 - Dr. M. Tauhid Soleman, Mayor of Ternate
 - Mr. Adhan Dambea, Mayor of Gorontalo
 - Ms. Eva Dwiana, Mayor of Bandar Lampung
 - Mr. M. Unu Ibnudin, Mayor of Pangkalpinang
 - Dr. Mohan Roliskana, Mayor of Mataram
- Signing ceremony of decentralised cooperation
 - **Letter of Intent Samarinda City, Indonesia, and Hefei, China**
Dr. Andi Harun, Mayor of Samarinda and Mr. Yunfeng Lao, Mayor of Hefei Municipal People's Government
 - **MoU UCLG ASPAC and Kuala Lumpur**
Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC and Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Mayor of Kuala Lumpur
 - **MoU UCLG ASPAC and the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG)**
Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC and Ms. Nino Rukhadze, Executive Director of NALAG
 - **MoU UCLG ASPAC and Urbanice**
Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC and Ms. Norliza Hashim, Chief Executive of Urbanice, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Malaysia
- Special Acknowledgment: Urban Sustainability Best Practices in ASEAN
Recognising featured local governments from UCLG ASPAC and UNCDF's dual-volume publication: Smart Urban Green Practices in ASEAN
 - Ms. Datin Sapiah Haron, Mayor of Hang Tuah Jaya
 - Mr. Joune James Esau Ganda, Regent of Minahasa Utara

Introductory Session on the City and Local Government (CLG) Institute

- Prof. Ir. Bambang Susantono MCP MSCE Ph.D., Special Advisor UCLG Asia Pacific, Vice-President Asian Development Bank 2015–2022, Chairman Nusantara New Capital Authority 2022–2024; and

	Mr. Dakila Carlo E. Cua, President of United Cities and Local Governments of Asia-Pacific (UCLG ASPAC), President of Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), Governor of Quirino Province	
10:30-10:45	Coffee Break and Press Conference/Media Briefing	
10:45-12:00	Session 1: Enabling Environment for Promoting Policy and Good Practices for Climate Resilience at the Local Level Moderator: Ms. Prita Laura, Communication Strategist at Presidential Communication Office <i>High-level Panel discussion with representatives from cities, GCoM badge recipients, and international partners (National and International) – those who implement climate resilience actions that work.</i> - Ms. Julie Amoroso-Garbin, Regional Lead, UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RCC Asia Pacific) – Video Message - Mr. Dakila Carlo E. Cua, President of United Cities and Local Governments of Asia-Pacific (UCLG ASPAC), President of Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), Governor of Quirino Province - Ms. Nuraeni, on behalf of Mr. Ary Sudijanto, Deputy for Climate Change Control and Carbon Economic Value Management, Ministry of Environment of Indonesia - Mr. Luis Gomez-Echeverri, Emeritus Research Scholar, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) Question & Answer (Q&A)	
12:00-13:00	Lunch break	
13:00-14:45	Session 2: Climate Resilient Actions and Thematic Discussions	
	Main Session: High-level discussions on climate-resilient actions across thematic issues. Facilitator: Ms. Norliza Hashim, Chief Executive of Urbanice, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Malaysia Prof. Ir. Bambang Susantono MCP MSCE Ph.D., Special Advisor UCLG Asia Pacific, Vice-President Asian Development Bank 2015–2022, Chairman Nusantara New Capital	Parallel Session 2a: Sustainability Strategy Workshop for CRIC Pilot Cities - <i>Discussing exit strategies to ensure sustainability, following the completion of CRIC project/programme</i> Moderator: Mr. Hizbullah Arief, Project Manager of CRIC, UCLG ASPAC - Mr. Agung Nugroho, Mayor of Pekanbaru - Mr. Efendi Edo, Mayor of Cirebon - Dr. Andi Harun, Mayor of Samarinda - Mr. HM. Yamin HR, Mayor of Banjarmasin
		Parallel Session 2b: City-to-City Cooperation Training for Indonesian Local Governments (UCLG ASPAC and the Cooperation Facilitation Centre, Ministry of Home Affairs of Indonesia) - <i>Overview on decentralised cooperation and effective partnerships for sustainable development</i> <i>The Role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Decentralised Cooperation and Strengthening Local Governments' Capacity in the Implementation of Protocols and Negotiations</i> <i>Best Practice of Sister City/Province Cooperation</i>

	Authority 2022–2024 • Dr. Debolina Kundu, Director of National Institute of Urban Affairs, India (Online) • Mr. Diarlison Lucas Silva da Costa, Director of Economic Studies and Statistics, Planning Secretariat of the State of Piaul • Mr. Omar Siddique, Lead, Cities and Climate Change, UNESCAP Q&A	• dr. Christian Widodo, Mayor of Kupang • Dr. M. Tauhid Soleman, Mayor of Ternate • Mr. Adhan Dambea, Mayor of Gorontalo • Ms. Eva Dwiana, Mayor of Bandar Lampung • Mr. M. Unu Ibnudin, Mayor of Pangkalpinang • Dr. Mohan Roliskana, Mayor of Mataram	• <i>Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR) and CAP Guideline as one of the Monitoring & Evaluation tools for effective decentralised cooperation</i> • <i>Sustainability strategy of the project and strengthen regional cooperation</i> Facilitator: Hendra Susila Adi, Learning Coordinator, UCLG ASPAC • Ms. Rika Fitriasaki, Sister City Task Force Staff, Center for Cooperation Facilitation • Mr. Agung Zulhatta, Learning and Research Officer, UCLG ASPAC • Mr. Helmi Abidin, Regional Programme Manager, UCLG ASPAC
14:45-15:00	Coffee Break		
15:00-16:30	Session 3: Leveraging Regional Cooperation and Innovative Financing for Urban Climate Resilience <i>Perspectives from Europe, South Asia, and Southeast Asia and Access to Funding: Concrete Information on Funding Opportunities Accessible to Local Governments</i> Moderator: Mr. Yanuar Nugroho, Founder and Advisor of Nalar Institute • Mr. Lorenz Gross, Economies and Policy Analyst, Partnerships for Sustainable Cities, OECD (Online) • Ms. Norliza Hashim, Chief Executive of Urbanice, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Malaysia • Ms. Somsook Boonyabancha, Chairperson and former Secretary General of the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) • Mr. Heriyandi Roni, Head of Cooperation Facilitation Centre, Ministry of Home Affairs of Indonesia • Prof. Youssef Diab, Director of Research, Gustave Eiffel University (UGE) Q&A		

16:30-17:00	Smart Urban Green Practices in ASEAN: Insights from Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Indonesia <i>From best practices to local action — Showcasing real-world solutions from UCLG ASPAC and UNCDF's dual-volume publication on urban sustainability in ASEAN cities.</i> Facilitator: Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC • Prof. Ir. Bambang Susantono MCP MSCE Ph.D., Special Advisor UCLG Asia Pacific, Vice-President Asian Development Bank 2015–2022, Chairman Nusantara New Capital Authority 2022–2024 • Ms. Datin Sapiah Haron, Mayor of Hang Tuah Jaya • Mr. Joune James Esau Ganda, Regent of Minahasa Utara Q&A
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Day 2 – Thursday, 22 May 2025

Time	Agenda	
08:00-10:00	Tree Planting in Jakarta – UCLG ASPAC Greening Cities Programme Field Visit to Jakarta's Nature-Based Solution at Tebet Eco-Park	
10:00-11:45	Session 4: Bridging Climate Plans with Action: Sustainability Strategies and Partnerships	
	Parallel Session 4a: Panel Discussion on How Indonesian Cities and Local Governments Balance Immediate Actions with a Long-term Sustainability Vision Moderator: Mr. Hizbullah Arief, Project Manager of CRIC, UCLG ASPAC <i>Highlight how cities are aligning their climate action plans with a long-term vision that effectively integrates Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate strategies.</i> <i>Showcase practical examples from cities that are already implementing their climate action plans and achieving measurable results.</i> • Mr. Efendi Edo, Mayor of Cirebon • Mr. Andhika Aji, Head of Research and Innovation Centre, Development Planning Board of the Special Region of Jakarta • Dr. Arif Sugiono, Secretary of Environmental Agency of Banyumas Regency	Parallel Session 4b: City-to-City Cooperation Training for Indonesian Local Governments (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation Facilitation Centre of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Indonesia and UCLG ASPAC) <i>- Practical tools and frameworks to enhance the capacity of local governments in Indonesia to initiate and manage decentralised cooperation.</i> • <i>The Role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Decentralised Cooperation and Strengthening Local Governments' Capacity in the Implementation of Protocols and Negotiations</i> • <i>Best Practice of Sister City/Province Cooperation</i> • <i>Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR) and CAP Guideline as one of the Monitoring & Evaluation tools for effective decentralised cooperation</i> • <i>Sustainability strategy of the project and strengthen regional cooperation</i> Facilitator: Hendra Susila Adi, Learning Coordinator, UCLG ASPAC

	• Dr. Wiryono Raharjo, SPARC Champion of Roof Over Our Head (ROOH) • Ms. Rugun Firni Sipayung, Co-Founder of the Fasilitas Sehat Manfaatkembali - Aman (FSM-Aman)	• Mr. Rico Erik Estrada, Head of Sister City Task Force, Center for Cooperation Facilitation • Mr. Khairul Azmir, Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Center • Ms. Rika Fitriyanti, Sister City Task Force Staff, Center for Cooperation Facilitation • Ms. Maharani Putri Samsu Wibowo, Director of Foreign Relations, Ministry of Development Planning of Indonesia
11:45-12:00	Conclusion and Jakarta Call for Action Chaired by: Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC	
12:00-13:00	Lunch Break	
13:00-17:00	National Coordination Meeting for Indonesian Members (UCLG ASPAC and Indonesian Ministry of Home Affairs)	Visit Banyumas: Technical Visit for CRIC Pilot Cities' Technical Participants (by train)

Day 3 – Friday, 23 May 2025 (Only for 10 CRIC Pilot Cities)

Time	Agenda
09:00-11:30	Technical Visit: Practical Learning from Banyumas' Waste Management Transformation
11:30-13:00	Lunch Break
13:00-onwards	Departure: Participants return to their respective cities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Climate Resilience and Innovation Forum (CRIF) 2025, held from 21 to 23 May 2025 in Jakarta and Banyumas, Indonesia, marked the conclusion of the Climate Resilient and Inclusive Cities (CRIC) Programme, implemented by the United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific (UCLG ASPAC) with support from the European Union and partner organisations. With over 300 participants from Asia, Europe, and beyond, the forum brought together national and local leaders, technical experts, and community representatives to engaged in multi-stakeholder forums, knowledge exchange sessions, and peer learning across 7 key sessions and 2 site visits in Jakarta and Banyumas

The forum also featured the launch of the UCLG ASPAC Cities and Local Governments (CLG) Institute, the symbolic handover of Climate Action Plans (CAPs) to 10 CRIC pilot cities, and the awarding of Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) badges recognising Southeast Asian cities for their climate leadership. It also witnessed new decentralised cooperation agreements and acknowledgements of urban sustainability best practices.

Across main and parallel sessions, discussions focused on urban infrastructure, innovative finance, city-to-city cooperation, community-led adaptation, and integrated planning. In addition, a field visit to Banyumas Regency showcased a pioneering community-based waste management model, offering practical insights into decentralised resilience strategies.

The forum culminated in the adoption of the Jakarta Call for Action, reaffirming collective commitment to inclusive, locally driven, and future-proof climate solutions. CRIF 2025 stood as a powerful demonstration that climate resilience begins with empowered cities and strong local leadership.

OPENING SESSION :

A Call for Local Leadership

The opening session of CRIF 2025 set a strong and urgent tone, reaffirming the vital role cities and local governments play in advancing climate action. Held in Jakarta on 21 May 2025, it brought together national ministries, international development partners, and local leaders, reinforcing the need for collaborative, multilevel governance to address the climate crisis.



Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC, **Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi**, opened the Forum by welcoming delegates and laying out the pressing regional context. “The Asia-Pacific remains among the most climate-vulnerable regions globally. No country is on track to meet SDG 13 by 2030. But cities, which are responsible for 70% of global emissions, hold immense transformative potential. Through CRIC, we’ve supported 10 pilot cities with tailored Climate Action Plans, tools, and capacity building.” She also stressed the importance of a community approach in achieving climate resilience, sustained partnerships, finance, and community-driven resilience.



EU Ambassador to Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam, **H.E. Mr. Denis Chaibi**, reaffirmed the EU's commitment to long-term sustainability, equity, and multilevel collaboration. "CRIC is more than a project—it is a model for how inclusive, city-level climate action can be sustained. We must now ensure its legacy through financing, institutionalisation, and stronger city-region partnerships."



Mr. Safrizal ZA, Director General for Regional Administration, representing the Indonesian Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), emphasised the policy frameworks enabling local action, including Presidential Regulation No. 98/2021 on climate resilience and the alignment of local action with Indonesia's 2025–2045 national development vision (RPJPN).



Mayor of Kuala Lumpur and Executive Director of UN-Habitat (2018–January 2024), **Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, urged all levels of government to prioritise forward-looking and inclusive climate strategies. “When the going gets tough, the tough goes local,” she said. She emphasised that cities are at the frontlines of the climate crisis and must be empowered to act decisively. “We must integrate climate data into every aspect of urban planning—because planning without climate foresight is planning for failure.”



Mr. Dakila Carlo E. Cua, President of UCLG ASPAC, Governor of Quirino Province, Philippines, officially introduced the CLG Institute in his opening speech: “Our cities are expected to do more with less. The CLG Institute is our collective response—a hub to translate data into decisions, research into results. We need knowledge that serves cities, not theories that overlook them.”

SESSION 1 :

Enabling Policy and Good Practices for Climate Resilience at the Local Level

This session highlighted critical frameworks, national support systems, and best practices that enable climate action at the local level. Moderated by Ms. Prita Laura, it featured insights from government leaders and global experts on aligning climate ambition with local capability.

Mr. Dakila Carlo E. Cua

President of UCLG ASPAC, President of ULAP and Governor of Quirino Province, Philippines reiterated that the “future is local,” emphasising that cities are not just implementers but policy innovators. He underscored the need to empower LGUs through peer learning and stronger intergovernmental collaboration, institutionalise climate action into daily local governance, and leverage platforms like the CLG Institute for solutions co-created with communities

Ms. Nuraeni

The Working Group Coordinator of Monitoring and Evaluation of Climate Change Adaptation at the Ministry of Environment emphasised that building effective climate resilience requires a comprehensive approach that integrates economic, social, and ecosystem sustainability into national policies. This involves strengthening top-down mandates with bottom-up solutions, promoting strategic planning, implementation, and monitoring aligned with relevant regulations and mandates, and enhancing access to funding through partnerships with the private sector and local innovation. An integrated approach across ecosystems, economic and social resilience, and biodiversity is essential to ensure long-term adaptive capacity.

Mr. Luis Gómez-Echeverry

Senior Advisor at IIASA, highlighted data and coordination gaps that stall climate finance access: “Fragmented data means fragmented policy. Cities must localise priorities—and donors must adapt tools to fit cities, not the other way around.”, he urged.



SESSION 2 :

Resilient Urban Infrastructure and Finance



The second session of CRIF 2025 delved into the role of urban infrastructure and financing strategies in building climate-resilient cities. Organised by UCLG ASPAC in collaboration with Urbanice Malaysia and UNESCAP, the session brought together thought leaders and practitioners from across the globe. It was facilitated by Ms. Norliza Hashim, Chief Executive of Urbanice, Ministry of Housing and Local Government, Malaysia.

Prof. Ir. Bambang Susantono, Special Advisor to UCLG ASPAC



He opened the session by confronting the reality that the global 1.5°C target is likely to be exceeded. Given this, he emphasised the need for local and community-based adaptation and resilience strategies to begin immediately. He underlined the importance of local self-reliance in climate financing, encouraging the exploration of alternative mechanisms such as crowdfunding and social media-driven resource mobilisation. Drawing on his experience with the Nusantara Capital Authority, he shared how integrated efforts on both the supply and demand sides of waste management were crucial, highlighting the promotion of zero-waste behaviours at the household level.

Mr. Diarlison Lucas Silva da Costa, Director of Economic Studies and Statistics, Planning Secretariat of the State of Piauí, Brazil

Mr. Diarlison reflected on the limitations faced by small municipalities in managing environmental issues. He illustrated how regional cooperation among twelve territories in Piauí has been essential for strategic planning and climate adaptation. While acknowledging the progressive national legislation banning open dumping, he also highlighted the practical challenges posed by limited infrastructure and financial resources. He shared that Piauí is experimenting with inter-municipal consortia to pool resources and mitigate emissions from long-haul waste transportation. Additionally, the state is integrating climate projections and socioeconomic data into its territorial planning to build a climate-resilient future. Mr. Diarlison also emphasised Piauí's leadership in Brazil's energy transition and its innovative use of budgetary tools to tackle desertification, climate migration, and regional inequalities.



Mr. Omar Siddique, Lead, Cities and Climate Change from ESCAP



Mr. Omar offered three key reflections. First, he spoke about the data gaps in informal settlements, which hinder accurate planning and climate interventions. He cited examples of bottom-up mapping initiatives by the Community Architects Network and the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights. Second, he discussed the demographic transitions occurring across Asia-Pacific, noting the contrasting needs of ageing societies in East Asia and the younger populations in the Pacific. These demographic differences, he argued, necessitate context-sensitive urban design. Third, Mr. Siddique addressed the systemic underfunding of urban climate adaptation, with less than 15% of global climate finance reaching cities. He proposed that cities could become more attractive to investors by measuring the co-benefits of adaptation, such as economic savings and reduced vulnerabilities. He also advocated for performance-based intergovernmental transfers, linked to SDG and climate-aligned indicators, and stressed the value

of inter-municipal cooperation for shared resilience. He concluded by stressing the importance of sectoral solutions, integrated approaches, and enhanced multilevel and inter-municipal collaboration for shared urban resilience.



Dr. Debolina Kundu

She was joining online from the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), India, echoed the importance of shared solutions among municipalities, especially tier-2 and tier-3 cities. She pointed out that one of the key barriers in accessing climate finance is the small scale of individual urban projects. Aggregating projects, she explained, would make them more viable for investment. Dr. Kundu, as Director General of NIUA emphasised the importance of blended finance and creative public-private partnerships to unlock new funding streams for sustainable development

The session underscored that while national policies are crucial, climate resilience must be grounded in local collaboration, adaptive governance, and innovative financing. The empowerment of small and medium-sized cities through cross-learning and access to funding emerged as a central theme for sustainable climate action.

SESSION 2A :

Sustainability Strategies from Pilot Cities

This session served as a knowledge-sharing platform for the ten CRIC pilot cities to present their sustainability strategies and showcase the progress made under the programme.



Dr. Christian Widodo, Mayor of Kupang

He highlighted Kupang's strategic efforts to create a cleaner city by addressing water sanitation, improving inclusive health standards, and enhancing solid waste management. The city has been actively measuring greenhouse gas emissions and identifying priority areas for climate adaptation and mitigation. Despite limited budget allocations from the national government, Kupang remains optimistic that the forthcoming changes in the budgeting system by the end of 2025 will unlock new opportunities for climate-related investments. In sanitation, the city is implementing a decentralised waste management system across its six districts. Additionally, residents are encouraged to use a digital application—developed in partnership with Indosat—to report and track waste collection, strengthening citizen engagement and service delivery.



Drs. Hi. Deddy Amarullah, Vice Mayor of Bandar Lampung

Through his presentation on “Bandar Lampung City Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Action Plan: Strategy to Face the Climate Crisis,”, he presented the city’s comprehensive Climate Action Plan. Mitigation actions include the development of mass public transport, installation of solar-powered streetlights, and upgrading of waste management infrastructure such as TPS3R. Adaptation actions have involved participatory disaster risk assessments and the development of early warning systems. The city prioritises flood preparedness, improved drainage, and the expansion of green open spaces.



Dr. Andi Harun, Mayor of Samarinda

He emphasised that his city, located near the new capital of Indonesia (IKN), is facing increasing climate risks, including rising sea temperatures and intense rainfall leading to floods and landslides. He shared that Samarinda city has longstanding partnerships to address climate challenges and has already made significant progress in waste and sanitation programmes. Samarinda is also investing heavily in inclusive planning and baseline data collection to inform public policy.



Mr. Erika Handoko, Head of PMMPI of Pangkalpinang city Bapperida

He shared that its participation in the CRIC programme has enhanced local collaboration and public awareness on environmental issues. Working closely with communities, the city is promoting capacity building, inclusive decision-making, and practical implementation of climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. They expressed hope that these efforts would be sustained and scaled in the future.



Mr. Efendi Edo, Mayor of Cirebon

He highlighted that 50% of its emissions stem from waste. The city is working with international partners, including the Government of Australia and GIZ, to develop a five-year climate plan. Key priorities include waste management and integrating climate actions into the RPJMD. Cirebon is also addressing transport-related emissions and investing in public transport reform.



Dr. H. Markarius Anwar, Vice Mayor of Pekanbaru

Through his presentation on “Towards Climate-Resilient Pekanbaru: Long-Term Commitment of Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Actions for a Sustainable Future,” he highlighted the city’s comprehensive efforts to build climate resilience through inclusive and integrated planning, supported by data-driven policies. Pekanbaru is actively working to mitigate floods and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through tree-planting campaigns, biogas development, and collaborations with external

companies for waste-to-energy solutions. The city is also prioritising sustainable transportation by improving public transport systems, exploring partnerships for electric buses, and achieving notable energy savings through the widespread installation of LED lighting. These initiatives reflect Pekanbaru's long-term commitment to strengthening solid waste management and advancing sustainable urban development.



Ms. Ananda, Vice Mayor of Banjarmasin

Through her presentation on “Banjarmasin City Climate Resilience Strategy and Action,” she highlighted the city’s vulnerability to monsoonal winds and extreme rainfall, with climate projections indicating increasing risks of both floods and droughts. Banjarmasin is actively implementing the National Urban Flood Resilience Programme (NUFRep) and has integrated CRIC activities into broader urban governance frameworks. The city demonstrates a strong commitment to climate resilience through inclusive and integrated planning, data-driven policy approaches, and multi-agency coordination. Priority actions include improving solid waste management, enhancing flood control measures, and fostering institutional participation and localised information exchange to support sustainable and adaptive urban development.



Mr. I Made Wibisana, Environmental Agency of Mataram City

Through his presentation on “Sustainability Strategy of Mataram City to Ensure Long-Term Impacts of the CRIC Programme,” he outlined the city’s emissions reduction target of over 324,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by 2030 and highlighted Mataram’s commitment to inclusive and integrated planning, supported by data-driven policies. Mitigation strategies include the expansion of the Mataram Maggot Centre, the promotion of circular economy initiatives such as TPS3R, and the active involvement of communities in waste management. Adaptation priorities are centred on enhancing disaster preparedness and strengthening agricultural resilience. These efforts reflect Mataram’s broader strategy to advance solid waste management and ensure the long-term sustainability of its climate initiatives.



Mr. Rizal Marsaoly, City Secretary of Ternate City

Through his presentation on “Results of the Climate Change Action & Thematic Action Plan for the City of Ternate,” Dr. Rizal outlined the city's comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CAP), which identifies priority mitigation and adaptation measures integrated into local development planning. Ternate is investing in improved waste infrastructure, including clean and odour-free thematic TPS facilities, to foster behavioural change among citizens and enhance waste management practices. The city also demonstrates strong community engagement by allocating approximately IDR 3 billion annually to support local environmental initiatives. These efforts reflect Ternate’s commitment to addressing climate change through inclusive strategies focused on waste management, disaster preparedness, and active citizen participation.

SESSION 2B :

City-to-City Cooperation for Climate and SDGs Sustainability Strategies from Pilot Cities



Held in parallel to the main sessions, Session 2b focused on enhancing the capacity of Indonesian local governments to engage in international cooperation and is organised by UCLG ASPAC in collaboration with the Cooperation Facilitation Centre (Fasker) of the Ministry of Home Affairs.



Facilitated by **Mr. Hendra Susila Adi**, Capacity Development and Learning Coordinator of UCLG ASPAC, **Ms. Rika Fitriasari** as the **Sister Cities Cooperation Team Member of Cooperation Facilitation Centre, Ministry of Home Affairs** presented the Mechanisms of Local Governments Cooperation in Indonesia with other local governments in foreign countries. The session provided a comprehensive overview of the legal and procedural framework governing city-to-city and sister city cooperation. Participants were introduced to the twelve-step process outlined in Permendagri No. 25/2020, which governs the initiation, negotiation, approval, and monitoring of international partnerships.

The session emphasised that sister city cooperation must be built on mutual administrative standing (city-to-city, province-to-province) and deliver measurable benefits to both parties. Legal clarity, fiscal sustainability, and alignment with national foreign policy were highlighted as key principles.



Discussions covered a range of topics, including handling internships versus foreign labour, legal documentation for early warning system donations, the use of regional assets in partnerships, and the simplification of procedures for expedited collaboration. Several local government representatives raised specific cases and received practical guidance from the facilitators.



Mr. Agung Zulhatta as Research and Learning Officer of UCLG ASPAC and Mr. Arif Arianto from ADEKSI shared reflections on best practices in managing international cooperation, including the importance of stakeholder mapping, clear benefit indicators, and involving multiple sectors. The session also included a knowledge segment on city branding, which stressed the need for storytelling, stakeholder participation, and alignment between tourism and urban identity strategies.

SESSION 3 :

Leveraging Regional Cooperation and Innovative Financing for Urban Climate Resilience

Session 3 focused on the intersections between regional cooperation, bottom-up community approaches, and innovative financing mechanisms to enhance urban climate resilience. Moderated by Mr. Yanuar Nugroho, Founder and Advisor of the Nalar Institute, the session brought together diverse speakers from government institutions, academia, international organisations, and civil society to unpack what it takes to mobilise resources and build climate-resilient cities from both the top down and bottom up.



Mr. Lorenz Gross, Economies and Policy Analyst at OECD's Partnerships for Sustainable Cities (joining online)

He emphasised the importance of scaling up local action through collective frameworks, effectively highlighting key multilevel governance gaps in urban climate action and the barriers local governments face in accessing international climate finance. Drawing on OECD's work, he presented compelling examples of how regional partnerships and triangular cooperation can enhance development outcomes. In Catalonia, Spain, a regional development fund enables small municipalities to pool resources for joint development actions that would otherwise be financially unfeasible. Similarly, in Kampala, Uganda, inter-city partnerships facilitated the implementation of an automated tax system, significantly increasing municipal revenue and enabling infrastructure investment. These cases underscored the growing importance of collaborative approaches, particularly in the context of

declining international funding commitments from traditional donors such as the United States, and added meaningful insights to the discussion.

Ms. Norliza Hashim, Chief Executive of Urbanice Malaysia



Through her presentation on “Regional Cooperation and Innovative Financing for Urban Climate Action,” she highlighted Malaysia’s leadership in offering replicable models and empowering local actors to advance sustainable urban resilience. Drawing from national experience, she emphasised the importance of planning systems that are closely integrated with funding structures. In Malaysia, aligning planning documents with five-year budgeting cycles has enabled cities to secure long-term financing more effectively. She also stressed the need for territorial planning that transcends administrative boundaries, particularly for climate-sensitive issues such as watershed and forest management. As Malaysia prepares to co-host the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) in 2025, she underscored the urgency of ensuring continuity in smart and climate-resilient city programmes beyond the pilot phase.

Ms. Somsook Boonyabancha, Chairperson and former Secretary General of the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR)

She passionately advocated for people-centred climate finance models. She shared how flexible funding allocated directly to communities had enabled local actors to negotiate, plan, and build climate-resilient housing with city governments. In her view, climate finance must be treated not just as a technical issue, but as a political one — rooted in power imbalances. She argued that financing systems should be transformed to recognise communities as co-creators of climate solutions. By forming community-led networks, sharing knowledge, and developing their own urban plans, residents can actively shape and implement resilience measures.



Ms. Dameria Panjaitan, Coordinator for Bilateral Technical Cooperation of the Cooperation Facilitation Centre (Fasker), Indonesia's Ministry of Home Affairs



She explained the institutional frameworks governing international cooperation for Indonesia's 552 subnational governments, acknowledging that climate financing remains a significant challenge due to overlapping mandates and complex approval mechanisms. Emphasising the vital role of local governments in addressing climate change, she advocated for stronger political will from local leadership and highlighted the need to raise awareness among mayors and municipal authorities about available cooperation opportunities. Her presentation effectively showcased how regional cooperation and innovative financing are crucial for advancing urban climate resilience, underlining the importance of strengthening local government capacity, improving data systems, and fostering multistakeholder collaboration.

Prof. Youssef Diab, Director of Research at Gustave Eiffel University

He offered a European research perspective. Having worked closely with Indonesian cities through the CRIC Programme, he underscored the importance of grants in catalysing innovation at the municipal level. He shared examples from Europe where modest seed funding led to robust city-university partnerships that scaled into major climate infrastructure projects. He introduced the European Innovation Action framework, which brings together engineers, environmentalists, and urban planners in multi-stakeholder consortia. He also stressed the need to build trust over time through smaller pilot projects before scaling, and highlighted the role of resilience in ensuring continuity of essential urban services during crises. Drawing from Paris's €30 billion flood risk preparedness investments, he illustrated the high cost of inaction.



SESSION 4 :

Leveraging Regional Cooperation and Innovative Financing for Urban Climate Resilience

SESSION 4 A :

Panel Discussion on How Indonesian Cities and Local Governments Balance Immediate Actions with a Long-term Sustainability Vision



This parallel session explored how Indonesian cities and local governments are addressing the urgent need for climate responses while maintaining a vision for long-term sustainability. Moderated by Mr. Hizbullah Arief, Project Manager of CRIC at UCLG ASPAC, the session featured diverse perspectives and experiences from local governments, academic institutions, innovators, and community-based initiatives.



Mr. Efendi Edo, Mayor of Cirebon

He opened the discussion by reflecting on the real impacts of climate change experienced by his city, including rising temperatures and unpredictable rainfall patterns. He highlighted the urgent need for adaptive programmes and collaborative responses. Cirebon is actively working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable spatial planning and the phasing out of outdated public transport vehicles. However, the city continues to face infrastructure and resource limitations and is seeking support from stakeholders to accelerate progress.



Dr. Wiryono Raharjo, SPARC Champion of Roof Over Our Heads (ROOH)

He presented an ongoing architectural intervention that collaborates with communities to address the vulnerabilities of informal settlements. Through participatory mapping and inclusive design, the initiative is creating climate-responsive, locally grounded housing solutions. ROOH has engaged young architects and students in professional training programmes to work directly with residents, combining design expertise with lived experience. Aiming to establish a network of 100 urban learning labs, the project underscores the importance of co-developing knowledge for inclusive urban resilience.



Ms. Rugun Firni, Co-founder of FSM-Aman

She introduced a scalable technological solution addressing the water and sanitation crisis: the Water Recycling Unit. Developed domestically and tested in schools, the unit turns wastewater into reusable water for non-potable uses such as flushing and cleaning. It meets national health standards, reduces household water use by up to 40%, and is equipped with user-friendly sensors. The system has proven effective and is being considered for implementation in public institutions and correctional facilities. By significantly lowering emissions linked to sanitation and offering a practical, affordable alternative, the initiative contributes to broader SDG and climate targets.



Mr. Andhika Aji, Head of Research and Innovation Centre, Development Planning Board of the Special Region of Jakarta

He shared the long-term vision of Jakarta, a megacity facing intense climate pressure. With more than 10 million residents and an extended metropolitan area exceeding 30 million, Jakarta has prioritised low-carbon development and urban resilience through improved transportation infrastructure (such as MRT expansion) and coastal protection. However, the city also faces challenges including flooding, water quality, and the implications of the national capital relocation. Jakarta's response includes a governor regulation for climate-friendly development and integrated planning approaches to maintain its economic and environmental sustainability.



Dr. Arif Sugiono, Secretary of the Environmental Agency of Banyumas Regency

He discussed the city's community-based waste management model. Initially met with resistance, the programme succeeded by engaging the public in waste sorting and leveraging community-managed waste centres (KSMs). Through waste processing innovations—such as converting plastic waste into marketable products, Banyumas has demonstrated that local participation, coupled with appropriate technology and funding models, can create jobs and reduce landfill dependence. This experience is seen as highly replicable across Indonesian cities.

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A. Participants raised questions regarding wastewater safety for agriculture, settlement assessment methodologies, and short- vs long-term waste solutions. Speakers reiterated the importance of local context, community engagement, and alignment with national standards. A representative from Gorontalo asked about managing the high costs of water infrastructure. In response, speakers recommended coastal water recycling units as cost-effective interventions.

SESSION 4B :

International Cooperation for Local Resilience: City-to-City Cooperation Training for Indonesian Local Governments

This session focused on enhancing the capacity of Indonesian local governments in engaging with international partners to advance resilience and sustainable development. Organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Cooperation Facilitation Centre of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Indonesia, and UCLG ASPAC, the session provided practical tools, legal frameworks, and inspiring case studies.



Mr. Rico Erik Estrada, Head of the Sister City Task Force of MOHA

He outlined the structured process of initiating and managing international cooperation agreements. He detailed the steps involving local governments, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs—from initial proposals and Letter of Intent (LoIs) to legal reviews and Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs). He emphasised that such agreements typically take up to a year to finalise, with accelerated pathways possible through strong coordination.

Highlighting good practices, he cited examples including Bandung's pioneering Sister City partnerships, environmental cooperation between Surabaya and Kitakyushu, and Yogyakarta's cross-sectoral collaboration with Victoria, Australia. He encouraged participants to view city diplomacy as an entry point for international learning and innovation.



Ms. Maharani Putri Samsu Wibowo, Director of Foreign Relations at Bappenas

She reinforced the importance of aligning local initiatives with national planning frameworks such as the RPJMN. She noted how the government is translating key national strategies into context-specific guidelines for local governments. Citing emerging areas of cooperation, she highlighted the potential of green industries like electric vehicles and bamboo production, particularly those involving women-led MSMEs.



Mr. Khairul Azmir, Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre

He extended an invitation to Indonesian cities to engage in peer learning, particularly on climate resilience and smart city development. He shared examples of ongoing collaboration and expressed interest in working with cities like Ternate to strengthen capacity-building exchanges.

The session closed with several key recommendations: ensure interdepartmental coordination across local governments, engage proactively with national regulatory frameworks, and leverage networks such as UCLG ASPAC for cross-border collaboration.

J A K A R T A C A L L F O R A C T I O N

Adopted on 22 May 2025 during CRIF 2025, the Jakarta Call for Action reaffirmed the commitment of cities and local governments to urgent, inclusive, and transformative local climate action. Recognising the risks of climate change and the potential of local leadership, the declaration outlined the following key commitments:

- Develop and implement Climate Action Plans that are data-driven, participatory, and aligned with national and global frameworks.
- Reform climate finance systems to improve direct access for local governments.
- Build national and local capacity to manage climate-related financing.
- Foster robust knowledge systems to guide evidence-based policymaking.
- Enable decentralised cooperation and peer learning among cities.
- Promote nature-based and circular economy solutions.
- Strengthen the use of disaggregated data and VLRs.
- Integrate short- and long-term strategies in resilience planning.
- Create enabling legal, fiscal, and participatory frameworks to empower local governments.

The call to action stressed that resilience cannot be imported—it must be co-created through collaboration, community agency, and sustained partnerships.

It concluded with a powerful reminder: *“Resilience begins with the agency of cities, the strength of communities, and the power of partnerships.”*

The Call for Action adopted shown as follows:



Climate Resilience and Innovation Forum (CRIF) 2025

Park Hyatt, Jakarta, Indonesia

21-22 May 2025

JAKARTA CALL FOR ACTION

Preamble

We, the mayors, governors, national and local government officials, experts, practitioners, and community leaders from across Asia and beyond, who have gathered in Jakarta, Indonesia, for the Climate Resilience and Innovation Forum (CRIF) 2025, reaffirm our commitment to urgent, inclusive, and transformative local climate action. Recognising the compounding risks of the climate crisis — from intensifying floods and sea-level rise to prolonged droughts, extreme weather, and biodiversity loss — we underscore the need for systemic solutions that are locally grounded, people-centred, and future-proof.

CRIF 2025 marks a milestone in collaborative innovation, knowledge exchange, and shared learning among cities and regions, build up on the achievements of the Climate Resilient and Inclusive Cities (CRIC) Programme and aligned with the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Actions

In response to the insights and priorities shared during the Forum, we resolve to undertake the following actions to advance transformative local climate resilience and innovation:

- Develop and mainstream Climate Action Plans (CAPs) for cities and local governments that are data-driven, participatory, and aligned with national development strategies and global climate targets, including addressing challenges in waste management, natural disasters, water and sanitation, and informal settlements.
- Reform climate finance mechanisms by establishing direct access windows for local and regional governments and simplifying eligibility requirements and application procedures to enable more equitable access to climate funds.
- Strengthen national and local capacities in climate finance by supporting the development of robust project pipelines, technical planning, and institutional frameworks aligned with international funding standards.
- Strengthen evidence-based climate governance by fostering robust mechanisms for the generation, dissemination, and application of scientific and policy-relevant knowledge. This includes

enhancing the capacities of local governments, research institutions, and policy makers to engage in collaborative research; promoting the use of disaggregated and context-specific data; and encouraging the development of policy instruments that are grounded in empirical evidence and tailored to local realities. These efforts may be supported through national or regional knowledge hubs that facilitate continuous learning, innovation, and the institutionalisation of good practices.

- Facilitate peer learning and decentralised cooperation between cities and local governments to share best practices, enable innovation scaling, and foster climate diplomacy.
- Promote inclusive and sustainable urban development, particularly through the integration of nature-based solutions, circular economy principles, and localised disaster risk reduction.
- Strengthen local data ecosystems and Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), ensuring disaggregated data is available and used to monitor progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate targets at the subnational level.
- Integrate short- and long-term planning horizons by embedding immediate climate responses within broader urban development strategies, ensuring institutional coherence, cross-sectoral alignment, and continuity of resilience-building efforts over time.

We urge national governments, international organisations, donors, academia, civil society, and private sector actors to work hand in hand with local and regional governments to unlock the full potential of transformative local climate action. We call for the reform of climate finance mechanisms by establishing direct access windows for local and regional governments, and simplifying eligibility requirements and application procedures to enable more equitable access to climate funds. We also emphasise the need to strengthen national and local capacities in climate finance by supporting the development of robust project pipelines, technical planning, and institutional frameworks aligned with international funding standards. An enabling environment is crucial if local and regional governments are to effectively deliver public service and contribute to global goals. Recognition, support, and empowerment of cities and communities, as first responders and long-term stewards of the climate resilience agenda, remain essential.

Closing

With only five years remaining to achieve the 2030 targets, we reaffirm that resilience is not imported, it must be co-created and collaborative. It begins with the agency of cities and local governments, the strength of communities, and the power of partnerships.

Adopted on 22 May 2025 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

GREENING ACTIVITY:

Tree Planting at Lapangan Banteng and Field Visit: Nature-Based Solutions at Tebet Eco Park



On the morning of 23 May 2025, participants took part in a symbolic tree-planting activity at Lapangan Banteng Park followed by a site visit to Tebet Eco Park, a nature-based solution model in Jakarta. The Eco Park showcases the integration of ecological infrastructure into urban spaces, highlighting how green public spaces can serve flood mitigation, environmental education, and community well-being.

TECHNICAL VISIT:

Community-Based Waste Management in Banyumas Regency

As part of CRIF 2025, UCLG ASPAC organised a technical visit to Banyumas Regency to showcase its integrated, decentralised waste management system. Participants observed how community-managed waste processing facilities work at scale, serving as a replicable model for other cities. The visit was conducted as requested by the CRIC's 10 pilot cities to replicate the successful implementation of solid waste management.



Through KSMs, waste is separated at source, with contributions from households of around IDR 30,000 per month. High-value materials are recycled, while plastics are processed into RDF and other products such as paving blocks. Organic waste is repurposed into compost and biomass. The TPST3R Kedungrandu facility manages 64 to 100 tons of waste daily using both manual and mechanical sorting.

At the BLE facility (TPA Berbasis Lingkungan dan Edukasi), Banyumas has created a zero-landfill model that also serves as a public education space. RDF products are used by cement factories in Cilacap, demonstrating a circular economy approach. To encourage waste processing, a performance-based retribution model has been introduced—processed waste incurs a lower fee.

The visit offered a tangible example of community resilience, supported by technology, policy, and behaviour change. With political will and citizen engagement, Banyumas has reduced its landfill dependency and turned waste into a valuable urban asset. UCLG ASPAC is documenting this case for replication across other local governments.

REFLECTION ON MILESTONES

Handover of Climate Action Plan (CAP) Reports

As CRIF 2025 marked the official conclusion of the five-year Climate Resilient and Inclusive Cities (CRIC) programme, one of its key highlights was the symbolic handover of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) Guideline and CAP reports to mayors of the 10 CRIC pilot cities: Bandar Lampung, Banjarmasin, Cirebon, Gorontalo, Kupang, Mataram, Pangkalpinang, Pekanbaru, Samarinda, and Ternate.

These CAPs are the culmination of collaborative processes involving local governments, research institutions, and community stakeholders. Each report outlines tailored climate mitigation and adaptation strategies based on the cities' unique vulnerabilities, local development priorities, and urban capacities. The CAP reports also provide a roadmap for integrating climate resilience into city development plans and are aligned with national and global goals such as the RPJMN, Paris Agreement, and the SDGs.

The handover event highlighted how local governments, when empowered with data, technical support, and inclusive planning processes, can create actionable and lasting frameworks to reduce emissions, improve urban systems, and protect vulnerable populations.

Awarding of GCoM Badges

In recognition of outstanding climate leadership in Southeast Asia, CRIF 2025 also hosted the awarding ceremony for the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) Badges. Cities that received the GCoM-compliant badges were Kuala Lumpur, Hang Tuah Jaya, Jakarta Special Capital Region, Pontianak, and Segamat District.

The badges were presented by Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC, and witnessed by prominent figures such as Governor Dakila Carlo E. Cua, EU Ambassador Denis Chaibi, and Director General Safrizal ZA from Indonesia's Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) of Indonesia. This recognition underscores the progress made by these cities in preparing transparent emissions inventories, assessing climate risks, and committing to measurable and verifiable climate targets.

The ceremony celebrated these cities' efforts to lead by example, bridging the gap between global ambitions and local action. It also affirmed GCoM's value as a supportive platform for cities working towards long-term sustainability, improved resilience, and climate accountability.

Introduction of the UCLG ASPAC Cities and Local Governments (CLG) Institute

One of the most significant milestones of CRIF 2025 was the formal introduction of the upcoming UCLG ASPAC's Cities and Local Governments (CLG) Institute. As UCLG ASPAC research arm, the CLG Institute aims to become a flagship centre for excellence in local governance, fostering evidence-based policymaking and innovation at the local level. It was presented by Mr. Dakila Carlo E. Cua, President

of UCLG ASPAC and Governor of Quirino Province, Philippines, who described the Institute as “an incubator of ideas, a hub of innovation, and a forum for grounded research that connects theory to the pulse of real communities.”

Designed to support peer learning, policy experimentation, and grounded research, the CLG Institute will serve as an institutional space for knowledge production, capacity development, and multi-level dialogue. The initiative represents UCLG ASPAC’s strategic response to the increasing demand for effective urban governance, particularly in the face of climate change and complex development challenges.

Prof. Bambang Susantono, Special Advisor to UCLG ASPAC, and the Governor of Jakarta joined Governor Dakila Carlo E. Cua during a photo moment to mark the launch of the Institute. The moment symbolised a shared commitment to cultivating local leadership and advancing data-driven resilience policies throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Strengthening Decentralised Cooperation and Showcasing Urban Innovation

Climate Resilience and Innovation Forum (CRIF) 2025 reaffirmed the central role of decentralised cooperation as a practical mechanism for advancing local climate action and sustainable urban development. The Forum marked the formalisation of several strategic partnerships, notably the signing of a Letter of Intent between the City of Samarinda and the City of Hefei, reflecting a growing commitment to cross-border collaboration on climate resilience, urban innovation, and sustainable development pathways. In parallel, Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were concluded between UCLG ASPAC and Kuala Lumpur, the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG), and Urbanice Malaysia—strengthening institutional linkages across Asia and beyond, and expanding platforms for peer learning, technical exchange, and joint initiatives.

CRIF 2025 also recognised exemplary local leadership and innovation in translating policy commitments into tangible action. The Mayor of Hang Tuah Jaya was acknowledged for advancing inclusive, data-driven climate governance at the local level, while the Regency Mayor of North Minahasa received recognition for strategic leadership in sustainable regional development. These acknowledgements reinforced a core message of the Forum: that local innovation, political leadership, and evidence-based policymaking are indispensable to building resilient and future-ready cities and territories.

Importantly, CRIF 2025 demonstrated a shift from planning to implementation. Building on the completion of Climate Action Plans developed under the CRIC project, city leaders highlighted concrete follow-up actions and priority investments during Session 2A. The Forum provided a platform to bridge identified Climate Action Plan priorities with decentralised cooperation opportunities, ensuring that commitments move beyond documentation toward execution. This process is further strengthened through alignment with national frameworks, with coordination and guidance from the Ministry of Home Affairs and BAPPENAS, reinforcing vertical coherence between local action, national policy, and regional cooperation.

KEY POINTS OF CRIF 2025 :

1. A symbolic handover of **Climate Action Plan (CAP) Reports to 10 CRIC pilot cities** marked the successful conclusion of the five-year CRIC programme and reaffirmed the role of local leadership in climate resilience.
2. **Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) Badges** were awarded to five Southeast Asian cities (Kuala Lumpur, Hang Tuah Jaya, Jakarta, Pontianak, Segamat), recognising progress on transparent climate targets and resilience building
3. **Decentralised cooperation agreements** were formalised through a Letter of Intent (Samarinda–Hefei) and MoUs (UCLG ASPAC with Kuala Lumpur, NALAG, and Urbanice Malaysia), promoting peer partnerships for sustainable development.
4. UCLG ASPAC officially introduced the **Cities and Local Governments (CLG) Institute**, envisioned as a regional hub for innovation, evidence-based policymaking, and peer learning.
5. **Best practices in urban sustainability** were acknowledged with special recognitions to the Mayor of Hang Tuah Jaya and the Regency Mayor of North Minahasa, honouring their innovative approaches to inclusive climate action.
6. The **Jakarta Call for Action** was adopted, outlining local commitments to scale up climate action, reform finance access, strengthen data ecosystems, and promote inclusive, nature-based solutions.
7. The **Banyumas field visit** showcased a successful community-based waste management model, inspiring cities to replicate decentralised solutions for resilience.

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Cities Lead the Charge: CRIF 2025 Opens with a Bold Call for Urban Climate Action

Jakarta, Indonesia | 21 May 2025 — The Climate Resilience and Innovation Forum (CRIF) 2025 commenced today at Park Hyatt Jakarta, uniting over 300 participants, primarily from cities and local governments across Indonesia, and internationally, with the presence of Asia-Pacific and European partners, to advance urban climate resilience. Organised by the United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC), in collaboration with the Jakarta Special Capital Region and supported by the European Union, the Forum, themed “Empowering Cities and Local Governments for a Climate-Resilient Future”, underscores the critical role of local and regional leadership, as well as climate resilience. The forum also marked the completion of the EU funded project: Climate Resilient and Inclusive Cities (CRIC).

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC, opened the Forum with a compelling message:

“It takes a community to mainstream climate action. This process begins with raising awareness of the crisis and enhancing the knowledge, insights, and confidence of pilot city stakeholders to plan and implement climate actions. However, creating sustainable climate actions requires even greater efforts through the establishment of global partnerships among sustainable cities, providing a wide range of support from technology to finance.

“With these efforts, cities are no longer mere bystanders—they are the first responders in the climate crisis. Through the Climate Resilience and Innovation Forum, we advocate for and empower local governments with the tools, knowledge, expertise, and partnerships they need to lead with climate ambition,” said Dr. Bernadia.

Mr. Denis Chaibi, EU Ambassador to Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam, highlighted the European Union's steadfast commitment to climate action and sustainable development.

“Addressing the threat of climate change remains a top priority for the European Union (EU). Climate change affects each city differently, depending on how prepared they are and who gets to be involved in making decisions. Through the Climate Resilient and Inclusive Cities (CRIC) project, the EU and Indonesia have been working together to make cities stronger and more inclusive in the face of climate change.” he said.

High-level remarks were also delivered by H.E. Mr Tito Karnavian, Minister of Home Affairs of Indonesia and keynote speeches by Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Mayor of Kuala Lumpur.

A major milestone was the symbolic handover of ten Climate Action Plans (CAPs) to Bandar Lampung, Cirebon, Samarinda, Pekanbaru, Banjarmasin, Pangkalpinang, Gorontalo, Kupang, Mataram, and Ternate, who were part of the Climate Resilient and Inclusive Cities (CRIC) project. These plans will serve as blueprints to help cities integrate inclusive climate strategies into their mid-term development

plans. UCLG ASPAC has also launched a CAP guideline, based on UCLG ASPAC's experience and lessons learned in assisting over 20 local governments across the Asia Pacific region in preparing their CAP.

Another highlight was the awarding of Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) compliant badges to Southeast Asian cities for demonstrating tangible climate action progress, and the signing of decentralised cooperation agreements between several cities and institutions, including Samarinda-Hefei, UCLG ASPAC and Kuala Lumpur, UCLG ASPAC and National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG).

The opening concluded with the introduction of UCLG ASPAC's forthcoming City and Local Government (CLG) Institute, which will serve as a centre for research, knowledge, and evidence-based policymaking, focusing on policy development, research, and knowledge management.

Over the following two days, CRIF 2025 will host high-level panels, interactive thematic sessions, a tree-planting activity and site visits to Jakarta's Tebet Eco-Park and Banyumas' solid waste management transformation facilities, offering scalable, community-based models of resilience.

As a flagship convening-not held annually but at pivotal moments for the region-CRIF 2025 sets the stage for actionable collaboration, renewed commitments, and alignment with the Paris Agreement and the SDGs, strategically positioning cities and local governments in crafting a sustainable, inclusive climate future.

Climate Resilience and Innovation Forum (CRIF) 2025 on the Headlines



To highlight the significance and outcomes of the Climate Resilience and Innovation Forum (CRIF) 2025, UCLG ASPAC actively supported and facilitated media outreach across multiple platforms, including facilitating a press conference. The forum received widespread attention, resulting in a total of 36 media articles. This coverage reflected growing interest in the themes central to CRIF 2025, including

inclusive climate governance, urban innovation, nature-based solutions, and the role of local leadership in advancing resilience.

Key drivers of this media visibility included the presence of prominent national figures such as the Governor of Jakarta and the Minister of Home Affairs (represented by the Director General of Regional Administration), along with high-level international participation from the EU Ambassador and local leaders across Southeast Asia. The launch of the Jakarta Call for Action and the culmination of the CRIC Programme added momentum to the forum's public profile.

International Media

· [The Jakarta Post – Ten Indonesian cities receive EU-funded climate action plans](#)

· [AsiaToday – Cities Lead the Charge: CRIF 2025 Opens with a Bold Call for Urban Climate Action](#)

National, Local, and Regional Media (Indonesia)

· [Antara – UCLG ASPAC Akan Gelar CRIF 2025](#)

· [Detik Ekonomi – Butuh Biaya Besar buat Hadapi Perubahan Iklim](#)

· [KOMPAS TV – Breaking News Gubernur Jakarta Hadiri Pembukaan CRIF 2025](#)

· [METRO TV – Headline News \(22/5/25\) CRIF 2025](#)

· [Detik Infrastruktur – Jurus Kota Jalankan Aksi Ketahanan Iklim](#)

· [Detik Ekonomi – Eks Kepala IKN Jadi Kepala CLGI Asia Pasifik](#)

· [KOMPAS – Komitmen Asia Pasifik Menuju Kota Berkelanjutan](#)

· [KOMPAS.COM – Pramono Anung Bertemu Wali Kota KL Bahas Krisis Iklim](#)

· [IDN TIMES – Pramono Dorong Pengurangan Emisi di Jakarta](#)

· [Bisnis Indonesia – Eks Kepala OIKN Ditunjuk Kepala CLG Institute](#)

· [KONTAN – Kota Pimpin Perubahan: CRIF 2025 Resmi Dibuka](#)

· [LIPUTAN6 – Seruan Aksi Ketahanan Iklim](#)

· [SUARA.COM – Forum Internasional Soroti Pemimpin Daerah](#)

· [TRIBUNNEWS – Bernadia Irawati: Pemimpin Kota Harus di Garda Terdepan](#)

· [JPNN – Forum CRIF 2025 Tekankan Peran Kota](#)

· [ANTARANEWS – Hadapi Krisis Iklim Perlu Kemitraan Global](#)

- [KUMPARAN – Malaysia Tawarkan Kerja Sama Teknologi Sampah-Banjir](#)
- [VIVA.CO.ID – Dari Tebet Eco-Park ke Banyumas](#)
- [BERITASATU – Forum CRIF 2025 Dibuka](#)
- [INVESTORTRUST – Kepemimpinan Lokal Percepat Ketahanan Iklim](#)
- [BISNIS MARKET – Inovasi Pemimpin Lokal Jadi Kunci](#)
- [BISNISTODAY – CRIF 2025 Resmi Dibuka](#)
- [MEDIA INDONESIA – Kesadaran dan Kemitraan Global](#)
- [INDOPOS – CRIF 2025 Dibuka, Dorong Aksi Nyata](#)
- [TIMES INDONESIA – CRIF 2025 Dibuka di Jakarta](#)
- [JAKARTA DAILY – CRIF 2025 Resmi Dibuka](#)
- [KORAN JAKARTA – Komitmen Ketahanan Iklim](#)
- [JKTINFO – Ketahanan Iklim dan Mekanisme Pembiayaan](#)