



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA

CALL FOR REGIONAL CURATORS

#INNOVATE4CITIES CONFERENCE

Cities, Climate Change Science and Innovation (virtual event)

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



GLOBAL COVENANT
of MAYORS for
CLIMATE & ENERGY



Innovate4Cities Conference

For More Information:

<https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/research-innovation/>

Contact:

Steven Bland, UN-Habitat
steven.bland@un.org

Dr Cathy Oke, University of Melbourne
cathy.oke@unimelb.edu.au



CALL FOR REGIONAL CURATORS

2021 INNOVATE4CITIES CONFERENCE CITIES, CLIMATE CHANGE, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (VIRTUAL, GLOBAL EVENT)

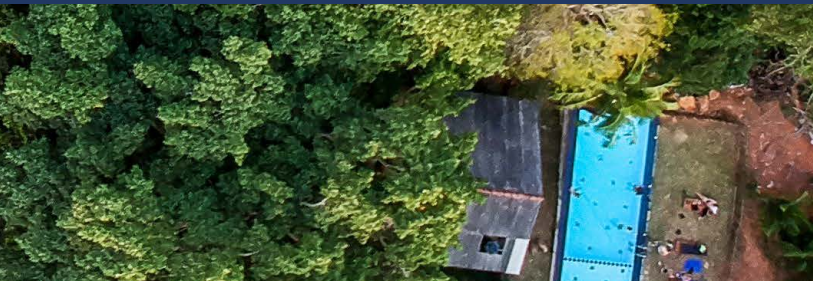
Expression of Interest Information

UN-Habitat and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) are hosting the groundbreaking Innovate4Cities 2021 Conference from 11 to 15 October 2021. This is a virtual multi-day global event bringing together science and innovation, policy and practice to enable cities to take accelerated and more ambitious climate action.

We are seeking regional curator teams comprised of local governments, research institutions and innovation partners to support the delivery of a programme that is diverse, accessible and representative of city scale innovation, knowledge and ambition from all regions of the globe

Closing date for regional curator team expressions of interests:
10th May 2021

[**Click here to submit your
Expression of Interest**](#)



1 WHAT IS THE INNOVATE4CITIES CONFERENCE?

The Innovate4Cities Conference will bring together over 1,000 city leaders, scientists, researchers, innovators, academics, youth, and private sector representatives to advance pragmatic and action-oriented research and science that will help cities reduce their carbon footprint and increase resilience to climate change. As a follow-up to the 2018 Edmonton Cities and Climate Change Science Conference, the Innovate4Cities 2021 Conference aims to bolster knowledge co-creation and innovative solutions implementation and to mobilize the transformative potential of cities towards zero-carbon and climate-resilient cities, as they build back better in their COVID-19 recovery plans.

Cities - local and regional governments - will continue to be integral to identifying knowledge and innovation gaps in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Innovate4Cities Conference aims to facilitate urban partner cooperation and secure green investments for cities and their partners in transitioning to a more just, healthier, safer and sustainable world. The conference will also provide inputs to the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) being held in November, and the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Seventh Assessment Report (AR7) cycle.

The conference is strategically timed to synchronise with other ongoing international conferences, events and consultations around complementary themes. The I4C conference will precede COP26, and follow a number of high level regional and international conferences and initiatives on climate action themes, including: Race to Zero and Race to Resilience; Urban Thinkers Campus; ICLEI's Daring Cities conference; the High Level Political Forum, and the Convention on Biological Diversity COP15.

2 WHO WILL ATTEND?

National, regional and local government representatives, urban practitioners; researchers, academics, and students, civil society groups, not-for-profit organizations, and entrepreneurs; Private sector companies and investors.

3 THEMES

The conference program will be built around the core themes of the Global Research and Action Agenda developed in Edmonton in 2018.

The Global Research and Action Agenda on Cities and Climate Change Science is organised into three sections: 1. crosscutting issues and knowledge gaps; 2. key topical research areas; and 3. suggested approaches to implement the Research and Action Agenda. This thematic structure is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Pathways for climate adaptation and mitigation in cities

4 CALL FOR REGIONAL CURATORIAL TEAMS

The Innovate4Cities Conference seeks to support accessible, innovative, equitable city climate action through promoting, guiding and sharing city-focused research and innovation, driving partnerships and implementation at the local and neighbourhood scale

To make this a reality, the Conference organising committee is looking for curatorial teams from all regions of the globe, working and researching the nexus between science and practice for ambitious delivery of climate goals, to curate program elements that bring **regional voices, opportunities, and priority innovation pathways and partnerships to the conference.**

The Innovate4Cities Conference Regional Curatorial teams will be recognised as supporters of the event, for providing curated programme segments that feature tangible on-the-ground outcomes, co-creation of regional solutions, and present leading research, innovation and practice from their nominated region.

Regional curators are sought from the following 4 conference time zones. It is possible that more than one team is selected from each timezone group.

Timezone GROUP 1:

- Oceania
- Southeast Asia

Timezone GROUP 2:

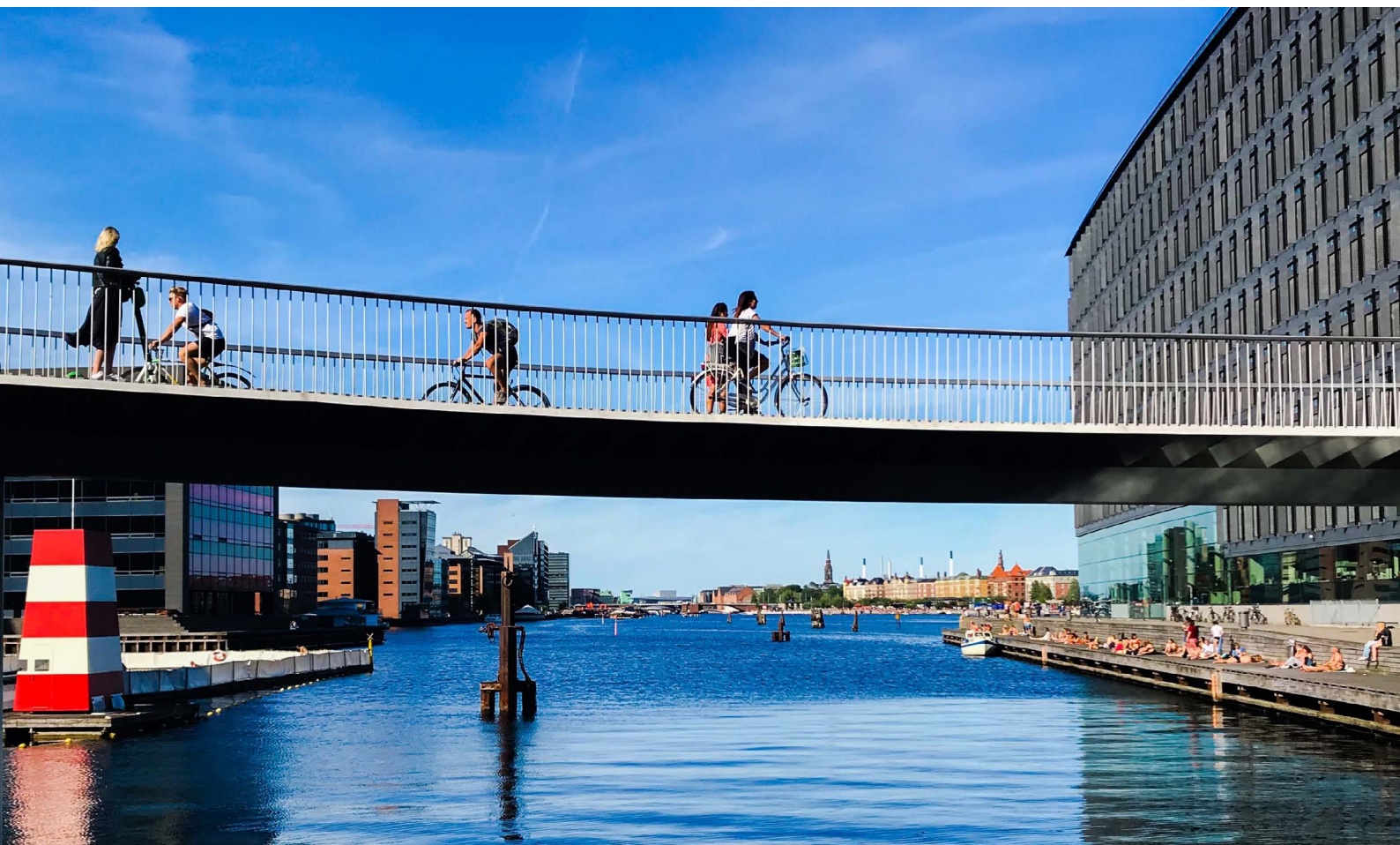
- European Union and Western Europe
- Middle East and West Asia
- Africa

Timezone GROUP 3:

- East Asia
- South Asia
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Timezone GROUP 4:

- Latin America and the Caribbean
- North America



5 WHY BECOME A REGIONAL CURATOR?

- Gain significant organisational and brand visibility at major global conference, including via being recognized as sponsors (logo and website) on conference website and relevant virtual promotional material;
- Shape regional discussions and priorities before and during the conference in cooperation with the relevant national / regional Covenant of Mayors.
- Opportunities to showcase organisational good practice in the conference programme, including via representation in a high-level panel and by showcasing local stories via a virtual field trip. In addition to programming a series of sessions, workshops and events for the Conference, be offered opportunity to participate in / organize a high level panel, including the opportunity to host a welcome and closing event by the Mayor/s of the curatorial team city/ies
- Contact with other regions working on similar or complementary challenges and strategies
- All team members (individuals) will be recognised as Regional Curators on website and programme

6 WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

The regional curator team needs to meet the following eligibility criteria:

- A minimum of 2, maximum of 6 local government, research institutions and or organisations representing sectors with expertise in city climate change science or innovation from your timezone region
- Includes at least 1 research institute/University and 1 local government from within your timezone region
- Evidence that your team includes or will partner with other urban stakeholders so as to be able to provide regional and thematic contextual content to the program and target appropriate participants;
- One individual to act as the Team lead and contact with conference organiser
- All team institutions / organisations will be recognised as sponsors, via logo, and lead individual/s can be named as regional curators

7 TIMING AND FORMAT

The I4C Conference will be held in a full virtual format spread over 5 days. It will be a “rolling” virtual event, inclusive of all regions and across all time zones distributed via a global webcast and dedicated conference virtual platform. The conference program will be globally and regionally curated, with opportunities for each region to join plenary and parallel sessions taking place in different locations.

I4C sessions and the conference outcomes will be “knowledge generating”, making use of innovation methodologies in creative sessions, and recognizing the knowledge contributions of all participants.

The diverse conference program will include session types such as:

- Mix of plenary and interactive focused sessions on major conference themes, including:
- High-level plenary sessions with live and pre-recorded VIP speakers
- Regional break-out sessions with focus on regional priorities to help cities to accelerate their climate action journeys
- Innovation co-creation showcase sessions
- Artistic performances and cultural showcases
- Networking and discussion sessions
- Virtual field trips

8 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE REGIONAL CURATOR TEAMS

In partnership with the conference organisers and the Science and Innovation Steering Committee, the responsibilities of the regional curators include:

- Curate a mix of at least 5 sessions on the programme, including speakers, panel discussions, workshops, virtual field trips, cultural elements relevant to the region (e.g music, art etc);
- Commit to regular (fortnightly, then weekly) meetings with organising team, and delivering programme sessions by due date
- Supporting the mobilization of science, city, private industry and innovator participants in the region via outreach and communications support in the region
- Co-hosting a Mayoral opening and closing event for networking and partner building in the region



KEY DATES FOR REGIONAL CURATORS

- Launch of Expression Of Interest: 19 April 2021
- Deadline for submissions: 10 May
- Short list Invited to meet with organising team to confirm involvement: 19 May
- Regional curators to provide a draft program of ideas: 10 June
- Final programme due: 30 June

9 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

Organisations interested in applying to become regional curators need to complete the [google form](#) providing information on the criteria listed below (*criteria weighted equally)

- Team includes a mix of representatives and expertise from at least one city and one research institute/ university (additional team members from industry/business/civil society are also eligible), from the region*
- Team has the expertise and network to include diverse voices from their region and disciplines, including early career researchers and city practitioners and cultural perspectives*
- Team has expertise to showcase (eg virtual field trip) city innovation and knowledge needs from their region*
- Team has ability to encourage delegates to register and present city scale climate science and solutions in / for their region*
- Team has interesting research and/or practice and/or innovation story to share at the conference via a virtual field visit on key GRAA topics or regional challenges
- Teams commit to fortnightly meetings May to August, weekly in September, with organising team.

Teams must nominate one organisation and individual to act as the contact and team leader.



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