2022 Q1 | ISSUE 29
WeGO e-NEWSLETTER

Member Highlight: Dwelling

Smart bus stops: the solution to urban mobility problems?

With more than 55% of the world population living in cities, urban mobility and transportation solutions are one of the main areas in which local governments seek smart solutions. Many cities have implemented bus-based public transportation solutions that improve the conventional bus system, such as Bus rapid transit (BRT) systems. But what about improving the bus stops to not only solve transit pain points, but also provide citizens with shelter, being aesthetically pleasant, all at an affordable cost? One of WeGO's newest members, Dwelling's 'Smart Bus Shelters' solution contains all of this.

Introducing 'Smart Bus Shelters

The 'Smart Bus Shelters' contain all the features smart bus stops in crowded transportation hubs are expected to provide such as real-time information about bus arrival times. But it goes further than that. With features such as heating for the winter, air conditioner for the summer, the bus stops also serve as perfect shelters for citizens to take refuge in times of extreme weathers (disregarding the season) and fine dust, another major problem in large cities these days. For everyone's safety, the bus stops also include sensors that are incorporated with AI-based technology to detect movements or undesirable movements such as molestation or sleeping.

No solution today is smart if it does meet citizens' demands for convenience. Accordingly, Dwelling's bus shelters are equipped with electric outlets, USB charging ports, and even air purifiers to prevent the spread of disease in these pandemic times. The company also deems the visual appearance of the bus stops to be a priority. For this reason, the bus stops are designed to resemble the Korean traditional houses 'hanok' with curve-shaped rooftops, and use LED advertising boards to share visually pleasant content, from fine arts and popular cultural content.

Finally, this solution is both green and economically profitable: solar panels are used to produce 30-40% of the electricity needed to operate the bus stops, construction costs are less than half the cost of installing traditional bus transfer centers in South Korea, and the profitable LED advertising boards are used to cover most of the management cost.

Wide-scale implementation in Seoul and future plans

Given the number of benefits, this smart bus solution is set to be one of the next smart transportation trends in South Korea. Following a dozen small-scale pilot projects in Seoul, the city of Seoul has asked Dwelling to create 600 smart bus stations across the city in 5 years. Even now, the company manages all the bus stops from a separate control room at the data control center department of the city.

Dwelling's next ambition is to create 'Smart Muti Stations': an upgraded version of the smart bus shelters with several floors: a second floor for charging electric vehicles and food stands, and a top floor for drones.

Joint collaboration with WeGO

In line with WeGO's emphasis on engaging the global community to promote the sustainability of our cities under the environmental, social and governance (ESG) frameworks, Dwelling's strong commitment to the ESG principles brings in specialized expertise and guidance to WeGO's network. As a newly joined member, WeGO and Dwelling will collaborate on sharing the know-hows and technologies of smart bus shelter stations with the cities around the world, establishing a global standard for the "Smart Bus Shelter" and "Smart Multi Stations" in the form of projects ranging from feasibility studies, pilot projects to a city-wide scale implementation.

Find out more

View promotional video

Recent WeGO Activities & Events

WeGO kicks off 2022 with briefing on 2022 activities

Marking the start of the new year, WeGO organized its annual kick-off event to inform its members and partners of the activities it is planning for 2022. New key activities launched this year include a youth program (WeGO Smart City Champions), development of an index for benchmarking smart cities (WeGO Smart Cities Index), and platform communication between members (WeGO Nexus). Approximately 300 global stakeholders from WeGO members, embassies, international institutions, academic and youth, along with the Mayor of Seoul and President of WeGO enjoyed the event online and offline.

For those who missed this key event, the recording of WeGO's 2022 Activities presentation and the 2022 Activities Brochure can all be found on WeGO's website.

Find out more

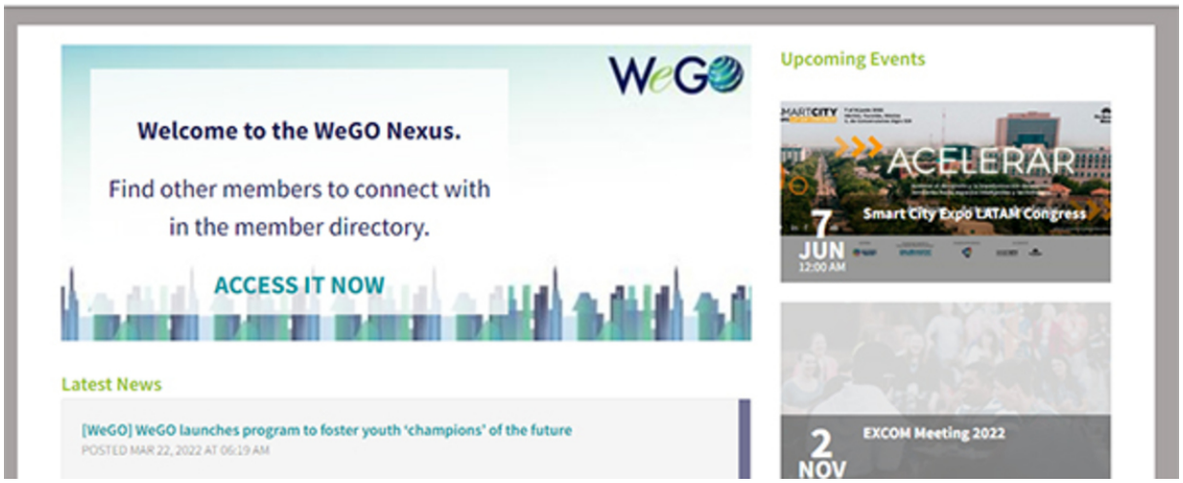
WeGO's new program fosters youth 'champions' of the future

The WeGO Smart City Champions is a youth program aiming to build the capacity of young people around the world in the fields of urban development, sustainability, and smart cities. Open to anyone under 35, the program is divided into two phases: Phase I (March 4 - April 17) consisting of lectures that aim to equip participants with the conceptual knowledge of smart cities, and Phase II (April 25 - June 17) designed as capacity-building workshops where students work in teams to come up with innovative solutions to smart city challenges.

More than 500 students from 60+ top schools in 10+ countries around the world are enrolled in the program, and will be moving on to Phase II at the end of April. All other non-participants are invited to view Phase I lectures on WeGO's YouTube channel.

Find out more

View Phase I Lectures



New member-exclusive community platform: 'WeGO Nexus'

WeGO's new member-exclusive community platform enables WeGO members to easily manage their membership and enjoy the full benefits of being a member. On the WeGO Nexus, members can communicate and interact with each other, get all the latest information about WeGO's activities, and promote their own smart city-related activities, and more.
Did not access your account yet? Contact alizee@we-gov.org directly for personalized assistance.

Find out more

Introducing WeGO Smart Cities Index focusing on ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance)

WeGO kicked off its first milestone for development of the WeGO Smart Cities Index in March, this index will focus on highlighting criterias such as citizen-centricity, digital ethics, and social responsibility. It will serve as guidelines and reference to cities in the world to learn smart cities experience from other cities. Furthermore, WeGO will work with its members and partners to have the data collected using a 'bottom-up' approach, with the public's participation. Data collection for the index is planned to be carried out in the summer (July-August) of this year, and the final report will be published in Q4 of 2022.

WeGO strengthens partnership with academic institutions for knowledge-sharing activities

In Q1, WeGO deepened its partnership with academic institutions. WeGO partnered with top-tier international schools—Catholic University of Milan, Chengdu University of Technology, Harvard Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society, University of Geneva—and South Korean universities—Dongguk University, Kookmin University, Korea University, Yonsei University, Seoul National University Global R&DB Center, and Seoul National University Global School of Public Administration.

In response to the rapidly changing landscape of smart cities, creating knowledge sharing opportunities with the world's think tanks and academia is crucial to prepare WeGO members to be ready for the next. Together, the organizations will collaborate on WeGO's existing activities—by adding insightful content in training programs, knowledge-sharing and matchmaking webinars, and the WeGO Smart City Champions program for instance. WeGO will also promote the development of closer city-to-academia exchanges, as an addition to the already common city-to-city (G2G) and city-to-corporation (B2G), for enhanced learning opportunities and potential collaboration on urban projects. Finally, WeGO will further seek to foster students' knowledge of smart city, sustainability, and the 4th industrial revolution with real-life experience and examples from the field.

This strengthening of relationships with academia demonstrates WeGO's determination to bring in expertise from all smart city stakeholders across all industries into its activities, and will enable WeGO members as well as regular citizens to be the leaders of smart sustainable development. WeGO welcomes partnerships with other schools and academic institutions willing to increase knowledge-sharing and collective intelligence around smart cities.

WeGO Secretariat Activities

WeGO pursues international exchange through embassies

Following last year's trend, embassies in South Korea continue to express keen interest in meeting with WeGO to present their respective countries' smart city priorities, and explore how WeGO can assist local actors achieve their urban development goals. Accordingly, WeGO met with representatives from eight embassies through bilateral meetings and embassy events: the Ambassadors of Colombia (February 11), Costa Rica (March 2), Ecuador (February 8, March 22), and embassy representatives for Quebec (Canada), Japan, Singapore. WeGO's Secretary General Jung Sook Park also attended the gala concert celebrating the 60 years of friendship between South Korea and Mexico (February 6), the luncheon hosted in commemoration of the 178th anniversary of the Dominican Republic's independence (February 23), and the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Colombia and South Korea (March 10). The meetings resulted in fruitful discussions on bilateral joint cooperation between WeGO and the respective countries. With the embassies' help. WeGO will help selected cities and other partners with the smart city development in their respective regions.

WeGO to collaborate with key national and international partners on capacity-building and matchmaking programs

WeGO continued its partnerships with leading international organizations to expand the scope of its activities and better meet the needs of its members in the rapidly changing smart city field. WeGO met with the World Bank and the National Information Society Agency (NIA; South Korea) to discuss its capacity-building program which will be held in Q3 this year. A meeting was also conducted with the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL) in collaboration on the WeGO Smart City Champions. ENoLL agreed to share their expertise on living labs and encourage youth participants to leverage this real-life experimentation methodology that fosters co-creation and open innovation among key smart city stakeholders in their own projects. Furthermore, WeGO connected with other partners such as the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV), Smart City Institute Japan (SCI-Japan) and Seoul Urban Solutions Agency (SUSA; South Korea) to discuss synergies in knowledge sharing and capacity-building activities across regions and sectors.

WeGO seeks to set the global agenda at international events

In line with its agenda-setting role on the global smart city scene, WeGO participated in a wide range of events in this quarter. In March, WeGO's Secretary General Jung Sook Park gave opening remarks at the Asian Mayors Forum's 6th General Assembly (Dushanbe, Tajikistan; March 9) and at the 2022 Sustainable City Forum (Taipei, Taiwan; March 23) organized by the International Climate Development Institute (ICDI). WeGO also participated in the Global Fund for Cities' Development (FMDV)'s online Board of Directors meeting (March 8) to discuss what it considers are the priorities in terms of urban finance. In April, WeGO shared its view on issues in digital government at the 21st session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration of UN DESA (New York City, April 8), and introduced WeGO's youth program—the WeGO Smart City Champions—at the IV Nobel Fest (Nur—Sultan; April 13) organized by the Inclusive Development Foundation (IDF).

Upcoming Activities

Smart Tourism in focus at Latin America-focused matchmaking webinar

End of June

WeGO will organize the Solution Meet Cities & Latin America Smart Cities Network (LASCN) Conference in Q2. Building on from what was established in 2021, this event will take the LASCN initiative one step further, consolidating the partnership formed in the region. Cities and solution providers will present their projects and solutions and opening for potential matchmaking for public-private partnerships.

The webinar will focus on 'Smart Tourism', a key component of smart city that can help tourism-dependent cities not only recover economically from the pandemic, but also ensure that this sector is more resilient. Smart tourism brings in innovative, digital and eco-savvy ways to travel. Taking advantage of the latest technology such as virtual reality and the metaverse to break down the limits and restrictions of travel, it responds to old and new demands in the industry. WeGO will share the opportunities in smart tourism with its members and partners.

Cities and corporate members are invited to express their interest to participate in the event by contacting the WeGO Secretariat directly.

Tough competition begins as youth smart city 'champions' take on critical urban challenges in Phase II

April 25 - June 12 | Online

In Phase II of the WeGO Smart City Champions, youth participants will work in teams to come up with innovative solutions to smart city challenges. They will prepare project plans that outline the clear steps, methods, and stakeholders needed to solve a pressing urban challenge. Participants will have the opportunity to further develop these plans, receive feedback from experts, learn from success stories of youth entrepreneurs, and experiment with diverse methodologies through live workshops.
Interested members and partners are invited to watch the workshop 2 (May 20), semi-finals (June 3), finals (June 10).

Register now

Find the right partners for your projects, and more,

on the WeGO Nexus

In Q2, WeGO will be stepping up its matchmaking activities by introducing new features on the WeGO Nexus that enable members to promote their upcoming projects (for local governments) or solutions (for corporations and institutions) and connect directly on the platform. This feature will also be used to find speakers for WeGO's upcoming Solutions Meet Cities webinar. In addition, 'opportunities' in terms of funding, training, and awards will be listed for WeGO members to access more benefits. Members and partners are also encouraged to use the WeGO Nexus to share their activities and events.

Be sure not to miss out on these benefits by logging onto the platform today!

Find out more

New Members

Dohwa Engineering is the first civil engineering company in South Korea. From the very beginning, Dohwa Engineering played a pivotal role in the growth and development of the country's civil and construction engineering industry, contributing also to technological advancements. Based on high-level technology and accumulated experience, Dohwa Engineering offers professional services such as project development and study, planning, feasibility study, project management consulting, design, analysis, procurement, construction, construction project management, operation and maintenance.

Dohwa Engineering operates 30 subsidiaries and branch offices around the world and has successfully completed over 600 global projects. The company has received numerous awards for its international projects as a Korean company.

Dohwa Engineering vows to continue to deliver high-quality projects that benefit both humanity and the environment, while conducting its business according to ethical standards and fulfilling its social responsibilities to shareholders, stakeholders and local communities.

Visit Dohwa Engineering's website

View Dohwa Engineering's promotional video

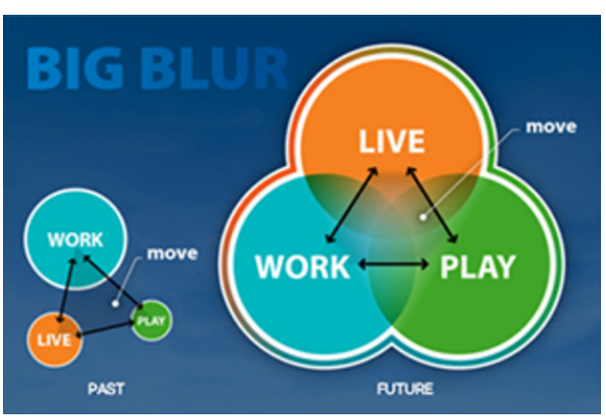
HIENERGY CODEX is an energy infrastructure company with various solutions related to wind power technology, hybrid street and security lighting, and air ventilation. With solutions that supply renewable energy and preserve the environment, HIENERGY CODEX is strongly committed to the principles of ESG (Environment, Social, Governance) and wishes to solve climate change and energy problems, promoting the sustainable development of mankind.

By developing various wind energy application products that have a wide and universal use, the company strives to become a global leading company that not only contributes to solving global warming and energy depletion problems, but also provides clean energy sources to future high-tech industries, such as telecommunication, artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, biotechnology, and aerospace

HIENERGY CODEX runs various projects all over the world, including in DR Congo. Currently the company aims to expand its business from developing countries to more advanced cities globally.

Visit HIENERGY CODEX's website

Member Updates



“Seoul 2040 Comprehensive Plan” for new urban spatial structures amidst digital transformation

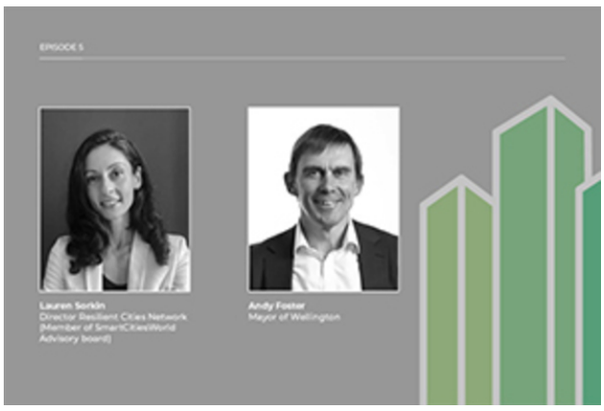
The Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) announced a preliminary outline of the Seoul 2040 Comprehensive Plan to create a new spatial planning framework for future urban spatial structures suitable amidst the digital transformation. This long-term plan will serve as a guide in the pursuit of various urban planning models of the city over the next 20 years.

The Seoul 2040 Comprehensive Plan will create flexible socio-spatial schemas that reflect social factors per locality to result in various urban land uses. Moreover, the plan will focus on improving the quality of life of citizens and strengthening Seoul’s urban competitiveness.

The plan comprises six major items on the agenda: 1. First-and-last mile locality infrastructure; 2. Fluvial water-centric infrastructure; 3. Urban competitiveness via multiple nuclei; 4. Urban planning beyond zoning; 5. Undergrounding of elevated railway; and 6. Expansion of future-oriented transportation infrastructure.

With this draft of the Seoul 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the SMG aims to set the framework to lead Seoul's urban development for the next 20 years to create a "Local Seoul For Me, Global Seoul For All" and enhance not just Seoul's urban competitiveness, but also the quality of life for citizens.

Find out more



Wellington interview for WeGO's media partner podcast (SmartCitiesWorld)

Mayor of Wellington, Andy Foster, will highlight the city's leadership on digital resilience, its award-winning Digital Twin initiative, and its successful approach in working with start-ups and digital businesses. Wellington was one of the 15 cities worldwide that was recently awarded US$1 million in the Bloomberg Global Mayors Challenge, a competition that recognizes innovative city projects. Lauren Sorkin, Executive Director at Resilient Cities Network, will host this interview produced by WeGO's media partner SmartCitiesWorld.

Find out more

Members who would like to be featured in WeGO's e-newsletter, please share your news with the WeGO Secretariat! Take advantage of the Nexus platform to share your news with us.

Opportunities for WeGO Members

K-City Network: Apply now for technical and financial project assistance

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

Deadlines: April 29 (Track 1), May 20 (Track 2)

South Korea's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MOLIT) offers technical and financial assistance to overseas smart city projects. There are two tracks: (1) the 'Project Preparation Support Program' provides financial support on planning/feasibility analysis and capacity-building for smart city projects, while (2) the 'Solution Demonstration Project' will financially support projects that roll out or expand Korean smart city solutions in cities overseas. For track 1, national and local government organizations, and international organizations are eligible applicants. For track 2, non-Korean entities must partner with Korean organizations or corporations to be eligible. Interested members are encouraged to reach out to WeGO as we can actively assist, consult, and guide interested members through the application process.

Find out more

World Bank's Smart Cities for Global Frontier Infrastructure (Virtual Knowledge Exchange)

April 19 - May 10 | Online

Organized jointly by the World Bank Group and Seoul National University Global R&DB Center, this Virtual Knowledge Exchange on "Smart Cities for Global Frontier Infrastructure" will be held online from April 19 to May 10. At this event, experts from government, private sector and academia will share their insights on four thematic areas to which smart cities can contribute: Global Infrastructure, Metaverse Smart City, Frontier Transformation, and Vision for Digital Asset and Smart City Infrastructure Assurance. If interested, please register here before April 22.
For further information about each session's agenda and speakers, you may refer to the links below.

Week 1, Week 2, Week 3, Week 4

Smart City Expo LATAM Congress

June 7 - 16 | Merida, Mexico

The Smart City Expo LATAM Congress is an event that has become the platform for collaboration and implementation of transversal actions through technology, innovation, diversity, learning, inspiration and the participation of strategic actors for the activation and transformation of Latin America.
This year, under the philosophy "ACTIVATE, ACT, ACCELERATE", the leading smart city event in Latin America invites all citizens, companies, governments, institutions and media in the region and the world, to get involved and participate in this seventh edition to learn about the actions that are being implemented to contribute to the regeneration of cities in Latin America and the Caribbean.
Exclusive special discounts are available for WeGO members that wish to take part in the event. Contact us today for more details.

Find out more

World Cities Summit 2022

July 31 - August 3 | Singapore, Singapore

How do cities remain liveable, sustainable, and more resilient in these trying, unsettling times of pandemic and climate change? This year WCS 2022 seeks to address this question with its theme of Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Emerging Stronger. The Summit is a convening point for global mayors, business leaders and knowledge experts to exchange and co-create city solutions for liveable and sustainable cities, and will engage cities, businesses and experts at the highest levels to discuss how cities can emerge stronger through prolonged and unpredictable disruptions.

The 4-day offline event will comprise the main conference, which includes plenaries and tracks, and other key events such as the Lee Kuan Yew World Prize Lecture, Award Ceremony and Banquet, WCS Mayors Forum, WCS Young Leaders Symposium, and an exhibition.

Join global, business and thought leaders from over 500 cities worldwide as they share best practices and ideas for cities to emerge more liveable, sustainable and resilient, from prolonged and unpredictable disruptions. Sign up now to get a 20% off, and purchase more than 5 conference passes to get a 25% discount!

Find out more

Register here

Smart City Trends

SmartCitiesWorld

Three lessons on advanced air mobility and how it can benefit cities

Following SmartCitiesWorld's roundtable at GUAAS 2022, senior editor Luke Antoniou reflects on the lessons shared by the experts, exploring how advanced air mobility can take off in cities and become part of a wider, better connected transportation network. Find out more

FIWARE
Open APIs for Open Minds

Smart Digital Economy – What has Open Source gotta do with it?

In the very collaborative spirit that the FIWARE Community members embrace and foster, this White Paper has been written with dozens of several members and partners of FIWARE and addresses how cities can mindfully advance their digital transformation via open source innovation, from a practical perspective. Find out more

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