



World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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# About WeGO

The World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGO), is a membership-based international association of local governments, smart tech solution providers, and institutions committed to the transformation of cities into smart sustainable cities through facilitating public-private partnerships (PPP).

WeGO was founded by 50 member cities in 2010 as the World e-Governments Organization, hence our acronym. In response to the evolving concept of smart cities, WeGO expanded its vision and mandate at the 7th General Assembly (2017) and its name to the World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization.

WeGO's Secretariat is based in Seoul, Korea, and has regional offices in East Asia (Chengdu, China), the Mediterranean (Beyoglu, Türkiye), Africa (Abuja, Nigeria), Middle East & North Africa (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates), Latin America (Cuenca, Ecuador), and Central Asia (Almaty, Kazakhstan).

As the leading platform on smart city development, WeGO's mission is to share knowledge and good practices in e-Governance; strengthen administrative efficiency and transparency; advance digital capacity; facilitate civic involvement; bridge the digital divide and inequality; and promote cooperation solidarity among cities and local governments around the world.

WeGO serves for its members as their international platform to improve the quality of life, innovate in the delivery of public services, and strengthen regional competitiveness.

*Smart City Smart Citizen*



**WORLD SMART  
SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
ORGANIZATION**

# Greetings

## From the President of WeGO



As the world progresses towards a greener, sustainable future amidst escalating challenges such as climate change, a global economic downturn, and widening socioeconomic disparities, WeGO remains tirelessly committed to tackling evolving issues with innovation and people-centric solutions. With cities fully recognized as fundamental pillars of our future, WeGO and its partner and member cities is dedicated to shaping smart cities as the cornerstone of the next generation and a new environmental paradigm.

I am delighted to share the achievements of WeGO in transforming its programs to better guide its members to foster inclusivity and diversity of cities.

This year marked the successful convening of the 6th General Assembly, which served as a unifying platform to solidify our WeGO members' commitment to accelerate smart sustainable city development for a "Smart Citizen, Smart City." Our General Assembly in 2023 has been attended by over 200 delegates and stakeholders from 58 cities and 30 countries and celebrated a significant milestone in the organization's growth with Cuenca, Ecuador; Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; and Almaty, Kazakhstan assuming the Regional Office roles in their respective regions. Additionally, the Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) and WeGO jointly launched the inaugural Seoul Smart City Prize aimed to promote innovative smart city solutions focusing on the socially neglected population. We received over 240 applications and selected exceptional leaders and projects from 21 entities. For the coming year 2024, the SMG and WeGO will again hold the Seoul Smart City Prize

I cordially invite you to peruse our annual report to celebrate our achievement and stay informed of our activities.

Looking ahead, WeGO will hold the EXCOM 2024 meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan hosted by our member and WeGO Regional Office, as well as numerous activities and programs to build on our excellent and rigor for a more secure and sustainable smart city for all to ensure that no one is left behind.

I eagerly anticipate to continuing our partnership as a WeGO network and pursuing solutions and best practices for a green, sustainable, and human-centered future for all cities around the world.

Best regards,



Oh Se-hoon  
Mayor of Seoul





# Greetings

## From the WeGO Secretariat



As I take stock of my role as the Secretary General of WeGO in 2023, I reflect upon a year marked by dynamic leadership and collaborative endeavors. Having assumed this position in September of 2021, the past year has been a transformative journey at the helm of the Secretariat. Throughout this period, I have had the privilege of engaging with our esteemed members and partners across the globe, fostering insightful dialogues that underscore our collective commitment to advancing smart sustainable development. Serving as the Secretary General during this pivotal moment offers a unique opportunity to contribute to the reinvention and reconstruction of our shared future. I am enthusiastic about the challenges and possibilities that lie ahead as we continue to shape the trajectory of WeGO's mission in 2023 and beyond.

Taking the lessons in tackling the challenges from growing digital equality overshadowed by rapid digital transformations, WeGO began 2023 confidently to advocate for and implement human-centered concepts at the core of smart and innovative urbanization. Equitable digitalization plays a pivotal role in urban transformation, particularly in the context of climate change and its far-reaching consequences. As cities worldwide grapple with the impacts of climate change, harnessing the power of digital technologies is essential for fostering resilience and sustainability. However, the benefits of digitalization must be distributed fairly to ensure that vulnerable populations are not left behind. By prioritizing inclusivity in digitization efforts, cities can empower marginalized groups to actively participate in decision-making processes, access crucial resources, and enhance their adaptive capacities in the face of climate-related disruptions. In essence, the pursuit of equitable digitalization is not just a technological imperative but a moral and strategic imperative for creating sustainable and fair urban futures.

As a leading organization on sustainable smart city development, WeGO has organized various events to initiate a global dialogue on and promotion of these issues. To present two key highlights of 2023, WeGO held the 6th WeGO General Assembly in our president city, Seoul. With over 200 city representatives among WeGO members attending this session offline and online to approve key strategic direction of WeGO. Secondly, WeGO in partnership with the Seoul Metropolitan Government, has launched our very first Seoul Smart City Prize. With over 240 total applicants, WeGO have selected most commendable and impactful projects focused on bridging the digital equality gaps.

Alongside our key accomplishments this year, WeGO has continued spearheading smart city development globally through the expansion of its existing partnerships, with an addition of 7 new MOUs, participation in the main smart city events, and running our flagship capacity problems such WeGO-National Information Society Agency Joint Training Course and Seoul Human Resource Development Center Training Program. Additionally, WeGO in close partnership with IMD has successfully launched Smart City Index Report 2023, a tool to measure a city's effort in human-centered smart city development. And last but not least, we have successfully completed the second running of the WeGO Champions program for the young, future leaders of smart city development from 6 cities in Azerbaijan, Germany, Switzerland, Greece, Italy, and USA.

Lastly, I would also like to extend my gratitude to the President city, Seoul, the EXCOM members, and our six regional offices for their unwavering support and commitment throughout the year. The Secretariat looks forward to continuing shaping the future of smart cities alongside our members and partners.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Park Jung-sook'.

Park Jung-sook

Secretary General of WeGO

# 2023 WeGO HIGHLIGHTS



# WeGO 2023 Achievements in Numbers

## NETWORK EXPANSION & ACTIVITIES

100+

Meetings with smart city stakeholders



35

WeGO has participated and organized 35 activities (i.e. program, meeting, and others)



7

New Members



7

MOU signatures



## CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES

360+

city officials and youth trained at WeGO training programs



240

Applicants for the Seoul Smart City Prize



# 6th WeGO General Assembly 2023

September 25-27 | Seoul, South Korea

## Overview

Seoul Metropolitan Government and WeGO hosted the 6th WeGO General Assembly 2023 in Seoul and welcomed the 200+ WeGO members and distinguished guests. In partnership with Seoul, WeGO prepared a 3-day program designed to illustrate a tangible representation of Seoul's experience in uniting heritage and innovation for smart city development and future. Through General Assembly Session, Seoul Smart City Prize Ceremony, cultural performance, future tech exhibitions, and more, the participants appreciated the comprehensive and holistic examples of what it means to lead a human-centered smart city development.

## 6th WeGO General Assembly | Sep 25 - 27 |

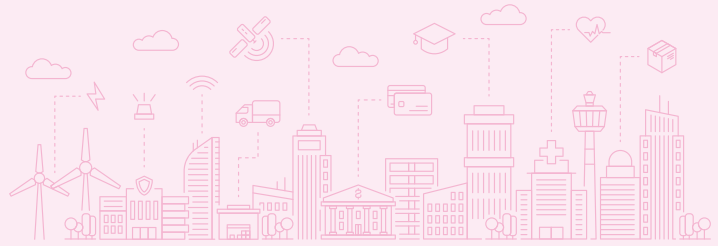
During the General Assembly Session conducted on 26th September 2023, there were twenty-four (24) mayoral-level representatives (Governor, Mayor, and Vice Mayor or Deputy Mayor) in total attended the Session both in person and online. These twenty-four mayoral-level representatives, in fact, represented a total population of 130,996,081 citizens from six (6) different regions, including Central Asia, East Asia, Middle East & North Africa, Oceania, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. In addition, there were 45 WeGO local government members participated in the General Assembly Session both in person and online. Other than WeGO local government members, there were five (5) WeGO corporate members that joined in the session together both in person and online. As a result, a total of 58 city representatives from over 30 countries participated in the General Assembly session.

## 6TH WEGO GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

- Selection and approval of Seoul to serve as WeGO's President City and Kampala and São Paulo as Vice President City for 2023 - 2026 term.
- Selection and approval of Almaty as the host city of WeGO EXCOM 2024, WeGO 7th General Assembly in 2026, to serve as the Executive Vice President City for 2023 - 2026 term.
- Official establishment of three new Regional Offices of Middle East & North Africa (Abu Dhabi), Central Asia (Almaty), and Latin America (Cuenca)
- Expression of interest to join the WeGO network from six local governments from Kaohsiung, Lusaks, Madinah, Madrid, Nansana, and Turkestan Region, and one corporate from Dassault Systèmes.







### 6th WeGO General Assembly Tour Program | Sep 25-26 | Seoul

The delegates joined in on a special tour program beautifully demonstrating the culture and innovative characteristics of Seoul. The delegates marveled at the beauty of Seoul via city tour bus and “Hosangnori” a cultural performance of love and afterlife in Korea; critically engaged with brilliant minds behind Seoul’s success in smart tourism and smart city development through Solutions Meets Cities and Smart Tourism, including a special exhibition visit in LG Science Park: Innovation Gallery. For nourishments, delegates enjoyed traditional dishes containing the harmony with nature at “Sanchon ” a vegan cuisine inspired by Buddhist practice of “do no harm” and fun street food adventures at the Gwangjang Market.



# Seoul Smart City Prize



## September 25 | Seoul, South Korea

The Seoul Smart City Prize was joined by over 200 attendees with a notable speaker such as Mayor Oh and Psy, alongside 70 mayors, high level executives, and ambassadors in presence. Furthermore, with over 240 applications, the Seoul Smart City Prize launched confidently into the forays of smart city development to contribute to the unified vision of smart cities for everyone. Each of three Prize categories, Tech-Innovacity, Human-centricity, and Leadership, gathered movers and shakers implementing commendable human-centered initiatives in equitable digitalisation and cutting edge technology innovations. The main body of operation for providing insight and direction of the Seoul Smart City Prize is the Organizing Committee. These representatives also pertain to the smart city sector giving professional consultation and recommending suitable candidates for the Evaluation Committee. The Organizing Committee also serves to encourage the promotion of the prize and its global visibility.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 200+ attendance with 70 mayoral level representatives present during the Seoul Smart City Prize Ceremony.
- WeGO received 240 applications from cities, local governments, corporations and individuals.
- Among 40 finalists 21 cities, corporations, institutions, and individuals across multiple categories received the Seoul Smart City Prize
- Prize Steering and Organizing Committee gathered together experts from the smart city area to evaluate applications including mayor of Seoul, CEO of SEMI, President of the University of Texas, President of Le Monde, Founders of Edgelands Institute, Chair of the Board of Sweden UNHCR, Director General of the GGGI, President of Smart City Observatory (IMD), Vice Chairman, and professors from the Korean and international universities working in the smart city area.





# Seoul Smart City Prize Awardees

The Seoul Smart City Prize's evaluation committee of smart city experts carefully selected 20 winners who clearly demonstrated distinguished and exemplary initiatives that overwhelmingly satisfied the rigorous evaluation criteria centering on the themes of innovation, transformative impact, human-centeredness, advocacy, social equity, and partnership. Each and every initiatives of the 20 winners and more than 240 applicants underscores the global momentum in fully realizing an equitable and transformative urban future through smart city development. Please visit [www.seoulsmartcityprize.com](http://www.seoulsmartcityprize.com) for more information.



## TECH-INNOVACY

"Tech-InnovaCity" category sought out projects that focus on integration of innovative policies and technologies in all sectors of society and domains ranging from mobility, safety, welfare, environment, energy, culture, and governance.



**Wellington, New Zealand**  
Project Name:  
"Wellington Climate Change Adaptation Digital Twin"



**Los Angeles, USA**  
Project Name:  
"MyLA 311 Citizen Relationship Management System"



**Madrid, Spain**  
Project Name:  
"Madrid Data Driven, City Intelligence"



**Abuja, Nigeria**  
Project Name:  
"Smart Waste Management - Optimizing Municipal Solid Waste Management Leveraging Digital Technology"



**Almaty, Kazakhstan**  
Project Name:  
"The Geoanalytics Platform"



**George Town, Malaysia**  
Project Name:  
"The Smart Island Digital Twin (SmiDaT)"



**Digital Agency for Public Innovation, Mexico**  
Project Name:  
"Software Development Factory"

## HUMAN-CENTRICITY

"Human-CentriCity" category sought out projects that are designed to prioritize digital inclusion in smart city development, thereby overcoming or mitigating the digital divide, and that aim to serve specific target groups among the citizen population, such as the elderly, youth, and the disabled.



**Odense, Denmark**  
Project Name:  
"LEAP- Leadership, Empowerment, and Advocacy for the People"



**Manila, Philippines**  
Project Name:  
"Go! Manila"



**Dublin, Ireland**  
Project Name:  
"Academy of the Near Future (ANF)"



**Luxembourg City, Luxembourg**  
Project Name:  
"Digital Mandate (Digital Proxy) for the MyGuichet.lu Platform"



**Da Nang, Vietnam**  
Project Name:  
"Smart Trips Platform"



**São Paulo, Brazil**  
Project Name:  
"Accessible Services Network Map"



**Institution Awardee:**  
**Korea Institute of Civil Engineering and Building Technology, Vietnam**  
Project Name:  
"Establishment of Vietnam-Korea Cooperation Center for Smart City and Construction of Technology"



**Corporation Awardee:**  
**One Smile Foundation, Japan**  
Project Name:  
"A Smile Turns into a Donation! Project to Visualize and Improve the Well-being of the City"

## LEADERSHIP

Individuals that have demonstrated leadership in developing or promoting the innovative use of technology and data to impact the lives of global citizens.

**Uğur İbrahim Altay**  
Mayor of Konya Konya, Türkiye

**Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh**  
Mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation Dhaka, Bangladesh

## SPECIAL MENTION

by GGGI & IMD

**Kaohsiung, Taiwan**  
Project Name:  
"Kaohsiung Agrinfo Platform"

**Abu Dhabi, UAE**  
Project Name:  
"Smart Parks Using IoT Platform"

**Madinah, Saudi Arabia**  
Project Name:  
"City Living Museum"



# WeGO Capacity Building Program

## WeGO-NIA Joint Training Course

July | Seoul, South Korea



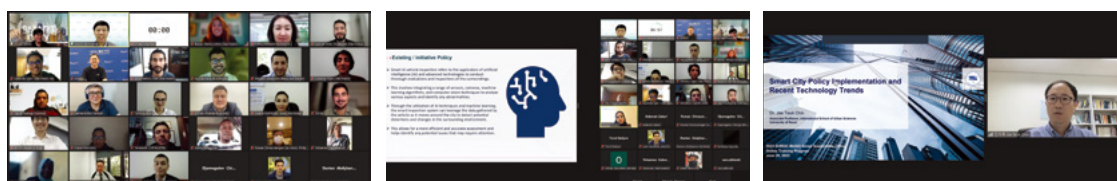
WeGO in collaboration with National Information Society Agency organized the WeGO-NIA Joint Training Course. This joint WeGO-NIA effort aims to foster a close network of government officials to drive sustainable and equitable growth in smart city development and create opportunities to produce tangible solutions and ideas relevant to our cities and their members. This training course was held under the theme of “Development of digital government and smart city in Korea: Capacity building through knowledge sharing and open access” and it was a member exclusive program

This course consisted of four main blocks of lectures: Digital Platform Innovation in Smart City; Applications of Digital Platform in Smart City; Digital Platform Innovation in Digital Government; Road to Applications of Digital Platform in Digital Government. Following the lectures were visitation programs to key sites of Korea government’s data management and utilization, as well as transportation hubs.

Over 16 government officials from 7 cities worldwide representing Penang Island, Seberang Perai, Makati City, Quezon City, Tubah, and São Paulo, participated in a week-long training course.

## WeGO - Seoul Human Resource Development Center (SHRDC) Training Program

June – July | Seoul, South Korea



WeGO organized a self-paced, e-learning program with WeGO and SHRDC experts to present participants action plans developed during the course to equip municipal officers with extensive insights into Seoul's top-notch methodologies and policies towards the advancement of smart city development.

This year, the theme of the training program was “Smart Sustainable City” focusing on the topic of Seoul’s Smart City Initiatives, Seoul’s Big Data for Post-COVID Digital Transformation, and Smart City Policy Case Study. This training program successfully brought in 36 governmental officials from eleven (11) cities worldwide representing Abu Dhabi, Abuja, Addis Ababa, Almaty, Baku, Bangkok, Bishkek, Cuenca, Jakarta, San Fernando, La Union, and São Paulo to share leading trends in smart cities based on Seoul’s global leadership in the field. The program features self-paced e-learning, pre-recorded lectures, and real-time live sessions with experts from academia.



# WeGO Smart City Index

## WeGO Smart City ESG Index



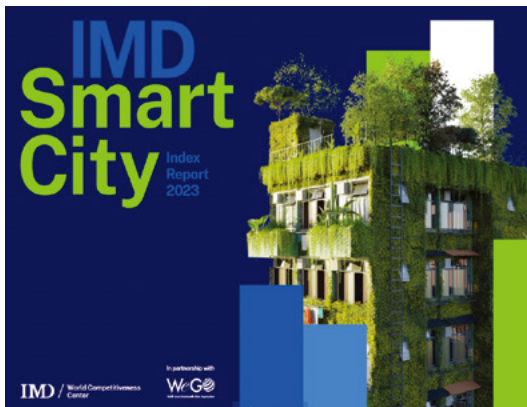
In close cooperation with Kookmin University, WeGO has developed the core of its Smart City Index taking into account the concept of ESG for smart city development. To the date, WeGO has collected data from 13 local governments, including various essential indicators with ESG elements.

Final report was published in 2023 and this Index aims at setting the global agenda in the smart cities community by collecting data from cities around the world, assessing the smart development stages of the cities, and publishing smart city thematic reports and rankings. It will also serve as a guideline and reference to cities in the world to learn smart city experiences from other cities in the world.

### WeGO Member Cities Participation List

Astana (Kazakhstan)	Bangkok (Thailand)	Bucharest (Romania)	Buenos Aires (Costa Rica)	Gaziantep (Türkiye)
Makati (Philippines)	São Paulo (Brazil)	Seberang Perai (Malaysia)	Seoul (Korea)	Shivasatakshi (Nepal)
Tabriz (Iran)	Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia)	Wellington (New Zealand)		

## WeGO Smart City Index Report in partnership with IMD



WeGO in partnership with IMD, recognized cities' efforts in human-centered smart city development through the Smart City Index Report 2023. The Index serves as a valuable benchmark for progress on openness, innovation, inclusivity and sustainability. Among the 141 cities studied in the Index – 26 of WeGO's member cities were evaluated and 20,000 citizens were surveyed for about 15 aspects of living in their cities. The IMD Smart City Index is distinctive because it utilizes city-level data from the Human Development Index. This comprehensive approach considers various indicators, such as life expectancy, education, and income, offering a more holistic view

of the quality of life for city residents, as opposed to country-level data. Using the measurements to capture human-centered smart city development, WeGO and IMD worked together to select a city to award as a Special Mention for the Seoul Smart City Prize, for which the ceremony was held in September in Seoul.

### WeGO Member Cities Participation List

Abu Dhabi (UAE)	Abuja (Nigeria)	Accra (Ghana)	Ankara (Türkiye)	Bangkok (Thailand)
Berlin (Germany)	Bucharest (Romania)	Buenos Aires (Costa Rica)	Chengdu (China)	Hanoi (Vietnam)
Hong Kong (China)	Islamabad (Pakistan)	Jakarta (Indonesia)	Lima (Peru)	Manila (Philippines)
Mexico City (Mexican States)	Muscat (Oman)	Nairobi (Kenya)	Paris (France)	Rabat (Morocco)
Rotterdam (Netherlands)	San Francisco (USA)	São Paulo (Brazil)	Seoul (Korea)	Tunis (Tunisia)
Wellington (New Zealand)				

# WeGO Sustainable Smart City Champions



October - November | Baku, Munich, Geneva, Athens, and Milan



**Mr. Danil Kerimi**  
Dean of WeGO Champions,  
EdgeLand Institute and Technical  
University Munich



**Dr. Alexandre Hedjazi**  
WeGO Champions Instructor, University  
of Geneva-Center of Excellence on Smart  
Sustainable Cities Switzerland



**Dr. Matteo Tarantino**  
WeGO Champions Instructor,  
University of Geneva and Catholic  
University of Milan



**Arch. Gabriel Lanfranchi**  
WeGO Champions Instructor, Director of  
the Urbanismo Metropolitan Program,  
University of Buenos Aires

WeGO Sustainable Smart City Champions aims to inspire and empower young urban leaders of tomorrow. This year, WeGO launched a second iteration of the program, assembling youth from all around the world by fostering knowledge exchange and strengthening capacities of youth in the field of urban development, sustainability and smart cities. The program has had a significant change this year as it is divided into the online certificate course and the in-person workshops which were set to give practical exposure and dynamic discussions with the WeGO Champions.

The certificate online course has the theme of "Accelerating, Benchmarking, and Communicating Smart and Sustainable Cities' Transitions." It is free and accessible at the platform [www.cityresiliencetraining.com](http://www.cityresiliencetraining.com) upon sign up. Students enrolled on the course are asked to complete learning from the recorded lectures, additional readings, and quizzes. WeGO will award a

certificate to those who successfully finish the course. The eight online lectures centered around key smart city topics including, but are not limited to, the international framework of smart city development, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), meaningful data use for improving resilience, social cohesion and inclusivity, and managing and engaging with multi-stakeholders and communities in cities.

Accelerating, Benchmarking, and Communicating Smart and Sustainable Cities' Transitions via [www.cityresiliencetraining.com](http://www.cityresiliencetraining.com)


- Lecture 1** Global Context and Local Conditions of Sustainability
- Lecture 2** The Metropolitan Century
- Lecture 3** Tools and Cases for the Ecological Transition in Cities
- Lecture 4** Data for Urban Inclusion

- Lecture 5** Communicating Smart and Sustainable Cities
- Lecture 6** Measuring and Benchmarking Sustainable Smart Cities
- Lecture 7** Digital Twins and MetaCities
- Lecture 8** Integrative, Inclusive, Resilient Cities

## Young Urban Leadership Perspectives in Dialogue

For the program's offline phase, experts in the field, academic scholars, and students, held the "Young Urban Leadership: Perspectives in Dialogue" where open conversations and discussions on smart city transitions were explored. More than 200 students attended the offline events in the Baku (Azerbaijan), Munich (Germany), Geneva (Switzerland), Athens (Greece), and Milan (Italy). Going back to the classroom learning experience have given WeGO Champions the additional advantage of active and dynamic learning and participation, and developed a sense of community among young leaders who are focused on contributing to the development and transition of their very own smart cities they belong to.



 **BAKU, AZERBAIJAN**  
Oct. 1, Nov. 17 Littoral urbanization Land-use, Waste Management, Global Energy Supply




 **MUNICH, GERMANY**  
Oct. 3 Digitainability: Measuring Sustainable Smart Cities




 **ATHENS, GREECE**  
Nov. 3 Urban Retrofitting: Connecting Architectural Legacy with Sustainability, Reuse and Repurposing of Vacant Buildings, Nature Based Solutions in Dense Neighborhoods



 **GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**  
Oct. 4, Nov. 22 Global Cities Governance and Nature-Based Solutions



 **MILAN, ITALY**  
Nov. 14 Redefining Urban Communication: Conflict, Culture and Digital Media in Smart and Sustainable Cities

# EXPOS & Conferences

## ESG Connect Forum (Nov 23, 2022 | Seoul, South Korea)

In partnership with Seoul Tourism Organization, Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Unione Communications, WeGO hosted the ESG Connect Forum on November 23 under the topic, 'Strategies towards Sustainable Society in Decarbonization Era' at the Korea Press Center. As the world faces intensifying challenges as environmental tensions grow, populations age and urbanize, and wealth and consumption increases, the culture of everyday citizens in smart cities is shifting, WeGO stands to be a part of the green transition in cities and people's lives.



## GEEF 2023: Global Engagement & Empowerment Forum on Sustainable Development (February 2, 2023 | Seoul, South Korea)

WeGO presented at the 5th Global Engagement Empowerment Forum on Sustainable Development (GEEF 2023) co-hosted by the Institute for Global Engagement & Empowerment (IGEE), Ban Ki-moon Foundation for a Better Future, and Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens. The WeGO Secretary General, Ms. Jung Sook Park, gave a presentation under the theme of the human-centered smart cities beyond technology during the plenary session determined to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive cities. It is an annual international event where all stakeholders, including global leaders and experts, convene to collaborate towards accomplishing the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



## World Summit on the Information Society Forum (March 13-17, 2023 | Geneva, Switzerland)

In light of the ITU WSIS Forum 2023, WeGO co-organized Mayors' Roundtable with Geneva Cities Hub on best practices and challenges of digital solutions for building resilient and inclusive cities, at ITU Headquarters with remote participation and an Interactive High-Level Dialogue on building resilient cities for achieving the SDGs. Additionally, WeGO conducted MOU signing ceremony with Geneva Cities Hub on site and presented for the "Workshop on Urban Futures with Tsinghua University" to introduce WeGO's work at the SDG Solution Space created by the University of Geneva for the Geneva Tsinghua Initiative.



## Smart City Summit & Expo 2023 (March 27-31, 2023 | Taipei and Kaohsiung, Taiwan)

WeGO's Secretary General joined the Opening Ceremony of the 2023 SCSE in Taipei where hundreds of local government delegates, including the Mayor of the city and Deputy Mayor of Kaohsiung (the two hosting cities), gathered to kick-off the event that marks the 10th Anniversary of the SCSE. Furthermore, the Secretary General of WeGO was also invited to take part in the Net Zero City Leaders Summit. A high-level platform for mayors and city leaders around the world to exchange opinions on smart city governance, innovative strategies, and visions for upcoming development. Having reached the post-pandemic era, the in-person event gathered over 160 local governments from all over the world. Furthermore, WeGO promoted the upcoming Seoul Smart City Prize in partnership with Seoul Digital Foundation at the Seoul Pavilion. This space served to share the Seoul Smart City Prize with all the foreign delegations visiting the Pavilion. Additionally WeGO Secretary-General joined the 2023 SCSE Smart & Sustainable City Forum and ICLEI Member Assembly in Kaohsiung to deliver the opening remarks with the presence of 50 cities worldwide.



## Annual Investment Meeting 2023 (May 7-10, 2023 | Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates)

WeGO made a grand debut in the Middle East at the Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) 2023 in Abu Dhabi, UAE hosted by AIM Congress. Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology, and Department of Economic Development of UAE. During AIM, WeGO organized a workshop, "The Making of Smart and Sustainable City: Implementing smart and sustainable city projects through Private-Public-People Partnership (PPPP)". The objective of this workshop was to explore the idea of employing PPPP as a strategy for constructing intelligent and eco-friendly smart cities. WeGO also organized an Interactive High-Level Dialogue on "Constructing Visions for the Future of Smart Cities," gathering mayors and high-level representatives who shared their visions and progress towards building future cities involving smart innovation in the city environment, specifically taking into consideration the values and goals of sustainability, inclusivity and human-centeredness. The honorary presenters during the session included: Mayor of Baguio (Philippines), Mayor of San Fernando La Union, Deputy Mayor of Bishkek, Deputy Mayor of Maputo City, Deputy Mayor of Yerevan city, Executive Director of Information Technology Affairs Sector at DMT, and Chief Executive Officer, Masdar City.





# Institutional & Private Sector Networking

Over the course of the year, WeGO had the opportunity to introduce its services and programs to representatives from institutions and the private sector and to explore areas of collaboration. Altogether, WeGO met with and fostered cooperation with hundreds of institutional and corporate representations from across smart city sectors, amounting to enhanced partnership with key tech solution providers in Korea and beyond. Overall, such networking activities have newly engaged 7 esteemed corporate members to the organization, including Dwelling, Vueron, Smart Space Another Ground, Laboratory of Software Embedded Engineerings, Seoul Tourism Organization and Youngshin Components to further collaborate in identifying new technologies and smart solutions in the field of smart city development.



# Meetings with Diplomatic Corps

In line with WeGO's mission of promoting worldwide transformation of cities into smart sustainable cities, the Secretariat closely cooperates with diplomatic corps and other foreign delegations in Korea to promote the organization's programs and activities all over the world and seek cooperation. During 2023 WeGO conducted a total of 38 meetings with 21 Embassies to Korea (Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Iran, Israel, Latvia, Malaysia, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Singapore, UAE, UK and the USA), 22 meetings with mayors and governors (Abu Dhabi, Almaty, Beyoğlu, Bhadrapur Municipality, Dublin, Dhaka South, Kanakai Municipality, Kaohsiung, La Union, Manila City, Odense, Penang Island, Pokhara, Sainshand City, San Fernando, La Union, Seberang Perai, Seoul, Sundarharaicha Municipality, Wellington, Damak Municipality, Gauriganj ), and received 2 ministerial delegations (Uzbekistan and Luxembourg).





# 2023 WeGO ACTIVITIES

December 6 (Wed) – 8 (Fri), 2023

Gyeongju, Gyeongngbuk-do



 **NEAR**  
International Forum 2023 – The 14<sup>th</sup> Subcommittee  
on Economy and Humanities Exchange  
2023 NEAR 국제포럼 및 제14회 경제·인문교류 분과위원회  
December 6(Wed) – 8(Fri), 2023 | Gyeongju, Gyeongngbuk-do

LAHAN  
SELECT

# 2023 Activities

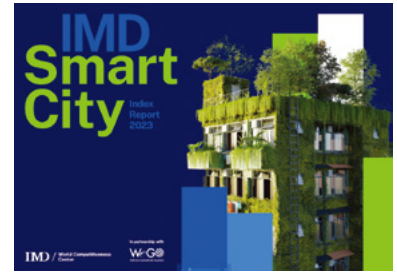
## TIMELINE

February 2023



**GEEF 2023:**  
Global Engagement &  
Empowerment Forum on  
Sustainable Development

April 2023



**IMD Smart City Index 2023**

February 2023



**WeGO Activities Kickoff**

November 2022

**ESG Connect Forum**

March 2023



**ITU World Summit on the  
Information Society Forum  
2023**

May 2023

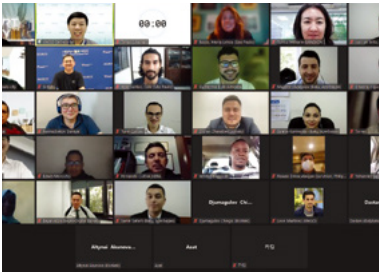


**Annual Investment Meeting  
2023**

March 2023

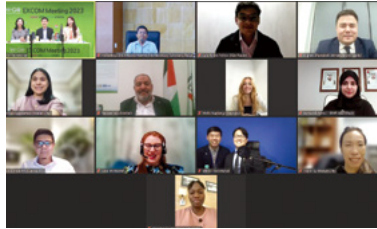
**Smart City Summit &  
Expo 2023 (SCSE)**

June, 2023



**WeGO - Seoul Human Resource Development Center (SHRDC) Training Program**

September 2023



**The Executive Committee [EXCOM] Meeting 2023**

July 2023

**Discover NEOM:  
A New Future by Design**

September 2023



**The Seoul Smart City Prize Ceremony**

July 2023



**WeGO - National Information Society Agency (NIA) Joint Training Course**

September 2023



**6th WeGO General Assembly**

October, November 2023



**WeGO Sustainable Smart City Champions**



# 2023 Activities

## 2023 Activities Kick-off Event

February 21, 2023

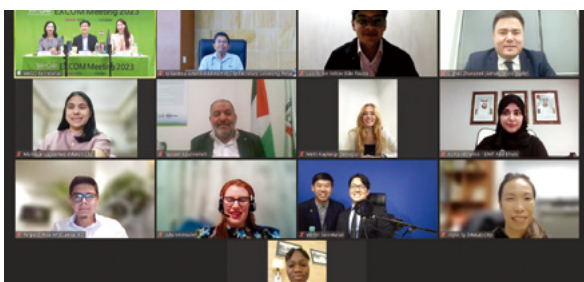
Held every year to introduce its activities and programs, WeGO hosted the Activities Kick-off event in February 2023, inviting members and partners to introduce WeGO's core activities in 2023; to host an online opening ceremony to launch the WeGO Seoul Smart City Prize; to present the Smart Cities Index Report; and to network among participants. By organizing an interactive seminar, WeGO strives to engage new and existing members and partners in promoting WeGO's new initiatives and identifying synergies to address their needs in 2023. The onsite event was attended by over 100 participants including representatives from 25 embassies, 57 corporations and institutions, and 15 local governments.



## WeGO Executive Committee Meeting 2023

September 4, 2023

The EXCOM Meeting convenes high-level officials representing local governments from around the world to discuss and decide important agenda for the organization. 22 cities representatives joined the EXCOM meeting to deliberate on various operations to see to the advancement of WeGO's mission. WeGO welcomed 7 new local government and corporate members and approved three new regional office appointments for Cuenca (Ecuador), Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), and Almaty (Kazakhstan). EXCOM meeting was held successfully ahead of the 6th General Assembly where EXCOM 2023 deliberations will be finalized in front of all WeGO members.



## Discover NEOM: A New Future of Design

July 24-25, 2023

Discover NEOM is a global effort from Saudi Arabia Connect with the NEOM leadership team bringing this profoundly important project to life and participate in a dynamic conversation on key achievements and exciting forthcoming milestones. WeGO brought together key corporate and enterprise members to explore significant partnership and learn of NEOM's forward-thinking approach to urban design, integrated economy and future living that puts nature first, all within a zero-carbon environment. WeGO delegations included Hancor Group, Vueron Technology, Seoul Digital Foundation, Favors, and Dwelling to NEOM Exhibition event and held multilateral meetings with its representatives.



## Second Policy Forum on Exploring Climate Change, Gender, and Technology Nexus

September 5, 2023

WeGO participated in the Second Policy Forum on Exploring Climate Change, Gender, and Technology Nexus organized by UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality. This event gathers key stakeholders in mainstreaming gender-sensitive and -based policies among Asia-Pacific governments for climate action policies and initiatives. WeGO Secretary General was invited to speak the critical importance of embedding gendered discussion at the heart of smart city initiatives. This event was participated by over 50 delegates, ambassadors and institutional leaders.





# 2023 Activities

## World Smart City Expo

September 6, 2023

WeGO participated in the 2023 World Smart City Expo with a goal of platforming technology and innovations for a better city of tomorrow hosted by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, an event boasting over 30,000 visitors represented by more than 60 countries. WeGO's Secretary General was invited to share her insight about the vast network of smart city stakeholders and approach this topic with expertise on partnership formation and collaboration during the session titled "The Era of Urban Innovation: The Symbiosis of Humans, AI, and Robots" alongside key speakers from KT, UN Habitat, VAIV Company, as well as Gangnam District.



## 2023 Smart City Standards Strategy for Critical and Emerging Technology Forum

December 8, 2023

WeGO joined in the 2023 Smart City Standards Strategy for Critical and Emerging Technology Forum. At this forum, WeGO's Secretary General opened the floor with giving congratulatory remarks to the organizers involved in initiating the event including Korea Agency for Technology and Standards (KATS), Korea Standards Association (KSA), Korea Agency Infrastructure Technology Advancement (KAIA), and the Korea Institute of Civil Engineering and Building Technology (KICT) while emphasizing the significance of technological and policy standardization to advance smart city progress.



## 7th Regional Symposium

October 17-19, 2023

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), Division for Public Institutions and Digital Governance (DPIDG), through its Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS) and Incheon Metropolitan City organised the 7th Regional Symposium on Effective Governance and Digital Transformation for Accelerating Progress towards the 2030 Agenda - Promoting Sustainable, Resilient, and Innovative Solutions on 17 - 19 October 2023 WeGO joined this Regional Symposium and moderated a session titled "Local Governance and Partnership Forum" that highlighted the critical importance of localisation and close partnership with the stakeholders on the ground.



## 2023 NEAR International Forum

December 6-8, 2023

WeGO participated in the 2023 NEAR International Forum with a goal of discussing measures to strengthen local government cooperation and sharing best practices in the Northeast Asia region. The Forum was hosted by the Secretariat of the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments (NEAR) and Gyeongsangbuk-do Province. This year's NEAR International Forum was the largest in scale with 38 participating member organizations from 5 countries (Korea, China, Japan, Russia, Mongolia). WeGO's Secretary General provided her congratulatory remarks, emphasizing the cooperation in the area of digitalization of public services in the Northeast Asia region.



# WeGO Participation in Partner Events

This year WeGO has participated in 23 external events to share its knowledge and expertise in smart city development.

DATE	EVENT NAME	THEME	EVENT ORGANIZER
Feb 02	The Global Engagement & Empowerment Forum on Sustainable Development	Turning Point: From Crisis into Opportunity	Yonsei University
March 03	Seoul Spring Reception for Diplomatic Corps	Spring Reception for Diplomatic Corps	Seoul Metropolitan Government
March 13	ITU WSIS Forum 2023 High-level Event: Mayors' Roundtable	WSIS Action Lines for building back better and accelerating the achievements of the SFGs	International Telecommunication Union
March 27	Smart City Expo - Taipei Kaohsiung, Taiwan	Digital & Green Transformation	Smart City Summit and Expo
March 27	22nd session of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration	Transforming institutions and governance to build forward better towards 2030	United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (UN CEPA)
April 18	Cities Climate Action Summit	Cities Climate Action Summit	Smart Cities World
April 26	ESG Seoul Forum	ESG Council Members Forum for Sustainable Development (Seoul-Gyeonggi-Incheon)	Seoul Metropolitan Council, Gyeonggido Assembly, Incheon Metropolitan Council
May 7	Annual Investment Meeting	Harnessing New Potential for Global Economic Development	AIM Congress / Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology / Department of Economic Development of UAE
June 15	FMDV Board of Directors Meeting	Board of Directors Meeting	The Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV)
July 3	International Career Fair 2023	Career Fair with Major International Organizations	Seoul Metropolitan Government / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea
July 3-4	OECD 3rd Roundtable on Smart Cities and Inclusive Growth	How Can Smart Cities Boost Net Zero Transition?	OECD
July 25	Discover NEOM Seoul	Discover NEOM: A New Future by Design	Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport
Sep 5	Second Policy Forum on Exploring Climate Change, Gender and Technology Nexus	Multidimensional, Key Issues on Technology, Gender, and Climate Change	UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality
Sep 6	World Smart City Expo 2023	Platforming Technology Exchange between Smart City Leader around the World	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport / Ministry of Science and ICT
Sep 12	World Knowledge Forum	Navigation for Co-existing & Recovery	The World Knowledge Forum
Oct 19	7th Regional Symposium on Effective Governance and Digital Transformation for Accelerating Progress towards the 2030 Agenda	Promotion Sustainable, Resilient, and Innovative Solutions	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs / Ministry of the Interior and Safety of Korea / Incheon Metropolitan City
Oct 29	ITU Webinars, digital transformation webinar series	How to successfully develop People-Centered citiverse	ITU & The Metaverse Institute
Oct 31	Abu Dhabi Smart City Summit 2023	Smart Cities for a Sustainable World	Department of Municipalities and Transport, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Nov 9	International Forum for Central Asian Climate Action for Children and Young People	Children and Youth in Action - Climate Change in Central Asia	UNICEF Uzbekistan
Nov 16	Seoul Sustainable Tourism Conference 2023	Global and Sustainable Smart Tourism	Seoul Tourism Organization / United Nations World Tourism Organization
Nov 21	Development Cooperation Day Commemoration 2023	Celebrating Korea's Participation in Delivering ODA's mission	Office for Government Policy Coordination / Ministry of Economic and Finance / Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Dec 6-8	NEAR International Forum	Development Strategies for Northeast Asian Farming Villages and Agro-Food Industry	Secretariat of the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments
Dec 8	Smart City Standards Strategy for Critical and Emerging Technology Forum 2023	Smart City System Standardization	Korea Agency Infrastructure Technology Advancement (KAIA)

# NEW MEMBERS AND PARTNERS



**WeGO**  
World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization

**WeGO**  
World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization

Smart  
Sustainable  
Cities

#SSC4All

# New Full Members

## Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)

Area: 169.6 km sq  
Population: 894,6000  
Mayor: Aibek Junushaliev



Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, has witnessed significant advancements in information and communication technology (ICT) development in recent years. With a growing emphasis on digital infrastructure, Bishkek has seen increased access to high-speed internet, the proliferation of mobile devices, and the establishment of tech-savvy startups and innovation hubs. These developments have not only enhanced connectivity and access to online resources for the city's residents but have also positioned Bishkek as a regional hub for ICT innovation, contributing to economic growth and technological progress in the region.

## Ryde (Australia)

Area: 40.7 km sq  
Population: 131,271  
Mayor: Sarkis Yedelian



The City of Ryde, situated in New South Wales, Australia, is at the forefront of ICT and smart city development. With a strategic focus on digital innovation, Ryde has invested in cutting-edge technologies and infrastructure to transform itself into a smart city. Initiatives include the deployment of high-speed internet, the implementation of IoT (Internet of Things) solutions, and the development of data-driven services that enhance the quality of life for its residents. The City of Ryde joined WeGO to develop network and relationships with key smart city stakeholders.

## Tehran (Iran)

Area: 615 km sq  
Population: 9,400,000  
Mayor: Alireza Zakani



Tehran, the capital of Iran, is actively pursuing smart city initiatives to enhance data-driven urban development. Tehran seeks to optimize resource allocation, reduce congestion, and promote sustainability, ultimately working towards a more efficient and connected urban environment. These efforts reflect Tehran's commitment to harnessing data-driven solutions to address the complex challenges of urbanization in the 21st century. Tehran joined WeGO to connect with its members and build capacity from Seoul's knowledge sharing of its rapid digital transformation.

## Chirchik (Uzbekistan)

Area: 34 km sq  
Population: 162,800  
Mayor: Zoir Mirzaev



A key city in Tashkent region in Uzbekistan, Chirchik boasts of core agricultural activities for vegetable and fruits for the country. Additionally, Chirchik has a strong presence of machinery and alloy industries. Chirchik joined WeGO in hopes of growing their heavy industries and agriculture alongside ICT and smart city framework for a seamless implementation of technology and data-driven development. Chirchik hopes to build smart city capacity via WeGO's program and gain meaningful network among many WeGO members.

## Vueron (South Korea)



Vueron develops and provides Smart City LiDAR solutions for a wide range of industries. Since 2019, Vueron has achieved several milestones and built various business references, attracting over \$10million in investments. With its LiDAR solution proven to improve infrastructure in a variety of industries, Vueron is committed to ensuring the safety and efficiency of people's lives. Vueron joined WeGO to collaborate with its members to develop and implement smart city projects to improve people's lives.

## Laboratory of Software Embedded Engineering (LASEE) (South Korea)

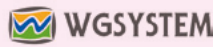


Laboratory of Software Embedded Engineering (LASEE) is business corporation providing solar power plant monitoring system. LASEE provides hardware and software solutions to maximize connectivity management and seamless link to IoT utilisation at a cost effective level. LASEE joined WeGO to contribute to the revitalisation of smart city initiatives and projects within Korea and abroad.



# New Full Members

## Woorigansan (South Korea)



Woorigansan System a GIS-based company in upping GIS scale and mainstreaming GIS and its supporting systems for public works and land development closely tied to national and local government level regional, urban development. Among its many systems, Woorigansan Systems also provides database construction and management solutions. Woorigansan Systems joined WeGO to find potential collaboration projects with local government members of WeGO.

## Smart Space Another Ground (South Korea)



SSAG is PropTech business corporation utilizing state-of-the-art financial technology for real estate development, investment, and asset management combining finances with ICT technology and innovation such as big data, AI, blockchain ICT technology and services. SSAG joined WeGO to build relationships with various government and private organizations within WeGO network to continue their operational expansion and smart city development.

## Dassault Systemes Korea (South Korea)



Dassault Systemes Korea is a part of the world-renowned Dassault Systemes Group and aims to promote its flagship product, "Virtual Twin Technology" and its 3DX platform software with a vision of incorporating smart urban planning and managing solution in Seoul. Dassault Systemes Korea joined WeGO to collaborate across borders but more specifically with WeGO corporate members and participate in various WeGO activities for knowledge sharing.

# MOU Signatures 2023



## Yonhap News Agency

Jan. 9, 2023



## Geneva Global Cities Hub

Feb. 7, 2023



## Asian Population and Development Association

Apr. 26, 2023



## Annual Investment Meeting

Mar. 21, 2023



## Institute of Smart City & Architecture

May 4, 2023



## Global Green Growth Institute

Sep. 15, 2023

# Member Overview

202 Members as of December 2023



## LOCAL GOVERNMENTS | 164

### AFRICA | 27

Cameroon	Andek, Batibo, Tubah
Ethiopia	Addis Ababa
Ghana	Accra
Kenya	Nairobi
Mozambique	Maputo
Nigeria	Abuja, Calabar, Jalingo, Kaduna State, Sokoto State
Rwanda	Kigali
Senegal	Dakar
South Africa	Tshwane
Tanzania	Dar es Salaam
Uganda	Kampala
Zambia	Kasama, Lunte
Zimbabwe	Harare

### EUROPE | 16

Belarus	Minsk
Belgium	Brussels
France	Paris
Germany	Berlin, Frankfurt
Netherlands	Rotterdam
Romania	Bucharest
Russia	Magas, Moscow, Vladivostok
Türkiye	Ankara, Antakya, Beyoğlu, Gaziantep, Malatya, Muğla

### MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA | 29

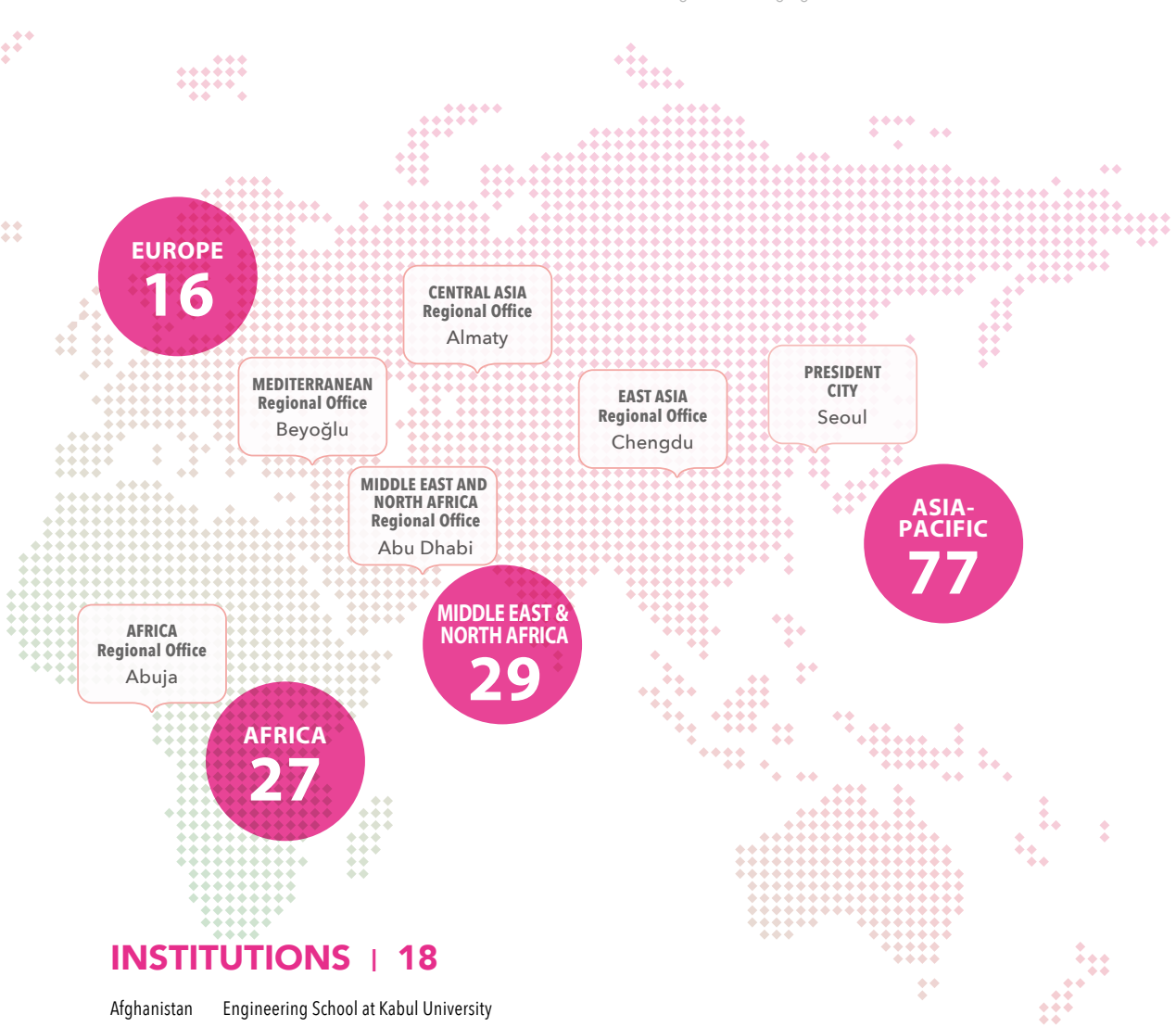
Iran	Isfahan, Shiraz, Tabriz, Tehran
Iraq	Erbil
Morocco	Rabat
Oman	Muscat
Palestine	Hebron, Ramallah
Sudan	Khartoum Locality
Tunisia	La Marsa, Menzel Jemil, Tunis
United Arab Emirates	Abu Dhabi

### AMERICAS | 15

Argentina	San Antonio de Areco
Brazil	Porto Alegre, São Paulo
Costa Rica	Buenos Aires
Dominican Republic	Villa Tapia
Ecuador	Cuenca
Mexico	Coatzacoalcos, Mexico City
Paraguay	Asunción
Peru	Cusco, Lima, Urubamba
United States	Pittsburgh, San Francisco
Venezuela	Caracas

### ASIA-PACIFIC | 77

Australia	Ryde
Azerbaijan	Baku
Bangladesh	Dhaka North, Dhaka South, Rajshahi City
China	Chengdu, Dujiangyan, Hong Kong SAR, Ningbo, Zhejiang Province
Fiji	Suva
India	Agra
Indonesia	Bandung, Batam, Baubau, Jakarta, Kepulauan Riau, Serang Regency
Japan	Saga Prefecture
Kazakhstan	Almaty, Astana
Kyrgyzstan	Bishkek
Korea	Anyang, Gimpo, Goyang, Jeju, Sejong, Seongnam, Seoul
Malaysia	Penang Island, Seberang Perai
Mongolia	Altai, Choibalsan, Erdenet, Sainshand, Ulaanbaatar
Nepal	Belbari, Bhadrapur, Bharatpur, Birgunj, Dharan, Dhulikhel, Itahari, Kanakai, Kathmandu, Patharishanishchare, Pokhara, Ramgram, Ratuwamai, Shivasatakshi, Sunawarshi, Sundarharaicha, Sunwal, Tarakeshwar
New Zealand	Wellington
Pakistan	Islamabad, Peshawar
Philippines	Baguio, Cauayan, La Union, Makati, Manila, Quezon City, San Fernando La Union
Sri Lanka	Dambulla, Galle, Matale, Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte
Thailand	Bangkok
Uzbekistan	Tashkent, Chirchik
Vietnam	Da Nang, Ha Noi, Thua Thien Hue



## INSTITUTIONS | 18

- Afghanistan: Engineering School at Kabul University
- Botswana: Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority
- Germany: FIWARE Foundation
- Ghana: National Information Technology Agency (NITA)
- India: Enactus IIT Delhi
- Korea: Korea Green Foundation, Korea Internet and Security Agency (KISA), Seoul Digital Foundation (SDF), Seoul Housing & Communities Corporation (SH), Seoul Tourism Organization (STO)
- Mongolia: Healthy City Network of Mongolia (HCNM)
- Nigeria: African Smart Cities Innovation Foundation (ASCIF), Digital Collaborative Platform, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)
- Sudan: National Information Center (NIC)
- Switzerland: Solar Impulse Foundation
- Tunisia: Bizerte 2050
- Uganda: National Information Technology Authority (NITA-U)

## CORPORATIONS | 20








## PARTNERS







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-  <https://we-gov.org/>

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