

WeGO EXCOM Meeting 2024

INFORMATION NOTE

SMART CITY, SMART CITIZEN



SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2024
ALMATY | KAZAKHSTAN



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1. Introduction

Welcome to the 2024 Executive Committee Meeting

Greetings from the WeGO Secretariat!

Thank you for your registration to attend the 2024 WeGO Executive Committee Meeting.

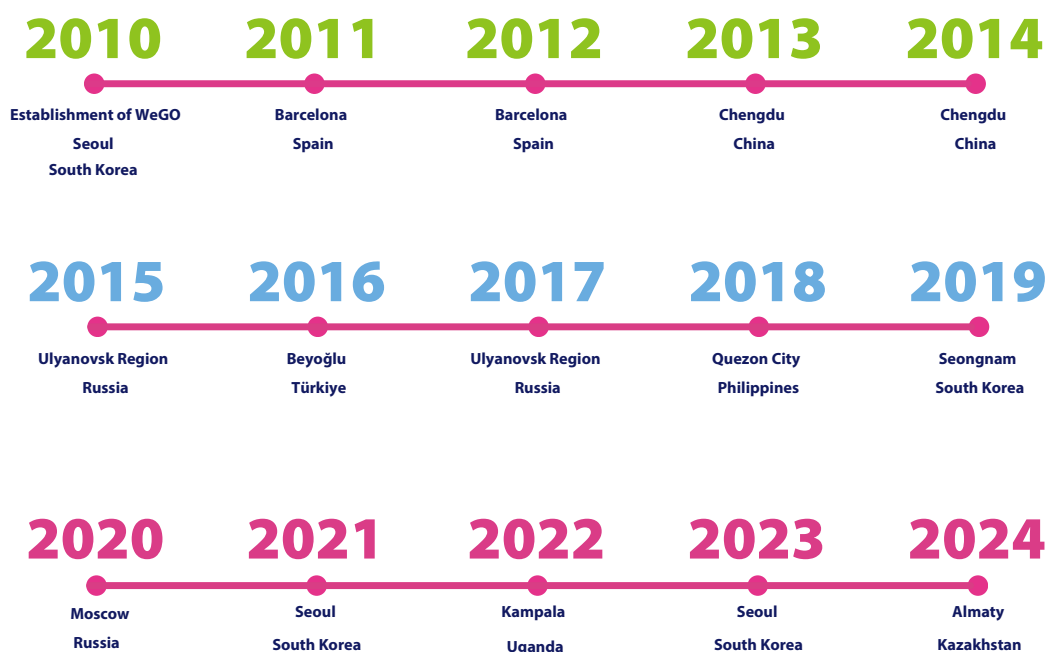
The WeGO Executive Committee (EXCOM), WeGO's main decision-making body, convenes annually to review the Secretariat's activities and accomplishments in the past year and to decide on key agenda items guiding the organization's direction for the future.

This flagship event will bring in high-level officials, from Governors and Mayors to Chief Information Officers from local governments around the world, and smart city experts from various public entities, academic circles, and the private sector, to celebrate achievements in e-government and smart city initiatives around the world.

This year, the EXCOM Meeting will be held in Almaty, which is the executive vice-president city of WeGO, in conjunction with the [Eurasian Mobile Summit 2024](#) and the opening ceremony of WeGO's Regional Office for Central Asia. Additionally this event will provide a unique opportunity for all the organization's members to meet with other Mayors, CIOs, city officials, corporate and institutional representatives to exchange ideas, share best practices, and seek for cooperation opportunities.

WeGO warmly welcomes you to the EXCOM Meeting along with the [Eurasian Mobile Summit 2024](#).

Previous WeGO EXCOM Meetings



2. About the Host City : Almaty

Almaty is a key city in Kazakhstan with a population of over 2.2 million, spanning across 683 km² and stands out as a vibrant regional hub in Central Asia. The city boasts a well-developed business ecosystem and civil society, driven by local authorities who are committed to fostering social, technological, environmental, and touristic advancements. Almaty has become a center for smart and sustainable urban development, hosting the regional offices of prominent international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund, International Finance Corporation, and regional UN office, alongside significant IT and financial sector players.



With a dynamic IT and R&D sector, Almaty boasts over 3,000 IT companies and 15,000 developers. The city thrives on its youthful population, and houses a third of Kazakhstan's universities. Small and medium-sized businesses are pivotal, contributing 47.5% to the city's GDP and employing 65.4% of the workforce. Almaty's scientific community is robust, with nearly 39% of the national R&D budget being spent within its boundaries.

Almaty is dedicated to enhancing the citizens' quality of life and sustainable urban growth through its "Program for the Development of the City of Almaty until 2025 and Medium-Term Prospects until 2030." This program, developed with input from various stakeholders, focuses on nine key areas including polycentric development, transport infrastructure, and the "Smart City" initiative. The program integrates ESG principles and UN Sustainable Development Goals, aiming for inclusivity and environmental responsibility.

Almaty is currently implementing various projects under the "Smart City" subprogram, including the Situation Centre of Akimat (city hall), Almaty City Data Lake, a unified video monitoring system, and contact centers for public utilities and emergency services. The city is also committed to pursuing their efforts in the future with plans for an automated traffic control system and telemedicine center. As a WeGO member, Almaty actively seeks collaboration and recognition for its innovative smart city initiatives, positioning itself as an emerging leader in regional urban development.

The 2024 Executive Committee Meeting is held in and hosted by Almaty, the Executive Vice-President City of WeGO, to showcase the power of technology and the importance of connectivity to promote international cooperation for smart city development.

3. Program Schedule

Day 1 | Thursday, September 19



Meeting Point

Thur. SEP. 19

09:00 ~ 09:30

Swissotel Wellness Resort
Hotel Lobby

Time & Place

MON. SEP. 21

07:30 ~ 8:00

Swissotel Wellness Resort
Hotel Lobby

Technical Tour

09:00- Meeting Point

09:30



Buses will be ready at the designated meeting points below. Please ensure you arrive at Swissotel Wellness Resort Main Lobby on time to ensure you can participate in the tour.



**Swissotel Wellness Resort
Main Lobby**

10:30- Tour in the "Almaty City Development Center"

11:30

Explore how ADC is to contribute to the sustainable socio-economic development of Almaty by providing a wide range of professional services aimed at improving the efficiency of urban management.

11:30- Heading to the Lunch Venue

12:00

12:00- Lunch

13:00

Provided by the Almaty City

13:00- Moving to the "Dispatching Control Center of Public Transport"

14:00

14:00- Tour in the "Dispatching Control Center of Public Transport"

15:00

Discover smart city initiatives for sustainable urban development, contributing to the transformation of Almaty into one of the most liveable cities in the world at the Almaty City Development Center and the Dispatching control center of public transport.

15:00- Moving to the "Kok Tobe"

16:00

16:00- Tour in the "Kok Tobe"

17:00

Enjoy panoramic views of the mountains & city of Almaty from a top of Kok-Tobe mountain.

17:00- Heading to the hotel for the dinner

18:00

18:00- Welcome Dinner

19:30

Host City Welcome Dinner

19:30- End of the Program



Day 2 | Friday, September 20

WeGO Central Asia Regional Office Opening Ceremony & WeGO EXCOM Session

10:30-11:00 **WeGO Central Asia Regional Office Opening Ceremony**
Swissotel Wellness Resort Alatau | Almaty City Hall

11:00-12:00 **Moving to the meeting venue for EXCOM Meeting**

12:00-14:00 **Lunch**
Provided by the organizers of the Eurasian Mobile Summit

14:00-14:30 **EXCOM Meeting (open session)**
Swissotel Wellness Resort Alatau

14:30-14:45 **Coffee Break**
Swissotel Wellness Resort Alatau

14:45-16:00 **EXCOM Meeting (closed session)**
Swissotel Wellness Resort Alatau

16:00-17:30 **Eurasian Mobile Summit**
Swissotel Wellness Resort Alatau

17:30-18:00 **Gathering for WeGO Dinner with Members**
Swissotel Wellness Resort Alatau

18:00-19:30 **WeGO Dinner**
Swissotel Wellness Resort Alatau

19:30- **End of the Program**

Day 3 | Saturday, September 21

Cultural Tour

Explore Almaty's energetic city life set against a backdrop of lush green scenery and historical charm with a refreshing outdoor mounting tour at the Medeo and Gorelnik Visit Centers and the AyuSay Visit Center.

07:30-

Meeting Point

08:00



Buses will be ready at the designated meeting points below. Please ensure you arrive at Swissotel Wellness Resort Main Lobby on time to ensure you can participate in the tour.



Swissotel Wellness Resort Main Lobby

08:00 -

Outdoor Mounting Tour

13:00

Medeo and Gorelnik Visit Center, AyuSay Visit Center etc.



13:00 -

Lunch

14:00

Provided by the host city

14:00 -

City Tour

17:30

National University, Akimat of Almaty, etc.



17:30 -

City Tour

19:00

Almaty bus trip, Historical Center, cultural venues etc.

19:00 -

Farewell Dinner

20:00

Host city Farewell dinner



4. Registration

- **For Heads of Delegations and VIPs**

- After registering your delegations, please confirm with the WeGO Secretariat the Head of Delegation (HOD) and submit:
 - the full name,
 - the title, and
 - a head shot
- The submitted information will be included in the Program Book.
- Please send these information to secretariat@we-gov.org.
- If no head shot submitted, the portrait of the HOD will be shown with no image in the Program Book.

- **For all registrants**

- Upon registration, please do not forget to inform the WeGO Secretariat of your flight details, accommodation bookings, and dietary restrictions. These information will give us a better sense of how to serve you better on your visit here in Seoul. We would also like to remind that only the HOD and one accompanying staff are allowed to join the EXCOM session and Welcome Dinner.

[Register Now](#)

(click to register)



On the Left, Mayor of Almaty Mr. Erbolat Dossaev, on the right Mayor of Seoul Mr. Oh Se-hoon

5. Program Details

Central Asia Regional Office Opening Ceremony

*By invitation only

The World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGO) is proud to announce the official opening of its WeGO Central Asia Regional Office. This event marks a significant milestone in WeGO's mission to drive sustainable urban development across the region.

As we inaugurate our new office in Almaty, Kazakhstan, we are looking forward to new challenges and opportunities brought by WeGO's presence in Central Asia. The Central Asia Regional Office will play a crucial role in promoting WeGO's vision by collaborating closely with our headquarters to implement and expand our core values in the region. We see great potential in the role this office will play in the region as a strategic hub for innovation, encouraging knowledge exchange and capacity building to address the urban challenges faced by Central Asia.



6. Program Details

EXCOM Meeting 2024 | Session (14:00 - 16:00) (GMT+5)

- Opening Announcement and Welcome Remarks by Almaty
- Introduction of Participants and Overview of the Meeting Schedule
- Adoption of the Agenda for WeGO EXCOM 2024 by all present EXCOM Members
- Review of Meeting Memorandum of WeGO EXCOM 2023
- Group Photo
- Discussion and decision on official agenda items:
 - **Open session for all WeGO members and other participants:**
 - Agenda 1: Review of 2024 WeGO Secretariat Annual Report
 - Agenda 2: Approval of New, Withdrawals, Suspension, and Termination of WeGO Membership since EXCOM Meeting 2023
 - Agenda 3: Annual Assessment of WeGO Regional Offices
 - Agenda 4: Approval of Host City of the EXCOM Meeting 2025
 - Agenda 5: Upcoming WeGO Activities for 2025
 - Agenda 6: Review of Proposed Amendments to WeGO Statues
 - Agenda 7: Approval of New WeGO Logo
 - **Closed session only for the EXCOM members:**
 - Agenda 8: Review of 2024 Financial Report
 - Agenda 9: Approval of Membership Fee Use for 2025
- Closing Remarks by the Chair
- EXCOM Meeting Adjourns

7. Program Details

2024 Eurasian Mobile Summit

The 2024 Eurasian Mobile Summit is an annual technology conference gathering industry leaders, innovators, and experts from around the globe to delve into the future of mobile and digital landscapes. Attendees can look forward to engaging discussions and exhibitions across several key areas, where cutting-edge solutions in infrastructure and communication will be showcased.

The event will also feature panel sessions on artificial intelligence's transformative impact on telecommunications and smart city innovations, aimed at enhancing urban management and efficient use of resources.

Program of the Summit

08:00 - 09:00	Registration Swissotel Wellness Resort Alatau
09:00 - 09:30	Opening Ceremony Swissotel Wellness Resort Alatau
09:30 - 13:30	Theme : Infrastructure (Telecom) Swissotel Wellness Resort Alatau
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch break Swissotel Wellness Resort Alatau
14:30 - 16:00	Panel Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel AI• Panel Content• Panel Smart City

8. Language, Weather, Currency

Language

The official language of Kazakhstan is Kazakh.
Generally, Kazakh and Russian are used as primary languages in the country.
During the event, Russian and English translations will be provided for guests.

Weather

The weather in Almaty during September typically offers pleasant temperatures and few rainfalls.
Daytime temperatures generally settle around 20°C, while nighttime can see a drop to about 8°C.
Almaty in September usually receives moderate rain and generally offers sunny days throughout the month.

Currency

The currency in Kazakhstan is the Kazakhstani Tenge.
The currency code for the Tenge is the abbreviation KZT. The currency symbol is ₸.
Approximately, \$1.00 USD = ₸478.69768 KZT [24.08.12]

9. Transportation

Airport Pickup and Drop-off

A private van service will be provided from the airport to the hotel and from the hotel to the airport for confirmed WeGO member participants attending the WeGO EXCOM Meeting 2024. Member cities interested in this service should contact the Organizers in advance to coordinate logistics.

- Almaty International Airport → Hotel
- Hotel → Almaty International Airport
- Occupant (6-7 seater, 3-4 seater if with large luggages)
 - Head of Delegation + accompanying delegates
- White Bus (50 seats) - additional bus for the delegates



- Location
 - Upon arrival,/departure the van driver/staff will meet and greet you. They will escort you to the car.
- To coordinate the service, please share your flight schedule and accommodation information with the organizer (Mr. Konstantin Roganov | k.roganov@almatydc.kz | +7 701 266 76 80) by September 15. The service may not be available if participants do not confirm by this date.

A driver or our staff will be waiting at arrival gate in the airport with your name on a signboard, please find your name and meet them, the driver will take you to your hotel. Please inform driver about your hotel in Almaty. Please note that the driver speaks very basic English, in any case of emergency or difficulties, please feel free to contact Konstantin +7 701 266 7680 (whatsapp available).

Tour Bus

Ride on top of Almaty in a tour bus ride through and pass the most popular destinations during the tours provided by the host city.



Useful taxi services for navigating Almaty

There are several types of taxi services available in Almaty:

Yandex Taxi Kazakhstan (logo) is the most popular taxi service, similar to Uber in other countries. Taxis can be reserved through phone calls or the mobile app which is available in English among other languages.

Download links : [Yandex for iPhone](#) / [Yandex for Android](#)

Alternatively, Almaty Airport has partnered with BlueSkyEnergy to provide electric taxi services to and from the airport. The rate from Almaty airport to any point of the city is fixed. The premium fare to any hotel in the city costs KZT 7000, while the standard fare costs KZT 5000. Cars can be pre-ordered by phone call at the following number +7 (701) 671 4165.



10. Transportation

Delegates who will not be using this service have other options:

Public transport services in Almaty

City bus and subway services information website : <https://alatransit.kz/en>

Bus

- For a more cost-savvy alternative, the local bus No. 92 (daytime) and No.3 (nighttime) run from the Almaty Airport to the city center. The journey takes 45 minutes and costs KZT 150.
- Please note that after reaching the city center you have to take a taxi to get to the Swissotel Wellness Resort Alatau.

Subway

- The subway service in Almaty consists of a single line which does not connect to the airport or the hotel.



11. Accommodation



Swissotel Wellness Resort Alatau Almaty

Tausamaly 50A Almaty
050067 Kazakhstan
+ 7 727 391 0101

The event will take place at the Swissotel Wellness Resort Alatau Almaty. The hotel offers classic and luxury rooms with breathtaking views of the Zailiysky Alatau surrounded by a territory of 54 hectares with its own lake, internal flora and fauna, birch and pine groves.

For the WeGO Delegates participating in the WeGO EXCOM Meeting, 30% discount will be provided. For the reservation, please contact (Mr. Kakim Danabayev | kakim@we-gov.org | +82 10 27903260) .

Information

- Check-in time: 15.00 p.m. Check-in before 15.00 p.m. can be guaranteed in case of booking from the previous night.
- Check-out time: 12.00 p.m. Late check-out depends on the hotel occupancy.

Reservation includes:

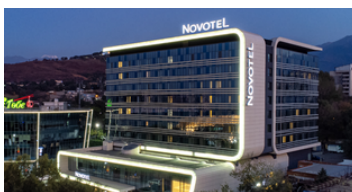
- Buffet style breakfast at The Quarter restaurant
- Free access to PUROVEL SPA & Sport (hammam, Finnish sauna, swimming pool)
- Free Wi-Fi
- Tea and coffee stations in each room.

Find here some additional recommendations for alternative hotels in Almaty



InterContinental Almaty

181 Zheltoksan Street Almaty 050013 Kazakhstan
+7 727 2505000
5 stars hotel
[Go to website Booking.com](#)



Novotel Almaty City Center

Dostyk street 104 A, 50050 Almaty, Kazakhstan
+7 (727)3553838
4 stars hotel
[Go to website Booking.com](#)



Holiday Inn Almaty

2D, Timiryazev Street Almaty, 050013 Kazakhstan
00 798 142 03 0212
Business hotel
[Go to website Booking.com](#)

12. Visa



Depending on your nationality, you may need to provide official documentation from the host organization or entity for a visa application to enter Kazakhstan.



Generally, consideration and approval of the visa invitation will take on average 5 to 7 business days. Additionally, 5 working days are required to issue a visa at the Republic of Kazakhstan consular office in the foreigner's country of residence. Please consider this crucial information to begin your visa application process if necessary.

If necessary, in order to obtain an electronic visa, foreign citizens should register on the web portal (<https://vmp.gov.kz/en/>)



Any international visitor wishing to enter Kazakhstan must hold a valid passport and obtain a relevant visa. However, visitors from 54 countries who wish to visit Kazakhstan temporarily benefit from a visa waiver regime for tourism, business and private purposes for a period of 30 days.

Please refer to the following website and contact the Embassy of Kazakhstan in your country for further information on visa regulation.

For more information on visa requirements, please visit the [Visa regime of the Republic of Kazakhstan for foreign citizens](#)



Foreigners are required to notify their arrival within 3 business days from the initial arrival date in Kazakhstan. The submission does not depend on the order of entry and stay as well as the purpose of visit of the foreign visitor.

For more information, please visit the [Rules for entry and exit from Kazakhstan for foreign nationals](#).



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WeGO SECRETARIAT

7F Seoul Global Center, 38 Jongro, Jongno-gu
Seoul 03188, Republic of Korea
Telephone: 82-2-720-2935
Fax: 82-2-720-2939
Email Address: secretariat@we-gov.org

MORE INFORMATION

For more detailed information and regular updates on the upcoming the WeGO EXCOM Meeting 2024, please visit the official website [HERE](#).

