

SEOUL SMART CITY PRIZE



SEOUL SMART CITY PRIZE 2025

The Seoul Smart City Prize saw a successful launch in 2023, marking a significant milestone in the pursuit of innovative and inclusive smart city models. This inaugural event showcased a commitment to addressing the challenges posed by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, emphasizing information and communication technology and artificial intelligence. Building upon the success of its debut, the Prize remains steadfast in its mission to promote human-centric and technology-centric approaches, with a particular focus on uplifting underprivileged groups.

As we transition into 2025, the Seoul Smart City Prize continues to be at the forefront of shaping the future of cities, driving global collaboration and recognition for model cases that embody inclusivity and human-centric values. The global adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) has continued to accelerate digital transformation and revolutionize the way cities operate. This technological evolution, however, has led to digital divide widening, underscoring the urgent need to shape the future of cities to be truly "human-centered" and to provide more accessible services for all citizens.

The Seoul Smart City Prize remains committed to promoting an innovative and inclusive smart city model predominantly driven by information and communication technology and AI. The core objective of the Prize is to address the needs of underprivileged groups and is structured around two distinct categories: Tech-InnovaCity and Human-CentriCity. The goal is to identify exemplary cases that embody inclusivity and commend them through the Seoul Smart City Prize with cities, companies, and institutions worldwide.

THEME

Fostering digital transformation through innovative and inclusive approaches for sustainable smart cities

PRIZE CATEGORY

Tech-InnovaCity

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.

Human-CentriCity

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.

Leadership

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

Special Mention

Projects selected together with a partner organization or corporation of WeGO on the basis of the project's alignment with the values and missions of the partner organization or corporation.

ELIGIBILITY

Tech-InnovaCity Prize & Human-CentriCity Prize

- **Cities** Local and regional governments that have developed and/or implemented policies that align with one of the Prize categories
** Governments of all levels, including national, can be considered if the project or initiative targets a select number of cities and/or is deemed in line with the Prize objective by the evaluation bodies.*
- **Corporations** For-profit businesses in the private sector ranging from multinational corporations(MNC), small and medium-sized enterprises(SME) to start-ups, that have actively engaged and invested in one of the Prize categories
- **Institutions** Governmental and non-governmental institutions, associations and alliances, national and subnational public agencies, international organizations, as well as academic institutions, think tanks and universities, non-profit organizations that have designed and carried out projects that match one of the Prize categories

Leadership Prize

The Leadership Prize is open to individuals who contributed to bringing innovation and/or innovative application of technology and data, excellent use of technology and data that increased the quality of life of city residents, achieved significant impact (concepts, values, agendas, projects, products) on the smart cities industry or urban community, and has demonstrated collaborative effort and leadership to tackle urban problems through innovative approaches.

Nomination of individual candidates for the Leadership Prize can be made upon the candidate's permission, by submitting the Leadership Application Form to explain how the individual's achievements align with the Leadership Prize. While self-nomination is also permitted, individual candidates should approach potential nominator(s) for a letter of recommendation, which is included in the Leadership Application Form.

The eligibility of nominators and the requirements for self-nomination can be found in the Prize Guideline on the website (QR code on the back of the brochure).

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The criteria and indicators of Seoul Smart City Prize are carefully selected to capture both the current trends in smart city development as well as the respective stages of development, capabilities, and resources of each case.

Within Tech-InnovaCity, these criteria will be applied as whether the project either fits into the theme of technological novelty or transformative implementation of existing technology, is user friendly, has compatibility between legal rules and digital service, demonstrates Public Private People Partnership, and advocates for data security and ethics. **Within Human-CentriCity**, these criteria will be applied as whether the project aligns with the theme of accompanying the vulnerable, prioritizes service accessibility, implements new policy or deregulation when necessary, incorporates citizens' voices, and promotes data security and ethics.

The evaluation methodology aims to include the data collection and analysis process to input the indicators or variables that measure each city's circumstances or potential for growth into a theory-based statistical formula.

	Tech-InnovaCity	Human-CentriCity
Problem-Centered Innovation: Appropriate identification of policy problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy problem identification • National agenda relevance • Evidence inquiry about the causes of targeted problems • Citizen engagement in problem identification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy problem identification • National agenda relevance • Evidence inquiry about the causes of targeted problems • Citizen engagement in problem identification
Rational Process of Project Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient technology application • Innovative technology application • Securing technology application • Rational process of project design • Evidence-based project design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying human-friendly solution/technology • Rational process of project design • Evidence-based project design
Feasible Budgeting & Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasible resource mobilization plan • Organization & staffing plan • Contingency plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasible resource mobilization plan • Organization & staffing plan • Equity & diversity in organization & staffing • Contingency plan
Meticulous Project Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory mechanism • Overcoming barriers to innovation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory mechanism • Overcoming barriers to innovation
Effort to Learn & Improve: M&E Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and evaluation • M&E feedback for project improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and evaluation • M&E feedback for project improvement
Value Creation: Project outcome and effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects of the project • Efficiency • Spillover effect • Sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects of the project • Human-centeredness of the main effect • Efficiency • Spillover effect • Sustainability • DE&I Contribution

Leadership	
Relevance to the Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technological Novelty • Creative and Innovative Application of Technology and Data
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on the quality of life of citizens • Impact on the smart city field and community
Collaborative Effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-sector Partnerships (PPP & PPPP - Public Private People Partnership) • Incorporation of citizens' voices
Communication and Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaigns, conferences, or other engagement efforts for knowledge-sharing and promotion of values • Effective use of social media to disseminate new ideas

Finalists of 2024

Tech-InnovaCity



Reykjavik (Better City For Children - School Services)
Reykjavik, Iceland improved school services by introducing a digital system that streamlined applications, enhanced communication, enabled secure info-sharing, facilitated early intervention, and replaced paper forms, boosting overall efficiency.



Abu Dhabi (STEAM+ Modelling & Analytics Framework)
STEAM+ Modelling & Analytics framework is the official decision support model for all investments in the transport sector in Abu Dhabi Emirate.



DAIN Inc (DAIN)
DAIN provides a universal interoperability layer for seamless communication between services and AI agents in natural language, simplifying integration across devices.



GGGI (CitizenSmart Circularity)
The project uses IoT and AI for efficient, data-driven operations and emphasizes education to foster environmental responsibility among residents setting a model for resilient urban development.



Cali (Centro de Ciencia, Arte y Tecnología de Cali)
The Centro de Ciencia, Arte y Tecnología in Cali is a 23,000 square meter facility promoting science, art, and technology.



Madiun Regency ECOLANT (Madiun Regency Street Light Project with Smart Solution)
To improve safety, nighttime economic activity, and meet energy efficiency goals, the city implemented smart LED street lighting in 2023, using IoT technology.



WeavAir Sp Zoo (Resilient & Energy Efficient Digital Twin Solution for Smarter Cities starting with Hospitality)
WeavAir enhances energy efficiency and sustainability in smart cities through digital twins, AI analytics, and IoT sensors. Its key components include WeavDetect for monitoring energy use, WeavPredict for demand forecasting, and WeavConnect for actionable insights.



IMD (Spatial Digital Twin of Istanbul)
This project integrates GIS, IoT, and big data to mirror the city and predict future scenarios. The first case, "Disaster Risk Management," automates earthquake simulations, damage assessments, and logistics using real-time data from satellites, drones, and cameras.



Corporation
Alternative Mobility-GmbH (Revolutionizing Urban Mobility through Innovative EV-KIT Technologies)
Alternative Mobility GmbH proposes an innovative Electric Vehicle (EV) Kit to electrify public transportation buses and utility vehicles. This project centers on converting diesel-powered buses into electric vehicles equipped with advanced battery systems and sophisticated electric motors.



Institution
University of Texas at Arlington (RAPID (Rideshare, Automation, and Payment Integration Demonstration) and Autonomous Food Delivery for Vulnerable Communities)
Arlington, Texas developed RAPID, the first U.S. service to integrate autonomous vehicles into its on-demand public transit system.



SEMI
Dassault Systèmes (Chernihiv Territory Digital Twin)
The project includes a war damage analysis tool to estimate destruction and plan efficient reconstruction. Using 3D models and the 3DEXPERIENCE platform, a virtual reconstruction master plan was developed for collaborative efforts in Chernihiv.

Special Mention

Finalists of 2024

Human-CentriCity



Baguio City (BIAG - Baguio's Inclusive and Accessible Health Governance System)

LEAP has created a digital platform for increasing welfare in the future through digital citizen involvement by online questionnaires which are distributed via a national digital mailbox, and online public meetings.



Curitiba (Curitiba Smart: Sustainable City)

Curitiba's "Smart: Sustainable City" project encompasses waste management; clean energy; education and engagement; preservation of green areas, rivers and basins; all aligned with the Municipal Plan for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change (PlanClima).



Miri (Miri Smart City)

Miri City aims to become a Green, Smart, and Most Liveable International Resort City by 2030. The project includes Smart Bus with cashless payment, Smart Truck with digitized waste collection system. Smart Drain for flood management, and more.



Bilbao (Cybersecurity for Citizens)

The Bilbao project implements a cyberattack alert system and cybersecurity training to foster digital resilience and literacy.



Kragujevac (Be part of the plan - "Citizens" voice in urban planning)

Kragujevac is the first city in Serbia to enhance transparency in urban planning by providing real-time notifications about changes to local plans.



Taoyuan City (No More "Living Hell for Pedestrians"- Taoyuan City's AI-enabled Traffic Equity and Pedestrian Safety Project)

To improve safety, Taoyuan city uses AI systems to monitor intersections, alert drivers, and enforce pedestrian rights. Dual-color streetlights enhance visibility, while education promotes "pedestrian priority" and safer driving habits.



Corporation

LG Electronics - Nokia Arena, Tampere (Nokia Arena _Smart Stadium (Tampere))

LG formed a strategic partnership with a local partner in Finland, who was preparing a new sports and media platform based on 5G connectivity services. By utilizing existing technologies and LG's diverse product and solution portfolio, a smart stadium was built.



Institution

Kyrgyz State Technical University (Taptyk)

Taptyk is a tactile-sound map for people with visual and hearing impairments, helping them navigate buildings using audio cues and tactile silicone paths piloted in Kyrgyzstan.

Leadership



Leadership

Adanech Abiebie, Mayor of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Mayor Adanech led initiatives that include the implementation of intelligent transport systems (ITS) to optimize traffic flow and reduce congestion and the deployment of 450 smart poles equipped with security cameras and information screens and creating technological advancements. This was integral in improving urban mobility, promoting environmental sustainability, and enhancing public services.

PRIZE FOR WINNERS

The winners of the Prize will be given the following prizes:

- Awarded at the Seoul Smart City Prize Ceremony 2025
- Appointed winners will be invited to Seoul Smart City Prize Ceremony 2026 as one of the Award presenters
- Appointed winners will be given an opportunity to share and promote the winning project in various global stages including a tailored capacity-building training program, a dedicated exhibition booth and speakerships at international events
- Among the winners, selected projects will be given an opportunity to collaborate on a smart city project implementation on various models such as feasibility study
- Gain global publicity via official website, publication, press releases, and media channels

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www.seoulsmartcityprize.com



TIMELINE





Seoul Smart City Prize Committee
info@seoulsmartcityprize.com
www.seoulsmartcityprize.com