



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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About WeGO

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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 established by 50 member founding cities in 2010 as the World e-Governments Organization, hence the acronym. In response to the evolving concept of smart cities, WeGO expanded its vision and mandate at the 4th WeGO 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), Africa (Abuja, Nigeria), Middle East (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



Greetings

From the President of WeGO



The world today faces a complex set of challenges: accelerating climate change, global economic uncertainty, and widening social and economic disparities. Yet humanity continues to move steadily toward a greener and more sustainable future. Amid this transformative shift, WeGO seeks to introduce a new environmental and social paradigm in collaboration with its partner and member cities. At the center of this emerging vision is the concept of the "smart city."

This year, WeGO successfully hosted the second annual Seoul Smart Life Week under the theme "AI for Humanity, Smart Cities Leading Tomorrow." Through this event, we reaffirmed our commitment to building smart and sustainable cities. In addition, the Seoul Metropolitan Government and WeGO co-hosted the 3rd Seoul Smart City Prize to identify and recognize innovative solutions that support vulnerable groups within our communities. We received 240 applications from around the world, and 21 outstanding leaders and projects were selected for awards. The Seoul Metropolitan Government and WeGO will co-host this global prize again in 2026 to share exceptional achievements in the smart city field with the wider international community.

WeGO also strengthened its presence in Latin America by opening the WeGO Latin America Regional Office Cuenca in Cuenca, Ecuador. Furthermore, by successfully hosting the 2025 Executive Committee (EXCOM) Meeting in Abu Dhabi, WeGO marked a significant milestone in advancing interregional cooperation and exchange.

Next year, WeGO will host the 2026 WeGO Executive Committee Meeting and General Assembly. This will be a meaningful gathering where members come together to collectively envision the future of "Smart Cities for All." We will continue to advance initiatives to build a safer, more sustainable, and inclusive smart city ecosystem where no one is left behind.

We look forward to the continued cooperation of all members within the WeGO network as we work together to become more inclusive and resilient cities of the future.

Best regards,

OH SE-HOON
President of WeGO
Mayor of Seoul



Greetings

From the Secretary General of WeGO



Dear Esteemed WeGO Members and Partners,

As 2025 comes to a close, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support and partnership. This year has been a transformative one for WeGO, marked by major milestones that reflect WeGO's shared vision to build smart, inclusive, and human-centered cities.

In partnership with the Seoul Metropolitan Government, WeGO's President City, WeGO successfully organized the third edition of the Seoul Smart City Prize, which continues to promote people-centered digital transformation. Beyond recognizing innovation, the Prize provides winning cities with pre-feasibility study funding to translate their ideas into real-world solutions. The Winners Training Program further enhances this effort through a four-week learning experience in Seoul, equipping participants with practical insights on smart city strategies and governance.

WeGO also launched the second year of the Seoul Smart Life Week in partnership with Seoul Metropolitan Government and AI foundation, themed AI theme for Inclusion. Smart Life Week connects people with technology and cities with companies, serving as a stage for sustainable global cooperation. This year, participation will expand to more than 200 cities and institutions and about 300 companies.

Building on the success of the Champions Program, WeGO introduced the Global Youth Award in 2025 to recognize young innovators driving smart, inclusive, and sustainable urban development. This initiative establishes a global platform to celebrate youth leadership and encourage their active engagement in smart city innovation.

The 2025 WeGO Executive Committee Meeting (EXCOM), hosted for the first time in the MENA region by Abu Dhabi, was another major achievement. Over 100 participants from member cities, partners, and stakeholders gathered to discuss WeGO's key priorities and strengthen cross-regional collaboration.

Looking ahead to 2026, WeGO will continue to expand the Sustainable Smart City Champions Program, advance the Global Youth Award, and broaden its engagement in North America and Europe to strengthen international cooperation and inclusion.

WeGO remains steadfast in its mission to accelerate innovation, scale successful initiatives, and support cities in tackling emerging challenges. WeGO extends its deepest appreciation to the Seoul Metropolitan Government, Executive Committee members, Regional Offices, and all partners whose collaboration drives our shared success.

Together, WeGO will continue shaping cities that are smart, sustainable, and truly people-centered.

JEONG-KEE KIM
Secretary General of WeGO

2025 WeGO HIGHLIGHTS

WeGO 2025 Achievements in Numbers

NETWORK EXPANSION & ACTIVITIES

200+

Meetings with smart city stakeholders



40

WeGO has participated and organized over 40 activities



10

New Members



3

MOU signatures



CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES

600 +

city officials and youth trained at WeGO offline and online programs



200 +

Applicants for the Seoul Smart City Prize



Seoul Smart City Prize



September 30 | Seoul, South Korea

This year Seoul Smart City Prize Ceremony took place as part of the inaugural Smart Life Week, co-hosted by the World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGO) and its President city, the Seoul Metropolitan Government. The three-day SLW event attracted more than 60,000 participants from 130 cities and institutes and 330 companies, all gathering under this year's theme of "AI for Humanity: Smart Cities Leading Tomorrow." With 220 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-centric 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

- 220 submissions for the Seoul Smart City Prize and around 60,000 participants from 130 cities participated in the Smart Life Week including the Seoul Smart City Prize Ceremony.
- Around 100+ attendees composed of mayoral, vice-mayoral, and executive level representatives present during the Seoul Smart City Prize Ceremony.
- 21 cities, corporations, institutions, and individuals were awarded as winners of the Seoul Smart City Prize 2025
- Seoul Smart City Prize High Council and Steering Committee gathered together experts from the smart city area to evaluate applications including the CEO & President of SEMI, President of Descartes Institute for the Future, CEO, New York Climate Exchange, Chairman of Our Common Home & Chairman of Edgelands Institute, Director of Global Environmental Policy Program at University of Geneva, Secretary General of Metropolis, Director General of Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) Congress, President of Favors.Co, Member of Independent Oversight Advisory Committee of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) as well as other experts from Korean and international universities working in the smart city field.



The Seoul Prize champions the people-centered digital transformation that is geared towards providing more accessible services for all citizens by recognizing cities, companies, institutions, and individuals for their efforts of digitalization that benefit even the vulnerable populations with tech-driven solutions. It also supports and engages the global community in shaping the future direction of digitalization by offering a space for discussion while fostering interaction and networking opportunities among relevant stakeholders through participation in the Seoul Smart City Prize. Unlike other prizes that may focus solely on cutting-edge technology, the Seoul Smart City Prize emphasizes digital inclusion and the human-centric approach. It recognizes efforts to bridge the digital divide and ensure that technological advancements benefit all citizens, including the disabled, elderly, and youth.

BENEFITS FOR WINNERS

- Invitation to the Seoul Smart Life Week (SLW)
- Awarded at the Seoul Smart City Prize Ceremony with the Prize trophy
- Invitation to install and run an exhibition booth (3x3m) to present successful project at the forum
- SLW smart city technical & culture tour program
- Invitation to the Smart City International Cooperation Program with assistance to conduct prefeasibility studies, with a value of 150,000 USD financial support.
- Invitation to the Seoul Smart City Prize Winners Training Program: This program is a 4-week online + offline lectures in Seoul on innovative smart city practices and policies.



2025 Seoul Smart City Prize Winners

The Seoul Smart City Prize's evaluation committee of smart city experts carefully selected 21 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.

Among the top honorees were the cities of Dubai and Prague, as well as the mayors of Fullerton and Cali. Out of over 220 submissions received from 52 countries and 115 cities, marking the third consecutive year with more than 200 entries, 71 were from the Americas, 66 from Asia, 10 from Africa, 2 from Oceania, 26 from Europe, and 45 from the Middle East. A total of 32 semi-finalists were invited to attend the Seoul Smart City Prize Ceremony. WeGO acknowledged winning cities, corporations, institutions, and individuals across several categories for their exceptional contributions to smart urban development. Please visit www.seoulsmartcityprize.com for more information.



TECH-INNOVACITY

★ Gold Dubai, United Arab Emirates Ai-Powered Food Safety Ecosystem

★ Silver Hong Kong Innovative 3D Digital Mapping Project in Hong Kong
Paris Est Marne & Bois WaterSecure Swim & Flood

★ Bronze Pohang, Korea TABOSO: A Cooperative Mobility Platform Powered by Local Currency Payments
Praeferre Tedamine
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil App Civitas

Corporate Aramco, Saudi Arabia City Brain: Ahead of Issues

Institution GATE Institute, Bulgaria City Digital Twin of Sofia

HUMAN-CENTRICITY

★ Gold Prague, Czech Republic Innovation Management

★ Silver Nairobi, Kenya Konza Smart City Project (Integrated Urban Intelligent Ecosystem)
Taoyuan City, Taiwan Juvenile 3P Model: Prediction, Prevention Protection

★ Bronze Internet Society Tanzania Tanzania SmartJiji Public Health (TSPH) Project
Kocaeli, Turkey Happy City Kocaeli: Integrated Civic Governance for Inclusive Urban Well-being
Sharjah, United Arab Emirates Muwasah (Arabic for "consolation")

Institution Association Lviv Agglomeration Lviv Agglomeration: Human-Centric Recovery and Inclusion Model
Fundación Pequeños Pasos, Colombia Wayuu Smart Voices: Indigenous Digital Inclusion through Community Technology

LEADERSHIP

Alejandro Eder Mayor of Cali Cali, Colombia

Fred Jung Mayor of Fullerton Fullerton, United States

SPECIAL MENTION

by WeGO Smart City Index & NYCE & SEMI

Rabat, Morocco Rabat City Of Light, Moroccan Capital Of Culture

Alexandria, Egypt Revitalization of Al-Max Pumping Area, Alexandria

ISEN INC. PDD (Psychophysiological Detection Data) Algorithm for Random Imitation and Unlawful Behavior

2nd Seoul Smarty City Prize Winners

2025 WeGO Training Program for the Seoul Smart City Prize Winners

September - October | Seoul, South Korea



The 2025 WeGO Training Program for the Seoul Smart City Prize Winners was held from September 29 to October 2, 2025, in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Organized by WeGO (World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization), the program provided city officials, corporations, and institutions with practical insights, skill-building opportunities, and valuable networking experiences in the field of smart city development.

The offline program featured in-depth discussions among participating cities and included guided tours of Seoul's leading smart city projects, offering first-hand exposure to innovative and sustainable urban solutions.

Participants presented their cities' Action Plans, showcasing smart city initiatives and received expert feedback on implementation and execution strategies.

Through active knowledge exchange and collaboration, the 2025 WeGO Training Program strengthened global cooperation and promoted sustainable and inclusive urban development worldwide.

WeGO Seoul Smart City International Cooperation Program - Feasibility Study & Project Implementation

October | Seoul, South Korea



The Seoul Smart City International Cooperation Program 2024—one of the key follow-up initiatives offered as a benefit to winners of the Seoul Smart City Prize, a flagship initiative jointly launched by the World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGO) and its president city, the Seoul Metropolitan Government—has successfully concluded its 2024 project cycle with the City of São Paulo.

Jointly implemented by WeGO, Seoul Metropolitan Government, and the Seoul Urban Solutions Agency (SUSA), the program serves as a tangible reward for Seoul Smart City Prize winners, enabling them to further develop and scale their award-winning concepts through pre-feasibility studies, pilot projects, and long-term sustainability planning.

The 2024-cycle of the program supported São Paulo in enhancing its Accessible Service Network Map (ASNM)—a platform designed to improve public accessibility and inclusive urban services. The initiative delivered a comprehensive analysis, database upgrade, and a strategic roadmap to strengthen accessibility and public service delivery across the city. As a continuing legacy of the Seoul Smart City Prize, the program aims to help cities worldwide scale up innovative solutions and foster global cooperation in building smarter, more inclusive, and sustainable communities.

To mark the project's successful completion, a delegation of WeGO, the Seoul Metropolitan Government, and SUSA visited São Paulo from April 21–25, 2025, for a series of strategic meetings and a Final Dissemination Seminar, reaffirming São Paulo's strong commitment to advancing equitable and human-centric urban innovation.

WeGO Executive Committee Meeting 2025

October 29-31 | Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Overview

The WeGO Executive Committee (EXCOM) is an annual governance meeting of WeGO EXCOM members to review WeGO's activities, accomplishments and decide on the key directions of WeGO's future initiatives. This year, WeGO Executive Committee Meeting 2025 was hosted by one of WeGO's honorable members, Abu Dhabi, with the theme of "Driving Urban Transformation through AI and Smart Mobility in the MENA Region." WeGO and Abu Dhabi welcomed WeGO members and distinguished guests with a 3-day program including Executive Committee Meeting Session, technical and cultural tour, sessions and more. The summit aligns closely with WeGO's mission and priorities while exploring the latest advancements in mobile technology and AI across the MENA region.

WeGO EXCOM Meeting 2025 | Oct 29 - 31

This year's WeGO EXCOM Meeting 2025 welcomed over 100 live participants from five regions, including Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. A total of 68 WeGO local government members, corporate, institutional members and partners participated in the WeGO EXCOM Meeting Session both in person and online. Other than WeGO local government members, there were WeGO corporate members, Institutional partners and media that gathered for the event in Abu Dhabi.

Abu Dhabi, the vibrant capital of the United Arab Emirates, is home to over 4 million people. As well as being a crucial financial and cultural hub, the host city has a clear vision: to be a leading enabler of smart and sustainable development in the Middle East and North Africa region. This ambition is deeply embedded in the Emirate's ethos, making it an ideal setting for the WeGO Executive Committee Meeting 2025.

A WeGO member since 2010, the city further strengthened its reputation by opening the organisation's MENA Regional Office last year. Abu Dhabi's long-standing commitment to world-leading urban solutions is evidenced by its winning of the prestigious 2024 Seoul Smart City Prize for its innovative "STEAM+ Modelling & Analytics Framework" project, and being ranked 5th globally in the 2025 IMD Smart City Index.

WeGO EXCOM Meeting 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- São Paulo's expression of interest as the host city of the 7th WeGO General Assembly and EXCOM Meeting 2026.
- Approval of new WeGO members from four local governments (Cartagena de Indias, City of Fullerton, Monrovia City Corporation, Pohang), two corporates (K-Coop, LG Electronics), and four institutions (Asociación de Municipalidades Ecuatorianas (AME), Busan Economic Promotion Agency (BEPA), Paris Est Marne & Bois, University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC))
- Approval of proposed amendments to WeGO Statutes
- Symbolic Opening Ceremony of WeGO Latin America (Cuenca) Regional Office.
- A Mayors' Roundtable featuring presentations from Mayors and Deputy Mayors participating in the event.



WeGO Latin America Regional Office Opening Ceremony

Abu-Dhabi, United Arab Emirates | Oct 30

The symbolic opening ceremony of WeGO Latin America (Cuenca) Regional Office took place on October 30th, during the WeGO EXCOM Meeting 2025, at the Rosewood Hotel in Abu Dhabi. Distinguished guests and high-level officials included Omar Al Shaiba, Executive Director of Abu Dhabi Department of Municipalities and Transport, and Gabriela Brito, Deputy Mayor of Cuenca.

The Deputy Mayor of Cuenca reaffirmed Cuenca's dedication to fostering collaboration and innovation among Latin American cities. In addition, esteemed attendees such as the Ms. Junghwa Lee (Deputy Mayor of Goyang), H.E. Idálio D'Aguiar Juvane (Deputy Mayor of Maputo), Hon. Pablo C. Ortega (City Vice Mayor of San Fernando, La Union), and H.E. Dato' Hj Baderul Amin Abdul Hamid (Mayor of Seberang Perai) were present to celebrate together the ceremony. The ceremony concluded with a launch video and commemorative group photos, symbolizing the beginning of a new chapter in WeGO's efforts to strengthen local capacity and promote digital transformation throughout Latin America.

The Latin America Regional Office will serve as a hub for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and capacity-building initiatives aimed at empowering cities in the region to harness the benefits of smart technologies for sustainable urban development.



Mayoral Roundtable | Advancing Smart Cities through Regional Collaboration

Abu-Dhabi, United Arab Emirates | Oct 30

On Thursday, 30 October 2025, during the WeGO Executive Committee Meeting event, WeGO and hosted a Mayoral Roundtable on "Advancing Smart Cities through Regional Collaboration". This high-level discussion highlighted how regional partnerships are accelerating smart city progress by fostering knowledge sharing, coordinated digital efforts, and innovative solutions to shared urban challenges.

The discussion centered on three key themes: AI Utilization, Cities of the Future, and Regional Collaboration. First, Ms Gabriela Brito, Deputy Mayor of Cuenca presented insights on leveraging AI for public governance, while Ms. Junghwa Lee, Deputy Mayor of Goyang shared her city's approach to cultivating AI literacy in a rapidly digitalizing world. On the topic of future cities, His Excellency Dato' Hj Baderul Amin Abdul Hamid, Mayor of Seberang Perai emphasized the importance of prioritizing liveability in urban planning. Finally, His Excellency Idálio D'Aguiar Juvane, Deputy Mayor of Maputo discussed how cross-regional cooperation can mobilize resources to build resilient municipal infrastructure and services.

By bringing together diverse perspectives, the session reinforced the power of collaborative action in creating smarter, more sustainable urban environments.



WeGO Smart Sustainable City Index : Cities Future Readiness Index

November | Geneva, Switzerland



WeGO launched a Cities Future Readiness Index in partnership with the "Descartes Institute" and "United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)-University of Geneva (UNIGE) Center of Excellence for Smart Sustainable Cities", providing a comprehensive tool for cities to prepare for the future. 102 cities were studied in the index, including 41 WeGO members.

The index was unveiled at a hybrid launch ceremony at the Palais des Nations, UN Headquarters in Geneva, on November 18. The most future-ready city of this year was London, followed by San Francisco, Boston, Paris, and New York. Seoul was ranked in 10th place.

The new CFRI was created in line with WeGO's missions, designed to prioritize human-centric innovation within the context of urban digital transformation. Developed by a globally recognized team, the CFRI distinguishes itself from other city assessment indices through its innovative, dual-structure approach.

In line with the partnership on the index and the Seoul Smart City Prize, a city was selected to be awarded a Special Mention for the Seoul Smart City Prize 2025, for which the ceremony was held in September in Seoul.

Strengthening Global Partnership: Institutions & Associations Engagement Year-round

Throughout the year, WeGO significantly expanded its global network by actively engaging with a wide range of institutions and associations both on and offline. This year, WeGO had more than 90 meetings with institutions, associations, and international organizations.

Building upon existing collaborations with partners such as ITU and UN-Habitat, WeGO intensified its engagement with major international organizations. High-level meetings were conducted with key figures, including the UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies (UN ODET), UN Under-Secretary-General for Policy in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), UN Assistant Secretaries-General, the Head of UNDRR, and the Executive Secretary of UN ESCAP. These discussions have facilitated new partnerships with numerous UN entities, including UN ODET, UNDP, UNECE, and the WMO.



Strengthening city-to-city cooperation was also a key focus. WeGO engaged in discussions with partners such as the Global Cities Hub (GCH), the National League of Cities (NLC), Metropolis, and OASC to enhance inter-city network collaboration.

WeGO also broadened its alliances across industry, academia, and research. The organization strengthened ties with industrial partners like SEMI and advanced its relationship with the Silk-Road University Network.

Furthermore, WeGO established and deepened connections with leading research institutes, including the East-West Center, CSIS, and the International Climate Development Institute. This has also led to new, high-impact projects, such as a Smart City Index with the Descartes Institute and joint work with the UNECE-University of Geneva Center of Excellence.

Through these strategic partnerships, WeGO is solidifying its position as a hub for smart and sustainable cities. These alliances are critical for co-creating innovative solutions, disseminating best practices, and connecting WeGO members with the knowledge and resources to create better urban futures.

WeGO Sustainable Smart City Champions

WEGO SUSTAINABLE SMART CITY
CHAMPIONS

All year round | Geneva, Athens, Kuala Lumpur, New York, Milan, Brescia, Seoul



Marking its fourth year, the World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGO) has expanded its youth capacity-building program, WeGO Sustainable Smart City Champions (or 'WeGO Champions'). 'WeGO Champions' is an initiative open to students and young leaders worldwide, aimed at enhancing their skills in the field of smart city development.

Building on the success of previous editions—which attracted over 600 participants in 2024—the 2025 program introduces a hybrid learning experience that combines cutting-edge online lectures with dynamic in-person workshops in leading cities across the globe. This year's focus, "AI for Smart and Sustainable Cities," highlights the transformative role of artificial intelligence in advancing urban innovation and sustainability.

To complement the online modules, WeGO has been hosting seven in-person workshops throughout 2025 in leading smart and sustainable cities, including Geneva, Athens, Kuala Lumpur, New York, Milan, Brescia, and Seoul.

As an extension of the Champions Program, WeGO launched the Global Youth Award 2025, celebrating exceptional young leaders advancing innovation in smart cities, digital transformation, and sustainable urban solutions.

In this context, as part of Seoul Smart Life Week 2025, WeGO hosted the Sustainable Smart City Champions Session at COEX, bringing together Global Youth Award winners, international experts, and city leaders for an engaging dialogue under the theme "Youth x Experts: A Dialogue on Smart Cities."

With over 90 participants in attendance, the session featured a dynamic panel discussion where award winners posed thought-provoking questions to experts on AI, housing, digital equity, climate resilience, and data ethics. The event also marked the inaugural Global Youth Award Ceremony, honoring 16 outstanding winners across seven categories: Smart City, Net Zero, Advanced Technology, Leadership, Youth Entrepreneurship, SDGs, and Culture.

The Award was developed in partnership with leading institutions, including the University of Geneva, Catholic University of Milan, WIPO, Next Challenge Foundation, Silk Road University Network, Kookmin University, SUNY Korea, and 3K Software / All Nations Global Emerging Leadership School.

To access the online lectures, kindly visit www.cityresiliencetraining.com to sign up for the free online course and contact the WeGO Secretariat (secretariat@we-gov.org) to learn more about the upcoming workshops.

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 350 students attended the offline events in Geneva (Switzerland), Seoul (Korea), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Athens (Greece), Brescia (Italy), Milan (Italy), and New York (USA). 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.



GENEVA
- JUNE 2025

A two day session on "Youth, Leadership, and Sustainable Transformations" hosted in United Nation Headquarters, fostered the participant's understanding of foresight as a leadership tool and equipped with knowledge of key international policy instruments.



SEOUL SMART LIFE WEEK
- OCT. 2025

"Youth x Experts: A Dialogue on Smart Cities" held in Seoul during the Seoul Smart Life Week featuring a dynamic panel discussion where Global Youth Award winners posed pressing questions to leading experts on topics such as AI, housing, digital equity, climate resilience, and data ethics.



KUALA LUMPUR
- OCT. 2025

A two day workshop on "Youth-led Co-creation for Sustainable Smart Cities in Southeast Asia" was conducted enabling participants to develop project concepts addressing energy access, digital inclusion, and climate-resilient urban planning, producing draft policy briefs and concept notes.



ATHENS
- OCT. 2025

With the theme of "Urban Youth Leadership, Climate-Positive Regeneration, Nature-Based Solutions" the session explore scalable Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) for climate-resilient urban transformation, with a focus on Athens' dense Kypseli neighborhood.



BRESCIA
- OCT. 2025

Featuring an in-depth dialogue between experts on "AI and Smart and Sustainable Cities Governance: The Role of Digital Twins and Metaverses", the workshop explored how digital twin technologies and metaverse platforms are reshaping approaches to urban governance and sustainability.



MILAN
- OCT. 2025

Held in Milan, the host city of the Olympics in 2026, the workshop examined both neighborhood-level and individual building-level applications of artificial intelligence and data-driven governance. Two industry leaders shared their expertise and real-world experiences on "AI and Smart and Sustainable Cities: The Block and the Building Scales".



NEW YORK
- NOV. 2025

Centered on how AI-driven tools, such as digital twins, immersive simulation platforms, and data-rich urban management systems, can transform decision-making in cities of all sizes, the workshop provided an immersive platform for students and young professionals to interact with cutting-edge academic research, real-world case studies, and global policy debates.

EXPOS & Conferences

2025 SCSE Taiwan (March 18-22, 2025 | Taipei/Kaohsiung, Taiwan)

WeGO conducted a mission to Taipei and Kaohsiung to strengthen cooperation with local governments and institutions and promote smart city collaboration at the Smart City Summit & Expo 2025. The visit included meetings with the Taipei City Government and Kaohsiung City Government, focusing on expanding participation in the Seoul Smart City Prize, promoting Smart Life Week in Seoul, and exploring future opportunities for partnership and joint initiatives in smart city development.



AIM Congress 2025 (April 7-9, 2025 | Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates)

WeGO actively participated in the Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) 2025, showcasing its leadership in global smart city collaboration. Through sessions, roundtables, and bilateral meetings, WeGO promoted the Seoul Smart City Prize, strengthened partnerships with cities and organizations such as UN-Habitat, Open & Agile Smart Cities, and Expo City Dubai, and received a Special Award recognizing its contributions to global urban innovation.



WSIS (July 7-11, 2025 | Geneva, Switzerland)

WeGO actively participated in the WSIS+20 High-Level Event and the AI for Good Summit 2025 in Geneva, co-hosted by the ITU and the Swiss Confederation. Through high-level discussions and collaborations, WeGO emphasized the role of AI and digital governance in improving urban resilience and quality of life. WeGO also joined the AI for Good Summit session on "AI & Virtual Worlds: Building the Cities and Governments of Tomorrow," where Secretary General Kim presented WeGO's AI-driven initiatives and the Seoul Smart City Prize as global models for inclusive digital transformation.



SCEWC (November 4-7, 2025 | Barcelona, Spain)

During the congress WeGO promoted its vision for human-centric Smart Sustainable Cities and the Seoul Smart City Prize, strengthened global partnerships, and expanded its international network. WeGO also participated as a panelist in the session "Making It Happen: How Cities Can Turn Livability Plans into Reality," highlighting the Prize's core values of inclusion, sustainability, and equitable urban governance, while holding strategic meetings with city governments and senior smart city stakeholders.



GES by SEMI (December 15-16, 2025 | Tokyo, Japan)

WeGO actively engaged with global leaders at the SEMI Global Executive Summit: Energy, Emissions & Efficiency, fostering dialogue on sustainable technologies and city-industry collaboration, while holding strategic meetings with city governments and senior smart city stakeholders. The summit focuses on energy transition, emissions reduction, and operational efficiency, addressing how industry and cities can collaborate on sustainability, clean energy adoption, and low-carbon innovation.

Institutional & Private Sector Networking

Throughout the year, WeGO engaged extensively with representatives from both institutional and private sector organizations, introducing its services and programs while identifying new opportunities for collaboration. WeGO successfully conducted over 20 meetings with private sectors, including corporations, media, and chamber of commerce. These interactions resulted in the development of strong partnerships with a diverse range of stakeholders across the smart city sector, significantly expanding WeGO's network and solidifying connections with leading technology providers in Korea and internationally.

As a direct outcome of these efforts, WeGO successfully onboarded two prestigious corporate members—K-Coop and LG Electronics—and four institution members—Asociación de Municipalidades Ecuatorianas (AME), Busan Economic Promotion Agency (BEPA), Paris Est Marne & Bois, University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC)—further enhancing its capacity to identify and integrate innovative technologies and smart solutions in the evolving landscape of smart city development. This strategic engagement will facilitate the continued advancement of sustainable and inclusive urban solutions on a global scale.

WeGO actively engaged in numerous international networking events fostering global partnerships, including the international career fair and KGGTF K-Partnership Connect. WeGO utilized these platforms to meet new partners, engage with the public, and further strengthen its presence.



WEGO SUSTAINABLE SMART CITY
CHAMPIONS
Seoul Smart Life Week Session
Group Photo

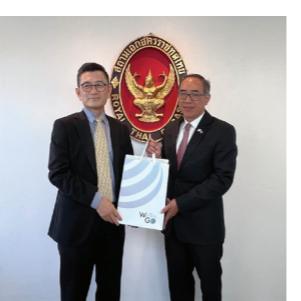
Meetings with Diplomatic Corps

In line with WeGO's mission to promote the global transformation of cities into smart and sustainable urban ecosystems, the Secretariat maintains active and strategic cooperation with the diplomatic corps and other foreign delegations based in the Republic of Korea. Embassies play a key role as main intermediaries in facilitating international collaboration, enabling WeGO to connect more effectively with local governments, metropolitan authorities, and key institutions around the world.

Throughout recent years, WeGO has successfully leveraged embassy channels to establish and expand cooperation with cities across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Europe, and Asia. These diplomatic linkages have proven essential in opening doors to new municipal partners, organizing bilateral meetings, and identifying strategic opportunities for future collaboration.

In 2025, WeGO conducted more than 20 meetings with representatives from Embassies to Korea, including Azerbaijan, Belgium, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, the EU Delegation, France, Germany, Honduras, Japan, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UAE and Korean Diplomatic missions in overseas. These engagements served as a platform to introduce WeGO's flagship programs, explore cooperation frameworks, and strengthen institutional relationships with governments worldwide.

In addition, WeGO held over 80 meetings with mayoral-level and senior municipal representatives from a wide range of global cities. These include Alexandria, Arlington, Bangkok, Barcelona, Bilbao, Dubai, Dublin, Englewood Cliffs, Evian, Fullerton, Goyang, Granada, Guangzhou Tianhe Central Business District, The Hague, Hawaii, Honolulu, Ipswich, Irvine, Jersey City, Karlsruhe, Kuala Lumpur, London, Los Angeles, Mato Grosso, Monrovia, Moscow, Naples, Onondaga County, Paris, Paris Est Marne & Bois, Prague, Prince George's County, Rabat, Rio de Janeiro, San Francisco, San José de Colinas, Shanghai, Sharjah, Shi Jia Zhuang, Syracuse, Taipei, Vienna, Wroclaw, and etc.



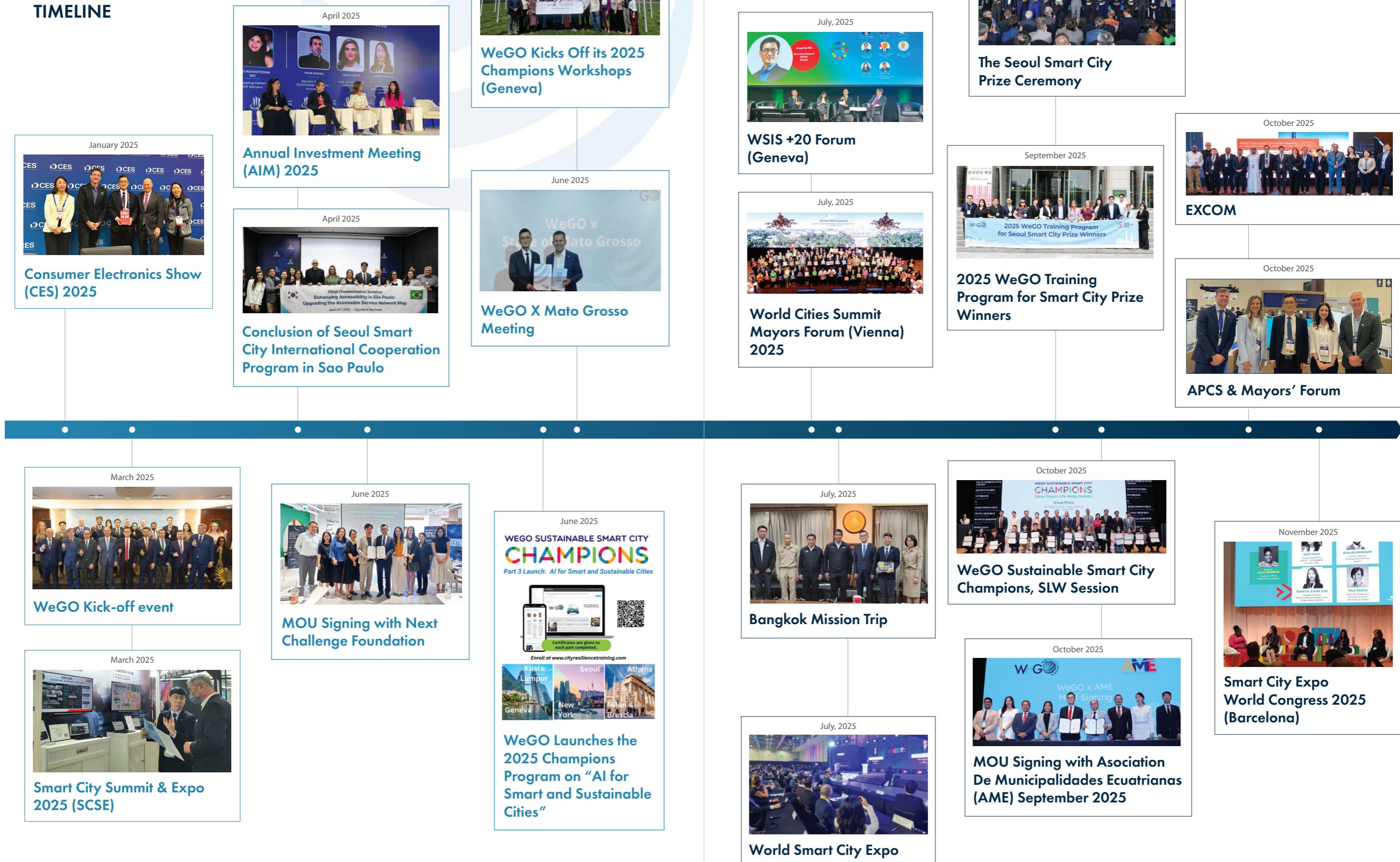
2025
WeGO
ACTIVITIES

EUNBYUL ELENA CHO
Program Director
World Smart Sustainable Cities
Organization (WeGO)

MILA GASCO
Associate Professor /
Research Director
University of Albany

2025 Activities

TIMELINE



2025 Activities

Mission trip to United States

January - February, 2025

WeGO carried out strategic missions to United States in early 2025, participating in CES, the SEMI Industry Strategy Symposium, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors to promote the Seoul Smart City Prize and strengthen partnerships with key organizations including the CTA, SEMI, and the National League of Cities. The delegation also held high-level meetings with UN officials to expand cooperation in sustainable development, digital technology, and AI. In addition, new collaborations were formed with The New York Climate Exchange and The Korea Society, both joining the Seoul Prize High Council and exploring joint initiatives to enhance WeGO's global engagement.



Diplomatic Kick-Off Event

March 07, 2025

WeGO hosted a diplomatic event bringing together over 30 ambassadors and diplomats to present its 2025 agenda and strengthen global partnerships for smart city development. Ambassadors from countries including Kazakhstan, Thailand, Egypt, and the UAE commended WeGO's leadership in regional cooperation and highlighted ongoing projects in collaboration with the Secretariat. Representatives from more than 15 other nations joined the discussion, emphasizing the value of cross-border collaboration for human-centric innovation. Under the theme "Smart Life in Smart City," WeGO showcased its 2025 vision focused on digital transformation and AI, while also introducing the Third Seoul Smart City Prize.



Advisory Kick-Off Event

March 31, 2025

WeGO successfully held the 2025 Advisory Board Kick-Off Event, gathering key experts from government, academia, the private sector, and international organizations based in Korea to discuss strategies for advancing global smart city cooperation. The meeting marked the board's first official gathering and introduced WeGO's 2025 agenda, emphasizing inclusive and human-centered smart city growth. Members shared insights on city branding, integrating small and medium-sized cities into the global network, and balancing smart city innovation with carbon neutrality goals.



Seoul Smart City International Cooperation Program Final Dissemination Seminar

April 21 - 25, 2024

WeGO, in partnership with the Seoul Metropolitan Government and the Seoul Urban Solutions Agency (SUSA), participated in the Final Dissemination Seminar for the Seoul Smart City International Cooperation Program in São Paulo, concluding a pre-feasibility study on improving accessibility for persons with disabilities through the Accessible Service Network Map (ASNM). During the mission, WeGO met with key city stakeholders and organizations such as Prodam, SP Negocios, and the University of São Paulo's Innovation Center to strengthen partnerships, promote the Seoul Smart City Prize, and foster collaboration on inclusive and sustainable urban innovation.



UN-Habitat-WeGO City Mayors' Roundtable on Smart Cities in AIM 2025

April 9, 2025

During the Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) 2025, WeGO co-hosted the City Mayors' Roundtable on Smart Cities in partnership with UN-Habitat. This year marks the second edition of this collaboration. In the roundtable, WeGO Head of Program delivered the opening remarks, welcomed all distinguished high-level speakers, introduced WeGO's flagship programs and initiatives, and actively promoted the Seoul Smart City Prize. The roundtable brought together city leaders including the Mayor of Monrovia and San José de Colinas.



WeGO Meeting Mato Grosso

June 16 2025

WeGO met with H.E. Mauro Mendes, Governor of Mato Grosso (Brazil), accompanied by a high-level delegation including Secretaries of State and senior officials. The delegation held a meeting with WeGO, during which they learned more about WeGO's programs and shared insights about the state and its strategic importance. Governor Mendes expressed keen interest in joining the WeGO network and proposed that 10 cities from the State of Mato Grosso be considered for membership—a clear signal of the region's dedication to smart and sustainable urban development.



WeGO Champions Session during Seoul Smart Life Week 2025

October 01, 2025

WeGO hosted a Champions Session in October 1st during the Seoul Smart Life Week (SLW) 2025 with global youths, under the theme of "Youth x Experts: A Dialogue on Smart Cities." This special edition of session with over 90 participants in attendance, brought together youth awardees, global experts, and city leaders with a dynamic panel discussion on topics such as AI, housing, digital equity, climate resilience, and data ethics. Newly launched Global Youth Award was also presented during the session, recognizing 16 winners across seven categories including Smart City, Net Zero, Advanced Technology, Leadership, Entrepreneurship, SDGs, and Culture.



3rd National Urban Forum 2025

October 15 - 17, 2025

WeGO recently moderated a panel discussion "The Interplay Between Mobility, Data, and Spatial Planning: Innovative Urban Solutions." The session featured distinguished experts from Azerbaijan transportation planning agency, business and international organizations. The discussion highlighted the transformative role of data-driven decision-making, innovative transport planning, and digital tools in restoring connectivity and resilience in post-conflict regions. It also underscored the need for cross-sector collaboration between governments, international organizations, and private innovators in shaping sustainable urban futures.



WeGO Participation in Partner Events

This year WeGO has participated in 22 external events to share its knowledge and expertise in smart city development.

DATE	EVENT NAME	THEME	EVENT ORGANIZER
Jan 7-9, 2025	Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2025	Connect, Solve, Discover: Dive In	Consumer Technology Association
Jan 8, 2025	Seoul Innovation Forum 2025	Cross-border startup pitching competition	Seoul Metropolitan Government
Jan 12-15, 2025	SEMI Industry Strategy Symposium (ISS)	Ready, Set, Ramp!	SEMI
Jan 17-19, 2025	The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) 93rd Winter Meeting	Conference of Mayors	USCM
Feb 19, 2025	SEMICON Korea	Lead the Edge	SEMI
Mar 18-21, 2025	2025 SCSE Taipei	Digital & Green Transformation	Taipei Computer Association
Mar 20-22, 2025	2025 SCSE Kaohsiung		Taipei Computer Association
Apr 7-9, 2025	AIM Congress 2025	Mapping the Future of Global Investment: The New Wave of a Globalized Investment Landscape - Towards a New Balanced World Structure	AIM Global Foundation
May 29, 2025	Champions Session with Arlington University	Advancing Smart and Sustainable Cities	WeGO
May 30, 2025	Youth Internship Green Growth Sharing & Closing Day	Internship closing and networking	World Bank Group Korea Green Growth Trust Fund
July 2-4, 2025	World Cities Summit Mayors Forum	Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Local Solutions, Global Impact	City of Vienna
July 7-11, 2025	WSIS+20 High-Level Event and AI for Good Summit	AI & virtual worlds: Building the cities and governments of tomorrow	ITU, Swiss Confederation
July 7th, 2025	International Career Fair 2025	Job fair	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
July 18th	2025 World Smart City Expo	Next City For All	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport Ministry of Science and ICT
July 31, 2025	SLW Press conference	Press Conference	Seoul Metropolitan Government
August 23, 2025	HIMUN 49th GA	Exploring Ways to Utilize Science Technology and Multilateral Cooperation to Accelerate the Achievement of SDGs	Hankuk University of Foreign Studies Model United Nations (HIMUN)
September 11, 2025	31st Block Chain Policy Forum	Next Generation Blockchain and AI - The Impact of Stable Coins and Korea's Response	3K Group
September 17, 2025	K-Partnership Connect	Networking between K-Partners	World Bank Group Korea Green Growth Trust Fund
October 13-14, 2025	9th General Assembly of the Silk-Road Universities Network (SUN)	Use of Technologies for Peaceful and Sustainable Tourism along the Silk Roads in the Era of Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, and Cybersecurity: Challenges and Opportunities for Universities	Silk-Road Universities Network Secretariat
October 15-17, 2025	3rd National Urban Forum of Azerbaijan	Towards climate-resilient and healthy cities: harnessing regional partnerships and innovative solutions	State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture UN-HABITAT
October 26-28, 2025	2025 Asia Pacific Cities Summit and Mayors' Forum	Collaborate. Inspire. Transform	Brisbane City Council
November 4-6, 2025	Smart City Expo World Congress 2025	The Time for Cities	Fira Barcelona
December 17-19, 2025	Semicon Japan	AI x Sustainability x Semiconductor	SEMI (Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International)



New Full Members

Local Governments

Cartagena de Indias

Area: 609.1 km²
Population: 1.1 million
Mayor: Dumek Turbay Paz



Cartagena de Indias is a historic port city on Colombia's Caribbean coast, renowned for its well-preserved colonial architecture, vibrant culture, and coastal charm. It's a UNESCO World Heritage site, known for its walled city, colorful buildings, cobblestone streets, and lively atmosphere. Cartagena de Indias, has expressed interest in strengthening its resilience to climate change, improving waste management systems, and integrating innovation into urban development through its WeGO membership. The city seeks to participate in WeGO's capacity-building programs, knowledge exchange opportunities, policy support, and project implementation initiatives to address key challenges in governance, environmental sustainability, and water and waste management. Cartagena also aims to enhance community engagement, project management, and urban planning, leveraging global best practices to advance its smart and sustainable city agenda.

Monrovia City Corporation

Area: 194.25km²
Population: 1.1 million
Mayor: Hon. John-Charuk S. Siafa



The City of Monrovia was founded in 1816 with the aim of establishing a self-sufficient colony for emancipated American slaves under the auspices of the American Colonization Society. Today, Monrovia is the capital city of Liberia, and showcases the country's vibrant culture, history and resilience. Located on the coastline, Monrovia is a hub of trade and commerce, with traders selling textiles, fresh produce and a plethora of other goods in one of the many bustling commercial zones.

As the capital of Liberia, Monrovia aspires to leverage WeGO's platform to further their city's transformation into a smart, sustainable urban environment. Joining WeGO will enable Monrovia to harness the power of digital technologies, foster cross-sectoral integration, and access critical investments needed for sustainable urban development. They believe these efforts will significantly enhance the efficiency of our urban operations, improve the quality of life for our citizens, and boost economic prosperity.

City of Fullerton

Area: 57.6 km²
Population: 140,054
Mayor: Fred Jung



Located in North Orange County, Fullerton is a full-service city renowned for its unique mix of residential, commercial and industrial, educational and cultural environments that provide an outstanding quality of life for its residents. The City has been involved in environmentally sustainable efforts in their City facilities including solar. The City is looking at various alternative transportation options including micro transit. The City is involved in economic development efforts and completed a housing element to the Community Plan and recently restored an Historic Library. The City of Fullerton is interested in becoming a part of WeGO because it is a proven innovative organization and would connect the City to other cities who are bringing innovative solutions regarding transportation, climate action policy and safety for their residents and businesses.

Pohang City

Area: 1,128.76km²
Population: 497,639
Mayor: Lee Kang-deok



The City of Pohang is fostering a supportive business ecosystem to overcome challenges in the steel industry and prioritize technological innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It is also implementing key strategies in four major policy areas for 2025—future growth, urban vitality, citizen-centered development, and quality of life—while promoting marine culture and tourism. Pohang is further enhancing its competitiveness by developing a Pohang-style MICE industry, anchored by the successful establishment of the Pohang International Exhibition & Convention Center (POEX). These initiatives aim to position the city as a continuously growing central hub on the East Sea Rim.

Pohang City seeks to promote urban development through smart city initiatives and the use of information and communication technology (ICT), while sharing best practices with global cities and improving policies. Additionally, it aims to gain resources and guidance for sustainable urban development, enhance digital capabilities to improve administrative efficiency and citizen services, and ultimately strengthen its international image and competitiveness within the global network.

Corporates

K-COOP



The organization focuses on K-POP education and medical tourism services for overseas participants and has recently expanded its activities to include smart city solutions, contributing to sustainable development in local communities. K-Coop has expressed interest in expanding its engagement within WeGO's global smart city network and actively exchanging smart city technologies and expertise.

LG Electronics



LG Electronics Inc is a South Korean multinational major appliance and consumer electronics corporation. LG Electronics aims to join the organization to explore business opportunities by applying its smart home and smart city solutions worldwide. With expertise in mobility, transportation, and energy management, the company seeks to contribute to sustainable and innovative urban development.

Institutions

Asociación de Municipalidades Ecuatorianas (AME)



The Association of Ecuadorian Municipalities (AME) represents municipal and metropolitan decentralized autonomous governments (GADs) in Ecuador. It promotes a decentralized and autonomous local management model built on coordinated planning and participatory territorial governance.

Busan Economic Promotion Agency (BEPA)



The Busan Economic Promotion Agency is a non-profit foundation that serves as a comprehensive support platform preparing for the future of Busan's economy. It provides comprehensive support to SMEs and small businesses throughout the entire business cycle, driving policy improvements to energize Busan's economy.

Paris Est Marne & Bois



As part of the establishment of the Greater Paris Metropolis, Paris Est Marne & Bois became an intercommunal structure bringing together 13 municipalities and 520,000 inhabitants in the eastern part of Paris. The Territory was granted various competencies to actively support member cities in urban planning, social cohesion, economic development, water and sanitation, environment and ecological transition, housing policies, housing, food markets, tourism, urban planning and zoning.

University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC)



Established in 2004 through the merger of the Institute of Management Sciences and the Institute of Management and Production, is the largest private tertiary institution in Jamaica. UCC operates six campuses across the country serving more than 7,000 students with the support of around 400 faculty and administrative staff.

MOU Signatures & New Partnerships



Asociación de Municipalidades Ecuatorianas (AME) (MOU)

June 2, 2025



Next Challenge Foundation (MOU)

June 13, 2025



Open and Agile Smart Cities

November 08, 2025

Member Overview

as of December 2025

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Andek, Batibo, Tubah
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Accra
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Maputo, Quelimane
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Kigali
Tshwane
Kampala
Chingola, Kasama, Lunte
Harare
Monrovia

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Paris
Berlin, Frankfurt
Rotterdam
Bucharest
Magas, Moscow, Vladivostok
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Isfahan, Shiraz, Tabriz, Tehran
Erbil
Rabat
Muscat
Hebron, Ramallah
La Marsa, Menzel Jemil, Tunis
Abu Dhabi

San Antonio de Areco
Porto Alegre, São Paulo
Cali, Cartagena de Indias
Buenos Aires (Costa Rica)
Villa Tapia
Cuenca
Coatzacoalcos, Mexico City
Asunción
Cusco, Lima, Urubamba
Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Fullerton
Caracas

Ryde
Baku
Dhaka North, Dhaka South, Rajshahi City
Chengdu, Dujiangyan, Hong Kong SAR, Ningbo, Zhejiang Province
Suva
Agra
Bandung, Batam, Baubau, Jakarta, Kepulauan Riau, Serang Regency
Saga Prefecture
Almaty, Astana
Bishkek
Anyang, Goyang, Jeju, Seoul, Pohang
Penang Island, Seberang Perai
Altai, Choibalsan, Erdenet, Sainshand, Ulaanbaatar
Belbari, Bhadrupur, Bharatpur, Birgunj, Dhankuta, Dharan, Dhulikhel,
Itahari, Kanakai, Kathmandu, Patharishanishchare, Pokhara, Ramgram,
Ratuwamai, Shivataskhi, Sunawarshi, Sundarharaicha, Sunwal,
Tarakeshwor
Wellington
Islamabad, Peshawar
Baguio, Cauayan, La Union, Makati, Manila, Quezon City, San Fernando
La Union
Dambulla, Galle, Matale, Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte
Kaohsiung
Bangkok
Tashkent, Chirchik
Da Nang, Ha Noi, Thua Thien Hue

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Regional Office
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Regional Office
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EAST ASIA
Regional Office
Chengdu

PRESIDENT
CITY
Seoul

INSTITUTIONS | 22

African Smart Cities Innovation Foundation (ASCIF)
Association of Ecuadorian Municipalities (AME)
Busan Economic Promotion Agency (BEPA)
FIWARE Foundation
Healthy City Network of Mongolia (HCNM)
Korea Green Foundation

Korea Internet and Security Agency (KISA)
National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)
Paris Est Marne & Bois (PEMB)
Seoul AI Foundation (SAIF)
Seoul Housing & Urban Development Corporation (SH)
Seoul Tourism Organization (STO)

CORPORATIONS | 22



PARTNERS

