Voices from Cities

Mega Cities in the Age of Digital Technology

The Seoul Institute and the Institut Paris Region organize a session "Planning Megacities in the Age of Digital Technology" during the 12th World Urban Forum (WUF12) at the Cairo, Egypt. This session will explore the critical role of digital technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Digital Twin in transforming urban innovation. We aim to investigate how these cutting-edge technologies can be applied to megacities with populations of around 10 million, such as Seoul, Paris, Cairo, Istanbul, Ho Chi Minh metropolitan area, to enhance urban planning, sustainability, and livability. This session will lay the groundwork for building a knowledge network between global megacities to facilitate future collaboration and shared learning. We believe that the discussion in this session will serve as the first step in creating a global platform where cities can exchange insights and collaborate on innovative digital solutions for urban future.

Session: Planning Mega Cities in the Age of Digital Technology

- **Date:** November 7th, 2024, 11:00 AM (UTC+2)
- **Venue:** Room F, Egypt International Exhibition Center, Cairo, Egypt
- **Link**: https://wuf.unhabitat.org/event/wuf12/planning-mega-cities-age-digital-technology

Session Summary

The contemporary challenges faced by major megacities worldwide encompass a spectrum of issues, spanning from climate change and population dynamics to labor concerns, spatial inequalities, and the imperative of administrative integration. In response, efforts are underway to develop comprehensive spatial plans for megacities, aiming to address these multifaceted challenges. Central to this endeavor is the imperative to foster knowledge exchange among cities, leveraging their diverse planning experiences to chart a course for future mega city development. To this end, a mega city planning with emerging technologies seminar has been convened, serving as a forum for sharing insights on mega city planning and advancing the agenda of sustainable urbanization. Embracing technological innovations such as big data, artificial intelligence, and digital twin, this initiative seeks to enhance the efficacy of planning processes and evaluations. The Seoul Institute, in collaboration with the Institute Paris Region, Housing and Building National Research Center (HBRC), Cairo, Egypt, UN-HABITAT MetroHUB and partners, aspires to leverage advanced planning methodologies to tackle shared urban challenges and facilitate the establishment of a robust knowledge-sharing platform for mega city planning.

Key objectives

- Share the context of each city planning organization in regard to digital developments
- Understand the impact of digital technology in mega cities.
- Discuss the opportunities and possibilities of big data, artificial intelligence, and digital twin during the mega city planning process.
- Discuss how to build a knowledge sharing platform for the challenge and opportunity of digital technology for mega city planning

SDG

- SDG 11.b, SDG 11.C

Relevant Dialogue

- Dialogue 5. Putting people first in a digital age
- Numerous cities will transform into mega cities as the world's cities become more populated and traffic technology advances. Mega cities are crucial for finding solutions to issues with labor, migration, population, and climate change on a global scale. Mega city is immediately impacted by digital technology in addition to having a direct impact on it. Thus, in the era of digitalization, where artificial intelligence and big data are pervasive in our daily lives, digital technology will be actively employed for sustainable development, urban administration, and citizen engagement. This event is particularly significant since it addresses issues like responsible artificial intelligence for mega cities, as well as the potential of digital technology.

AGENDA (Tentative)

Time	Topic	Speakers
11.00-11.05	Welcome and introduction	Mr. Eric Huybrechts, Institut Paris Region, France
11.05-11.20	Keynote: Digital Technology for Mega city planning	Dr. Junyoung Choi, the Seoul Institute, Korea
11.20-11.30	Planning Marmara Region using digital technology	Mr. Cemil Arslan, Marmara Municipalities of Union, Turkiye
11.30-11.40	Planning the Greater Cairo Region using digital technology	Dr. Azza Sirry, Housing and Building National Research Center, Egypt
11:40-11:50	Experience of Ho Chi Minh Metropolitan Area	Dr. Tu Anh Trinh, University of Economics Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam
11:50-12:00	Impact of digital economy in Paris Regional Plan 2040	Eric Huybrechts, Institut Paris Region
12:00-12:20	Discussion on the Mega city agenda in the digital age	Moderator: Eric Huybrechts, Institut Paris Region
12.20-12.30	Launch of the Megacity network on Planning and technology, supported by the Seoul Institute MetroHub/UN-Habitat	Dr. Junyoung Choi, the Seoul Institute, Korea and Remy Sietchiping, PLGS, UN-Habitat

- Presenters need to be included in Pannel discussion according to the layout of the room.

SPEAKERS

- **Mr. Junyoung Choi**, Director, Center for External Collaborative Research, The Seoul Institute & Chair of Big Data Committee, Korea Planning Association(KPA), Korea
- **Mr. Eric Huybrechts**, Director, International Affairs, The Institut Paris Region, France
- **Mr. Cemil Arslan**, General Director, Marmara Municipalities of Union, Türkiye
- **Ms. Tu Anh Trinh**, Director, Institute of Smart city and Management, University of Economics Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam
- **Ms. Azza Sirry**, Professor, Housing and Building National Research Center-HBRC, Egypt
- **Mr. Remy Sietchiping**, PLGS, UN-Habitat

Moderation by Eric Huybrechts ,The Institut Paris Region

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What are the key challenges and opportunities for local governments in governing and utilizing digital technologies for mega city planning?
- How can technologies such as AI and Digital Twins enhance mega city planning processes, and what are the limitations of these technologies?
- How can digital technologies support collaboration between adjacent municipal governments within a metropolitan area to achieve more integrated and efficient planning?
- What platforms, partnerships, and specialized planning agencies or research institutes are needed to effectively develop and implement digital technologies in mega city planning?
- What innovative policies and strategies can help leverage digital technologies to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the context of mega city planning?

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