

Synopses of focal areas of presentations/discussions

1) *Mayors Forum Session 1: “Advancements and Challenges of Cities: Planning and Governance”*

How have cities innovated and adapted to rise up to meet challenges of a rapid rate of urbanisation? This session will look at how dynamic urban governance and integrated master planning are key principles that cities can use to advance in the face of such challenges, and how implementation is the acid test of plans. Common challenges faced by cities, such as infrastructure financing and governance, will be explored to see how governance and planning principles, aided by technology and systems, present a solution for improvement.

2) *Mayors Forum Session 2: “Curating the City: Heritage and Culture”*

As cities develop and grow their economic districts and industrial sectors, the cultural soul of the city can often be forgotten or compromised. Heritage and culture of cities give them a unique identity and authenticity that can be translated into tangible economic benefits. It is also key in providing dwellers of the city with a sense of identity and pride in today’s globalized world. This session looks into how cities are capitalising on their rich cultural assets to position themselves as centers of art and culture, curating and leveraging on their built heritage and cultural assets to the city’s advantage, both in terms of economic benefits and quality of life, in collaboration with stakeholders.

3) *Mayors Forum Session 3: “The Tenacity of a City: A Resilient and Sustainable Environment”*

A changing climate, population shifts, economic pressures and an influx of migrants may stretch a city, its people, and infrastructure, at the expense of the natural environment. The future of many cities will largely depend on how their leaders and citizens respond to these challenges by developing initiatives that can reduce stresses and build resilience of the built and natural environment, the city government, and the

community. This session will look at how to ensure the sustainability of a city in such times of shock or pressure.

4) *Mayors Forum Session 4: “Engines of Growth: Balancing Liveability with Growth”*

Income inequality, skills mismatch, business model disruption and their associated consequences are challenges that many cities seek to mitigate. This session will discuss how cities cooperate with one another to innovate and adapt industries to remain competitive and attractive to residents. The session will also explore if a new thought-frame for policy makers is needed to embrace new ways of business, and what strategies will allow the city’s workforce to re-equip and adapt to meet the growth of these new economies and embrace disruption. Whilst building the industries which form the pillars of the economy, it is crucial that the city’s liveability – the quality of life for the people, and the sustainability of the environment, are considered as well. The strategies adopted by cities to ensure a balance between economic growth and a liveable city will be discussed.