

SusHi Tech Tokyo 2024 City Leaders Program Communiqué

(Preamble)

1. The global situation is constantly changing, but recent years have seen an acceleration in the speed of these changes. Global issues, such as unprecedented weather disasters arising from climate change and an unstable international situation due to conflicts between states, are growing more complex. Industry is also entering a period of structural change, which includes the progression of green and digital transformation along with startups driving global innovation and growth. On top of this, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to shifts in the functions expected of cities and in people's values. Cities are now caught in the middle of this complicated web of global dynamics.

The twenty-first century is called the “age of cities,” with cities standing on the frontline of response to challenges such as the climate crisis, natural disasters, future pandemic preparation, and establishing respect for diversity. The tense global situation now makes it necessary for us to cooperate with one another, combine our collective wisdom and experience, and take concrete action.

Through a global network of cities, by cities, for cities, we will facilitate continuous exchanges and seek brighter prospects for the future, while also further deepening intercity collaboration in order to address the common challenges outlined in this communiqué, which we must tackle. Additionally, by leveraging the expertise of diverse societal actors such as startups, we will accelerate our efforts to solve these challenges and seek sustainability for cities.

2. In May 2024, city leaders representing 45 cities around the world engaged in three days of discussions under the theme of “A better future through innovation for a just and sustainable world” at the SusHi Tech Tokyo 2024 City Leaders Program, an international conference held in Tokyo, Japan.

Since the summit of city leaders held in 2023, best practices concerning specific key challenges were shared among cities through the activities of working groups, which were agreed to be established at that summit. Moving forward, we will implement projects utilizing the technologies of startups to find solutions to urban challenges, as well as intercity technological exchanges aimed at sharing wisdom and expertise. By implementing such initiatives through practical intercity collaboration, we will work to

realize a just and sustainable world.

(Realizing Inclusive and Just Societies)

3. The importance of a just society that embraces all people is the common underlying philosophy of cities seeking to realize a sustainable world. Guided by this concept, while receiving the participation of our residents, we will promote wellbeing, women's empowerment, a healthy and long-life society, barrier-free access, and culture and sports, for the realization of more just, sustainable and cohesive societies.

4. Promoting wellbeing

The formation of an inclusive society where no one becomes socially isolated requires the construction of safety nets to support those who are socially vulnerable. We aim to realize a world where everyone can reap the benefits of prosperity.

To that end, we will address the various challenges confronting our residents and realize a society that embraces people's concerns. This will be done by supporting persons with disabilities, the economically disadvantaged, sexual minorities, and others who are socially disadvantaged; providing housing where people can live with peace of mind; providing children and youth with quality education and promoting their social participation; and at the same time, expanding and strengthening social welfare. In this way, we will promote urban well-being by embedding in the social infrastructure such support for people facing economic, physical, social and other challenges.

5. Promoting women's empowerment

Women accounted for 40 percent, less than half, of the world's workforce in 2022. This makes it essential to provide support for women's economic independence and political participation.

Specifically, we will support the social participation of women and promote their economic independence through vocational training and other such measures, cultivate female leaders, and improve women's political participation. We will also work to build an environment to secure the safety and security of women.

6. Realizing healthy, long-life societies

We must strive to build societies in which members of all generations can lead healthy and long lives. The United Nations has stated that the world must address the issue of aging in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. As the percentage of older

workers is on an increasing trend with the aging of the population, there is a need to create a work environment in which older residents can play a more active role.

Specifically, in order to realize a society in which all older adults can sense that their lives have purpose and to create a healthy, long-life society, we will work to improve services and infrastructure to support their daily lives and ensure their health care. In addition, we will promote efforts to realize social and economic inclusion including measures to improve the labor market environment and build an environment that enables post-retirement reskilling and re-employment.

7. Promoting barrier-free accessibility

The promotion of accessibility is crucial for allowing everyone to lead comfortable lives in society. Removing people's mental and physical barriers and ensuring that everyone can utilize urban infrastructure, facilities and services will contribute to the realization of an inclusive and just society.

We will also further advance urban development to design cities that provide all persons with access to public facilities and public transportation, and strive to build an environment from the aspects of both hard and soft infrastructure.

8. Promoting culture and sports

Culture and sports enrich minds and contribute to the promotion of health and the realization of an inclusive society. Accordingly, we will promote the creation of an environment where everyone can enjoy culture and sports through efforts including encouraging local interaction through culture and sports, and generating opportunities for community cultural and sports activities.

Through measures such as promoting Para sports, we will promote interactions with diverse people, and seek to realize inclusive cities where diversity is respected and everybody shines.

(Building Safe and Secure Cities)

9. There has been a five-fold increase in the number of global extreme weather events over the past 50 years due to climate change, with recent years seeing meteorological disasters such as storms and flooding increasing in intensity and frequency. Large-scale earthquakes and other natural disasters can also strike at any time. In just this year, the January 1st earthquake striking the Noto Peninsula and the April 3rd earthquake in eastern

Taiwan resulted in many casualties. We cities extend our deepest sympathies to all those affected by these disasters. To maintain brisk urban activities, it is necessary to build cities that are resilient to all kinds of disasters. In addition, for all people to feel safe living in cities, it is imperative for local communities to be safe and comfortable and to secure sufficient amounts of drinking water, food, and energy.

To this end, we will seek to realize cities where everyone can live safely and with peace of mind through efforts that include building resilient cities, strengthening people and community ties, and ensuring the security of drinking water and other essential resources.

10. Building resilient cities

Extreme weather disasters brought on by the climate crisis are growing more severe, and natural disasters such as large-scale earthquakes are also striking all corners of the world. As these disasters are having a major impact on people's lives and the economy, it is critical to build cities resilient to disasters.

While fully drawing on disaster mitigation technologies, we will work to enhance the awareness of our residents even more through disaster risk mapping and the formulation of disaster mitigation plans, as well as providing them with disaster information and evacuation information. We will also work to develop and upgrade disaster mitigation infrastructure, prepare emergency relief supplies, harness cutting-edge technologies to secure power and communications in times of disaster, and ensure data preservation. Through development of such hard and soft infrastructure, we seek to realize safe and secure cities.

11. Strengthening people and community ties

So that our residents can feel safe as they go about their daily lives, it is indispensable to create an environment where people support each other while respecting diversity and recognizing each other's individuality, and to improve safety and security through crime prevention.

To that end, we will energize local communities that form the bedrock for activities by residents to assist each other in times of emergency, and also create inclusive gathering places. In addition, in response to crimes, which are diversifying, along with sending out information to communities using the wisdom of our cities and the latest technologies, we will work together with the communities and build momentum for crime prevention activities by volunteers. Through such efforts, we aim to realize societies where people can live with peace of mind.

12. Ensuring drinking water, food and energy security

Drinking water, food, and energy are indispensable for the lives of residents. Cities play an important role in securing a stable supply of these essential resources.

While strengthening intercity collaboration, we will promote the construction of sustainable water supply systems to ensure daily water security by developing the water infrastructure utilizing cutting-edge technologies, as well as engaging in efforts such as enhancing the seismic resistance of facilities in preparation for earthquakes. We will also work to ensure food security amid challenges such as rising demand for food due to the growing global population, reduction in food production due to climate change, and delays and disruptions in international food supply chains. Furthermore, while sharing our knowledge, we will work together on matters related to energy security, including the promotion of energy conservation, greater adoption of renewable energy sources to enhance energy self-sufficiency, and the utilization of storage batteries.

(Promotion of Environmental Measures)

13. Rapid changes in our global environment, now also referred to as “global boiling,” are exacerbating the risks of natural disasters, which pose a threat to the safe and secure lives of residents in cities across the world. In order to build cities where even future generations of residents can live with peace of mind, it is imperative that we take action against climate change. Furthermore, as there are regions where factors such as urbanization and population growth are accelerating environmental degradation, there is a pressing need for environmental protection and the conservation of water resources.

To address such circumstances and build a sustainable future, we will promote zero-emissions and the transition to a circular economy, protect and conserve the natural environment, and build cities in harmony with nature.

14. Promoting zero-emissions:

Climate change is a major environmental crisis faced by all cities, and promoting zero-emissions is essential in creating sustainable cities. To drive the transition to cleaner, next-generation energy sources such as solar, wind and hydrogen, we will accelerate the decarbonization of various sectors and industry as a whole, in addition to the societal adoption of renewable energies and other technologies.

We will also work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through ZEVs (zero-emission

vehicles), as well as integrate renewable energy technologies such as solar power systems into buildings. Furthermore, we will engage in a wide range of measures that contribute to decarbonization, such as encouraging residents to shift to eco-friendly lifestyles, including the use of bicycles, with the aim to realize zero-emission cities.

Green hydrogen is also a next-generation energy anticipated to become a mainstay of decarbonization efforts. Although the use of hydrogen is now progressing in some regions, the spread of hydrogen use in various sectors and the development of technologies for the utilization of green hydrogen are still works in progress. Through intercity collaboration and collaboration with stakeholders around our cities, we will promote initiatives to expand the use of hydrogen and develop technologies.

15. Promoting the transition to a circular economy:

Presently, a third of the world's waste is not properly managed or treated. A circular economy helps reduce environmental impact and mitigate adverse effects on climate change and ecosystems, while also contributing to environmental conservation.

With the cooperation of residents, we will push the transition to a circular economy forward by promoting more proper ways to reduce and properly dispose of waste and by encouraging recycling.

16. Protecting the natural environment:

Protecting the natural environment is indispensable for building more sustainable cities. Population growth and further urbanization lead to worsening air and water pollution, while factors such as the improper disposal of waste cause pollution in our oceans. These result in the loss of biodiversity, which not only threatens the health of residents, but also destroys natural ecosystems.

We will engage in air and water pollution measures, such as inhibiting the release of harmful substances from exhaust gas, industrial effluent, and other pollutants into the environment. At the same time, we will advance the building of urban infrastructure that will enable more appropriate treatment of wastewater. Furthermore, we will take efforts to conserve biodiversity by securing habitats for wild fauna and flora in all regions, from cities to rural areas and islands.

17. Building cities in harmony with nature:

As an absorber of carbon dioxide, greenery contributes to the mitigation of global warming. It also protects rich water sources and serves to improve the disaster resilience

of cities through its water retention features.

As harmony between urban functions and the natural environment has been highly valued in recent years, we will promote the conservation of forests and other green spaces, the creation of green spaces in line with urban development, and the introduction of green infrastructure that harnesses the various functions of greenery. With the cooperation and collaboration of residents and other diverse stakeholders, we will press on with these initiatives and realize sustainable cities in harmony with nature.

(Conclusion)

18. In conclusion, with the aim to protect and improve the lives of our residents, in order to expand cooperation among cities to realize more inclusive and just societies, build safe and secure cities, and promote environmental measures, we hereby adopt the abovementioned matters as the SusHi Tech Tokyo 2024 City Leaders Program Communiqué. We hope solving issues shared by the participating cities will also contribute to resolving global challenges for the realization of a just and sustainable world.