

**CONCEPT NOTE FOR
ASEAN SMART CITIES NETWORK
DISCUSSION SERIES
UNDER INDONESIA CHAIRMANSHIP IN 2023**

1. This Concept Note outlines the Rationale, Objectives, Key Outputs, and Timelines for the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) Discussion Series under Indonesia's chairmanship in 2023.

Rationale

2. One major factor contributing to the complexity of population growth in ASEAN is the wide range of economic and social development levels across the member countries. Some countries have relatively high levels of economic development and relatively low fertility rates, while others have lower levels of economic development and higher fertility rates. This leads to different patterns of population growth and demographic transitions across the region. Another factor contributing to the complexity of population growth in ASEAN is the significant urbanization that has occurred in the region in recent decades. Many ASEAN countries have experienced rapid urbanization with large numbers of people moving from rural areas to cities in search of economic opportunities. This has led to the development of large densely populated urban centers, as well as challenges related to providing adequate housing, infrastructure, and services for the growing urban populations.
3. Overall, the complexity of population growth in ASEAN is driven by a range of factors, including economic development, fertility rates, urbanization, and migration patterns. Understanding and addressing these factors will be important for the region as it continues to grapple with the challenges and opportunities posed by a rapidly growing and diverse population. According to the ASEAN Statistical Yearbook 2022 data, the population growth in ASEAN 2020-2021 by year have increased by 0.8% from 658,878.8 to 663,850.3 (in thousand) and more than 50% of the population in ASEAN are already living in urban areas, 50.1% in 2020 and reach 50.7% in 2021 from the total ASEAN population.
4. Developing a city with a smart city concept can be a solution to many of the complex problems that arise as a result of population growth and urbanization. By leveraging technology and data, smart cities can address a wide range of complex problems, including overcrowding and urbanization, environmental degradation, unemployment and inequality, and health challenges. Smart cities can be a solution to many of the complex problems that arise as a result of population growth and urbanization, by using technology and data to make urban systems more efficient, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of citizens.

Objectives

5. The ASCN Discussion Series under Indonesia Chairmanship 2023 is intended to provide the ASCN and other ASEAN cities with a platform to broaden the discussion to obtain various references, and recommendations and open up more opportunities to work together in solving various existing urban challenges. The ASCN Discussion Series 2023 aims to be a means to bring together ASCN National Representatives (NRs), Chief Smart City Officers (CSCOs), government representatives of ASEAN Member States, academia, private sector, and other

relevant organisations to discuss challenges on global or regional issues related to the development of smart cities in 26 ASCN Cities and beyond. Apart from that, to create a new, more intensive dialogue space that allows for new cooperation between countries, CSCOs, and relevant organisations. So that in the end, the experience and knowledge shared at the ASCN Discussion Series 2023 can become a reference for other cities in resolving issues they are currently facing in advancing their smart city development. And finally, it can increase cooperation and partnerships between countries and or organisations in developing smart cities.

Key Outputs

6. The topics for the ASCN Discussion Series under Indonesia Chairmanship 2023 is envisaged to be based on the ASEAN Smart Cities Framework' focus areas which has served as a guide to facilitate the development of smart cities in each ASCN city in a way that is specific to the needs of each potential city, as well as its local and cultural context.

- *1st Discussion Topic: Industry and Innovation to be held tentatively on 22-23 February 2023.* Banyuwangi, Jakarta, and Singapore will be invited to share the progress and challenges in implementing their projects in this focus area, as well as reflection on their journey. Besides that, it is possible to invite the central government, experts, the private sector, and other related stakeholders in the technology industry and innovation to take part in this topic.
- *2nd Discussion Topic: Safety and Security and Build Infrastructure to be held tentatively on 20-21 March 2023.* This 2nd Discussion Topic will be divided into two parts where the first session will discuss the projects under the focus area of Safety and Security. One or two ASCN Cities that have projects in this focus area such as Cebu City, Manila, Phuket, Da Nang, and Ha Noi will be invited to share strategies, recommendations and suggestion for the adoption of effective technologies to address urban security problems, such as, strengthening security of vital resources such as food and water; cybersecurity of networked infrastructure and objects, as well as public safety, city surveillance and crime prevention, among others.

The 2nd session will discuss the projects under the focus area of Built Infrastructure. ASCN Cities, such as Phnom Penh, Kota Kinabalu, Mandalay, Davao City, Bangkok, and Chonburi will be invited to share their experience in attracting infrastructure investment to deliver multiple benefits across various stakeholders, whether private or public. These can include investing in utilities such as energy, water, and wastewater treatment; mobility and transportation; and buildings and construction.

Besides that, representatives from the central governments, experts, the private sector, and the other stakeholders related to Safety and Security and Built Infrastructure are welcome to take part in this topic.

- *3rd Discussion Topic: Quality Environment to be held tentatively on 18 April 2023.* One or two ASCN cities that have projects in this focus area such as Battambang, Luang Prabang, Vientiane, Johor Bahru, and Kuching will be

invited to share the progress and challenges in implementing their projects in this focus area.

The Discussion will also invite the UI GreenCityMetric program from the University of Indonesia (Universitas Indonesia). The UI GreenCityMetric program is a ranking for districts/cities in Indonesia in the field of sustainability and was first launched in 2022. UI GreenCityMetric consists of 6 assessment categories, including Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (SI), Energy and Climate Change (EC), Waste Management and Waste (WS), Water Management (WR), Access and Mobility (TR), and Governance (GV). With the UI GreenCityMetric Ranking, districts/cities in Indonesia are expected to transform into sustainable cities and districts. In 2022, as many as 34 Regencies/Cities in Indonesia will participate in this ranking.

- 4th Discussion Topic: Civil and Social, Health and Well-Being to be held tentatively on 23-24 May 2023. This 4th Discussion Topic will be divided into two parts where the first session will discuss the focus area of Civic and Social. ASCN Cities that have projects in this focus area such as Bandar Seri Begawan, Siem Reap, Kuala Lumpur, Yangon, and Ho Chi Minh City will be invited to share strategies, recommendation, and suggestion for developing smart cities that are focused and have oriented to improving and optimizing public services and social aspects by utilizing technology.

The 2nd session will discuss the focus area of Health and Well-Being. ASCN Cities such as Nay Pyi Taw and Makassar City will be invited to share their respective post-Covid-19 health sector recovery strategy and innovations made in the field of public health and well-being by utilizing the technology.

Indicative Timeline

Agenda	Month											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Agt	Sep	Okt	Nov	Dec
1 st Discussion Topic: Industry and Innovation												
2 nd Discussion Topic: Safety and Security and Built Infrastructure												
3 rd Discussion Topic: Quality Environment												
4 th Discussion Topic: Civil and Social, Health and Well-Being												
The 6 th ASCN Annual Meeting												
The 43 rd ASEAN Summit												

