UN Global Compact - Cities Programme
International Secretariat
2016 Highlights Report
This report outlines the highlights of the work of the international secretariat of the UN Global Compact - Cities Programme in 2016.

Established in 2003, the Cities Programme is the urban arm of the United Nations Global Compact, the world’s largest voluntary corporate responsibility initiative. It supports city participants in their implementations of the Ten Principles spanning human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption and their advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Hosted by RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia the international secretariat is comprised of core staff and a network of urban scholars and global advisors that provide project support, expertise in specific areas, guidance, recognition, research services and networking opportunities to the growing number of UN Global Compact city and regional participants.

2016 was an important year for the Cities Programme international secretariat. We joined with thousands of organisations across the world to support the preparation for Habitat III. We ran a campaign of events for ‘Ethical Cities’ and joined with UN Global Compact leaders and UN partners in Quito in dialogue and strategies to implement the New Urban Agenda (NUA). This will see a global coalition working together for the NUA implementation, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 11: To make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

2016 was also an exciting year for us in terms of collaborations with partners—delivering high impact and high value projects. Several projects are showcased in this report.

The Communication on Engagement has become a mandatory requirement for non-business participants whereby cities must report to the UN Global Compact every two years. This enables us to ensure that our cities are continuing to demonstrate their commitment to progressing the principles of the UN Global Compact. Due to the introduction of this reporting mandate we anticipate that the number of city participants will reduce in 2017 but the percentage of active and engaged cities and regions will increase markedly over coming years.

Our ‘Melbourne Model’ process has a long track record of generating high impact partnered projects for our cities over the last 14 years. 2017 will see that we move into a role of building capacity to help others apply this collaborative model.

We hope readers find this overview of 2016 action and engagement of interest and value. We look forward to continued growth and increased engagement with our cities and partners in 2017 and encourage you to join us.

Michael Nolan
February 2017
Melbourne, Australia
The number of UN Global Compact city and region participants had grown to 148 by December 2016, including 26 leading and 7 innovating cities.

In 2011, there were 14 participants.

In 2012, there were 55.

Participation has increased steadily each year.

23 cities joined the Global Compact in 2016.

**New Cities Participants**

- Macedonia
  - Kicevo
- China
  - Helong
- Africa
  - Bangangté
- France
  - Villers-sur-Mer
- Greece
  - Doxato
- Turkey
  - Şişli
- Colombia
  - Gama Cundinamarca
  - Municipality of San Jose Caldas
- Brazil
  - Birigui
  - Olimpia
  - Chavantes
  - Bernadino de Campos
  - Ourinhos
  - Itararé
- Mexico
  - Benito Juarez
  - Pachuca de Soto
- Argentina
  - Gobierno de la Provincia de Tierra del Fuego, Antártida e Islas del Atlántico Sur
  - Conception
  - Yerba Buena
  - Quilmes
  - Camerillo
  - Santa Fe
- Ecuador
  - Canton of Duran

Note: With the introduction of mandatory reporting requirements for non-business participants, cities will have to detail how they are actively progressing the United Nations Global Compact principles. As a result of these changes, we anticipate that the number of city participants will reduce in 2017 but the percentage of active and engaged cities and regions will increase markedly over coming years.
New website and publishing system

Launched in August 2016, our new web platform enables city participants to self-publish content and report leading urban initiatives relating to their UN Global Compact commitment, the Ten Principles and the SDGs.

Designed to increase the interchange of knowledge and good practice between city participants and partners in the private sector and civil society, the system also assists Communicating on Engagement (CoE) reporting.

New commitment initiatives were introduced along with submission criteria. The criteria for submitting a leading urban initiative as a commitment project includes:

• Addressing one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals.
• Collaboration - involving public, private and civil society
• Being action and outcomes focused
• Initiatives being listed from the onset, during delivery or in the later stages; they can also be ongoing.

Support material has been developed in English, Spanish and Portuguese.
The UN Global Compact – Cities Programme is positioned as the key implementer of the first stage of the Implementation Facility for Sustainable Urban Development (IFSUD). The selection of the Cities Programme for this role is due to its platform and lengthy experience with design and delivery of cross-sectoral urban projects on a local level.

IFSUD is a joint initiative of UN and international funding agencies dedicated to mobilizing transformative investments in sustainable urbanisation as a means of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. Its development is being led by UN Habitat.

This facility will act as both a catalytic vehicle for implementation of integrated and transformative large-scale urban development investments, and a facilitator of cooperative partnership. It aims to reduce poverty and inequality, strengthen the urban economy, foster integrated growth and innovation, and increase investments in urban infrastructure, affordable housing, and basic services, with the ultimate impact of making urban areas safer, healthier, more inclusive, more liveable, and sustainable.

City Scan

2016 saw the completion of the 2015 Global Compact City Scan pilot; the international launch of the findings and diagnostic system; and the preparation for the Mark II version of the tool. The City Scan was developed with the goal of understanding the challenges cities are encountering; the policies and practices they are implementing; and how they are engaging with the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact. Nineteen of the 100 signatory cities participated in a pilot trial of the tool, a process taking some six weeks or more. Reports were developed in 2016 and some cities used their results in their Communication on Engagement to the Global Compact. Analysis of the collective results were presented at Prepcom3 in Surabaya.

PILOT CITIES:
- Ahualulco, Mexico
- Pula Pola, Croatia
- Rotorua, New Zealand
- Maribyrnong, Australia
- Xlokk, Malta
- Leeuwarden, Netherlands
- Melbourne, Australia
- Milpa Alta, Mexico
- Nilüfer, Turkey
- Pasto, Colombia
- Milwaukee, USA
- Wrocław, Poland
- Oslo, Norway
- Cape Town, South Africa

OSLO CITY SCAN RESULTS:

- City Development: Critical Issues - Financial sustainability, transparency, accountability; Major Gaps - Compartmentalization of innovation, fragmented policy and institutional framework; City Strengths - High degree of political and public commitment; Increased transparency and accountability
- City Sustainability: Critical Issues - Transboundary issues; Major Gaps - Lack of data on key environmental issues; City Strengths - High degree of political and public commitment; Increased transparency and accountability
- City Governance: Critical Issues - Transparency of decision-making processes; Major Gaps - Transparency of decision-making processes; City Strengths - High degree of public involvement and consultation; Increased transparency and accountability

A review process has commenced. Stage two of the City Scan involves reviewing the existing online platforms for efficiency on city reporting and performance. Step three will see the redevelopment of the City Scan into an online platform ideal for reporting, readiness assessment and benchmarking. Refinement takes place in step four, where the City Scan Mark II is integrated into the multi-partner project pipeline process for sustainable urban development. This will be rolled out throughout 2017 and onwards.
Ethical Cities: Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)

Developed in partnership with RMIT University and hosted on FutureLearn, the Cities Programme launched the massive open online course (MOOC) “Ethical Cities” at Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016. With citizens from cities across the globe participating in this five-week MOOC, Ethical Cities seeks to build the capacity of local government professionals (and others), promote ethical practices and shape a principle-based vision for cities that is shared with government and the private sector.

The MOOC is highly interactive with case videos and online activities exploring methods, processes and examples of how innovative ethical solutions are addressing some of the most critical challenges of urbanisation.

Lead educators: Brendan Barrett and Ralph Horne
Subject matter experts: Wendy Steele, Libby Porter, Joe Hurley, John Postill and Crystal Legacy.

City case studies included:
- Barcelona, Madrid - New Local Politics
- Bristol - local currencies
- Melbourne - Ethical Leadership, Future Melbourne 2026 Plan, Ethical Housing
- Oslo - ethical procurement policies, sustainability, green transportation
- Rotorua - Sustainable Living Strategy
- Porto Alegre - participatory budgeting

Communication campaign included:
- Eight video teasers
- A trailer for distribution on social media
- Promotional bookmarks for distribution at Habitat III

The media release featured an endorsement from RMIT Vice-Chancellor and President Martin Bean CBE and was picked up by The Fifth Estate and World News.com.

The first MOOC started on 14 November 2016 and went for 5 weeks. This course will continue in intervals throughout 2017.

‘2,500 enrollments with participants from 90 countries spread across the globe. Around 22 per cent of the learners indicated that they were city planners, 4.4 per cent were civic leaders and 2.8 per cent were business leaders. The level of engagement from the course participants was outstanding with 5,600 comments made throughout the modules.’

Dr Brendan Barrett.

Collaboration with Retailers: The CBD Heat Resilience Project Stage 1

In a Melbourne CBD pilot, the Cities Programme brought together the private sector with city government and RMIT to explore issues related to extreme heat events. Looking at tangible proactive solutions, Michael Nolan led a Solutions/Value Workshop, which opened discussions around options for extreme heat resilience such as prospective underground spaces, cool walking tours, green infrastructure designs and pop-up urban cases with the latter two gaining the most interest among participants.

A second stage of the project will incorporate postgraduate students in a green design competition, a mentorship-based collaboration with the City of Melbourne and retail centres across the CBD.

Community Connectivity and Resilience Pilot

Aiming to enhance the resilience of urban communities by strengthening their social connections and networks, this project is in development for the City of Knox, a municipality within greater Melbourne, Victoria. It aspires to create greater community resilience to social trauma, focusing on reducing impacts of family violence and improved connectivity to become self-sustaining through various social innovations. The project has a distinctive design that incorporates parallel streams of male and female ‘connectivity champions’ and support groups. The Cities Programme is working with the City of Knox to create a framework within which both champions and support groups can emerge, be trained, and mentored.

This project will be a model for developing more cohesive and safer communities.

Local Government Guide for Fostering Corporate Social Responsibility

This guide was based on research and case studies of Oslo, Leeuwarden and Melbourne. It provides examples of mechanisms that have been implemented by local governments in different parts of the world to engage the private sector in greater corporate responsibility. This guide suggests that local governments have a significant role to play in helping business to be more socially and environmentally responsible, and that a well-conceived corporate responsibility program for their jurisdictions can lead to better relationships with their business community, as well as improved efficiencies, environmental and social performance.

“Local Government Guide for Fostering Corporate Social Responsibility” was was developed by Cities Programme Research Associate, Helen Scott, with Professor Jago Dodson, Director of RMIT’s Centre for Urban Research and Global Advisor for the Cities Programme.
An innovative regional approach to climate change: The Bay Blueprint project

Led by Michael Nolan, Chair, Cities Programme, the international secretariat in partnership with RMIT, CSIRO Data 21 and Ecosense, delivered a major regional climate change adaptation project with the 10 councils around Port Phillip Bay, Victoria, Australia. Funded by the Victorian State Government, the Bay Blueprint Project aimed to:

- Appreciate the range of pressures expected to impact Port Phillip Bay, particularly due to climate change
- Strengthen cooperation between the 10 participating municipalities and understand the barriers and opportunities to achieve regional adaptation outcomes
- Provide solutions pathways for local government and others to inform local and regional responses

The project included 20 RMIT students from the Masters of Architecture and the Masters of Urban Landscape programs. Paired with councils, the students developed visualisations representing adaptation pathways up to 2070 for a range of climate change scenarios that local government and other stakeholders may use to inform local and regional responses.

Winning from Second: A study of international second cities

In late 2016, the international secretariat and RMIT’s Centre for Urban Research undertook a significant body of research focused on second cities. This was for and with the multi-sector organisation the Committee for Geelong (CfG).

Endeavouring to shape a sustainable economic and social future for the Victorian city of Geelong and to support wider Australian government policy thinking on second cities, the Committee for Geelong led two international study tours of second cities. The objective of these tours were to gain first-hand insight into how cities across Europe, the UK and the USA have achieved significant change and transformation following the decline of their previous main industries.

Joana Correia, Cities Programme Research Associate, accompanied the tour of Scotland, the Netherlands and the USA, providing research support. Results were compiled and analysed by Joana with Todd Denham from the Centre for Urban Research, RMIT University. The resultant report, “Winning from Second: What Geelong can learn from international second cities”, found that there are significant benefits to be gained from a greater policy focus on second cities and from public and private sector organisations joining forces at the local level to drive the change.

The report recommended that, in order to enhance the economic and social viability of Geelong as Victoria’s second city, the city should:

- Prioritise industry sectors based on inherent strengths of the city
- Coordinate a unified approach to economic development and planning, both strategically and organisationally
- Better brand Geelong
- Promote innovation and encourage entrepreneurs and existing businesses to scale up

Project Team

- RMIT Centre for Urban Research
- UN Global Compact - Cities Programme

The report was launched in front of an audience of 250 people in Geelong on 23 November 2016. Since then it has been presented to a number of Victorian state ministers and federal ministers.
The Sustainability and Citizenship Networks of Porto Alegre: Research report

In November 2016 the final research report on the Chocolatão resettlement and the innovative cross-sectoral networks of Porto Alegre, Brazil, was presented to the city’s Mayor, Prefeito Jose Fortunati.

Conducted over a four year period by the UN Global Compact - Cities Programme, the research mapped the history of the resettlement of the Vila Chocolatão community who had lived informally and in extreme poverty in the heart of the city for some 30 years.

The primary focus of the research was on the members, processes and actions of the cross-sectoral network group that worked with residents to prepare for the resettlement and to develop formal livelihoods, childcare and improved health for the community before and after resettlement. This initiative was an Innovating project with the Cities Programme from 2007 and used the Melbourne model framework to formalise and shape the network.

Following the resettlement in May 2011, this network model and process has become a benchmark for a partnered approach to sustainable urban development in the city and a platform for rights, responsibilities and collaborative action.

It was the benchmark for the ‘Todos Somos Porto Alegre’ programme (2012), which has worked to transition ‘catadores’ (street pickers) to formal employment. This model been applied in another three vulnerable communities in Porto Alegre – Vila Santo André, Vila Santa Teresinha and Islas. In 2016, the Sustainability and Citizenship Network methodology was integrated into the approach of Porto Alegre Resiliente (part of the 100RC program).

This model is now being promoted to cities internationally as a partnered, collaborative and inclusive system for overcoming urban inequity and poverty.

Community housing for homeless persons research

This qualitative research project analyses the strengths and weaknesses of a Community Housing Provider (CHP) in providing long term housing for formerly homeless persons in Melbourne, Australia. A research team comprised of Shai Diner (Lead Researcher, Cities Programme Research Associate), Ralph Horne (Director, Cities Programme) and Tony Dalton (Urban Scholar, Cities Programme) found that locally based CHP’s have the capacity to enable tenants to develop ontological security through the provision of self-contained bed sits units, whilst allowing tenants to develop social supports within their properties and the wider local community due to the small size of the properties.

Transdisciplinary Multi-university course: Global Cities, Global Challenges

Teaming with the University of Hawaii, National University of Samoa, Waseda University in Japan and lecturers from other universities around the world, the Cities Programme and the RMIT School of Global, Urban and Social Studies hosted a seminar series. Under the leadership of Brendan Barrett, twenty-two sessions took place between July and January, with topics spanning sustainability, energy efficiency and urban resilience. Since its launch in 2003, the Global City, Global Challenges: Understanding the Urban Implications of Climate Change, Energy and Food Security in Asia Pacific multi-university course has been completed by 1,500 students.
CITY HIGHLIGHTS

Rotorua: A Leading level City

A Leading level city since 2015, New Zealand’s Rotorua has piloted a new model for a supported process for Leading level city engagement. Initially, the city undertook a City Scan diagnostic and then drew on the data to engage the surrounding community in their sustainability planning.

The international secretariat then provided targeted technical advice to the Rotorua Lakes Council and Sustainable Living Committee on social inclusion, food security, education, wellbeing, housing and waste management. This advice contributed to Rotorua’s Sustainable Living Strategy, which was launched in July 2016.

The advice was developed by Cities Programme Research Officer, Niina Kautto. Issue’s expertise was provided by Cities Programme staff and Urban Scholars including:

**HOUSING:** Ralph Horne, Director, Cities Programme
**FOOD:** Nick Rose, Executive Director, Sustain: The Australian Food Network
**DISTRICT HEATING/COOLING:** Erwin Boermans, Director, COMFORTiD
**MOBILITY:** Jago Dodson, Professor of Urban Policy, Director of the Centre for Urban Research, RMIT University
**CARBON FOOTPRINT OF LOCAL FOOD:** Emily Dowding-Smith, Transformation Leader - Restorative Food, Sustainable Business Network
**ENERGY:** Alan Pears

In 2016, Rotorua Lakes Council also took leadership in international engagement, with Mayor Steve Chadwick delivering a keynote at the 2016 Ethical Cities Urban Thinkers Campus and the Council participating in Prepcom3 (Surabuya) and Habitat3 (Quito) via a teleconference. In 2017, Rotorua will partner with the international secretariat to engage other New Zealand cities. A cross-sectoral innovating project is in development. This will be rolled out in 2017.

Multi-government Innovating project in Brazil

Twenty-five municipalities from across the interior of Brazilian states São Paulo and Paraná—including local governments, fifteen municipalities, the private sector, academia and citizens—are working to advance their economies and communities through the Angre Doce (‘Sweet Creek’) sustainable tourism development innovating project. A partnership between federal and state government and UN Global Compact municipal participants, the multi-sectoral project aims to develop the economy in a sustainable and inclusive manner and preserve the environment. Two universities have committed to supporting the project with student projects and academic expertise, UNESP and ESP. Participating municipalities include: Barão de Antonina, Bernardino de Campos, Canitar, Carliôpolis, Chavantes, Fartura, Ipaussu, Itaporanga, Jacarezinho, Ourinhos, Piraju, Ribeirão Claro, Salto do Itararé, Siqueira Campos and Timburi.

Colombo Innovating project

Brazilian municipality in greater metropolitan Curitiba, Colombo, has developed an Innovating level sustainable economic development project focused around the Agroindustrial Park and Agribusiness Innovation Centre by gathering the support of local, regional and international actors. The project responds to rapid urbanisation and population growth and aims to provide employment for the younger generation. The Park will also include enterprise incubators and a business accelerator.

Leeuwarden Innovating Project

Innovating city Leeuwarden is deepening its engagement with the UN Global Compact by helping to resolve global water challenges via a four-year, cross-sectorally managed project.

Combining water technologies, international connectedness, culture and community, Leeuwarden’s project as an Innovating level City in the Cities Programme builds on water technologies and services developed as a partnership between government, business and academia.

The aim of the project is to:

- Economically revitalise, increase employment, stimulate business in the city and build community awareness and culture in relation to water in the region
- Strengthen the water technology sector - to develop 2000 knowledge experts by 2020
- Create high impact knowledge and creative technologies, and
- Build community consciousness in relation to water technology.
Medellin wins Lee Kuan Yew prize

Leading UN Global Compact city Medellin was awarded the 2016 Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize for its dedication to equity and urban transformation. Following two decades of cartel-led civil war, Medellin has become a worldwide model for social innovation. The city is famed for recognising and acting on the fact that the roots of violence lie in poverty. Medellin has focused its strategy, resources and infrastructure on vulnerable communities.

The Kawasaki Compact

Cities Programme Research Fellow Brendan Barrett engaged with Japan’s first Global Compact signatory city in 2016. Kawasaki have developed a leading model for partnership with the business sector titled the Kawasaki Compact, which is comprised of two parts: a Business Compact and a Citizen Compact. The latter encourages citizen groups to work with the Kawasaki City Government and business partners to conserve the environment and support the climate change policy. Seventeen corporations have signed up to the Business Compact and 19 to the Citizen Compact.

Water Centric Cities

CEO and President of the Water Council, Dean Amhaus, visited Victoria from Milwaukee for a number of Water Centric Cities events and meetings. Two dialogue events were held Victoria, Melbourne and Geelong. There was also an online dialogue presentation as an international webinar for UN Global Compact cities. Meetings were held with Victorian state government and an American Chamber of Commerce round table, both exploring the potential for Victoria to adopt similar strategies to Milwaukee’s in regards to advancing economic development, industry specialisation and sustainability.

This series of water-centric activities and events was centred on the value of clustering, inter-sectoral collaboration and taking water-centric approaches to city development. Dean Amhaus shared Milwaukee’s journey of transformation from a manufacturing city suffering an economic downturn into an innovating, cutting-edge global water hub.

Partnersing with APEC Study Centre, NINGBO and the Urban Infrastructure Initiative

Michael Young, in his role as Chief Advisor for Asia, UN Global Compact – Cities Programme contributed to the second biennial forum of the UIN which was held in Singapore from June 14-15. The Forum was convened to seek contributions and expert high level advice on the UIN’s final draft Framework and Action Plans. It was attended by high-ranking officials of the relevant government agencies of APEC member economies, scholars and experts, representatives from the UNESCAP and the World Bank as well as other regional and international organizations.

Michael presented on the City Scan diagnostic and shared his advice and knowledge on governance, transparency and development in the Asia Pacific region. It is anticipated the final Framework and Action Plans will be available on the AASC website in early September 2016.
The state of Maranhão’s new multi municipality program for poverty reduction - ‘Mais IDH’ is aligned to the state’s commitment to the UN Global Compact and its participation in the Cities Programme. This north east Brazilian state has some of the most extreme levels of poverty in the country, affecting 20% of the population (in comparison to 6% national average). In 2014 the state experienced a dramatic change of government with the election of federal lawyer, Flávio Dino to the position of Governor. This was widely recognised as a vote to end the 50 year control of Maranhão by oligarch, José Sarnéy. Governor Dino is leading a whole of government focus on poverty reduction, particularly to increase the Human Development Index (HDI) of the 30 municipalities whose communities live in extreme poverty. There has been significant changes in government structure and function including the establishment of a Secretary of Transparency and a Secretary of Human Rights and Public Participation.

Paranacidades becomes a regional partner of the Cities Programme

A seminar for technical staff of Paranacidades on the Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda also marked the formalisation of a partnership with the UN Global Compact - Cities Programme. Paranacidades is an autonomous arm of the Paraná government that delivers infrastructure services and supports municipal plan development and capacity development to the 399 municipalities of the Paraná state.

Paranacidades plan to support municipalities in the state to join the UN Global Compact and through this encourage smaller municipalities to engage with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Brazilian state of Maranhão and the Port Authority Itaquí joins the UN Global Compact as part of its efforts to overcome poverty and sustainable development

The Governor made the commitment to the UN Global Compact on November 1 and a large high level event was held in the Oval Room in the Government Palace, ‘Palácio de los Leões’, to mark the commitment of both the Maranhão government and the port authority, EMAP. Governor Flávio Dino was represented by Francisco Gonçalves, Secretary for Human Rights and Public Participation. The event attracted a large multi sectoral group of leaders: from government - with many other Secretaries in attendance including the Secretaries for Women; Mines, Public Security, Environment - the private sector and civil society.

The commitment by Maranhão’s Port Authority, EMAP (Empresa Maranhense de Administração do Portuária) to the Global Compact was made by CEO, Eduardo ‘Ted’ Lago. Port Itaquí is the largest port in the north and is of critical importance to the sustainable economic development of the region. EMAP are committed to transparency and addressing inequality. They also run a number of social programs including support for local Kitzumba community (African slave descendants who live in a traditional way on an island near the port). Global Compact participant, Blue Corp is also working with EMAP through the Brazil ID program.

We are also discussing a broader cross-sectoral port project that drives sustainable development outcomes for capital São Jose and the State.

The objectives were to:
• Increase engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals
• Increase the interchange of knowledge and effective practice
• Seed partnerships
• Increase the replication and scaling up of innovative projects

The Port of Itaquí and EMAP

Building on our partnership with the FPAA ([La Federación Panamericana de Asociaciones de Arquitectos), following meetings in Curitiba with FPAA President João Suplicy, we have designed a project to engage architects and other urban professionals with the Sustainable Development and Urban Agendas and to increase the cross-sectoral interchange of innovative practice. Collectively we designed a call out to the professions that shape cities - architects, urbanists, city designers and builders asking them to promote their innovation and collaboration that is advancing SDG 11: ‘To make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.’
NEW URBAN AGENDA CONTRIBUTION

The primary focus for the Cities Programme in 2016 was promoting the Sustainable Development Goals and engaging with the global community in raising awareness and preparing for Habitat III. Habitat III is the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, which took place in Quito, Ecuador 17-20 October 2016. The Cities Programme international secretariat hosted a number of events in 2016 in preparation for Habitat III and hosted forums at Quito. These events were promoted as the ‘Ethical Cities’ Campaign.

Ethical Cities - Locking in Livability: Urban Thinkers Campus, Melbourne

16 FEBRUARY 2016
With the aim of opening critical spaces for engagement, exchange and dialogue, Urban Thinkers campuses were held across the globe as part of the World Urban Campaign (UN Habitat). In collaboration with World Vision Australia, the Cities Programme hosted an Urban Thinkers Campus in Melbourne in February 2016.

Speakers at the event included:

- Martin Bean, RMIT Vice-Chancellor and President
- Steve Chadwick, Mayor of Rotorua
- Tim Costello, CEO, World Vision Australia
- Robert Doyle, Melbourne Lord Mayor
- Ralph Horne, Director of the UN Global Compact - Cities Programme

260 participants from 20 different countries attended, representing local government, academia, the private sector and civil society. They participated in dialogues on: resilience, ethical urban development, and inclusion and the right to the city.

Key recommendations from this event were submitted to UN Habitat, contributing to the New Urban Agenda.

The event featured on the Conversation AU, Citiscope and RMIT News.

Ethical Cities: Barcelona

6 JULY 2016
Throughout June and July, RMIT Europe in partnership with the Cities Programme and others, led a series of international workshops, symposiums, talks and forums building upon the Ethical Cities: Locking in Livability Urban Thinkers Campus held in Melbourne. Six events were hosted with the pinnacle event the Ethical Cities: Urban Innovation Forum attracting over 200 attendees. At the foundation of this event were questions such as ‘what makes cities ethical, who drives sustainable development in cities and how can we enhance urban living through innovative solutions?’

The event was supported by:

- Brendan Barrett, Research Fellow, Cities Programme
- Marta Fernandez, Executive Director, RMIT Europe
- Carla Traub, Senior Intern, Cities Programme

Prepcom3, Surabuya, Indonesia

25- 27 JULY 2016
The third session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom3) leading up to Habitat III was held in Surabaya, Indonesia. Dr. Brendan Barrett led two events:

Ethical Cities Dialogue
Brendan Barrett took to the stage in the main exhibition hall to participate in the Urban Speakers Corner. It was the first time that the Cities Programme has shared information on its activities around the notion of ethical cities at the global level. The presentation built on the outcomes of the February 2016 Ethical Cities Urban Thinkers Campus which was organised in collaboration with World Vision International at RMIT University. The event also offered a preview screening of the Ethical Cities MOOC.

City Diagnostic Tool – Measuring Readiness for the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals
This side event presented the results of the City Scan pilot survey of 19 signatory cities to the UN Global Compact undertaken in 2015. The dialogue compared the City Scan approach with other diagnostic tools.
Partnersing in these events was the International Labour Organisation and Rotorua Lakes Council.