



Reinventing Smart Cities after COVID-19 Session

17 March, 1:30pm to 3:00pm (GMT+8/ Manila Local Time)

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic is symbolic of the major shocks and stresses that cities can expect to encounter in the future. COVID-19 has exposed and magnified the underlying vulnerability of our rapidly urbanizing and highly interconnected world. As cities and governmental bodies worldwide shift from immediate response to long-term recovery, calls to "build back better" grow louder.

The key to building back better is to 'build back smarter.' A human-centered approach to planning and development, combined with smart and evidence-based solutions, can support cities to expediently move from best practice (traditional retrospective thinking) to "next practice" (preparatory forward-thinking). This people-centered, next practice planning and development approach can enable cities to tunnel through learning curves on their path to achieving truly green, inclusive, competitive, healthy, and resilient societies—cities that can respond to future shocks and stresses such as global economic recessions, health epidemics, natural disasters, and security threats.

Objectives of the Session and Benefits

Building back smarter holds the key to shock-proofing Southeast Asia's urban centres.

This session will explore how a holistic approach to urban development, combined with a well-orchestrated policy implementation and the identification of appropriate digital solutions are key to elevating livability and building the long-term resilience of cities.

Agenda

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Time	Activity
Moderator: Joris G. Van Etten, Senior Urban Development Specialist, ADB	
1:30pm – 3:00 pm	The session will start with an introduction on the theme of build back smarter by Soren Hansen from Ramboll Consultants. His presentation will be followed by stories of impact. This session will use a variety of methods to collect inputs and ideas from participants around the theme of build back smarter. The session will be wrapped up with a presentation on the ASEAN Australia Smart Cities Trust Fund which is managed by the ADB and the launch of a Smart Cities Challenge. Contributors: • Soren Hansen, Ramboll • Amit Prothi, Regional Director, APAC, Resilient Cities Network • Wiwandari Handayani, Associate Professor, Dept of Urban & Regional Planning, Diponegoro University • Wendy Leong, Founder & CEO, Mobiva • Benjamin Magalong, Mayor of Baguio, Philippines