



Smart Cities and Sustainable Urbanisation in ASEAN

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The ASEAN Secretariat**

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10 November 2025**





Outline of Presentation

- ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan
- ASEAN’s Efforts on Smart and Sustainable Urban Development:
 - Developments in the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy
 - Developments in the ASEAN Smart Cities Network
- Potential Area of Collaboration under ASEAN Smart City Action Plan 2026 – 2035
- Concluding thoughts

ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan

6 Strategic Goals, 14 Objectives, 49 Strategic Measures.

Enhancement of physical, institutional, and people-to-people linkages across the region.

Enhancing connectivity through partnerships and cooperation, including the implementation of ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).

8 strategic measures to strengthen infrastructure development and coordination, increase public and private investment

Sustainable Infrastructure



12 strategic measures to advance urban and rural development, empower rural communities

Smart and Sustainable Urban Development



8 strategic measures to enhance digital connectivity, increase participation in digital economy

Digital Innovation



6 strategic measures to improve supply chain efficiency and competitiveness, enhance resilience, elevate ASEAN in global value chain

Seamless Logistics and Supply Chain



6 strategic measures to strengthen good regulatory practice in trade and investment, improve knowledge and capacity

Regulatory Excellence and Cooperation



7 strategic measures to enhance regional sense of belonging, education cooperation, people mobility

People-to-People Connectivity



2 strategic measures to promote AOIP-centric platforms and encourage external partners' continued support

ASEAN Outlook on the Indo Pacific



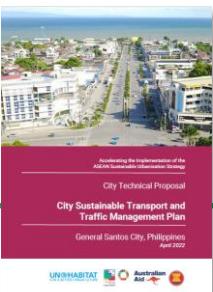
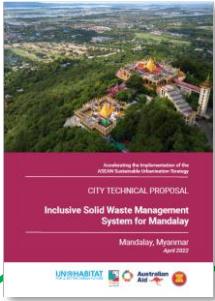
ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan – Implementation Mechanism



ASEAN's Efforts on Smart and Sustainable Urban Development

ASEAN SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION STRATEGY (ASUS)

- Toolkits for cities to (a) prioritise their sustainable urbanisation focus areas and (b) assist cities in developing practical actions relevant to their contexts.
- ASEAN collaborated with UN-Habitat, with the support from Australia, to accelerate the implementation of ASUS.
- The ASUS Project Phase I was concluded in 2023. The ASUS Project Phase II is ongoing and expected to deliver the following activities until 2026:



Advanced Implementation of the
8 City Technical Proposals
from ASUS Project Phase 1

15 New City Technical
Proposals



Urban Planning for City
Leaders Training Programme
Multi-stakeholder Capacity
Building Programme

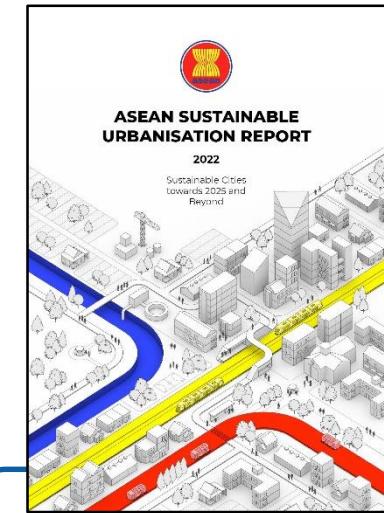


ASEAN
SUSTAINABLE
URBANISATION
FORUM
KUALA LUMPUR

ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation
Forum, 12-14 August 2025, Kuala
Lumpur, Malaysia

Under the ASUS Project Phase II
supported 128 ASEAN Member States
and Timor-Leste in
participating in:

2 High-Level Dialogues
5 Special Sessions
1 Training Session
1 Expert Group Meeting



ASEAN Sustainable
Urbanisation Report II

Expert Group Meeting was
held on 14 August 2025



ASEAN's Efforts on Smart and Sustainable Urban Development

ASEAN SMART CITIES NETWORK (ASCN)

ASEAN Smart Cities Network Deliverables

2018

- ASEAN Smart Cities Framework
- ASCN Smart City Action Plans
- List of Initial Project Partnerships

2019

- Efforts to promote greater awareness and reach to the international audience
- ASCN Terms of Reference

2020

- ASCN Monitoring & Evaluation Framework
- Guidelines for ASCN Engagement with External Partners

2021

Development of project on ASEAN Smart City Financing Toolkit

2022

2023

- ASCN Discussion Series
- Commencement of Development of ASEAN Smart City Financing Toolkit
- Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen, and Rayong joined ASCN

2024

- Sumedang from Indonesia and Sihanoukville City from Cambodia joined ASCN
- Commencement of project on *Accelerating the Implementation of ASUS Phase II*
- ASCN Conference on Smart Solutions for Solving Urban Issues
- Launch of ASEAN Smart City Financing Toolkit

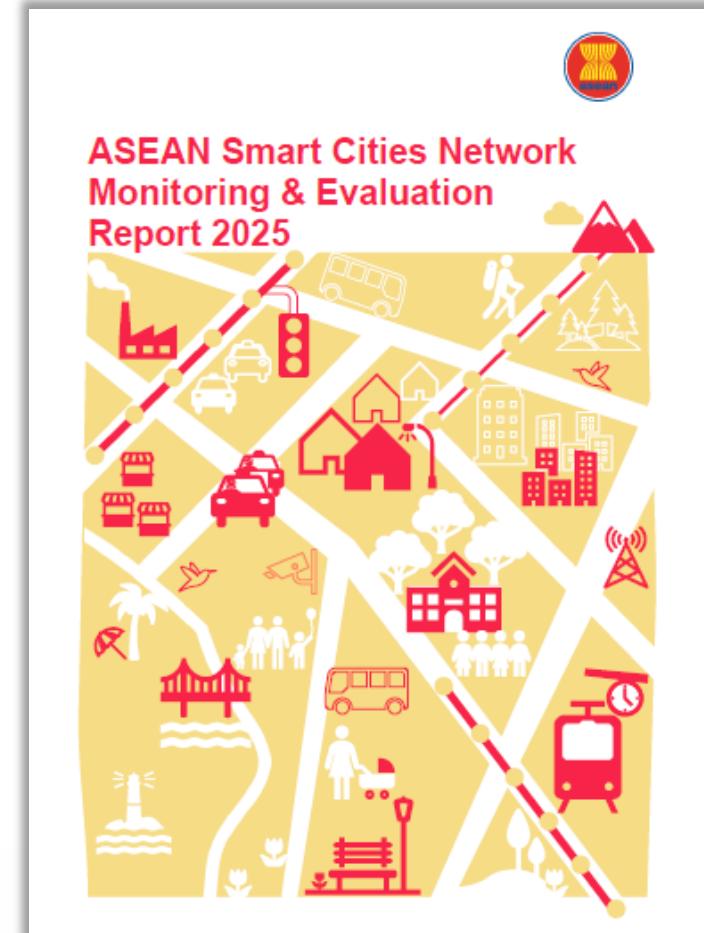
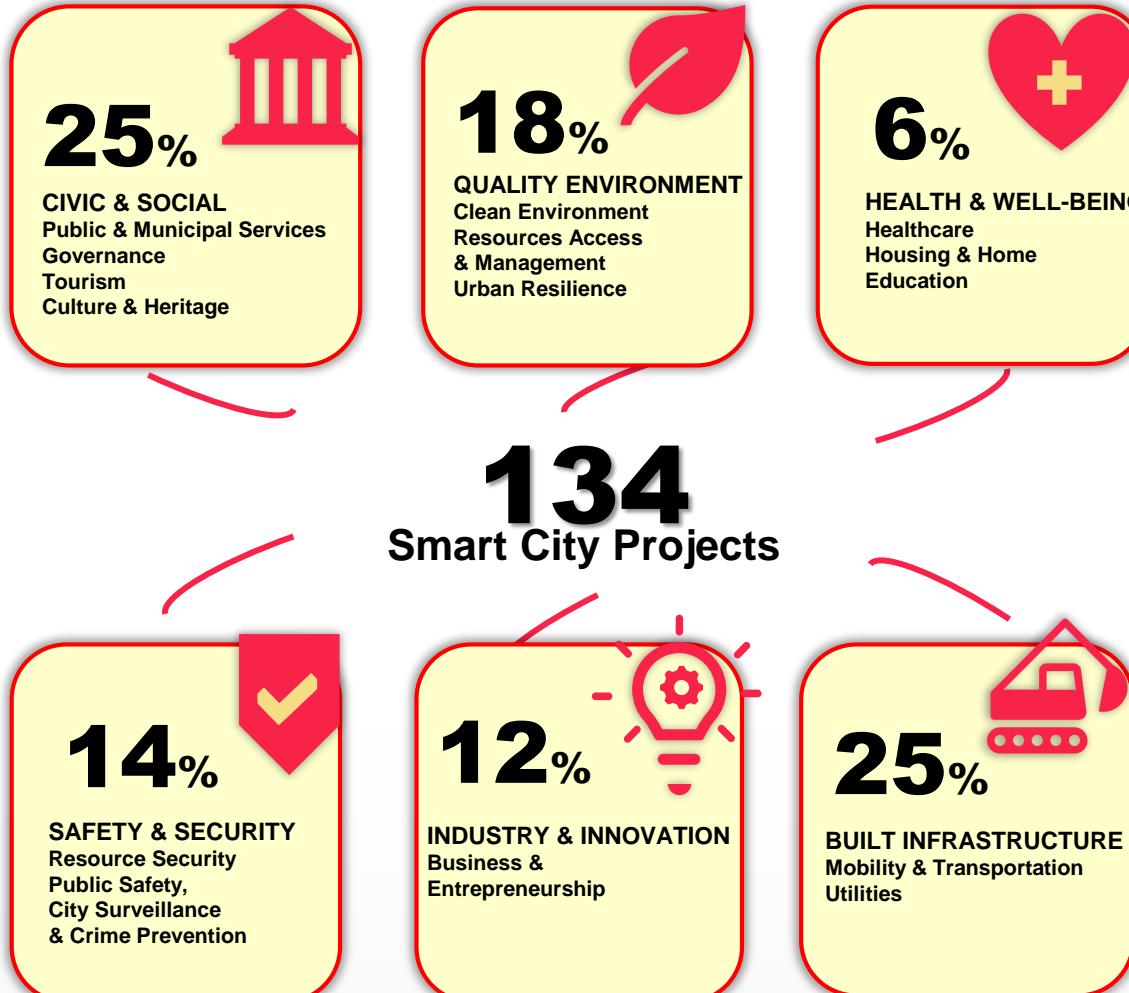
2025

- Ipoh, Putrajaya, and Seberang Perai from Malaysia, as well as Cauayan City from the Philippines, joined ASCN, bringing the total membership base to 35 cities
- 2025 ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Forum was held on 12-14 August 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- ASEAN Smart City Action Plan was adopted in September 2025 and noted by ASEAN Leaders at the 47th ASEAN Summit in October 2025
- Smart City Expert Talk and Smart City Connect (Exhibition) were held back-to-back with the 8th ASCN Annual Meeting in September 2025

ASEAN's Efforts on Smart and Sustainable Urban Development (cont')

ASEAN SMART CITIES NETWORK (ASCN)

Smart City Projects across the Six Focus Areas as of September 2025



The ASCN M&E Report 2025
can be downloaded [here](#).

ASEAN's Efforts on Smart and Sustainable Urban Development (cont')

ASEAN SMART CITIES NETWORK (ASCN)



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ASEAN Smart City Financing Toolkit

Unlock Smart City Financing in ASEAN

This toolkit equips city administrators and government officials with the necessary knowledge and resources to navigate the appropriate financing tools and instruments for their smart city initiatives.

<https://smartcitytoolkit.asean.org/>



ASEAN Smart City Financing Toolkit:

- launched in November 2024 in Jakarta, Indonesia
- can be accessed publicly at the <https://smartcitytoolkit.asean.org/>

ASEAN Smart City Action Plan 2026 – 2035 was adopted at the 8th ASCN Annual Meeting in September 2025 and noted by ASEAN Leaders at the 47th ASEAN Summit in October 2025.

Potential Area of Collaboration under ASEAN Smart City Action Plan 2026 – 2035

Core Elements	Potential Activity related to inclusivity
Sustainable and Green Urban Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of ASEAN Smart Housing Guidelines for affordable, energy efficient homes• Promote city-level clean energy pilot project• Promote city-wide public campaigns on sustainable living, urban farming, waste segregation, and low-carbon habits.
Resilience and Disaster Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity building to support disaster risk mappings at the city level
Smart Mobility and Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitate regional workshops on sustainable mobility solutions
Digital Governance and Citizen Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitate cross-border workshops to exchange strategies and tools for effective citizen engagement in digital governance

Concluding Thoughts

- Designing inclusive smart cities and sustainable urban development through people-centered approach with technology as an enabler.
- Forging partnerships to strengthen capacity with relevant skills, deliver concrete projects, and offer financial support.
- ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan and ASEAN Smart City Action Plan 2026-2035 provide opportunity for collaboration between ASEAN and Japan in delivering concrete projects in the mutual areas to advance the smart and sustainable urbanisation initiatives in the region.

Connecting Today Connected Tomorrow

For more information: please visit
connectivity.asean.org and [ASEAN Smart Cities Network page](#)

