

SHAPING CITIES  
FOR OUR FUTURE



## 2023 ASIA PACIFIC CITIES SUMMIT & MAYORS' FORUM MAYORS' ACCORD

Brisbane, Australia  
11-13 October 2023

[apcsummit.org](https://apcsummit.org)  
#2023APCS



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*



Mayors' Forum hosted by:



**LORD MAYOR  
OF BRISBANE**

Facilitated by:



Compiled by the APCS Secretariat: Lord Mayor's International Relations and  
Multicultural Affairs branch at Brisbane City Council  
Level 2, Brisbane City Hall, King George Square, Brisbane Qld AUSTRALIA 4000  
Phone: + 61 7 3403 8888 Email: [apcs@brisbane.qld.gov.au](mailto:apcs@brisbane.qld.gov.au)  
Website: [www.apcsummit.org](http://www.apcsummit.org)

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**Adrian Schrinner**  
Lord Mayor of Brisbane



## FOREWORD FROM HOST

There were incredible milestones achieved at the 2023 Asia Pacific Summit and Mayors' Forum, which was hosted in Brisbane for the 14th time.

The Brisbane-born conference had the highest attendance of mayors on record, with 118 mayors joining the almost 1,200 strong group of city delegates and business representatives.

The delegates represented 171 cities and 140 young professionals were involved in the forum, a testament to the passion of our future leaders.

Brisbane was honoured to be the second city in the world to achieve gold level under the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Cities Global Initiative.

This year's program had several outstanding speakers discuss this year's theme - *Shaping Cities for our Future* through a number of sub themes: Cities of Connection, Cities of Sustainability and Cities of Legacy.

Through interactive workshops, panel discussions and networking evenings, attendees were able to share insights into the complex issues that are facing communities across the Asia Pacific and brainstorm ways our cities can get even better.

From implementing technologies to accelerating sustainability efforts and fostering inclusivity in our communities, the forum drew many important conclusions for our attending mayors, deputy mayors and equivalent representatives to consider.

These discussions led to the development of a common Accord that will shape our approach to local governance in the region until the conference reconvenes in 2025.

Thank you to each of the delegates who attended this year's event, and I look forward to seeing how the ideas discussed are put into practise for years to come.





**Curtis S. Chin**  
Chair, Asia Fellows  
Milken Institute



**Amos Garcia**  
Director, Asia, MI International  
Milken Institute

## INTRODUCTION FROM FACILITATORS - MILKEN INSTITUTE

The 2023 Mayors' Forum attracted an all time record number of mayors, deputy mayors and equivalent city leaders representing the diverse geographies, cultures and economies across the Asia Pacific and beyond. These city leaders participated in critical discussions on cities, reaffirming the importance of continuing conversations, seeking out cooperation and tackling the challenges of today and tomorrow in their focus on Cities of the Future.

Despite their vastly different backgrounds, the participating mayors had many commonalities, sharing challenges and opportunities, and in turn, had much to glean and learn from one another's experiences.

The "Cities of Connection" sub-theme saw mayors highlighting the need to close digital divides through investments in infrastructure and education, cultivate trust to boost technological adoption and align incentives to encourage community engagement.

Discussions on the sub-theme "Cities of Sustainability" focused on resource use, food and water security, and economic resilience. Mayors named multiple technologies and innovations they were experimenting with. Key to the adoption of these technologies, and the continued prioritisation of science and innovation, was steadfast leadership across the ups and downs of the economy.

On the sub-theme "Cities of Legacy", mayors underscored the importance of equality and respect, trust and transparency, partnerships, and sustainability. Liveable cities could be cultivated by focusing on the people and community, and placing primacy on good governance.

On behalf of the Milken Institute, we are honoured to have facilitated conversations among participating mayors at the 2023APCS Mayors' Forum, and are proud to introduce the 2023APCS Mayors' Accord. The Accord and its ten principles have been adopted by all signatories and encapsulate the individual and collective aspirations of the mayors as they shape their cities for today and tomorrow.

We thank the Lord Mayor of Brisbane Adrian Schrinner and Brisbane City Council for being such tremendous hosts, and all participating mayors, deputy mayors and equivalent city leaders for their commitment and dedication.

Congratulations to all on a successful 2023APCS Mayors' Forum!

# 2023APCS HOST CITY

## BRISBANE SNAPSHOT

Brisbane is a thriving multicultural city, steadily building on its reputation as a global city.



### Economy

**AU \$181 billion**



### Sustainability

Brisbane City Council has been **certified carbon neutral** under the Australian Government's Climate Active program for seven consecutive years.



### Liveability

**Ranked 16th**

most liveable city in the world



### Innovation

**Ranked in top 8%**



### Economic Output

**49%** of

Queensland's Economic Output



**Estimated 2046 Population**  
(Greater Brisbane)

**3.8 million**



**Estimated 2046 Economy**  
(Greater Brisbane)

**AU \$262 billion**

Today, Brisbane is a safe, vibrant, green and prosperous city, valued for its friendly and optimistic people and enjoyable lifestyle. Brisbane benefits from rich biodiversity and is home to more than 800 species of wildlife, 2,500 species of native plants and many thriving areas of bushland, parks and waterways. Often referred to as the River City, Brisbane is built around the winding Brisbane River and is characterised by a warm subtropical climate, outdoor lifestyle, hilly suburban pockets and Queensland style housing.

Brisbane is home to vibrant retail and dining precincts from the city to the suburbs, with extensive parkland spaces for sport and leisure, festivals, arts and entertainment. Brisbane has a multicultural and linguistically diverse population, with approximately one third of residents born overseas and 24% speaking a language other than English at home. Its world ranking universities also drew 100,922 international student enrolments in 2020. Brisbane is a global hub in scientific innovation, mining and resources, technology, higher education and cultural attractions. Greater Brisbane has an economy of \$181 billion, accounting for 49% of Queensland's and 9% of Australia's economic output.

# PREFACE

The Asia Pacific Cities Summit (APCS) & Mayors' Forum has been welcoming city leaders, future makers and trailblazers for more than 25 years, creating a forum to share and propel government and business relations and showcase the capabilities of cities to the world.

The APCS has become the hallmark event for those at the forefront of cities, drawing one of the largest and most diverse gatherings of mayors in the world. As an award-winning summit (Australian Event Awards Conference of the Year 2020), the alumni of participating cities now surpasses 550.

Under the overarching theme of 'Shaping Cities for our Future', the 14th Asia Pacific Cities Summit & Mayors' Forum (2023APCS) was held in Brisbane from 11-13 October 2023.

The 2023APCS was the first Summit held at full physical capacity since the global coronavirus pandemic, and welcomed almost 1,200 delegates from a record-breaking 171 cities, including 118 Mayors and equivalents.

The 2023APCS provided an exclusive opportunity for participating leaders to re-engage with the world at a significant scale as we shape our cities for the future.

The 2023APCS Mayors' Forum, the cornerstone of the 2023APCS, was held on 11 October. The Forum was co-facilitated by Curtis S. Chin, Chair, Asia Fellows, Milken Institute and Amos Garcia, Director, Asia, MI International, Milken Institute.

This Mayors' Accord is a tangible outcome of the 2023APCS Mayors' Forum and allows Mayors to agree on a set of guiding principles to implement in their jurisdictions.

## APCS HISTORY

Year	Host city	No. of cities	No. of Mayors	No. of delegates
2023	Brisbane	171	118	1158
2021APCS Special Edition	Brisbane	74	51	717
2019	Brisbane	140	83	1484
2017	Daejeon	125	59	2400
2015	Brisbane	135	93	1303
2013	Kaohsiung	102	46	2292
2011	Brisbane	115	36	1160
2009	Incheon	150	82	1568
2007	Brisbane	104	19	900
2005	Chongqing	127	48	900
2003	Brisbane	96		600
2001	Seattle	102		401
1999	Brisbane	70		256
1996	Brisbane	34		128





Above: Council of Capital City Lord Mayors  
Panel at the 2023APCS

## ABOUT THE 2023APCS

### Shaping Cities for our Future

With an overarching theme of "Shaping Cities for our Future", the 2023APCS focused on three sub-themes:



#### Cities of Connection

Technology, data and the people



#### Cities of Sustainability

Adapting to growth, inclusivity and wellbeing



#### Cities of Legacy

Creating events of prosperity and longevity

# INTRODUCING THE ACCORD

## Working together we make our future stronger.

The global economy no longer revolves around a small handful of nations and cities, with new international dynamics creating an imperative for cities to engage globally to promote partnership and shared prosperity. In the pursuit of socially and environmentally sustainable prosperity, regions across the Asia Pacific are embarking on a cycle of people-oriented growth, all requiring bold and courageous civic-leadership. Today's growth city regions are faced with complex and converging issues from housing constraints, rapidly rising cost of living (lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic) to protecting communities from increasing frequency of extreme weather events while maintaining effective levels of service delivery. These challenges cannot be tackled in isolation.

As urban leaders, we are presented with an opportunity to build momentum towards partnership and identify opportunities across a range of city issues. Cities in the Asia Pacific will work together, with global partners, to advance common urban solutions in order to accelerate their global orientation, integration into the knowledge economy, technology uptake, governance and liveability.

We, the undersigned Mayors, Civic Leaders and Heads of Delegations, attended the Mayors' Forum of the 14th Asia Pacific Cities Summit in Brisbane, in October 2023. We exchanged knowledge, shared our experiences and built connections across our region which will benefit our communities for years to come. We have also drawn inspiration from the significant Young Professionals contingent who have presented their ideas for addressing the challenges and realising the opportunities in our cities. Collectively the undersigned make this joint statement of common endeavour to ensure our cities continue to be prosperous, sustainable and vibrant places of opportunity for our citizens.

*Below: Keynote presentation by Mr Bo Seo, two-time world champion debater at the 2023APCS*







## OUR SPECIFIC SUMMIT PRINCIPLES FOR THE FUTURE



### Cities of Connection

Technology, data and the people

- Collectively as leaders of cities, we are committed to investing in technologies to make health and social services faster, cheaper and better, including exploration of artificial intelligence (AI) in service provision; digitalizing administrative services; or providing smart public goods that empower and engage all sectors.
- We will persist in efforts to close digital divides, by improving digital literacy across demographics, taking appropriate precautions against disinformation and polarization, and supporting sectors and regions most vulnerable to technological disruption.
- We will continue to fine tune the balance between innovation and data privacy and protections, so as to improve efficiencies while preserving trust.





Current and opposite pages: 2023APCS & Mayors' Forum



## Cities of Sustainability

Adapting to growth, inclusivity and wellbeing

- Cities are at the forefront of global sustainability efforts and we will strive to accelerate our cities towards carbon neutrality. We're greatly inspired by the host city's leadership in advancing the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- We will develop safe urban centres and vibrant precincts where green spaces flourish, resource usage is sustainable, and communities thrive in harmony with nature.
- We recognise that food security is existential and we will focus on improving production and distribution of food that is healthy, sustainable, and affordable, while committing to reducing food waste.
- We affirm the need to equalize access to opportunity across a broad range of areas, such as quality education, housing diversity, affordability and choice, region-connecting infrastructure, support for SMEs, and good physical and mental health for its constituents.





Above: The 2023APCS Market Square



## Cities of Legacy

Creating events of prosperity and longevity

- Our cities are committed to fostering a vibrant urban culture that celebrates diversity, inclusivity and cohesion, leaving a lasting heritage of unity and belonging.
- We will shape our cities into beacons of vibrancy and resilience, where opportunities endure, tenacity thrives and innovation pervades.
- We will develop our cities into cultural capitals, synthesising heritage and innovation to entrench a legacy of human achievement.

# 2023APCS MAYORS' FORUM

## ATTENDING MAYORS AND EQUIVALENT REPRESENTATIVES



**Andrew Barr**  
Chief Minister,  
Australian Capital  
Territory Government



**Matt Paterson**  
Mayor,  
Alice Springs Town  
Council



**Bharat Kumar Thapa**  
Mayor,  
Bagmati Municipality



**Elvira P. Alarcon**  
Mayor,  
Batad Municipality



**Adrian Schinnerer**  
Lord Mayor,  
Brisbane City Council



**Krista Adams**  
Deputy Mayor,  
Brisbane City Council



**Pascal Vittori**  
Mayor,  
Boulouparis City  
Council



**Teeny Brumby**  
Mayor,  
Burnie City Council



**Terry James**  
Deputy Mayor,  
Cairns Regional Council



**George Greiss**  
Mayor,  
Campbelltown  
City Council



**Mingqing Li**  
Deputy Secretary,  
Chinese People's Political  
Consultative Conference  
Chongqing Committee



**Phil Mauger**  
Mayor,  
Christchurch City  
Council





**Josef F. Cagas**  
Mayor,  
City Government of  
Digos



**Jane Lomax-Smith**  
Lord Mayor,  
City of Adelaide



**Anna Reynolds**  
Lord Mayor,  
City of Hobart



**Sally Capp**  
Lord Mayor,  
City of Melbourne



**Peter Flannery**  
Mayor,  
City of Moreton Bay



**Moira Were**  
Mayor,  
City of Onkaparinga



**Athina Pascoe-Bell**  
Mayor,  
City of Palmerston



**Basil Zempilas**  
Lord Mayor,  
City of Perth



**Michael Hewitson**  
Mayor,  
City of Unley



**Michael Coxon**  
Mayor,  
City of West Torrens



**Brendan Blomeley**  
Mayor,  
Clarence City Council



**Jorico Bayaua**  
Mayor,  
Conner Municipality



**Rohit Joe Monserrate**  
Mayor,  
Corporation of the  
City of Panaji



**Jang Woo Lee**  
Mayor,  
Daejeon Metropolitan City



**Alison Jarman**  
Mayor,  
Devonport City Council



**Jules Radich**  
Mayor,  
Dunedin City Council



**Fahad Aljubair**  
Mayor,  
Eastern Province  
Municipality



**George Seymour**  
Mayor,  
Fraser Coast Regional  
Council



**Matt Burnett**  
Mayor,  
Gladstone Regional  
Council



**Trent Sullivan**  
Mayor,  
Greater Geelong City  
Council



**Shane Sali**  
Mayor,  
Greater Shepparton  
City Council



**Janette Colada**  
Mayor,  
Guimbal Municipality



**Toby Thorpe**  
Deputy Mayor,  
Huon Valley Council



**Campbell Barry**  
Mayor,  
Hutt City Council



**Teresa Harding**  
Mayor,  
Ipswich City Council



**Neil Reilly**  
Mayor,  
Kiama Municipal  
Council



**Alcide Ponga**  
Mayor,  
Kouaoua City Council



**Wilfrid Weiss**  
Mayor,  
Koumac City Council



**Kellie O'Callaghan**  
Mayor,  
Latrobe City Council



**Kevin Roy Macanlalay**  
Mayor,  
Local Government Unit  
of Calasiao



**Modesto Operania**  
Mayor,  
Local Government Unit  
of Urbiztondo



**Ma. Lina Holipas**  
Mayor,  
Local Government Unit  
of Leon





**Tanya Milligan**  
Mayor,  
Lockyer Valley  
Regional Council



**Philip Penfold**  
Mayor,  
Maitland City Council



**Ranjan Kalakheti**  
Mayor,  
Manahari Rural  
Municipality



**Rob Steane**  
Mayor,  
Maroondah City Council



**Angelica Panopoulos**  
Mayor,  
Merri-bek City Council



**Liam Wood**  
Mayor,  
Mildura Rural City  
Council



**Shelly Oberoi**  
Mayor,  
Municipal  
Corporation of Delhi



**Eduardo Jr. Villanueva**  
Mayor,  
Municipality of Bocaue



**Ramon M. Calo**  
Mayor,  
Municipality of Carmen



**Karen S. Rosales**  
Mayor,  
Municipality of  
Las Nieves



**Josephine M. Bangsil**  
Mayor,  
Municipality of Luna



**Jose Philip Calderon**  
Mayor,  
Municipality of Mallig



**Karl Christian Vega**  
Mayor,  
Municipality of  
Mapandan



**Roscoe  
Democrito B. Plaza**  
Mayor,  
Municipality of Nasipit



**Marcos M. Mamay**  
Mayor,  
Municipality  
of Nunungan



**Alfredo P. Malannag**  
Mayor,  
Municipality of Pasil





**Hector Reuel D. Pascua**  
Mayor,  
Municipality of Pudtol



**Richard P. Daquipil**  
Mayor,  
Municipality of Remedios.T. Romualdez



**Leo F. De Vera**  
Mayor,  
Municipality of San Jacinto



**Valentino R. Patron**  
Mayor,  
Municipality of San Jose



**Zenaida S. Lim**  
Mayor,  
Municipality of Santiago



**Vicente G. Pagurayan**  
Mayor,  
Municipality of Santo Niño



**Hui Li**  
Deputy Mayor,  
Nanjing Municipal  
People's Government



**Ben Ramcharan**  
Mayor,  
Nillumbik Shire Council



**Clare Stewart**  
Mayor,  
Noosa Shire Council



**Alex Yam**  
Mayor,  
North West District of  
Singapore



**Matthew J. Marcos  
Manotoc**  
Governor,  
Province of Ilocos Norte



**Simplicio Lissant**  
Mayor,  
Punaauia City Council



**Glyn Lewers**  
Mayor,  
Queenstown Lakes  
District Council



**Gregory Christensen**  
Mayor,  
Scenic Rim  
Regional Council



**Seung Won Lee**  
Deputy Mayor for  
Economic Affairs,  
Sejong City



**Amanda Findley**  
Mayor,  
Shoalhaven City Council



**Mark Jamieson**  
Mayor,  
Sunshine Coast Council



**Mark K. Huang**  
Deputy Mayor,  
Taichung City  
Government



**Anne Tolley**  
Commission Chair,  
Tauranga City Council



**Geoffrey McDonald**  
Mayor,  
Toowoomba Regional  
Council



**Virginie Paillard**  
Adjointe Au Maire,  
Ville De Bourail



**Paula Masselos**  
Mayor,  
Waverley Council



**Yingxu Chen**  
Deputy Mayor,  
Wenzhou Municipal  
People's Government



**Tanya Taylor**  
Mayor,  
Willoughby City Council



**Gordon Bradbery**  
Lord Mayor,  
Wollongong City  
Council

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Thanks to the 2023APCS Mayors' Forum co-facilitators:

- Mr Curtis S. Chin, Chair, Asia Fellows, Milken Institute
- Mr Amos Garcia, Director, Asia, MI International, Milken Institute

Thanks to the group discussion facilitators:

- Ms Juliet Alabaster, Chief Operating Officer, Brisbane Economic Development Agency
- Mr David Chick, Divisional Manager of City Planning and Sustainability, Brisbane City Council
- Dr John Cowie, General Manager of Investment Attraction, Brisbane Economic Development Agency
- Mr Ross Giudice, Manager of Economic Development, Brisbane City Council
- Ms Pip Hold, Divisional Manager of Lifestyle and Community Services, Brisbane City Council
- Professor Sarah Kelly OAM, Head of Graduate School of Business, Queensland University of Technology
- Mr Michael Koh, Executive Fellow, Center for Liveable Cities, Ministry of National Development Singapore, and World Cities Summit representative
- Mr Glenn MacRae, Manager of Economic & Regional Partnership, Council of Mayors (South East Queensland)
- Mr Nathan Percy, Director of Business Engagement, Office of the Lord Mayor, Brisbane City Council
- Mr Marty Rowen, Director of Clients & Markets, Gadens
- Mr Anthony Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, Brisbane Economic Development Agency
- Mr Scott Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Council of Mayors (South East Queensland)
- Ms Deborah Wilkinson, Executive Director, Council of Capital City Lord Mayors
- Tim Wright, Divisional Manager of City Administration and Governance, Brisbane City Council

Thanks to the 2023APCS Mayors' Forum emcee:

- Ms Nicole Andronicus, Director of International Relations and Multicultural Affairs, Brisbane City Council

**2023APCS Mayors' Accord is in effect until the 15th Asia Pacific Cities Summit & Mayors' Forum.**





*Above: The Lord Mayor of Brisbane  
Councillor Adrian Schrinner and the APCS  
Secretariat team at Brisbane City Hall.*

## THE APCS SECRETARIAT

The Asia Pacific Cities Summit (APCS) and Mayors' Forum Secretariat is operated by the Lord Mayor's International Relations and Multicultural Affairs (IRMA) branch at Brisbane City Council. The APCS secretariat is responsible for:

- leading the development of the long-term strategic approach for the APCS
- facilitating the establishment of strategies and priorities for actions arising from the APCS
- providing advisory and operational services to assist host cities in the coordination and management of their offshore APCS events
- management for APCS events in Brisbane
- reviewing and evaluating the outcomes and effectiveness of the APCS.

IRMA supports Brisbane's global position by developing international programs which benefit Brisbane businesses and providing meaningful connections for multicultural communities. Council's international business programs includes:

- Brisbane Sister Cities Program and international regions of strategic importance
- Lord Mayoral Business and Trade Missions
- inbound delegations and international visit requests and connections
- international engagement programs and initiatives
- International Internship Program
- the Lord Mayor's Multicultural Round Table
- the Lord Mayor's Multicultural Business Scholarship Program
- the Lord Mayor's Multicultural Awards for Business
- providing cultural advice to Council on economic and community-related events and programs.

### Contact us

Website [apcsummit.org](https://apcsummit.org)

Email [APCS@brisbane.qld.gov.au](mailto:APCS@brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Telephone enquiry +61 7 3178 0790



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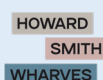
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#### SUPPORTERS





*Above: 2023APCS Mayors' Forum participating mayors, deputy mayors and equivalent representatives*









**Brisbane City Council**  
GPO Box 1434  
Brisbane Qld 4001




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