



INTERNATIONAL  
NETWORK  
OF UNIVERSITIES  
25th Anniversary



## International Student Conference 2024

# “Empowering Youth and Local Voices for Human-Centric, Sustainable and Inclusive Smart Cities”

Bandung-Indonesia

Monday, 22 January 2024 - Saturday, 27 January 2024

### General Description:

This International Students Conference is a dynamic and collaborative event that goes beyond the usual emphasis on technology in traditional smart city discussions. Instead, this workshop emphasizes *local initiatives, youth engagement, and collaboration with local governments to create more sustainable and inclusive cities for everyone*. Youth-led initiatives and local communities have inspired sustainable practices in cities worldwide. Our objective is to amplify the impact of these initiatives and work closely with local communities to build on this momentum. The youth and global citizens living, working, and breathing in our cities hold the power to unlock the potential of cities as hubs for sustainable solutions. The workshop will be an excellent opportunity to learn about the importance of collaboration between local communities and governments. The speakers will discuss successful partnerships and highlight the significance of inclusive decision-making, participatory planning, and sustainable policies. Through dialogue and knowledge exchange, we will explore practical strategies for creating cities that are not only technologically advanced but also socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable.

However, the conference is *not just about learning but also about taking action*. Through discussions, workshops, and site visits, the participants will be exposed to various strategies and initiatives to inspire their actions, such as community-based projects, social entrepreneurship, and policy advocacy. Ultimately, the conference will provide a platform to expand your horizons, build your networks, and contribute to a more sustainable and resilient future for your cities and the world. The conference will help accelerate progress toward sustainable development goals and create a more just and equitable world for all by empowering and mobilizing the next generation of leaders and innovators. This event offers a unique opportunity to explore cities' critical role and youth contribution in achieving sustainable development goals. Successful local initiatives led by global youth and local communities will be showcased, showcasing the potential for positive change. By learning from and replicating these models, cities can become leaders in sustainability. As global citizens, we have the power to make a lasting impact by embracing our roles, making a difference while actively participating in sustainable development, and leaving a legacy of sustainability for generations to come.

By the end of the conference, participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the holistic nature of smart cities, where human-centric approaches, sustainability, and inclusivity are prioritized alongside technological advancements. They will leave equipped with valuable insights, practical tools, and a strengthened network, ready to contribute to the transformation of their own communities into vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive smart cities.

## THEME 1

**Theme:** Human-Centric Solutions: Building Smarter Cities with Socioeconomic Inclusivity and Sustainability Beyond Technology

**Description:** Human-centric solutions refer to approaches and strategies prioritizing communities' well-being, needs, and aspirations in developing solutions or systems. When applied to building smarter cities, human-centric solutions go beyond the focus of technological advancements. They emphasize socioeconomic inclusivity and sustainability, ensuring that the benefits of urban development are accessible to all members of society and that the environment is protected for future generations. It highlights the need for sustainable development to help reduce poverty, promote social equity, and protect the environment globally. Participants will be exposed to knowledge about collaborations within the communities, globally and locally, to build smart cities with socioeconomic inclusivity and sustainability beyond technology. The conference will feature a keynote speaker from the City Government of Bandung and notable stakeholders actively engaged in building more innovative and inclusive cities. A key aspect of achieving sustainability is the imperative to bridge social and economic gaps within communities. This means ensuring equal access to resources, opportunities, and services for all residents, regardless of socioeconomic background. It involves promoting social equity, reducing poverty, providing affordable housing, improving access to education and healthcare, and fostering inclusive economic development. By addressing these gaps, cities can create a more just and cohesive society.

### **Field Trip/Visit:**

- Babakan Siliwangi City Forest
- Other green areas and public spaces in Bandung City as a city forest with a walkable area and botanical gardens. Participants are expected to be informed about the accessible green spaces in Bandung, which is part of man-made and natural forest.

## THEME 2

**Theme:** Connecting Minds, Building Communities: Pioneering Local Initiatives and Fostering Local Government Involvement

**Description:** Achieving sustainability requires active community participation and engagement. It involves empowering citizens to participate in decision-making, fostering collaboration between residents, businesses, and government entities, and promoting awareness and education about sustainability issues. By involving communities in the planning and implementing sustainable initiatives, cities can ensure that solutions are tailored to local needs and priorities, leading to greater acceptance and long-term success. Participants will explore the world of local initiatives, exploring inspiring projects that have emerged from passionate individuals and community groups. These initiatives serve as a futile hope, showcasing innovative solutions and approaches to address various community challenges. Through case studies and interactive discussions, attendees will gain valuable insights and practical knowledge on initiating and sustaining local initiatives that make a real impact. This theme also highlights the importance of fostering involvement from local governments. By promoting collaboration between communities and government entities, attendees will discover the potential for greater synergy and collective action. They will explore successful cooperation models, examining ways to engage with local authorities and influence decision-making processes effectively. The conference provides a platform for exchanging ideas, experiences, and best practices, promoting cross-pollination of knowledge and fostering collaboration among participants. By connecting minds and building networks, attendees will strengthen their ability to drive change and create sustainable communities.

## Field Trip/Visit:

- Buruan Sae, a local Urban Farming Initiative;
- Kampung Rastik, an Urban creative village that recycles plastic waste to antics;
- Food Bank Bandung, a non-profit organization to increase food security for people experiencing poverty and handle excess food in Bandung.

## THEME 3

**Theme:** Unlocking the Power of Individuals: Engaging Youth in Building Sustainable Cities through Innovation and Collaboration

**Description:** The third theme sets the stage for an empowering and forward-thinking conference. This event strongly emphasizes the vital role of youth in shaping sustainable cities through their innovative ideas, energy, and collaborative efforts. Participants will explore how individuals, particularly the youth, can be catalysts for positive change within urban environments. Engaging young people and empowering them with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to participate in decision-making processes actively and contribute to shaping their communities is crucial for sustainable development and smart city innovations. They will gain a deeper understanding of the transformative power of youth-led initiatives and their potential to drive social, environmental, and economic progress. The participants will discover inspiring examples of youth-led projects for environmental conservation, community engagement, advocacy for policy change, and promoting awareness and education of social impact of sustainable urban development. Participants can contribute to learning how each individual can apply their knowledge and skills to local contexts and participate in the city's sustainable development agenda. By exchanging knowledge, ideas, and best practices, participants will expand their networks and enhance their ability to collaborate effectively with like-minded individuals and organizations. Together, we will unlock the transformative power of individuals, ignite ideas, and work towards building vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable cities for the present and future generations.

## Field Trip/Visit:

- Local Youth-led environment initiatives; Pandawara / waste4change/ Ecoranger (tba)
- Cultural Visit to Saung Angklung Udjo
- Cultural Visit to Batik Komar
- Planting Trees
- Camping

## Eligibility

- For International Participants
  - Undergraduate/Bachelor and Postgraduate degree students
  - Open for all study background
  - Cover letter from Campus
  - Motivation Letter (1 page)

## Contact Person

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## Registration & Fee (International Participant)

- Early Bird Period:  
320\$, No later than 15 September 2023
- Regular :  
350\$, No later than 15 November 2023

This registration fee including : accommodation, meals during event (breakfast & lunch), pick up service from Soekarno-Hatta International Airport (one time only)

## Registration Link

<http://bit.ly/RegistrationISC2024>