

Why Champion Cities?

Cities around the world are grappling with how to effectively manage the impact of rapid urbanization

Land access, security, infrastructure delivery and inclusive economic growth are some of the most pressing issues.

Though these issues may vary in type and severity from country to country and even city to city, there is a unanimous sense of growing urgency that they be addressed.

City leaders are struggling to deliver the required transformational change at the pace required on their own.

The Champion City Model is a World Economic Forum-sponsored public-private collaboration that allows city leadership to engage the private sector to take collaborative action on these challenges.

The model aims to provide actionable recommendations on urban development challenges that city leadership can engage with the assistance of the private sector for financing, implementation and operation of city services.

The World Economic Forum is an international institution committed to improving the state of the world through public-private cooperation in the spirit of global citizenship. It engages with business, political, academic and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

Incorporated as a not-for-profit foundation in 1971 and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the Forum is independent, impartial and not tied to any interests. It cooperates closely with all leading international organizations.



Champion City Model Scaling Learnings from China

Prepared in collaboration with Accenture

Champion City Model

The Champion City model is a city-specific activity of the Forum's Future of Urban Development (FUD) Initiative.

The initiative serves as a partner in transformation for cities around the world as they address major challenges, and aims to make innovation accessible to city and business leaders in a mutually beneficial setting.

Pedro Rodrigues de Almeida

Director, Head of Infrastructure and Urban Development Industry

pedro.rodriguesdealmeida@weforum.org

Alice Charles

Senior Manager, Head of Urban Development

alice.charles@weforum.org

The Champion City Model

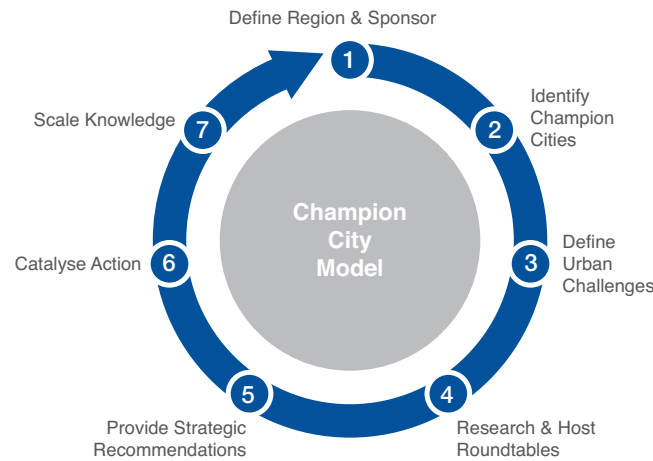
- Helps to engage the private sector in a convened public-private collaboration
- Provides actionable recommendations on urban development challenges to deliver required transformation at pace
- Involves a seven-step process developed with three Champion Cities in China (2012-2014)
- Has been refined on the basis of lessons learned from work conducted with the Champion Cities in China and can serve as a reference for Champion Cities globally

Qualifying Criteria for Champion Cities

- Candidates must be a Tier-1, -2 or -3 city in a major growth economy
- Located in a target region for the core private-sector partners involved
- The city is confronted with significant urban challenges
- City leadership is committed to transformation
- City strategy is aligned to regional and national strategy
- The city has access to leading academic institutions and think tanks

Potential Outcomes

- Opportunities for multistakeholder collaboration with senior experts in various disciplines
- Actionable strategic recommendations on technology, policy and governance



Critical Success Factors

- Engagement of a strong regional sponsor and a number of local firms in a regional working group
- Assurance of continuous sponsorship and the personal engagement of the city mayor
- Early alignment of partner expectations with Champion City priorities
- Systematic review of key issues to be addressed
- Involvement of experts in finance, regulation, technology
- Extensive stakeholder engagement
- Planning for translation of the strategic recommendations into implementable actions

Seven-Step Process



Define region & sponsor: Partners create a project team, identify a focus region and define local partners to support the activity



Identify Champion Cities: The project team defines four to eight selection criteria, lists up to five candidate cities and selects at least one Champion City



Define urban challenges: The Champion City identifies specific urban challenges for which it seeks solutions to implement in the near future



Research & host roundtables: The team carries out baseline research on the Champion City, identifies global best practices and hosts roundtables.



Provide strategic recommendation: The team develops strategic advice to the identified urban challenges and selects solutions



Catalyse action: The team launches discussions on implementation by convening key stakeholders and exploring modes of collaboration



Scale knowledge: The team uses regional and global organizations to disseminate lessons learned and to build regional and global awareness