

# Infrastructure & Urban Development

## Future of Urban Development & Services

October 2015

### The Issue



**Just a century ago, one in ten people lived in cities. Today the figure is 50%. By 2050 70% of the world's population will call cities home.**

Today around 3.6 bn people (50% of world's population) live in cities. In 2050 the number will have risen to more than 6 bn people (70%). Cities will experience further densification and sprawl. Their use of resources increasingly puts pressure on the environment (locally and globally). The environmental impact also directly influences health. Extreme weather events and natural disasters have a destructive impact upon urban infrastructure, intensifying the need for greater urban resilience.

### The Opportunity

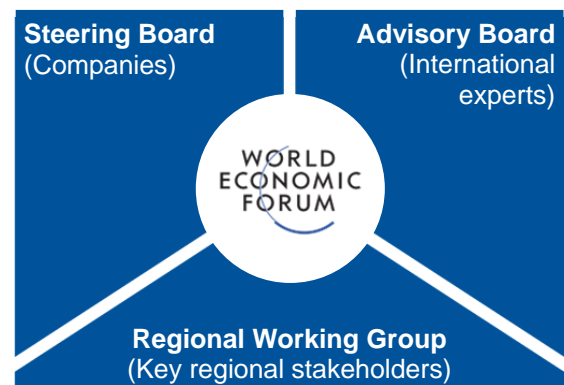
Accelerated migration, unprecedented demographic changes, shifting consumer preferences and the rise of a low cost global digital infrastructure with interconnected devices and big data analytics, will result in a transformation of current urban development business models which goes beyond physical infrastructure needs.

### Mission

The Future of Urban Development & Services Initiative serves as a partner in the transformation of cities around the world as they address major urban challenges. It aims to make innovation accessible to city and business leaders in a mutually beneficial setting.

### Community

The Initiative convenes Steering and Advisory Boards of industry and city leaders, and urban experts. The Steering Board specifically includes chief executive officers and senior executives from around 25 global companies. The Advisory Board consists of approximately 25 global experts in urban development. As support, specific Regional Working Groups of local business executives and urbanization experts will be formed based on need. Together, this community of experts will rethink urban development problems through a suite of activities.



### Steering Board

Arup Group (Chair)  
Akzo Nobel  
Audi  
BT  
Cisco Systems  
Citi  
Danfoss  
Hewlett Packard  
Hindustan Construction Co.  
Japan Asia Group  
Mori Building Co.

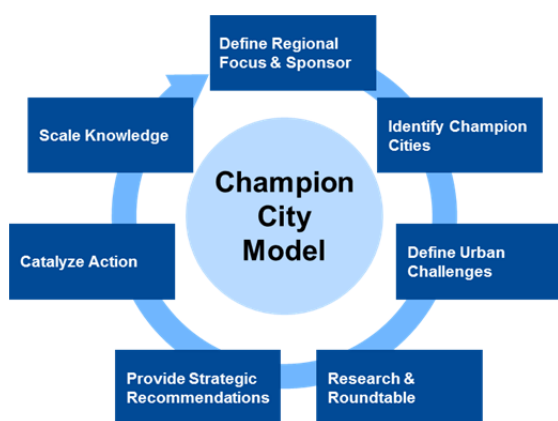
Novo Nordisk  
Qualcomm Technologies  
Rajesh Wadhawan Group  
RMZ Corp.  
Siemens  
Skanska  
Toshiba  
Volvo Group  
Welspun Energy  
World Bank

## Core Activities

**Global Dialogue on New Models for Urban Problem-Solving**  
Steering and Advisory Board members share information on innovative models for addressing urban challenges, which range from technology-enabled solutions to new governance structures. Sessions are held at the Forum's major annual and regional meetings.

### Champion City Activity

The Champion City Model is a Forum-sponsored public-private collaboration. 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. It involves a seven-step process developed with three Champion Cities in China (2012-2014). It can serve as a reference for Champion Cities globally.



### Global Agenda Council on the Future of Cities (2014-2016)

The objective of the Global Agenda Council (GAC) on the Future of Cities is to develop the architecture that will allow cities to evaluate, select and integrate innovative urban services solutions, along with the governance and financial structures. In addition the GAC is working on identifying the Top-10 global urban innovations. The previous GAC on Urbanization (2012-2014) published the three books "Urban Anthologies I-III", on: <http://senseable.mit.edu/wef/>



## Relevant Publications



## Interaction (selected)

Multistakeholder meetings hosted by the Initiative in 2014 and 2015:

- 2014 China International Urbanization Forum, Shanghai/PRC
- Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2014, Tianjin/PRC
- 2014 Industry Strategy Meeting, New York City/USA
- 2014 Indian Economic Summit, New Delhi/India
- Annual Meeting 2015, Davos/Switzerland
- 2015 World Economic Forum on Africa, Cape Town/South Africa
- 2015 Indian Economic Summit, New Delhi/India
- Annual Meeting 2016, Davos/Switzerland

## Current Activities (2015)

1. The Initiative is identifying issues inhibiting public private partnership for urban development projects in India, and recommending reforms for state governments and urban local bodies to accelerate development of smart cities with a focus on states Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
2. The emergence of a global and affordable urban digital infrastructure is fuelling the growth of a new services industry, which is like to become the backbone of innovative, cross-industry solutions to complex urban problems. The Initiative is assessing how to deliver added value to the Forums partners through the introduction of cross-industry urban services.
3. The Initiative is assessing closer engagement with mayors from leading cities, as well as modes of collaboration with architects and urban designers. Concepts are currently being developed and aligned with other Forum activities. In this context, the FUD initiative is reviewing urban development plans globally, mapping them against major global urban development issues.
4. The Initiative will host sessions during the Forum's annual and regional events to enable members of its boards to further interact and engage with mayors and thought leaders.
5. The Initiative will support the work of the GAC on the Future of Cities in publishing the [top 10 urban innovations](#) which can be used by cities as they address unprecedented growth.

## Contact

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