



Newsletter

Birleşmiş Kentler ve Yerel Yönetimler Orta Doğu ve Batı Asya Bölge Teşkilatı
United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section

منظمة المدن المتحدة والحكومات المحلية فرع الشرق الأوسط وغرب آسيا

Issue : 1 Year : 2012

From UCLG-MEWA

As United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia (UCLG-MEWA) Section, we are proud to present you the first newsletter which aims to gain more recognition and to promote the dialogue among our member local, regional governments and its unions.

In the first issue of this quarterly newsletter, we approach to a vital problem for MEWA Region: ‘Water’. The interview with Asım Güzelbey, Mayor of Gaziantep, will inform you about the water related projects of Gaziantep Municipality.

We have received many articles by our members on the Best Practices realized by your local government. In this issue we included the projects by Nilüfer (Bursa) Municipality and İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality Directorate for the Inspection of Conservation Implementations.

In the activities part, we aim to inform you about the past and on-going activities related to UCLG and UCLG-MEWA.

Lastly, in each issue we will approach a different country from MEWA Region (Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) in terms of structure and functioning of local government systems. In this issue you will read about Afghanistan.

Yours sincerely

Mehmet Duman

UCLG-MEWA Secretary General

Owner:

Mehmet DUMAN

Coordinator:

Cenk TIKIZ

Editor-in-chief:

H.Ali ŞÜKÜR

Editorial Board:

Dominique GATTO-KOÇ

Sema SAK

Süleyman SÜRAT

Sümevra GÜÇLÜ

Ülkü GÜL

Designed by:

Sedrettin KONUK

Contributors:

Meltem KARABABA

Züleyha YILMAZ

CONTENTS

City Councils	2
World Water Forum	3
World Academy for Local Government and Democracy (WALD)	4
UCLG World Council	6
UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Meeting	6
Visit to Cairo and Gaza	6
UCLG Committee for Urban Health Meeting	7
Interview	8
UCLG World Organization	10
UCLG Working Group on Local Governments and Cooperation in the Middle East	12
Decentralization Conference in Tunisia	12
Local Government Systems in MEWA Region: Afghanistan	13
Best Practices	14

City Councils' Meeting at Çanakkale (Turkey)



"Turkey City Councils Meeting" took place at Troy Hotel on 29 March 2012, hosted by Canakkale City Council.

The meeting began with speeches by Saim Yavuz President of Canakkale City Council, Sedat Yücel President of Turkey City Councils Association, Leyla Şen Programme Manager of Democratic Governance at United Nations Development Programme, Alper Faruk Güngör Deputy Governor of Canakkale, Mehmet Duman General Secretary of United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA), Muharrem Erkek Deputy Mayor of Canakkale.

Mehmet Duman Secretary General of UCLG-MEWA, underlined the importance of City Councils in his speech and said "City councils work to implement the principles of, city life, the city's vision and develop a consciousness of citizenship, protection of city's rights and law, sustainable development, environmental sensitivity, social cooperation and solidarity, transparency, accountability, participation and decentralization. They are democratic structures to identify the city's development priorities, discuss the problems and develop solutions based on common mind. City councils have important roles to carry the

cities to the future. Therefore, we should think the problems that may occur in the future and according to this we should produce projects. "

At the meeting, City Councils National Draft Report presented to the participants. After discussions about the draft report, "Best Practices" presented. After workshops, the results of studies presented to the participants. The meeting finished with the presentation of UCLG-MEWA and the City Council relations.



6th World Water Forum



On the occasion of the 6th World Water Forum, held in Marseille from 12 to 17 March 2012, 350 local and regional elected officials from across the 5 continents have met to increase international the mobilization of local and regional authorities on the issues of water and sanitation and to reinforce the commitments agreed upon in the Istanbul Water Consensus.

In the framework of the Forum's political process, United Cities and Local Governments organized, jointly with the World Water Council, the 3rd International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities. With 12 thematic sessions, this International Conference presented the advances realized under the Istanbul Consensus since its adoption during the 5th World Water Forum in 2009, and allowed participants to exchange on key issues such as water and urbanization, cooperation and solidarity, as well as regional governance.

On behalf of UCLG and before the 1,450 participants in the political process, Co-President Muchadeyi Masunda, Mayor of Harare (Zimbabwe), reminded all of the constant commitment of UCLG toward water issues, as well as the support of the World Organization to the United Nations resolution on universal access to water. He also affirmed the need to reinforce the Istanbul Water Consensus and to fully integrate the issue of water in the climate change negotiations that will take place during Rio+20.

During the General Assembly of Local and Regional Authorities, local and regional elected officials decided to strengthen the political dimension of the Istanbul Water Consensus, developing in particular projects of decentralized cooperation, fostering the development of innovative financing based on solidarity, and ensuring the implementation of universal access to water and sanitation.

Throughout the days dedicated the local and regional authorities, the elected officials presented the concrete solutions they have implemented in the framework of the Istanbul Consensus.

Mr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN Habitat, highlighted the importance of increasing urbanization in developing countries, particularly in Asia and Africa. "Local authorities must organize themselves to ensure universal access to basic services for all citizens, particularly those living in peripheral cities and informal settlements." He called for a more human urbanization, and put the emphasis on the need to develop alternative models of urbanization, independent of city size.

Mr. Loïc Fauchon, President of the World Water Council, expressed his wish to follow local and regional authorities in the implementation of the Istanbul Consensus. He added that he was ready to personally follow up on the implementation of the Consensus: "The best governance for water is the one that is defined close to the citizens." Mr Michel Vauzelle, President of the Region Provence-Alpes-Cotes d'Azue (France), expressed his wish to see regional authorities reinforced in this process.

Mr. Serge Lepeltier, President of the Political Committee of the 6th Forum, Mayor of Bourges (France) and Ambassador, highlighted the importance of placing water at the core of the Rio+20 debates, in particular in the Ministerial Declaration, and he reminded the essential implementation of the right to water and sanitation.

During this 6th World Water Forum, entitled "Time for Solutions", local and regional authorities showed their commitment to bring their solutions to the essential global issues of water and to reaffirm their key role in improving access to water and to sanitation.

World Academy for Local Government and Democracy (WALD)



World Academy For Local Government And Democracy (WALD) as a non profit voluntary organization with the UCLG-MEWA's leadership, was established by one of the İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality's subsidiaries- İstanbul Municipality's BELBİM Data Processing and Energy Inc., a subsidiary of the Union of Municipalities of Marmara –Marmara Belde Yapım limited company and by a group of friends of local governance and democracy.

The main purpose of the foundation is to bring together concepts of democracy on a common platform and to organize seminars conferences debates creating activities such as workshops, to prepare training programs, carry out research and cooperation projects, to produce some publications which will contribute to the discussions on democracy and local government and to provide services in similar areas in order to support the related activities.

Wald provides a forum for the sharing of democratic ideals for the discussion of the fundamentals of effective local government as well as serving as a locus for bringing together theory and practice with regard to local government.

PROJECTS ON THE AGENDA INTERNATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS ACADEMY (UGLA) PROJECT

International Young Leaders Academy (UGLA) Project which conducted jointly by United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Regional Section (UCLG-MEWA) and Association for Habitat Development and Governance, has started on 1 November 2010, cooperation with World Academy for Local Government and Democracy (WALD), TC Istanbul Governor Office, UNICEF, Save The Children and Corio.

Basic Computer Literacy, Software, Information and Communication Technologies, CISCO IT (Information Technologies, Cisco), Network

Installation Training, Communication, Project Management, Intercultural Education, Good Governance, Decision-Making Mechanisms, Gender Equality, Financial Awareness, Discrimination and New Media, Hate Speech, HIV / AIDS, Documentary Film and Social Responsibility, Conflict Resolution and Mediation training are all within the scope of UGLA.

In the Coordination of Habitat Development and Governance Association has issued training for disadvantaged young people between the ages of 15-30, in July, August and September 2011, especially seven days a week, and studies are ongoing.

COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF FATİH SULTAN MEHMET "ACADEMY OF POLITICS" AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SYMPOSIUM PROJECTS

World Academy for Local Government and Democracy Foundation, cooperation with the Fatih Sultan Mehmet University Continuing Education Center will carry out academic studies with the participation of academicians and politicians .

And also World Academy for Local Government and Democracy Foundation will organize a symposium on Local Governments, in cooperation with University of Fatih Sultan Mehmet Continuing Education Center, in 2013.



World Academy for Local Government and Democracy (WALD)

TRAINING FOR ISTANBUL HEADMEN

World Academy for Local Government and Democracy Foundation and the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Directorate of Press and Public Relations and Education, will give some courses for the headmen of Istanbul, about Turkey's Central Administrative Structure and Local Administrative Structure.

DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITH SABANCI UNIVERSITY

World Academy for Local Government and Democracy Foundation and Sabanci Universites academic team are working on Kentvizyon 2023, Development and Transformation of Local Governments. Programs are ongoing.

THE MEETING OF THE "STRATEGIC AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS ON THE HEALTH TOURISM"

The meeting of the "Strategic and Regional Developments on the Health Tourism" will be realized with the cooperation of Middle East Health Association and government of Iraq's Erbil.

WITH 360 PLUS AND LOGOS, DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

World Academy for Local Government and Democracy Foundation with the 360 PLUS and LOGOS companies has started to perform on domestic and overseas training projects will be held jointly between the institutions.

MOLDOVA FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY ASSOCIATION AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION

WALD Foundation started to give language training courses under a protocol by the opening of the classroom facilities at the center. Arabic, English, Spanish and Russian languages trainings are given.

WITH MEFA CONSULTING AND ORGANIZATION, INTERACTIFS SEMINARS

WALD Foundation and Mefa Consulting and Organizational Design Ltd.. Sti organized Interactifs seminars.

WORKSHOP ON THE YOUNG CONSTITUTION

World Academy for Local Government and Democracy Foundation Youth Commission held workshop on new constitution at Yıldız Technical University in 17-18 March 2012. The result of the workshop was considered to run the new constitution.



INTERACTIFS SEMINARS

UCLG World Council took place in Florence on 9-11 December 2011

At the invitation of Matteo Renzi, Mayor of Florence, the City of Florence hosted 500 local and regional representatives from over 40 different countries gathered in the UCLG World Council from 9 to 11 December.

The gathering counted with the presence of mayors from cities around the world such as Rabat, Dakar, Paris, Stuttgart, Sevilla and with the participation of numerous mayors of Italian cities. It further brings together private partners and key international partners, representatives of Cities Alliance, UNFCCC and OECD.

The Council was chaired by Kadir Topbas, Mayor of Istanbul (Turkey) and President of UCLG, and by the Co-Presidents Antonio Costa, Mayor of Lisbon (Portugal), Muchadeyi Masunda, Mayor of Harare (Zimbabwe), Ilсур Metshin, Mayor of Kazan (Russia), and Ted Ellis, Mayor of Bluffton (USA), Treasurer.

The main decisions of the UCLG World Council focus on the definition of the UCLG Strategy for the coming six years and pay particular attention to the contribution of local and regional authorities to the international debate on sustainability around Rio +20.



UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting took place in Tehran (IRAN)

UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting took place in Tehran (IRAN) on 24-25 of December 2011 at the kind invitation of Mohammad-Bagher Qalibaf, Mayor of Tehran and Co-President of UCLG-MEWA. Representatives of 150 local and regional elected officials have met in Tehran.



Visit to Cairo and Gaza

Mr. Mehmet DUMAN, Secretary General of UCLG-MEWA visited to Cairo and Gaza Strip between 29 April 2012-2 May 2012. In Cairo, Secretary General visited the headquarters of Arab Administrative Development Organization, Arab Republic of Egypt State Ministry of Administrative Development and Mr. AbdelKavi Khalifa, the Governor of Cairo. In Gaza Strip Mr. Duman attended a meeting on the problems of local governments in the region. Mr. Duman visited to Mr. Yosef ALMANSI, Minister of Local Governments in Gaza Strip, Deputy Mayor and Municipal Councilors in Gaza Municipality. Mr. Ismail Haniyya, the Prime Minister, received Secretary General in his office. Jabalia, Beit Lahia, Khan Yonis, Beni Sohaila, Absan, Alnosayrat, Deir Albalah, Aljadida and Absan Alkabira Municipalities were also contacted. Secretary General placed a wreath on monument of the fleet of liberty in Gaza Port.



The Launching Meeting of UCLG Committee for Urban Health Took Place on 6-7 May 2012 in Istanbul



The launching meeting of the Committee for Urban Health took place on 6-7 May 2012 in Istanbul, Turkey and was attended by representatives from cities such as Istanbul, Yalova, Izmir, Nevşehir, Tahran, Guangzhou, Kazan and organizations such as CEMR, UCLG Africa Section, UCLG-MEWA Section, Local Government Association from England (LGA), Organization of Islamic Capitals and Cities. The meeting was organized under the auspices of Dr. Kadir Topbaş, Mayor of Istanbul, President of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey and President of UCLG.

In the welcoming speech Kadir Topbaş, Mayor of Istanbul, President of the Municipalities of Turkey and President of UCLG, said : "I sincerely believe that the decision taken in this meeting will build a richness to solve the problems humanity suffer and added: "Regarding the global health issues and solutions, as UCLG we have established this committee and we aim to take advantage of the energy and synergy of local governments in terms of realizing main targets pointed out by UN and World Health Organization.

Mehmet Duman, Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA) underlined the importance of health issue in the Millenium Development Goals and added: "the work the Committee initiated in Istanbul would be an important contribution to the improvement of urban health policies in all cities of the world".

Prof. Dr. Haydar Sur, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences of the Istanbul University took the floor and presented the specific problem we meet in urban health. Dr. Sur described the specificity of urban issues such as population growth and related health issues. He emphasized the importance of local governments as the mechanisms to present the solutions against the health problems increasing in the cities.

Following the opening, the First Session of the meeting was chaired by Mr. Hasan Ünver, Mayor of Nevşehir and member of the UCLG World Council. Mr. Dinçer Çetintaş, Director General of Sağlık A.Ş. of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality underlined that Istanbul has a ever-growing importance in Healthy Cities Projects and their related services will increasingly continue.

First part of the second session was chaired by Mr. Tansel Kaya, Councillor of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and political representative of the Committee for Urban Health who introduced the work plan of the Committee for Urban Health. The second part of the Session Two on "Organizational Issues of the Committee for Urban Health" was chaired by Mr. Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General. The organizationall structure of the committee was agreed as in the following; Istanbul will chair the committee and vice presidency will be persued by Kazan (UCLG Euro-Asia), Tahran (UCLG-MEWA) ve Goungzhou (UCLC ASPAC).

Interview with Asım Güzelbey, Mayor of Gaziantep

1. As the Mayor of the Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, what is the definition of water?

What would you like to say about water in general?

Water, which is the most fundamental need of humans, is of significance in that it is the source of life for living organisms on earth.

Water is a vital resource as it is the basic need of individuals and is the source of prominent economic activities, and ensures the prosperity of nations.

Thus, there is a need for the supply of clean and sufficient water for the development of economic and social activities. Therefore, the development of water sources directly contributes to economic productivity and social welfare.

Due to the rapid increase in population of the world, many countries have started to suffer water shortage problems. The economic development of locations suffering water shortages has been limited. In line with sustainable development policies, the awareness of utilizing water resources economically should be developed at a local, regional, national, and international level.

2. Has water been influential in the province of Gaziantep being located in Mesopotamia, the place where the first civilizations were born and developed? Has water had an impact on the birth of civilizations?

Throughout history, cities with scarce water have not developed and cities with abundant water have developed greatly, how do you evaluate Gaziantep in this respect?

There is an extreme need for water wherever there is civilization. Water is the primary factor in the birth of civilization. So much so that 6000 years ago the Sumerians engaged in the first irrigated agriculture by utilizing the waters of the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers and started civilization. In the same manner, the Egyptians demonstrated development in many areas thanks to the Nile. While cities on coasts or cities,

having large rivers or lakes within them develop, cities in places with scarce water such as the Middle East and North Africa are unable to develop. Today we are facing such a problem. The water need of humans is ever increasing. In fact, water sources are remaining the same or are decreasing. Especially environmental pollution and damage to the environment can be seen as disasters the world is awaiting with regards to water.



3. Can you tell us about the works of the Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality on the development of waters sources and the appropriate use of water?

Gaziantep was one of the most unfortunate provinces concerning water. Seventy two percent of water coming to our city was being lost. It was being used illegally. For the purpose of preventing losses in the network, we actualized the Scada (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system. The subterranean of Gaziantep is filled with scada at the moment. We have taken serious measures with regards to the illegal use of water. We made water subscription easier. Our losses at the moment are under the standards in Turkey; however, our goal is to catch up with world standards. In our time, when even one drop of water is of importance, taking care of current water is as important as creating sources. Due to the rapid increase in world population, many countries have started experiencing water shortage problems. The economic development of places experiencing water shortage problems is limited. In line with sustainable development

policies, the economic utilization of water sources is of significance.

Our water facility the size of a stadium with a capacity of storing 100 thousand cubic meters is Turkey's largest water storage reservoir. We had the water reservoir constructed with the means of the Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality. Water is a vital resource. It is important for cities to supply their water needs from many sources rather than a single source. Despite the limitless need for water, water sources are limited. Thus, in the near future water shall be more valuable than oil.

We have carried out important works as the Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality. Especially, the action plan we have prepared against global warming and our development of a climate plan is an indicator of the emphasis we place on water. We developed the first Regional Climate Action Plan in Turkey with the support of the French Development Agency (AFD).

As the Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality we have set reducing greenhouse gas emission as a goal and by focusing on this goal, we aim to have Gaziantep's development in the future to proceed in a manner that is respectful to the environment.

'We prepared the Turkey National Climate Action Plan.

Following the preparation of the Action Plan, we planned the urban transformation areas that need to be carried out in our city in face of climate change, projects for increasing the air quality of the city, and projects for the impact of climate change such as projects concerning transportation. When we presented this plan of ours at a meeting recently organized in Istanbul, we discovered that we were the only one in Turkey to have such a project and no other municipality had such a project. The world is advancing towards a different point and especially air pollution, environmental pollution, increasing population, increasing energy consumption, and increase in wasting of energy are all handicaps of global warming. These cause global warming. In order to tackle all of these, we are implementing activities at all levels to initiate works for reducing carbon footprints by 15 percent till the year 2023. We have prepared development plans with ecological plans and presented them at the Cities For Mobility meeting held in Stuttgart recently. There was great interest towards it. Now we have a plan. We are implementing our works within the framework of this plan.

4. Do you have works conducted with the public concerning conscious water consumption in this period when water resources are decreasing in the world? Can you share them with us?

We started off with students at schools. We are raising the awareness of the public on this matter through television programs, billboards, and posters. Our actual target group is children and schools.

5. As the Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, can you tell us about works and projects implemented on waste water and the saving you have achieved?

We actualized the third water treatment plant in Gaziantep. There was one water treatment plant constructed before. At the moment ninety nine percent of the water can be treated. In other words, we do not have a water network that is not treated. We are able to treat all of it. Within this framework, Gaziantep is one of the lucky provinces. The final product, which is the treated water, has quality and is clean enough to be used in irrigation.

The electricity cost of our treatment plant was around 150 thousand TL per month. By using the electricity of the treatment sludge we eliminated this cost. On the other hand, we are generating electricity from garbage and are supplying the electricity of a location, where 20 thousand people live, from garbage. You should not just think of these as figures. This is an environment project. I believe that at the moment many municipalities in Turkey are wondering how they should utilize their garbage. At a seminar we participated in years ago, it was said that "garbage is gold" and we had laughed. Today we can see that garbage provides us the opportunity to supply the electricity of a place where 20 thousand people live."

With the CNG (compressed natural gas) operated bus project, we are going to obtain CNG from the methane gas in garbage and convey them to buses. I believe that in 2012 we shall move buses with the garbage on the streets and shall write on the buses that "the buses are moving with garbage on the street".

6. Are you able to keep up-to-date with the works of international organizations on water or are you able to participate in their activities?

We are in cooperation with international organizations. We are explaining our companies on an international platform. Our department of foreign relations works very well. They keep up-to-date with all of them and we present our works as statements.

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) World Organization



While in 1950 the half of the world population used to live in cities, nowadays cities host more than half of the world population. It is estimated that by 2050 this rate will have risen two thirds, in other words almost 6 billion people will be living in the cities. The rise of urbanization means cities in other words local and regional authorities have more responsibility and authority. The immigrants from rural areas to cities do not only require housing, job creation, transportation etc...The citizens also need cultural diversity and social inclusion. It is quite challenging for national governments to fulfil the needs of citizens. The crucial importance of local and regional governments step in in this point. United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) functions from its headquarters in Barcelona since 2004 to unite and to be the voice of local and regional governments in the world. UCLG has an important place in our lives especially after Mayor of İstanbul Kadir Topbas was chosen as the President of this organization for three years period.

Following the commitments made at the time of the UN Habitat II Conference held in Istanbul in 1996, IULA (International Union of Local Authorities), UTO (United Towns Organization) and Metropolis have combined their respective global networks of

cities and national associations of local governments into a single umbrella organization called United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

UCLG has three principles: 'Democracy, local self government and decentralization in the service provision.'

UCLG's mission is to be the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through cooperation between local governments, and within the wider international community. It is the largest local government organization in the world, with a diverse membership that includes both individual cities and national associations of local governments.

UCLG has a decentralized structure, operating through eight regional sections worldwide. Seven of the regions are based on a geographical basis, namely Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Eurasia, Middle East and West Asia (UCLG-MEWA), Latin America and North America, as well as the Metropolis, the world organization for mega cities, as the eighth section. Regional sections set their own policies and administer their own affairs, with their own constitution and governing bodies.

Organizations that created UCLG:

International Union of Local Authorities (IULA)

IULA was established in 1913 in the Netherlands with the intention to promote democratic local self-government. It is the eldest and biggest local government union with a diverse members more that 100. IULA played and important role in the development and strenghtening of decentralization, governance and local self-government.

United Town Organization (UTO)

Established in 1957, UTO has developed a communication net including 1100 cities from more than 80 countries. UTO especially focused on local democracy, partnership and twinnings among cities.

METROPOLIS

Created in 1985, the Metropolis Association is represented by more than 120 members from across the world and operates as an international forum for exploring issues and concerns common to all big cities and metropolitan regions. Metropolis also manages the Metropolitan Section of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).



UCLG PRESIDENCY 2010-2013



Ted Ellis
Treasurer
Mayor of Bluffton, Indiana, USA



Dr. Kadir Topbaş
President
Mayor of Istanbul,
President of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey



Josep Roig
Secretary General
Barcelona, Spain

CO-PRESIDENTS



Wan Qingliang
Mayor of Guangzhou,
People's Republic of China



Muchadeyi Masunda
Mayor of Harare,
Zimbabwe



Ilсур Metshin
Mayor of Kazan,
Tatarstan, Russian Federation



Antonio Costa
Mayor of Lisbon,
Portugal



J. F. Araya Monge
Mayor of San Jose,
Costa Rica

VICE - PRESIDENTS



Khalifa Ababacar Sall
Mayor of Dakar,
Senegal



Fauzi Bowo
Governor of Jakarta,
Indonesia



Ilсур Metshin
Mayor of Kazan,
Tatarstan, Russian Federation



Wolfgang Schuster
Mayor of Stuttgart,
Germany



Maged Abu Ramadan
President of the Association of
Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA),
Palestine



Julio César Pereyra
Mayor of Florencio Varela,
President of the Federation of
Argentinian Municipalities



Gérald Tremblay
Mayor of Montreal,
Canada



Jean Paul Huchon
President of the Regional Council of
Ile-de-France, France

SECRETARIES GENERAL OF REGIONAL SECTIONS



Jean Pierre E. Mbassi
UCLG AFRICA
Rabat-Morocco



Rudolf Hauter
UCLG ASPAC
Jakarta-Indonesia



Rassikh Sagitov
UCLG EURO-ASIA
Kazan-Russian Federation



Frédéric Vallier
UCLG EUROPE
Brussels-Belgium



Mehmet Duman
UCLG-MEWA
Istanbul-Turkey



Guillermo Tapia Nicola
UCLG LATIN AMERICA
Quito-Ecuador



Don Borut
UCLG NORTH AMERICA
Washington-USA



Alain Le Saux
UCLG METROPOLIS
Barcelona-Spain

UCLG Working Group on Local Governments and Cooperation in the Middle East

This working group was born from the need to create a space within UCLG entirely dedicated to the Middle East's past 60 years. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has by its very nature consequences and repercussions throughout the Region. Besides this problem, the Arab Spring in various countries in the Middle East affected to the world geostrategic balance.

The International community has a role to play in finding a solution to this conflict –a sustainable solution, based on justice and international law, they must fight the war, the violence, but also encourage the establishment of a fair and lasting peace in the Middle East, by organizing meetings, initiating dialogue and promoting projects and decentralized cooperation programs. So UCLG created this Working Group to work on these issues.

This Working Group is very important especially for our Regional Section. So one of the vice-presidents of the working group is the Chair of Union of Municipalities of Turkey.

Conference to support decentralization in Tunisia

The National Federation of Tunisian Cities (FNVT), in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior of Tunisia, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the Province of Barcelona, with the support of Cities Alliance, organizes an international conference entitled "Decentralization: A Strong Tool for Democracy and Local Development" on 28-30 May 2012 in Tunis, Tunisia, in order to support to the decentralization process in Tunisia.

In a decentralization process, the emphasis is certainly on its legal aspects, the financial resources available to communities and local development projects. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to establish a constitutional basis, to have appropriate legal texts, adequate budgetary mechanisms and ensure the involvement of civil society.

It is important to seize the historical moment experienced by Tunisia, where the Constituent Assembly currently drafted the new constitution.

This international conference will certainly be a good opportunity to discuss the proposed topic and try to sketch answers to key questions as the relationship between citizen, state and city; the role of cities as actors of development and the situation Tunisian legal and regulatory.

The opening plenary session of the conference will introduce current problems and issues and will be followed by three parallel workshops for a more thorough analysis of the situation and to suggest possible solutions. The topics of the workshops will be "decentralization and devolution: the wish to find a balance", "the local authorities, actors of development", and "local authorities and civil society: towards a new local social contract".

The conference is expected to gather mayors, urban managers, representatives of the ministries concerned and member citizens of the constituent assembly of Tunisia, by providing a platform for exchanging experiences between cities and by promoting more coordinated efforts for the implementation of the most adequate recommendations that will enable setting up an appropriate decentralization system for cities.

The conference will be opened by the Mayor of Tunis and President of the National Federation of Tunisian Cities (FNVT), the Minister of Interior of Tunisia and Dr. Kadir TOPBAŞ, Mayor of Istanbul and President of UCLG. In the first workshop entitled "decentralization and devolution: the wish to find a balance", Mr. Mehmet DUMAN, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, will make a speech presenting the region and its progress in decentralization, by underlining the UCLG-MEWA activities serving the strengthening of local democracy and decentralization in the Middle East and West Asia.

AFGHANISTAN

Background Information

Country	Afghanistan
Land Area (sq KM)	647,5
Population (2010-2011)	29.8 million
Gross Nat. Income per capita (\$)	1419 (HDI-2010)
Human Development Index (HDI) Status (UNDP-2010)	Ranked 155th out of 169 countries & grouped under countries with “Low Human Development”
Political Regime	The Constitution defines Afghanistan as an “Islamic Republic.” It is stipulated that the religion of the state is Islam. The powers are vested in the legislature, the executive and the judiciary, these powers being independent of each other.

Legislation Concerning Local Authorities

Constitution & Provisions on Local Authorities	The new Constitution of Afghanistan, drawn up by a consultative process, was adopted in 2004. Specific provisions in the Constitution concerning local authorities are provided in Article 84, as well as Articles 137-140.
Laws on Local Authorities	Municipalities are regulated predominantly by the Municipal Law of 2000 (issued under the Taliban), which replaced the previous Law of 1957. Although the ongoing efforts toward its revision, the Law of 2000 continues to be essentially intact.
Other Legislation Concerning Local Authorities	Through new legislation introduced in 2007, the Independent Directorate of Local Governance was established, with the responsibility for supervising the Provincial and District Governors, Provincial Councils and Municipalities.

Sub-National Governance & Types of Local Authorities

Administrative Divisions	Afghanistan is administratively divided into 34 provinces, each headed by a Governor. The provinces are further subdivided into districts, headed by District Governors. Districts are the lowest level of formal administration.
Types of Local Authorities	The basic types of local authorities are municipalities and villages. Municipalities are spread over 34 provinces, wherein one of them serves as the center of each respective province. Larger municipalities are divided into urban districts.
Electoral Processes & Local Elections	The Constitution stipulates that the provincial, district and village councils will be formed through free, direct and secret elections. However, elections were held only for Provincial Councils, and other councils have not yet been formed.

Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM) Directorate for the Inspection of Conservation Implementations (KUDEB)



AYRANCI STREET - Before

Suleymaniye is one of the four historical areas of Istanbul listed as 'UNESCO World Heritage Site' since 1985 with Zeyrek district, Sultanahmet Archaeological Park and the Theodosian Land Walls. An important number of historical timber houses belonging to the late 19th - early 20th century exist in Suleymaniye and Zeyrek districts. These two significant residential areas of Historical Peninsula include numerous cultural properties of different eras such as archaeological remains, Byzantine and Ottoman monuments creating an organically shaped unique urban texture. KUDEB (Directorate for the Inspection of Conservation Implementations) has been established in 2006 under Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and is located in one of the most important historical timber houses in Suleymaniye, the World Heritage Site of Istanbul.



AYRANCI STREET - After

Due to the heritage and unique urban texture of these areas represent, 'an integrated preservation approach' based specifically on 'authenticity' and 'sustainability' of the heritage in terms of scientific principles, education system and responsibility of local authorities is required. Also, lack of finding talented and qualified people to be employed at restoration work usually occurs as a serious conservation problem. Regarding such issues, KUDEB managed to develop an education model by 'Timber and Stone Training Workshops' as an alternative solution.

Timber and Stone Training Workshops are established in order to educate the trainees about either the traditional techniques of these crafts (woodwork and stonemasonry) or restoration - conservation idea and to provide 'skilled and qualified teams' for restoration works. Theoretical education and practical experience on site are integrated

Best Practices

in approximately six months' term; programmes are supported by seminars, symposiums, implementations and publications.

Within the framework of this education model, it's aimed to integrate the 'knowledge' with 'implementation' in restoration - conservation field, to create an opportunity for young people to be involved in restoration activities, to help the cultural continuity via the traditional crafts and techniques and to raise the awareness on protection of common architectural heritage.

A wide range of subjects for both wood and stone including restoration and conservation theories, documentation techniques, identification of traditional building materials, their characteristics, decay phenomena, conservation techniques such as surface cleaning, partial reintegration or repair and their application methods are included in these programmes. Trainees are chosen among the students or graduates from technical and vocational high schools in Istanbul.

Theoretical education part is mainly performed by the help of academics from several universities in Istanbul. Also professionals from different fields of public/private sector are invited to give lectures and share their experiences. Practical education part is mainly conducted by the experienced craftsmen and take place both in the workshop and the restoration sites. Trainees learn how to cut, give shape, carve, treat, protect and repair the material. Seminars and symposiums are focused on 'why and how to preserve the heritage' and restoration - conservation studies.

This education project of IMM - KUDEB represents a fine 'coordination model' of local authorities, academics, professionals and students for the preservation of our common heritage, to be applied and spread throughout the country and to be developed by other local authorities according to their unique values including arts, crafts, culture and architectural unity.



CUMHURİYET FOUNTAIN before and after

Nilüfer Municipality

ANATOLIAN BAZAAR PROJECT

“Anatolian Bazaar” is a project aiming to present and keep all cultures alive and claim to be the owner of disappearing civilization and traditional values of

“Relative Culture” geography extending into two continent, from Balkans to Caucasus.

In order to realize the project all regional and territorial values of the institutional structure generated through gathering of “associations of fellow citizen established in Bursa” are aimed to be presented individually and integrated into the tourism.

The Project will enable all disappearing personal values extending from the Balkans into the Caucasus to be presented and transferred from generation to generation. The Anatolian Bazaar Project is implemented under the leadership of Nilüfer Municipality and with the active participation of Fellow Citizen Associations.

The project is planned on 160.000 square meter land, recreation corridor of Bursa, Balat site on west of the Mudanya Highway.

Thanks to the project as well as Bursa inhabitants native and foreign explorers will also gain cultural acquisitions by being acquainted with the unique values of culture, civilisation, vacation and experiencing architecture, handicrafts, cuisine and gift traditions , all regional product and personal wealth of

our culture operating in the same place.

Fellow citizen associations will operate in the structures reflecting the original and regional architecture of their city.

On the campus, in addition to arrangements made in automobile/bus parks, entrance and inspection facilities and other general necessity units, it is aimed to realize research, investigation and publication studies on places reflecting our “caravansaray” architecture for shared meeting, activity, general knowledge/ art displays, exhibition and gallery; “Toy(play-wedding) Garden” and needed subordinate units providing service for the arrangement of regional summer weddings; handicrafts production and training centers, other places where sporting activities take place apart from the places in which “charity market” activities to be held, regional cultures, tales, legends, plays, languages, lingos, musics, traditions, from caucasus to the Balkans.

Depending on the purpose of Anatolian Bazaar’s being also a shopping center relies heavily on regional products, it will provide selling section occasions to the firms in Bursa performing service on this issue, along with enabling fellow citizens associations to create their regional markets.

