

KOTA KITA & THE WORLD URBAN FORUM 9: EXPERIENCES AND LEARNINGS

KUALA LUMPUR
MARCH 2018



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PART 1 INTRODUCTION

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This Event Report records key moments of Kota Kita's, an Indonesian civil society organization, participation in the ninth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF9), which took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from February 7 to February 13, 2018. Kota Kita, together with civil society organizations from Malaysia and across the world, organized few events that included talks, workshops, and parallel events covering several issues and debates to support the discourse of sustainable, just, and inclusive urban development.

WUF 9 put forward a theme "Cities 2030 – Cities for All: Implementing the New Urban Agenda" and it was the first Forum to convene since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) at the Habitat III conference in Quito, Ecuador, in 2016. The Forum focused on arrangements and actions for implementation, with many delegates and participants emphasizing the importance of public, private and civil society cooperation, as well as synergies between national and local institutions, in order to achieve the NUA.

Kota Kita believes that the discussion and action plan for the NUA could pave a way for implementing and together achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities. Most world cities, including Indonesian cities, have already started to actively engage and adapt the SDGs to the local level. But, there has not been any meaningful engagement and integration with the NUA. Through meetings such as the WUF9, we would like to learn how we could implement the NUA, define, and achieve success locally, while also interacting and in dialogue with the national and global agenda, as well as other development actors.

This Event Report summarized events we organized in the WUF9 covering several issues including 1) applicable innovation for inclusive urban planning, i.e. methodology for citizen facilitation, participatory data collection, and urban data analyses, 2) innovation in finance and governance through the practices of participatory budgeting, and 3.) inter-city and global partnership and collaboration to achieve the NUA. Other events included talks and networking opportunities with advocates for Right to the City from around the world. In parallel to the WUF9, we also organized initiatives in a public space, reaching out to wider audience to promote concept of socially just, inclusive, and sustainable cities, through public discussion and a walking tour of Kuala Lumpur.

PART 2

MEETING SUMMARIES



PART 2 MEETING SUMMARIES



Photo credit to: Ayesha Issadeen, The New School

PRE-EVENT^[1]

MOVING FROM WHAT TO HOW: IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

ORGANIZER:

The New School, Kota Kita Foundation, Global Urban Futures [The New School], Mannheim City Hall, Global Parliament Mayors

PARTNERS:

Huairou Commission, Institute of Ethnic Studies of the University of Malaysia, Mistra Urban Futures of the University of Gothenburg, European Commission, Observatory on Latin America [The New School], Penang Women's Development Corporation, Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, GIZ

OBJECTIVE:

The Habitat III process created a consensus on what cities should aim to be in the adopted New Urban Agenda, but it left unclear how its directives and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals could actually be translated in the ground. The event was organized to gather local government officials, academia, NGOs and civil society to address these issues, bringing urban policies and practices into discussion, trying to assess those which could serve as implementing and monitoring tools. The event was set out to discuss what policies and practices have been - or not - implementing the NUA, the local capacity to accomplish the "how," and how monitoring and data analyses efforts can facilitate and push for this process at the local level.

[1] Pre-event is an initiative held by some participants to meet and formulate discussions prior to the World Urban Forum 9. It was not an official WUF 9 sessions. Our pre-event was held on the 6th of February 2018 at the Corus Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

DESCRIPTION:

More than 60 people from twenty-five organizations participated in the half-day discussions, organized in three panels. The first panel, “Implementing the NUA in cities”, discussed the limitations of translating the agenda into action due to lack of national guidance, local limitations and vagueness of the document, besides cities’ involvement in other agendas already; and called for the need of involving communities and grassroot organizations, updating definition of cities boundaries and responsibilities and increasing accountability and collaboration between different levels of government. The second panel, “Local capacity to accomplish the ‘how’”, exposed the problem of institutional paralysis, corruption, lack of continuity of projects and partnerships and technological issues that limit quality implementation at the local level; and urged for a different urban practice, with more inclusiveness, long term funding and clear roles and responsibilities of all the actors involved. The last panel, “Monitoring the NUA and the role of local data”, identified different methodologies used for data collection, lack of a global city database,

political reluctance in collecting data and lack of mechanisms of accountability as main challenges to monitoring; which requires stronger commitment in collecting city data, international guidance on procedures and involvement of non-governmental actors as well, making the information available for follow up and accountability.

To sum up, the concept of urban, its boundaries, and responsibilities, needs to be redefined in order to delegate and demand action. City governments cannot pull all the weight, and there is urgent need for an integrated approach with national and global actors. Making use of monitoring and evaluation methods is essential for accountability of politicians and there is need for independent follow-up and review of the SDGs and the NUA. Internationally, the role of local governments is still unclear, and local capacity needs to be further understood in the whole process of achieving global goals - in that sense, global citizenship is essential, so we can interchangeably learn and demand action from our cities.



Photo credit to: Ayesha Issadeen, The New School



Photo credit to: Ayesha Issadeen, The New School

TRAINING EVENT

PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES IN URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: LEARNING FROM INDONESIAN CITIES



ORGANIZER:

Kota Kita Foundation

OBJECTIVE:

Kota Kita has developed a methodology and set of actions aiming to foster participation, which can be learned as three major skills: participatory data collection, data visualization, and urban data analysis. The overall goal of the training was to share the lessons learned in Indonesian cities by delivering a tools-and-facilitation-skills training for civil society organizations and activists on how to foster inclusiveness and enable a more informed and active citizen participation in urban planning and development.

DESCRIPTION:

The training was divided into three main set of skills and two-way reflections from Kota Kita's experiences working in Indonesian cities and the audiences'

experiences of their own. It was organized into three sessions and each session shared skills on (1) participatory data collection; (b) consultative and participative data analyses on urban issues; and (c) facilitate discussion for collaborative design of solutions. In each of the sessions, our training discussed the following:

1. Before planner or researchers even begin their work, one has to work to understand the context of the site. Planner might think that something is a problem, while they're actually not. Though, as an outsider, you might see something that the local citizens don't see, so it is also important to give fresh perspective. To do that, planner should prepare a participatory data collection plan that covers the relevant and most applicable methodology to best investigate and learn about the context.

UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT



QUANTITATIVE

QUALITATIVE

REPRESENTING INFORMATION



MAPPING

CHART

DIAGRAM

MODELS

FACILITATING COMMUNITY DECISION MAKING



UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM

KNOWLEDGE AND DATA

ASK THE RIGHT QUESTION

COME UP WITH SOLUTION

2. Data representation matters; through creative means like maps, diagram, chart, and models, supported with good facilitation could help to stimulate conversation and generate collective understanding of the problem and design of solutions.
3. Flexible and tactful are important characteristics for a facilitator. In a public consultation, we need to prepare for two-way conversations with the citizens, presenting the information we have generated from the first two processes, while focus on listening closely to inputs and recommendations from the citizens, to be able to fill the gap.



SIDE EVENT

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN ASIAN CITIES: A PATHWAY TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA



ORGANIZERS:

Kota Kita Foundation, The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, University College London International Observatory on Participatory Democracy

PARTNERS:

National Urban Poverty Reduction Program - United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Bangladesh, Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC) Malaysia, European University at St. Petersburg, Financial Research Institute under the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation (NIFI), Chengdu HuiZhi Participation Center

OBJECTIVES:

The Side Event intended to broadcast and lobby for Participatory Budgeting as a viable and democratic process to be taken into account in the international and regional agenda for the sustainable urban development of our cities. It aimed to do so by showcasing success stories and challenges of Indonesian, Malaysian, Chinese and also Russian cities, as well as an international perspective, and how they strengthen the inclusion and participation

of the most excluded and work towards reducing inequalities.

DESCRIPTION:

The speakers shared many examples of good practices, effective changes in legislation and innovation with regards to finance, budget and democratic processes in different cities in Asia. An event with such a thematic and focused in Asia is unprecedented, however, the results and number presented show that Participatory Budgeting in the region is not new - it has been constantly changing and improving, with massive and many successes, and innovative practices.

In the Russian Stavropol region, the possibility of co-financing of projects from the local population, businesses and local budget, leads to a competition between projects to involve and engage with local communities. Also in Russia, in Saint Petersburg, there are budgeting committees with equal rights for everyone to participate; intense educational initiatives for budgeting, law and regulation education for different layers of power; and there is integration

of initiatives for city-level development plans. In Solo City, Indonesia, Kota Kita has developed Mini-Atlasas, where communities are able to see the issues and shortcomings of their neighbourhoods, enabling them to make well-educated decision at the budgeting meetings. In Penang, Malaysia, there was a match of Gender Responsive Budgeting, which was top down, with Participatory Budgeting, bottom-up, combining strategic and practical needs. The process happens through two different stages: a budget survey, dialogue and planning; and with low-income rental housing under the central and local governments. In Chengdu, China, villages are allowed to apply for bank loans with the funds they receive from Participatory Budgeting, which can be up to seven times the original amount, allowing for the prioritization of bigger and more expensive projects, such as infrastructural ones.

Participatory Budgeting goes beyond just budget and has a triggering effect of mobilizing people that cannot and should not be overlooked. The challenge ahead is how to increase and make use of the catalytic value of participation that derives from these processes. An Asia-Pacific Network for Participatory Budgeting was envisioned to be created as a regional Asian platform that bridges the gap with the Western world and experiences from the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy, while creating a space for sharing of experiences, challenges and innovative solutions for money allocation at the local level.



NETWORKING EVENT

CONNECTING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE NEW URBAN AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH RIGHT TO THE CITY INITIATIVES



ORGANIZERS:

Global Platform for the Right to the City, Kota Kita Foundation

PARTNERS:

Polis Institute, Housing International Coalition (HIC), Huairou Commission, ActionAid India and YUVA India

OBJECTIVES:

The event aimed to have a general good understanding of on-going activities, projects and initiatives the members of the Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C) are carrying out on the ground which focus on implementing the SDGs and the NUA directives. Beyond that, the goal is also to identify synergies and commonalities among different projects and initiatives and how Right to the City could orient and contribute to the activism for the fulfilment of collective rights of citizens.

DESCRIPTION:

The Global Platform for the Right to the City is a multi-stakeholder international network that advocates for the right of all inhabitants to use, occupy and produce just, inclusive and sustainable cities, considered as common goods. Kota Kita has been engaged as one of its member since 2015, throughout the Habitat 3 processes that culminated in the NUA, pushing for the adoption and awareness-raising of such a concept as a new paradigm for urban development worldwide.

In the networking session, participants were divided into two groups of discussion, according to the participant's knowledge and contact with the Global Platform. The first group was the one of newcomers and a non-familiarized audience. The discussions and presentations happened in a more introductory

character, explanations of the Right to the City concept and its implication at the local, national and international levels of advocacy, and also the GPR2C's works.

The second group was composed of already-members of the Platform, and the discussion was centered on the strategic plan for the next four years, as well as courses of action and projects for the coming years. As an initial way forward, members are committed to contributing to the Platform in different

capacities, such as research, advocacy, partnerships, among others. Kota Kita will carry out a project of mapping of Southeast Asian organization's activities and projects on the ground that have been related to the Right to the City.

The output of this session is a plan for collective mapping of urban activism, right-related initiatives, community engagements, researches, and interventions around the world to be presented in a digital map or directory.



TRAINING EVENT

IMPLEMENTING THE RIGHT TO THE CITY ON THE GROUND: THEORY, TOOLS AND REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES



ORGANIZERS:

Global Platform for the Right to the City, Kota Kita Foundation

PARTNERS:

Polis Institute, Housing International Coalition (HIC), Huairou Commission, ActionAid India and YUVA India, Development Workshop Angola, University of Coimbra, RED-Mujer y Habitat

OBJECTIVES:

The training aimed to contribute to the understanding of the commitments included in the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals by connecting them to the existing practice and collective knowledge around the Right to the City. This understanding will empower participants to demand the implementation of these commitments, therefore strengthening and framing their work under this concept ideas and principles.

DESCRIPTION:

The event started with an introductory lecture about the Global Platform for the Right to the City and the importance of such a concept for building democratic, just and inclusive cities and human settlements. Afterwards, all participants were divided into four groups, which would circulate between four stations.

The first discussion generated inputs on the Vision and Concept understanding of the Right to the City; it was a theoretical one, with discussion of the main pillars and characteristics of the concept. There were debates revolved around the difference of the collective rights to classic human rights, its conviction for the concept of cities as common good, and how such understandings could fuel more and its all encom.



In the second station, Political and Cultural Perspective of the Right to the City, participants' background was taken into account and main discussions were about the problematics of the term city, which is not applicable in many places, and also its relation to gentrification, informality and further decentralization of rights to the local level.

The third station was Strategies: Advocacy with International Institutions focused on UN, regional, national and local institutions and governments for the implementation of the Right to the City, debating the problematic of conflicts between different groups in society and different interpretations of rights, the necessity of changing university curricula, using existing planning tools in our favor and having international support for local struggles.



The last station was the Exchange and Experiences related to the Right to the City, when participants were able to share what kind of actions, projects, researches, trainings and other initiatives they have been working on the ground already.

PARALLEL EVENT^[2]

@ THINK CITY WHOSE CITY IS IT? RECLAIMING CITIZEN'S COLLECTIVE RIGHT TO THE CITY!



ORGANIZER:

Kota Kita Foundation, Global Platform for the Right to the City

PARTNERS:

Think City

OBJECTIVE:

Kota Kita and the GPR2C aimed at having a public event to discuss the Right to the City concept and its evolution from a critical concept into an international, networked movement with a broader audience, raising awareness around the need to advocate for the right of all inhabitants to 'use, occupy, produce, and enjoy just, inclusive, safe and sustainable cities'.

DESCRIPTION:

The event took place in the WUF9 parallel site, organized by the local Kuala Lumpur-based NGO Think City. The space for the discussions was open and free to the public. After the discussions, it was possible to understand that the Right to the City is an ample concept of collectivism in how cities are perceived that draws attention and interest from also unfamiliarized audiences.

The inclusive approach that derives from the concept can be related to different experiences, such as the case of homelessness, statelessness and urban poverty issues that were brought up in the debate. A holistic understanding of reality and problems is necessary to bring about change in an interrelated manner.



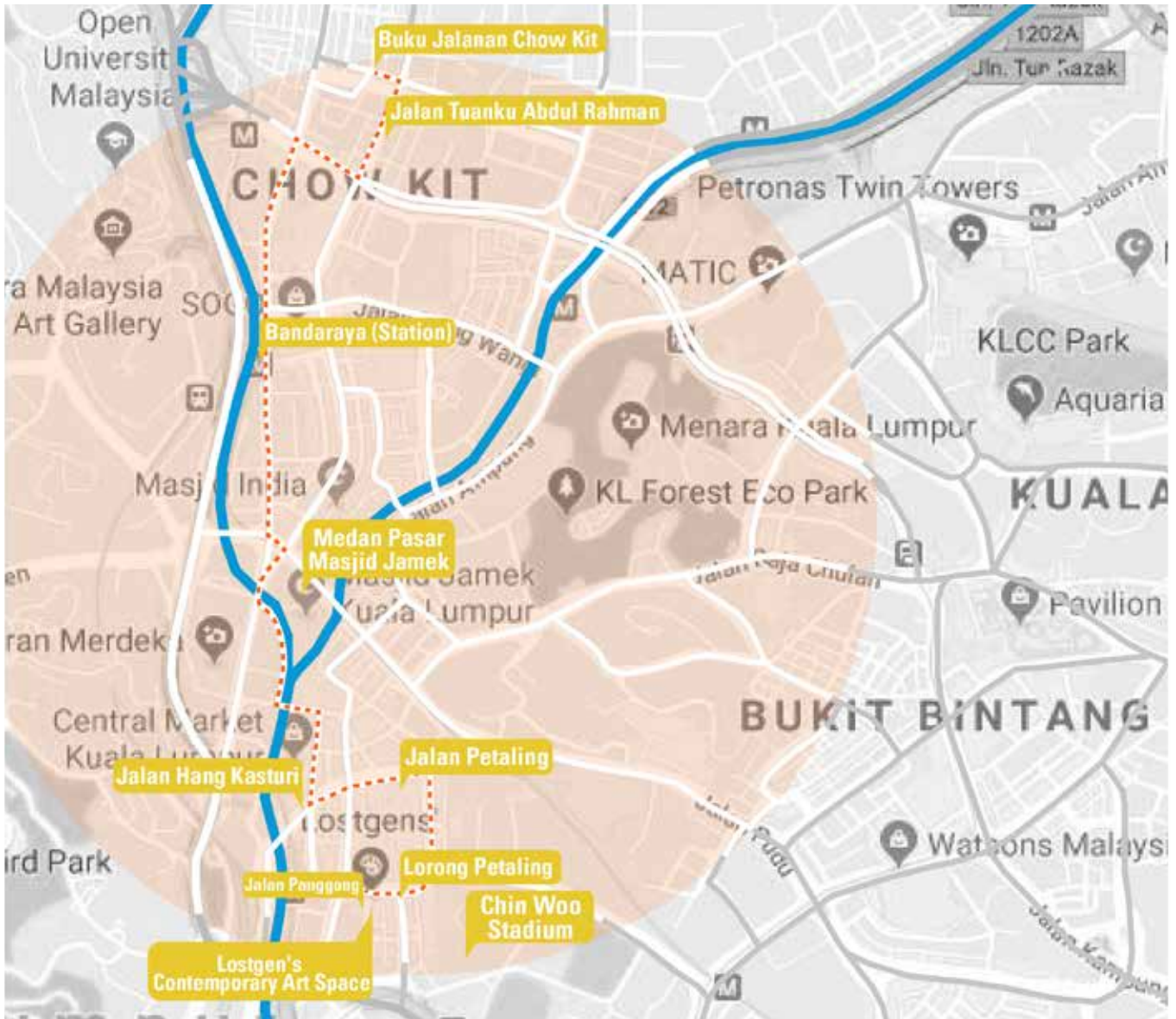
[2] Parallel Event was an initiative by participants to discuss certain thematic issues during the World Urban Forum 9 and it was held outside the main conference venue. It was not official WUF 9 sessions, although one of our parallel events was held in collaboration with the WUF 9's Malaysian collaborator, ThinkCity.

PARALLEL EVENT



WALKING TOUR

WALKING TOUR ROUTE MAP



ORGANIZER:

Kota Kita Foundation, Literacy, Global Platform for the Right to the City

ROUTE:

Lostgen's Contemporary Art Space, Jalan Panggong - Lorong Petaling - Chin Woo Stadium - Jalan Petaling - Jalan Hang Kasturi/ Kasturi Walki - Medan Pasar Masjid Jamek - Bandaraya (Station) - Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman - Buku Jalanan Chow Kit

PARTNERS:

Buku Jalanan Chow Kit

OBJECTIVE:

The walking tour aimed at being a non-official and non-traditional tour in which participants would be guided by a local Kuala Lumpur social activist throughout the multicultural neighbourhoods of the city, getting acquainted with Malaysian social movements and urban resistances. The idea was to have a different approach to discuss the Right to the City and its violations.



DESCRIPTION:

The tour began in the city's artistic center, passing by different neighbourhoods, showcasing the other side of the city, so different from the wealthy and well-organized neighbourhood in which the official WUF9 took place. In this tour, we collected stories of urban poverty, illegal immigration, gentrification and evictions of families from their homes.

The walk ended in Chow Kit, a neighbourhood known for having a large population of illegal immigrant workers. There, Buku Jalanan was created to try to address the lack of public space for children and youth, and also the case of stateless children, offspring of such workers, that do not have the right to access education.

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PART 3 OTHER INVOLVEMENTS

NETWORKING EVENT

SCALING UP PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING FOR FOSTERING RESILIENCE AND PROSPERITY OF URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

LEAD CONVENER: ASSOAL – Association pour l'Amour du Livre et le Développement Local

KOTA KITA'S ROLE: Speaker



Photo courtesy of Giovanni Allegretti

TRAINING EVENT

ENGENDERING PB - HOW TO GENERATE MORE GENDER SENSITIVE PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING: LEARNING FROM LOCAL EXPERIENCE

LEAD CONVENER: ASSOAL – Association pour l'Amour du Livre et le Développement Local

KOTA KITA'S ROLE: Speaker



SIDE EVENT

CITIZEN-CITY COLLABORATION IN CONTESTED SPACES: FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE. REAL-WORLD EXAMPLES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA AT THREE SCALES: THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF KIBERA, THE CITY OF DHAKA, AND THE NATION OF ARGENTINA

LEAD CONVENER: Kounkuey Design Initiative, Inc.

KOTA KITA'S ROLE: Speaker



Photo courtesy of Joe Mulligan, Kounkuey Design Initiative, Inc.

NETWORKING EVENT

PROSPERITY FOR ALL: ENABLING THE INFORMAL ECONOMY THROUGH PARTICIPATORY SLUM UPGRADING

LEAD CONVENER: Cardiff University

KOTA KITA'S ROLE: Participant

SIDE EVENT

LISTEN TO CITIES ROOM / LOCAL ACTION GLOBAL PARLIAMENT OF MAYORS AS A MULTIPLIER-SCALING THE MANNHEIM MODEL OF IMPLEMENTING THE SDGS AND THE NEW URBAN AGENDA ON THE CITY LEVEL - IMPLEMENT, MEASURE, GOVERN, SHARE

LEAD CONVENER: City of Mannheim

KOTA KITA'S ROLE: Speaker

SIDE EVENT

GERMAN PAVILION LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES - WHY CITIES MATTER: CITIES FOR DIVERSITY

LEAD CONVENER: City of Mannheim

KOTA KITA'S ROLE: Speaker

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