

URBAN FUTURES LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2024

INNOVATING THE SMART, SUSTAINABLE, LEARNING, AND LIVEABLE CITIES OF THE FUTURE

ADB

Leiden University and the Asian Development Bank Strategic Partnership

Building on the initial memorandum of understanding signed in 2023, Leiden University will broaden its collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). During a visit to ADB headquarters in Manila this year, Leiden University engaged with ADB to strengthen their collaboration and align the bank's priorities with the university's interdisciplinary expertise, particularly through the Leiden-Delft-Erasmus Universities (LDE) alliance. This partnership has enabled Leiden University to enhance its role in knowledge development, application, and network expansion in Asia, marking it as one of the few universities globally—and the only European institution—with institutional ties to the ADB.



About the event

As one of the results of the collaboration between the two institutions, the Urban Futures Leadership Academy, followed by the Urban Future Leaders Summit, was held in Bandung City, Indonesia. Organized in partnership with Leiden-Delft-Erasmus Universities and Bandung Institute of Technology, the event ran consecutively from 5–8 November 2024. It brought together invited regional government officials and university representatives during the first three days of the Leadership Academy, and was opened to a public audience—including youth representatives, societal organizations, industry partners, and other stakeholders—for broader discussions during the Summit on the final day.

What are the aims of the Academy?

- 1 Strengthened leadership skills** to manage smart, sustainable, and innovative city projects.
- 2 Practical urban solutions** to address challenges and improve public services, infrastructure, and sustainability.
- 3 Enhanced collaboration and networking** with key stakeholders for future partnerships.
- 4 Insights into sustainable strategies** for building environmentally resilient cities.
- 5 Improved trust in public institutions** through effective, efficient, and transparent governance.

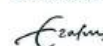
Organizing institutions:



Universiteit
Leiden



Erasmus
University
Rotterdam



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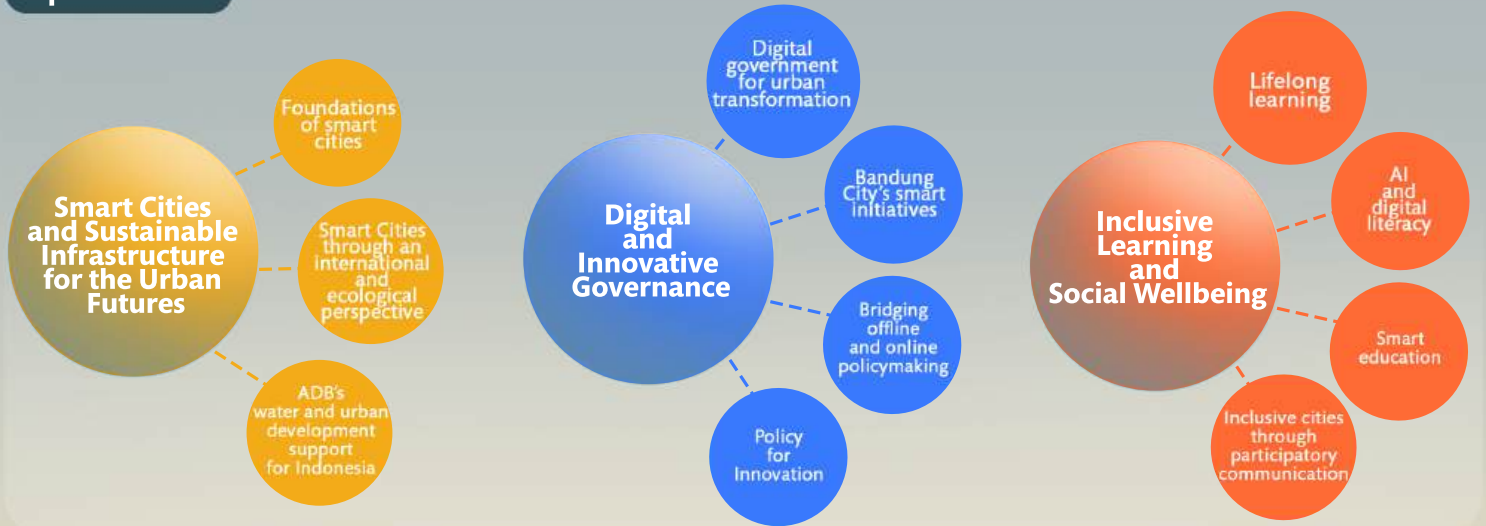
DKST
Delft Knowledge School of Technology



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Topics covered



Who are the speakers?

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From which regions in Indonesia did the participants come?



Java : Bandung City, Banten Province, Bogor City, Depok City, Jakarta Province, Semarang City, Sleman Regency, Special Region of Yogyakarta Province, Surabaya City, Tangerang City, West Java Province

Kalimantan : Pontianak City

Sulawesi : South Sulawesi Province

Sumatera : Pekanbaru City

Key takeaway



Strategic Framework and Roadmaps

- Developing centralized smart city roadmaps at the central ministry level is essential to guide local governments and ensure policy coherence. However, continued dialogue and engagement are necessary to prevent these roadmaps from becoming mere boxes to tick.
- Visualizing progress through dashboards to provide transparency and public access is critical but challenging to fund. Development partners, like ADB, can play a role in providing support.



Collaborative Governance and Networks

- Local governments should form partnerships with universities, civil society, and private sectors to create advisory committees for addressing complex challenges.
- ADB's role in connecting local governments with funding opportunities, technical expertise, and international networks is crucial for fostering collaboration.
- Expanding public-private partnerships (PPPs) will help finance and support long-term and sustainable smart city projects.



Infrastructure and Technology Integration

- Compatible digital platforms across government sectors are necessary to enhance cross-departmental collaboration and reduce redundancies.



Human-Centric and Participatory Design

- Smart cities should prioritize human needs over technology by involving citizens in decision-making and service design to enhance adoption and satisfaction.
- Sustainability and resilience should be core priorities, incorporating green infrastructure such as urban wetlands, green roofs, and water-sensitive designs.



Capacity Building and Skills Development

- Ongoing capacity building, combined with small-scale, short-term pilot projects, will help assess feasibility and readiness for scaling initiatives.
- Investment in AI education, vocational training, and digital literacy programs is essential for developing a skilled workforce and wider acceptance and willingness to incorporate smart technologies into one's daily life.



Privacy, Security, and Regulatory Frameworks

- Strengthening data protection laws, like the Personal Data Protection Law, is critical for creating a secure and trustworthy digital environment.
- Enhancing regulatory frameworks will address privacy concerns, build public trust, and enable smoother implementation of smart city technologies.

Post-event participant survey highlights

A post-event survey was conducted among the Leadership Academy participants to gain valuable insight and better inform future initiatives. The survey was completed by 23 respondents through an online platform.

- 52%** institutions are involved in ADB-funded projects
- 96%** reported improved knowledge on smart urban city planning
- 65%** found the event very insightful
- 65%** found the event content very relevant



Among the most appreciated moments:

An ecosystem approach to smart cities, presented by **Dr. Paul Rabé** (Erasmus University), with reciprocity between human and non-human actors.

The "Housing for All" serious game, facilitated by **Dr. Nelson Mota** (Delft University of Technology), exploring the balance between efficiency and livability.

A discussion by **Dr. Rizal Shidiq** (Leiden University) on responsive government apps to enhance life in smart cities.

Most requested topics for future event:

- Smart and Green Urban Infrastructure
- Waste Management
- Urban Renewal
- Dense Urban Environments
- Digital Transformation and Solutions (Cyber Security, e-Government)
- Digital Literacy
- AI and IoT
- Climate Change, Climate Resilience, and Disaster Management
- Smart City Planning and Standardizations
- Public Policy
- Community-driven Smart City Development