



إكسبو 2020  
دبي الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
DUBAI UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



المجلس العالمي  
WORLD MAJLIS

in collaboration with



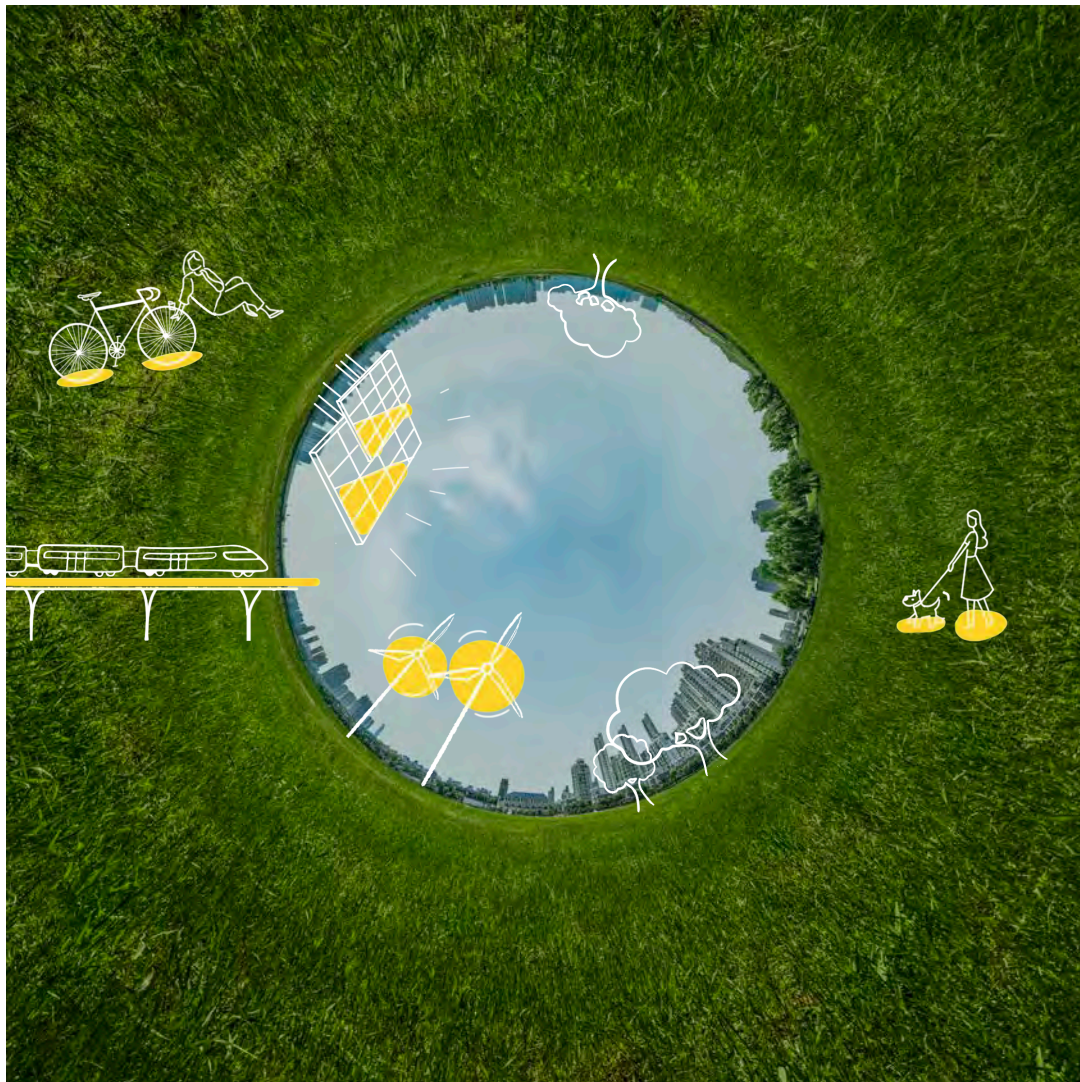
# Expo 2020 Dubai

PROGRAMME FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

## WORLD MAJLIS AGENDA

### URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK

31 October - 6 November 2021



## NATURAL CITIES

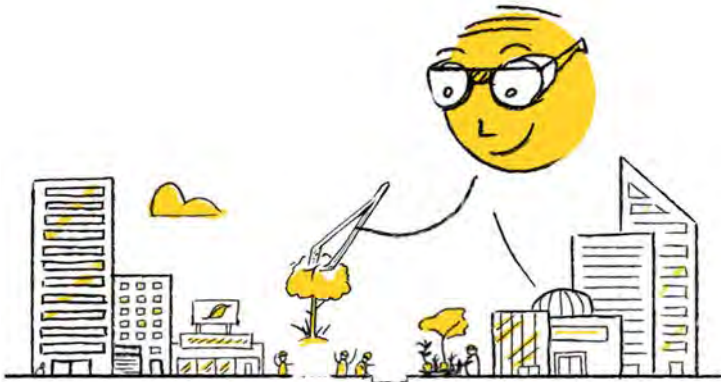
Preserving a Slice of Nature in our Urban Spaces

In collaboration with Singapore

**DATE** Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**TIME** 4.00 to 6.00 PM UAE

**VENUE** Terra - The Sustainability Pavilion



## THE CONVERSATION TOPIC

### NATURAL CITIES

#### Preserving a slice of nature in our urban spaces

As humanity becomes more of an urban species, more nature-centric urban planning approaches will be needed to help mitigate the impact of growing cities on our planet.

**G**rowing urban centres have become the ultimate and most visible example of the impact we have on the planet - places made by and for humans alone: Anthropocities.

Rampant urbanisation is taking its toll on ecosystems, biodiversity and human health. Estimates suggest that cities are responsible for 75 percent of global CO2 emissions, with transport and buildings being among the largest contributors. At the same time, cities are facing new threats from climate change, ranging from heat islands to flooding.

We cannot tackle these challenges without transforming the way we build and manage our cities. Urban planners are now increasingly approaching the city as a living ecosystem, in which the natural and the urban can coexist, become complementary and less mutually exclusive. Let's explore what is the paradigm shift in the "natural" cities of tomorrow.

Are nature and cities currently at odds with each other and how?

What are the benefits of bringing nature back to cities – health, social, cultural, economic and environmental?

How can we better integrate nature into our cities?

What inspiration can nature provide for urban planning and design?

**MODERATOR****EITHNE TREANOR****Managing Director, E Treanor Media**

Eithne Treanor is a professional conference moderator and international communications consultant. Having worked as a business TV reporter, her knowledge covers energy, technology, security, infrastructure, and leadership.

She is the managing director and founder of E Treanor Media based in Dubai, UAE. In recent months, she has moved her reporting and moderating skills on-line to facilitate a number of major global conferences.

As a former international broadcast journalist, her TV reporting experience spans major television networks including ABC News, Sky News, BBC World, Bloomberg and CNBC International.

She also provides dynamic and energetic bespoke media and presentation trainings for government officials, corporate executives and leaders. To meet client demand, her latest offering is moderator and webinar training to help people be more effective and impactful delivering conference content in the virtual world. Eithne has interviewed politicians, dignitaries, and high-ranking business people and has written and reported for television, radio and print publications.

**PARTICIPANTS****ROWAN D'ARCY****Studio Director – Dubai, ASPECT Studios, Australia/UAE**

Rowan is Studio Director of the MENA-region for ASPECT Studios – a global urban design and landscape architectural practice. He believes landscape architects and urbanists are uniquely positioned to create indelible connections with wild nature, in this region. He advocates for the positive benefits of resilient urban landscapes on social change, human well-being, ecological diversity and climatic sustainability.

Over the last decade and a half, Rowan has collaborated with diverse design teams from across the globe. Unearthing the endemic heritage, cultures and natural environs of places and interweaving them with client requirements, to deliver authentic places of meaning where people want to be. Determined to challenge the status quo and to develop as a designer, Rowan has forged a wide portfolio that spans landscape architectural, urban design and environmental projects globally, such as; the approach to the Jean Nouvel designed, Louvre Museum in Abu Dhabi.

As the lead of the ASPECT Studios Dubai team, he is currently engaged on a wide variety of social improvement, master planning and public realm schemes across the Middle East.

**KACEM EL HAJJI****Director of Operations, Zenata Development Company, Morocco**

Kacem El Hajji is an engineer, graduated from “Ecole Mohammedia des Ingénieurs” in Rabat (class of 1995). He also obtained a Master from “EHTP Casablanca – ENTP Lyon” in water management resources in 2001, then an MBA from “EHTP Casablanca – ENPC Paris” in 2010.

Mr El Hajji acquired a solid experience in public sector from working 15 years in water resources sector, especially the water basin Agency of Bouregreg-Chaouia that he left in 2011 as Division’s Head of Water Management Resources.

He started in “Société d’Aménagement Zenata” in 2011 as Project Director, then hold responsibility of Design and Technical Studies Department, and became Head of Operations in 2018.

Mr El Hajji was involved from the very early stages of the Zenata Eco city design and strategies; he supervised the urban studies and the design and implementation of the infrastructures. He also was involved in developing the overall Eco City framework and smart city strategy, and still supervising their implementation.



### LIM ENG HWEE

**Chief Executive Officer, Urban Redevelopment Authority, Singapore**

Mr Lim Eng Hwee is the Chief Executive Officer of the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) with effect from 1st September 2017. URA is Singapore's national planning agency, responsible for the physical planning and urban development of Singapore.

Mr Lim was formerly the Chief Planner and Deputy Chief Executive Officer of URA from 2009 to 2017. He has extensive experience in urban planning, urban design, implementation of land use policies and development initiatives. He also served in the Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Trade and Industry.

He served as a member in the Boards of Land Transport Authority, Singapore Cooperation Enterprise and Singapore Science Centre. He currently sits on the Boards of Singapore Tourism Board, National Environment Agency and the International Federation for Housing and Planning.

Mr Lim graduated with a Bachelor of Planning from the University of Auckland. He also holds a master's in public administration from the Harvard University and attended the Wharton Advanced Management Program at the University of Pennsylvania.



### BJORN LOW

**Executive Director, Co-founder, Edible Garden City, Singapore**

Bjorn Low is a practicing urban farmer and a social changemaker. He is an Ashoka fellow, a young leader of the World Cities Summit and the co-founder of Edible Garden City, an urban farming social enterprise. Bjorn's practice and research focuses on identifying the value that urban agriculture brings to the communities of highly dense and food import dependent cities such as Singapore. He has a keen interest at how the shifts in social ecology and demographic changes, and how the rapidly aging population present a new opportunity for urban care farms to play a bigger role in the rejuvenation of cities.



### JORGE PEREZ JARAMILLO

**Architect, Colombia**

He is an architect, planner and author based in Medellín, Colombia. He has practiced professionally since 1987.

He is advisor to the Governor of Antioquia for Planning and Habitat of Antioquia and member of the Scientific Committee for the Climate Emergency defined by the Governor in March 2020.

Pérez Jaramillo served as Medellín's Chief Planner between 2012 and 2015, was coordinator of the winning candidacy of the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize for Medellín 2015, was Mayor in charge in May 2013 and was also Planning Deputy director of the Metropolitan Area Aburrá valley Medellín, between 2004 and 2008.

He was selected by the Rockefeller Foundation to be a Resident Fellow at the Bellagio Center in Italy in August 2019, is a member of the UBUNTU Advisory Panel Group of the United Cities and Local Governments UCLG, is a senior consultant for the World Bank, was Visiting Fellow in King's College, Cambridge in 2017 and is guest professor in Institute of Urban and Regional Development IURD UC Berkeley 2017-2019.

He was Dean of the schools of architecture of UPB 1993-2001 and USTA 2018-2019 in Medellín, and professor in several universities. He is visiting professor in several universities in Colombia, USA, UK, and other countries.

He recently authored the book Medellín, urbanism and society (2019, Turner Editors Mexico-Madrid).



### **MAHRA SALEM ALSHAMSI**

**Head of the Urban Design section, Dubai Municipality, UAE**

Mahra Salem Alshamsi is the Head of the Urban Design section at Dubai Municipality.

Mahra Alshamsi was born and raised in Dubai. She is inspired by cities and their urban fabric. She believes that the knowledge of urban planning is a creative language that varies from one culture to another, but it always stresses flexibility and expressiveness.

Mahra is an architect by training. She joined Dubai Municipality in 2017 and has held many different responsibilities in within the planning and design sector.

She is also a member of Dubai Future Council on Future Cities and a member of Dubai's Executive Committee for UNESCO Creative Cities Network.



### **MUN SUMM WONG**

**Founding Director, Woha, Singapore**

Mun Summ Wong, together with Richard Hassell, co-founded the Singapore-based architectural practice WOHA in 1994. He is a Professor in Practice at the National University of Singapore, Department of Architecture. He sits on the Nominating Committee of the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize and other design advisory panels in Singapore.

WOHA work at all scales, from interiors and architecture to public space and master plans; their projects are living systems that connect to the city as a whole. With every project, the practice aims to create a matrix of interconnected human-scaled environments, incorporating biophilic design and integrated landscaping. These spaces foster community, enable stewardship of nature, generate biophilic beauty, activate ecosystem services and build resilience.

WOHA has accrued a varied portfolio of work and applies their systems thinking approach to architecture and urbanism in their building design as well as their regenerative masterplans. The practice has won a number of architectural awards, such as the 2019 Urban Habitat and Best Mixed-Use Building awards from the Council of Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH) and 2018 World Building of the Year for Kampung Admiralty and 2018 Best Tall Building Worldwide for the Oasia Hotel Downtown.



### **ASIF KHAN, MBE**

**Architect, UK**

Asif Khan is the designer of the Expo 2020 public realm including the widely publicised Expo Entry Portals. He founded his architecture office in 2007 to design buildings that weave together science, art and new human experience. Working internationally on a wide range of projects from museums and masterplans to landscapes to experimental structures. He has taught at the Royal College of Art, London and Musashino Art University, Japan.

Born in London to parents from Tanzanian and Pakistani backgrounds, he studied at the Architectural Association and Bartlett School of Architecture. His current portfolio of projects includes the New Museum of London, which is the largest cultural project in Europe. Also currently under construction are a Museum of Manuscripts in Sharjah and the Tselinny Centre of Contemporary Culture in Almaty, Kazakhstan which will open in 2022. Well known works include the UK Pavilion at Astana Expo in 2017, the Hyundai Pavilion at PyeongChang Winter Olympics in 2018 and the Coca-Cola Pavilion at London 2012 Olympics.

Asif was awarded Architect of the Year in 2018 by the German Design Council and received an MBE for services to Architecture in 2017. Asif is currently Deputy Chairman of the board of the Design Museum in London.



**VIDEO  
CONTRIBUTION**



## **DESMOND LEE**

**Minister for National Development, Singapore**

Mr Desmond Lee was elected a Member of Parliament (MP) for the West Coast Group Representation Constituency (GRC) in July 2020. Prior to that he served as an MP for Jurong GRC. He also served as a member of the Government Parliamentary Committees for Culture, Community and Youth, Home Affairs and Law and Social and Family Development.

Mr Lee is currently the Minister for National Development, and the Minister-in-Charge of Social Services Integration. He co-chairs the Singapore Together Movement, the Emerging Stronger Taskforce and the Future Economy Council Sub-Committee for the Built Environment. He also co-chairs the Singapore-Tianjin Economic and Trade Council, as well as the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city Joint Working Committee.

Mr Lee was first appointed as Minister of State for National Development in September 2013. After his re-election as MP for Jurong GRC in September 2015, Mr Lee was appointed as Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs and National Development. In 2017, he was appointed Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Home Affairs and National Development. Later in the same year, Mr Lee was appointed the Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister in the Ministry of National Development.

Mr Lee graduated in 2001 from the National University of Singapore with first class honours in law. He also holds a Masters degree in law from the University of Oxford.



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