

Press Release

21 March 2012

CITY OF NEW YORK AWARDED LEE KUAN YEW WORLD CITY PRIZE 2012

The Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize 2012 has been awarded to the Mayor of New York City, Michael Bloomberg (2002 – present) and the Departments of Transportation, City Planning and Parks and Recreation for New York City’s remarkable transformation from one at risk in the post September 11 period, to one scaling new heights. Within a short span of time, the city has reinvented and rejuvenated itself to give residents and tourists renewed confidence and optimism for the city’s future.

Jointly co-organised by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), Singapore’s land-use planning and conservation authority, and the Centre for Liveable Cities, the biennial international award honours outstanding contributions towards the creation of vibrant, liveable and sustainable urban communities around the world. The City of New York is the second Laureate named since the Prize started in 2009. It was selected by the Nominating Committee and Prize Council from 62 nominations received worldwide after a rigorous two-tier selection process.

Chairman of the Prize Nominating Committee, Kishore Mahbubani said: “The City of New York is an inspiring story of urban rejuvenation. With bold vision, strong leadership, sheer determination, and excellent partnership between government and citizens, there is now a new sense of direction in the city. It has regained its perch as one of the most exciting cities in the world.” Please see [Annex A](#) for the jury citation on the City of New York.

Mayor of New York City, Michael Bloomberg said: “Receiving the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize is not only a great honor, it is an affirmation of our vision for New York as a global leader of sustainable development and innovative public spaces. Our vision has been informed by the experiences of other cities around the world, including Singapore. New York is a city that is open – to all people,

commerce, and ideas – and we will continue to make our city an even more attractive place to live, work, and visit. We hope that our story helps inspire other city leaders to promote economic growth by fostering a culture of freedom and innovation.”

“We extend to Mayor Bloomberg our congratulations for a well-deserved commendation. Mayor Bloomberg, together with various agencies including the New York Departments of Transportation, City Planning and Parks and Recreation, have boldly executed and built on transformative initiatives in the city over the past decade. New York has emerged from a city in adversity to a city in continuous advance. Keppel is akin to the galvanising of collective strengths to rise above challenges with renewed vigour,” says Choo Chiau Beng, Chief Executive Officer of Keppel Corporation.

New York’s success factors

Central to the New York city’s success is the swift and effective implementation of the PlaNYC 2007, a long-term, comprehensive plan that aligns city agencies, business groups and the community towards a common goal. One of the key strategies underlying New York’s successful transformation in the last decade is the investment in public infrastructure to increase liveability and sustainability. Improvements have been made to encourage sustainable modes of public transport, such as the Bus Rapid Transit and bicycling. 700 acres (283 hectares) of parks and open spaces have been added in the last 10 years, bringing the total parkland to 29,000 acres (11,736 hectares).

More significantly, the city has displayed a great level of experimentation and innovation with an emphasis on practical urban solutions. Instead of developing on new sites, more than 35,270 square metres of roadways and underutilised spaces have been repurposed into ‘instant’ public plazas. Innovative zoning tools have also unlocked development potential of derelict industrial sites to create housing, office spaces, parks and waterfront promenades.

New York City is an excellent example of how persistence, determination, commitment and strong partnership with the community can turn visions into reality. It serves as a model for other global, high-density megacities to rethink their cities in terms of sustainability into the future.

Please refer to [Annex B](#) for New York City's key strategies and achievements.

Six Special Mentions

In addition to the City of New York being named the 2012 Prize Laureate, six other cities and organisations have been identified for Special Mention. These Special Mentions showcase the high quality of the nominations and is an opportunity to facilitate the sharing of best practices in cities. They are (according to alphabetical order):

1. Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, Ahmedabad, India
2. AHT Group AG & SUN Development, Khayelitsha, Cape Town, South Africa
3. Brisbane City Council – Urban Renewal Brisbane, Brisbane, Australia
4. City of Copenhagen (and Lord Mayor), Copenhagen, Denmark
5. City of Malmö, Sweden
6. City of Vancouver, British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Please refer to [Annex C](#) for details about the Special Mentions.

Prize Award Ceremony at World Cities Summit

The Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize is a major highlight of the upcoming World Cities Summit from 1 to 4 July 2012. The Laureate will receive the Prize at the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Award Ceremony to be held on 2 July 2012. The Prize comprises of S\$300,000 (about US\$218,000) cash, a gold medallion and an award certificate, fully sponsored by Keppel Corporation. Please see [Annex D](#) for more details on the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize.

The World Cities Summit is a premier global platform for world leaders and experts to exchange new ideas on liveable and sustainable urban solutions, explore the

latest technologies and forge new business partnerships. Based on the theme of “Liveable And Sustainable Cities – Integrated Urban Solutions”, the third edition of the Summit is expected to share new insights and trends on urbanisation challenges around the world. For more information, visit www.worldcitiesummit.com.sg

New Prize book on best practices

A new publication presenting the key lessons and insights from the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Laureates and Special Mentions in 2010 and 2012 will be on sale from 2 July 2012, in conjunction with the World Cities Summit 2012. Please check the Prize website at www.leekuanyewworldcityprize.com.sg for the latest details.

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**LEE KUAN YEW WORLD CITY PRIZE LAUREATE 2012
JURY CITATION ON THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

The Honourable Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York, and the Departments of Transportation, City Planning and Parks and Recreation are recognised for strategically orchestrating the remarkable transformation of New York City over the last decade. 2001 was a traumatic point in which the city suffered a sense of loss and uncertainty. Under the Mayor's visionary leadership, New York faced that adversity by defining a bold vision for its future, such that within years the city had not only recovered but had grown better than before. Embracing its complexity, density and diversity, the city witnessed a marked increase in the quality of life in a short span of time. Building on the foundation of crime reduction and other urban initiatives of earlier administrations, the leadership of Mayor Bloomberg and his commissioners have altered the landscape and notably renewed confidence and optimism among New Yorkers for their city's future.

New York City's successful reinvention and rejuvenation is framed by the effective and efficient implementation of the actions set out in *PlaNYC* - a holistic and interdisciplinary blueprint for a greater and greener New York. This forward-looking set of interdependent strategies charts the city's future to 2030 by integrating disciplines such as land use planning, transportation investment, environmental stewardship, and public health in one document. It addresses the challenges of accommodating another one million residents and new 21st century jobs to the city's population and workforce, renewing the city's physical infrastructure and preparing for climate change. *PlaNYC*'s comprehensive set of strategies, while focused on outcomes for the year 2030, also sets specific short-term milestones for intended progress on a variety of metrics ranging from numbers of trees planted to hectares of contaminated land remediated to benchmarking for energy efficiency to improvements in air and water quality. Many of these initiatives cumulatively contribute toward the overarching goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030. Progress on all initiatives including this overall goal is measured and publicly published each year.

Recognising the importance of improving existing urban systems and creating new public infrastructure at the city-wide level to secure its future, the city takes the lead in strategic capital investment as an imperative to generate catalytic benefits for the city. Today more than 700 acres (283 hectares) of parks and 450km of bicycles lanes have been installed. Specific examples include the reuse and repurposing of the city's industrial waterfront into a dynamic and sustainable park as embodied in Brooklyn Bridge Park. By demonstrating a high level of commitment and capital investment, business confidence has been boosted and has in turn restored citizens' faith in their city. The decision to legislate *PlaNYC* for review every four years to chart the city's future further displays exemplary foresight. Institutionalising key processes and mandating their continual measurement ensures longevity of the plan and that strategic objectives will be met over the long-run.

The administration is highly commended for the strong political will that is spearheading change in the city and in the mindset of its residents. The capacity for dialogue between government and civic groups also synergises efforts and allows creative ideas to take root. This is exemplified in bottom-up, high-impact initiatives such as the High Line, where neighbourhoods are renewed and beneficial effects stimulate the city's economy. Underutilised spaces and roads have also been carefully transformed with limited funds into plazas for the public's enjoyment. Partnerships with community and business groups not only help to maintain the spaces, but foster a sense of ownership. This has significantly lifted the quality of life in an urban environment.

The city's transformation is a testament to the dynamic leadership of Mayor Bloomberg, the Departments of Transportation, City Planning and Parks and Recreation, as well as other city agencies, and to the dedicated partnership between the city and its stakeholders to implement a shared vision for the city. It serves as an inspiring model for other mature, high-density global cities to reframe their future in terms of sustainability and offers many innovative and replicable solutions for cities around the world.

**LEE KUAN YEW WORLD CITY PRIZE LAUREATE 2012
NEW YORK CITY'S KEY STRATEGIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

The City of New York has been named the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Laureate for 2012 for its remarkable transformation over the last decade. The Mayor of New York City, Michael Bloomberg (2002 – present) and the Departments of Transportation, City Planning and Parks and Recreation are credited for turning the city around from one at risk in the post September 11 period, to one scaling new heights. Within a short span of time, the city has reinvented and rejuvenated itself to give residents and tourists renewed confidence and optimism for the city's future.

Central to its success is the swift and effective implementation of the long-term, comprehensive plan (*PlaNYC 2007*) that clearly sets out a common vision of sustainability, aligning city agencies, business groups and the community towards a shared goal. Efforts have focused on improving infrastructure, reclaiming abandoned industrial sites for development, renovating old and creating new parks and public spaces, improving and increasing sustainable transportation options, and spearheading economic opportunities. Nearly all of the 127 initiatives in *PlaNYC* have been actively followed through, with two-thirds on schedule or ahead of time.

A greener New York

One of the key strategies underlying New York's successful transformation in the last decade is the investment in public infrastructure to increase liveability and sustainability. Improvements have been made to encourage sustainable modes of public transport, such as the Bus Rapid Transit and bicycling. Since 2007, 450 km of bicycle lanes have been built and cycling occupies 1% of commuter trips made, an increase of two times from 2005. 700 acres (283 hectares) of parks and open spaces have been added in the last 10 years, bringing the total parkland to 29,000 acres (11,736 hectares). 84% of New Yorkers live within 10 minutes walk of a park. More than 500,000 trees have been planted. As a result of promoting more efficient buildings, clean energy supply and sustainable transport, carbon emissions have been reduced by 13% below 2005 levels.

Reimagining spaces, unlocking derelict sites

More significantly, the city has displayed a great level of experimentation, innovation with an emphasis on practical urban solutions. Instead of developing on new sites, more than 35,270 square metres of roadways and underutilised spaces have been repurposed into ‘instant’ public plazas. Innovative zoning tools have also unlocked development potential of derelict industrial sites to create housing and office spaces and parks and waterfront promenades.

West Chelsea is a model of how rezoning can unlock development potential – the area is now an international draw with the iconic High Line. It is also an example of a bottoms-up community-led initiative. This elevated rail line was constructed 30 feet in the air in 1930 to provide freight access to former bustling industries. It ceased operation in 1980 and was scheduled for demolition. A not-for-profit organisation – ‘Friends of the High Line’ - was founded by two individuals to campaign for its preservation and reuse as an open park. The Bloomberg administration saw the value of the project, supporting it. The Department of City Planning worked together with the community in preserving the district and its identity whilst spurring development. The park opened to the public in 2009 and has revitalised the district, attracting \$2 billion worth of private investment and creating 43 new buildings in the area with 1,400 housing units and 700,000 square feet of commercial space.

Visionary leadership & partnership

Mayor Michael Bloomberg has been instrumental in the formulation of the long-term sustainable vision for the city and the implementation of *PlaNYC*. As a successful businessman himself, he runs the city in business-like fashion, seeding an open-minded culture and fostering experimentation of innovative and practical urban solutions while keeping to a strict budget (surpluses were recorded four years in a row from 2007). The Mayor also leads by example by taking the subway to work daily.

The administration’s strength lies in the capable and dedicated Commissioners who lead key City departments. The Departments of Transportation, City Planning, and Parks and Recreation are all critical to the implementation of *PlaNYC*. The agencies have partnered community organisations and the public to achieve a high level of

integration and successful tangible outcomes. For example, more than 8,000 volunteers assisted in planting more than one-third of the 500,000 trees placed under the city's *MillionTreesNYC* public-private programme.

Inspiring story for all

As a result of the city's transformation, New Yorkers have enjoyed a significant increase in the quality of life in the past decade. A significant 35 % drop in crime rate since 2001 means the city's streets are safer. Air quality has improved tremendously. Promoting the use of cleaner burning fuels and replacing and retrofitting vehicles has reduced emissions from both buildings and vehicles. More than half a million trees have been planted across all neighbourhoods.

New York City is an excellent example of how persistence, determination, commitment and strong partnership with the community can help attain goals and turn visions into reality. By keeping an open-mind and a willingness to accept and support citizen-led initiatives, the administration fosters a sense of ownership of the city and sends a message that residents can take charge of their lives. New York City serves as a model for other global, high-density megacities to rethink their cities in terms of sustainability into the future. It offers many innovative and replicable solutions for all cities to join them in a greener, greater and brighter future.

LEE KUAN YEW WORLD CITY PRIZE SPECIAL MENTIONS 2012

In addition to the City of New York being named the 2012 Prize Laureate, six other organisations and cities have been identified for Special Mention. These Special Mentions showcase the high quality of the nominations and is an opportunity to facilitate the sharing of best practices in cities. They are (according to alphabetical order):

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5. City of Malmö, Sweden
6. City of Vancouver, British Columbia/Vancouver, Canada

1. Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), Ahmedabad, India

Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) is recognised for its early successes in implementing a comprehensive City Development Plan that seeks to transform India's seventh largest city into a more liveable metropolis. Ahmedabad's first sign of dramatic transformation serves as an inspiration to other cities seeking to rise above pollution problems, worsening traffic conditions and a lack of affordable housing.

AMC's city plan covers four key areas: unlock land potential through urban reform; invest in environment and infrastructure; ensure inclusive development to address issues of the urban poor beyond basic needs; and capacity building and institutional strengthening. One early success is the development of the Bus Rapid Transit System that has helped to address the public transportation needs of a burgeoning population. Another success is the redevelopment of the Kankaria Lake in 2008. This former dilapidated and polluted royal bathing ground has been transformed into a vibrant, cultural and recreation centre after environmental improvements, re-organisation of traffic movement and a rehabilitation of food vendors in the area.

2. AHT Group AG & SUN Development, Khayelitsha, Cape Town, South Africa

AHT Group AG & SUN Development is recognised for its exceptional efforts in running a successful Urban Upgrading (VPUU) Programme that has significantly enhanced the personal safety of residents in the Township of Khayelitsha, Cape Town, South Africa. While the Prize focuses more on holistic city-level approach, this exemplary initiative offers important lessons for other cities facing similar problems.

The VPUU Programme effectively addresses personal safety through relatively simple and cost-effective urban design measures. It affirms the positive value of good design in improving the basic quality of life. Key to its success is the support of residents from extensive consultations. The programme is already accepted by Cape Town and will soon be implemented in other South African cities.

3. Brisbane City Council - Urban Renewal Brisbane (URB), Brisbane, Australia

Brisbane City Council's Urban Renewal Brisbane (URB) agency is recognised for its significant role in transforming what was once a 'country town' blighted by sprawl and urban decay into a culturally vibrant metropolis. Over the past 20 years, URB's sustained initiatives have successfully revived local economies and inner-city living by regenerating derelict industrial sites and revitalising the city's neglected riverfront.

Former industrial and warehouse areas in the Central Business District fringe and along the Brisbane River are now highly attractive, lively neighbourhoods of mixed-use that embrace and enhance the area's industrial built heritage. By co-funding exemplary demonstration and catalyst projects, the city has fostered confidence and buy-in from the market and this, in turn, has changed attitudes towards higher-density living, city growth and urban renewal. URB continues to play a key role in implementing Brisbane's strategic vision of pursuing a realistic alternative to the Australian tradition of suburban sprawl.

4. & 5. City of Copenhagen (and Lord Mayor), Copenhagen, Denmark and City of Malmö, Sweden

The cities of Copenhagen in Denmark and Malmö in Sweden were nominated separately, yet the jury felt that they deserved a joint commendation due to their close collaboration at government and business levels, and shared vision.

Since 2000, the cities have been linked by the Öresund Bridge, the longest road and rail bridge in Europe, which embodies their successful collaboration on infrastructure projects. By pooling resources and sharing public infrastructure, such as the Copenhagen Airport and the Copenhagen-Malmö Port, both cities achieve benefits at multiple scales, generate greater economic vitality in the region and extend their influence beyond national boundaries. Both cities continue to push for even more sustainable developments through active dialogues and with a clear vision and a strong commitment to integrated and comprehensive strategic long-term planning.

6. City of Vancouver, British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

The City of Vancouver is an exemplary demonstration of strong visioning, community values and long-term planning. Over the last 40 years the city showed foresight and boldness in resisting two of the major North American urban trends – the introduction of freeways into the city centre and the loss of residents to the suburbs. Instead, the city embarked on an inner-city densification process supported by innovative planning, which has contributed to a more liveable and vibrant city life.

Today, the city is characterised by exceptional urban design that accentuates its surrounding. For instance, building heights are controlled to maintain views of the mountainous skyline and ocean backdrop. In addition, neighbourhoods are carefully designed to allow the seamless flow of private, social and green spaces, encouraging the diffusion of vibrancy and appreciation of the outdoors.

LEE KUAN WORLD CITY PRIZE
www.leekuanworldcityprize.com.sg

The Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize is a biennial international award that honours outstanding contributions towards the creation of vibrant, liveable and sustainable urban communities around the world. It recognises individuals and organisations responsible for urban initiatives that display foresight, good governance or innovation in tackling the many urban challenges faced by cities. These urban initiatives can include (but are not limited to) urban planning projects, urban policies and programmes, urban management, as well as applied technology in urban solutions.

These urban initiatives should incorporate principles of sustainable development and demonstrate an ability to bring social, economic and environmental benefits in a holistic way to communities around the world. The Prize also places an emphasis on practical and cost effective solutions and ideas that can be easily replicated across cities.

The Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Laureate will be presented with an award certificate, a gold medallion and a cash prize of S\$300,000 (about US\$218,000), sponsored by Keppel Corporation. The Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize is named after Singapore's first Prime Minister who is instrumental in transforming Singapore into a distinctive, clean and green garden city within a few decades.

Selection process

All eligible nominations submitted will be reviewed through a rigorous two-tier selection process made up of both the Prize Council and Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will review and examine all submitted nominations and recommend potential Laureates to the Prize Council. The Prize Council will then review and select the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Laureate based on the recommendations.

Both panels consist of prominent practitioners, policy makers, academics and experts from a wide range of disciplines in the public and private sectors. Each panel consists of a Chairperson and five members.

Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Jury Panels

Nominating Committee	Prize Council
Professor Kishore Mahbubani Dean, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore (Chairperson)	Mr S Dhanabalan Chairman, Temasek Holdings, Singapore (Chairperson)
Sir Peter Hall Professor of Planning & Regeneration, Bartlett School of Architecture & Planning University College, London UK	Mr J Y Pillay Chairman, Council of Presidential Advisers, Singapore
Professor Marilyn Jordan Taylor Dean of School of Design University of Pennsylvania, USA	Mr Achim Steiner Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Germany
Mrs Cheong Koon Hean Chief Executive Officer, Housing & Development Board, Singapore	Dr Pierre Laconte Immediate Past President, International Society of City & Regional Planners (ISOCARP), Belgium
Dr Alfonso Vegara President, Fundación Metrópoli, Spain	Prof Fumihiko Maki Principal, Maki & Associates, Japan
Dr Liu Thai Ker Director, RSP Architects Planners & Engineers Pte Ltd, Singapore	Dr John So Former Lord Mayor, Melbourne, Australia

The Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize was officially launched on 22 June 2009. Bilbao City Hall was named the inaugural Prize Laureate in 2010, in recognition of its integrated and holistic approach in urban transformation.

World Cities Summit

The Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize is a major highlight of the upcoming World Cities Summit from 1 to 4 July 2012. The 2012 Laureate will receive the Prize at the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Award Ceremony to be held on 2 July 2012. The

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The Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize is co-organised by the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Singapore and the Centre for Liveable Cities.

Urban Redevelopment Authority of Singapore (URA)

The Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) is Singapore’s national land use planning and conservation agency. URA’s mission is “to make Singapore a great city to live, work and play in”. We strive to create a vibrant and sustainable city of distinction by planning and facilitating Singapore’s physical development in partnership with the community.

The URA has successfully transformed Singapore into one of the most liveable cities in Asia through judicious land use planning and good urban design, in partnership with both public sector partners and the private sector. URA adopts a long term and comprehensive planning approach in formulating strategic plans such as the Concept Plan and the Master Plan, to guide the physical development of Singapore in a sustainable manner. Its plans and policies focus on achieving a balance between economic growth and a quality living environment. As the conservation authority, URA has an internationally recognised conservation programme, having successfully conserved not only single buildings, but entire districts.

To turn its plans and visions into reality, URA takes on a multi faceted role. In addition to its planning function, URA is also the main government land sales agent. Through sale of state land, it attracts and channels private capital investment to

develop sites to meet our land use needs. URA is also the development agency for Marina Bay, the new city extension. To create an exciting cityscape, URA also actively promotes architecture and urban design excellence. For more information, please visit us at www.ura.gov.sg

Centre for Liveable Cities

The Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC) was jointly established by the Ministry of National Development and the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources in June 2008. The CLC is a policy-oriented Centre that seeks to bring together Singapore's expertise on sustainable urban development in the areas of good governance, urban planning, effective resource management, quality living environment, affordable housing and sustainable transport solutions from across government, industry and academia. The Centre will facilitate the sharing of knowledge and best practices among cities in the region and globally.

The CLC's vision is to be a centre of global excellence that brings together the best ideas and practices that support efforts in building liveable cities that are dynamic, vibrant, cohesive and sustainable. CLC seeks to achieve this vision through its mission which is to harness developmental experiences across the public, private and people sectors from Singapore and the rest of the world in order to position Singapore as an innovative thought-centre on high-density urban living and sustainable development.

For more information, please visit us at www.clc.org.sg

Keppel Corporation

Keppel Corporation is a Singapore-grown conglomerate with key businesses in Offshore & Marine, Property and Infrastructure and a global footprint in 35 countries. Keppel Offshore & Marine is a leader in offshore rigs, ship repair and conversion and specialised shipbuilding with a global network of 20 yards and offices. Integrating the experience and expertise of its yards worldwide, it aims to be the provider of choice and partner in solutions for the offshore and marine industry.

Keppel Land is a premier multi-national corporation with projects across Asia Pacific and the Middle East providing urban living solutions through twin core businesses of property development and property fund management. Keppel Land is committed to create live-work-play environments with hallmark excellence in its properties which will have enduring value to the community.

Keppel's Infrastructure Division comprises environmental engineering, power generation, telecommunications and logistics. Keppel Integrated Engineering is a leading provider of comprehensive environmental solutions and services. Keppel Energy has a track record of developing, owning and operating power plants. Keppel Telecommunications and Transportation provides integrated logistics and network engineering services.

As it continues to expand its global presence and penetrate new frontiers, Keppel is committed to its three corporate thrusts of Sustaining Growth in its key businesses, Empowering Lives through continuous training and development, and Nurturing Communities in the countries where it operates.

For more information, please visit www.kepcorp.com