An invitation for Southeast Asian cities to participate in the Safe and Sound Cities (S²Cities) program Year 2

To our partners in development,

**What is the Safe and Sound (S²Cities) Program?**

The S²Cities Program is a global program aiming to improve the safety and wellbeing of young people in urban environments. The program aims to work with at least 5 secondary cities over the coming years to better understand urban systems and their influence on safety and wellbeing; build capacity within these systems; and enable youth innovation to solve key challenges for safer urban environments. The program will also establish a global learning network of cities, thought leaders, and practitioners to foster better understanding of urban safety for young people.

**Why should your city participate?**

By participating in the S²Cities Program, your city will be supported in improving urban safety for young people. The program will create an exciting and new way for city officials to engage with young people, enabling better understanding of urban safety and what needs to be done to improve it.

**What will participating cities receive?**

Participating cities will receive the following support:

- Support in the establishment of a youth hub
- Expert analysis of urban safety status quo
- Training and capacity development of city staff in understanding urban safety and youth engagement
- Participation in an annual youth innovation challenge and award program
- Access to a global learning network

Note that the program will **not** be providing direct financial contributions to cities.

**What will participating cities need to contribute?**

Participating cities will be asked to contribute the following:

- Willingness to participate in the project via a Memorandum of Understanding
- Appointment of a focal person (must be permanent/regular staff), to take the role of “chief youth safety officer”
- Engagement of the focal person and other relevant city staff in...
training and capacity building
- Provide the use of a city's physical space as the "youth hub" for program activities during the whole duration of the program
- Cooperation in the creation of an urban safety analysis
- A municipal budget assigned to the implementation of young people's innovations for safety improvement (each city defines their own budget, according to their needs and capacities).

How can your city get involved?

2022 Q4 Apply to join as a participating city (3 spots currently available) by 19 August 2022. Please note that as of writing, the inclusion of Philippine cities in the project is not yet approved and guaranteed.

2024 – 2025 Join in a later application round (5 spots currently available).

Get in touch with us directly to let us know if you are interested via iclei-sea@iclei.org. We will then ask you to submit a letter of interest using the attached Annex 1 Expression of Interest template detailing your interest, commitment, and contribution to the program. We also ask you to answer the attached Annex 2 Questionnaire to help facilitate the assessment of your application. **The deadline for the submission of the accomplished Expression of Interest and Questionnaire to iclei-sea@iclei.org will be on 19 August 2022.**

Thank-you for your attention, we look forward to working with you to build a safer future for young people globally!

The S²Cities program is an initiative proudly led by Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation, in partnership with ICLEI, hosted by Swiss Philanthropy Foundation, with the support of Fondation Botnar.

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