



Recent Smart City Activities

2019 WBG Youth Summit on “Smarter Cities for a Resilient Future”

The Youth Summit was held on December 2-3, 2019 at the World Bank's head quarter. Established in 2013, the Youth Summit is an annual event hosted by the World Bank Group (WBG) to engage with youth globally on the most pressing topics facing our generation.

The theme of this year was [Smarter Cities for a Resilient Future](#). 885 young entrepreneurs from across 98 joined the competition searching answers to the following questions:

1. How do we tackle climate change and pollution in urban spaces; and
2. How do we ensure the inclusion of the urban poor (socially, politically, economically) in the growth and digitalization of cities?

Madhav Datt and Kaushal Shetty won the Audience Award with the [Box by Green the Gene Project](#) from India. The Jury Award went to Hope Ndhlovu for their [Tuveri Project](#) from Zimbabwe.



President David Malpass gave the opening remarks at the Youth Summit [Watch the recording here](#).

Barcelona Smart City Study Tour: Smart City Expo World Congress, City Solutions Workshop, & MOU with Barcelona

A delegation from the World Bank's Urban, DRM, Resilience and Land Global Practice (GPURL) and IFC traveled to Barcelona from November 18-21, 2019 to engage and organize several activities regarding the topic of Smart

Cities. During this visit, the delegation participated in the [Smart City Expo World Congress \(SCEWC\)](#) 2019 - one of the largest smart city organizations in the world with representatives of over 50 countries attending. GPURL Global Director Sameh Wahba was one of the speakers of the Plenary Session on “Our Greatest Challenge: Making a More Inclusive Urban World”. He also presented in the Tech Talk on Building Resilient Cities session.

In partnership with SCEWC, the World Bank team also organized the 2nd City Solutions Workshop in Barcelona. The interactive session convened smart city experts and practitioners from leading cities and institutions to co-create solutions to the smart city challenges of Izmir.

Additionally, the World Bank delegates - in collaboration with Dutch delegates organised a round table on “Smart Cities, Smart Ecosystems: Explore the Future Together” to discuss and exchange equal pressing issues. Last but not least, a site visit to the Smart City initiatives of Barcelona was organized where the attendants had a chance to interact with city officials on smart city issues.

An MOU was signed with the City of Barcelona to continue the partnership related to knowledge sharing on urban innovation, smart cities and use of technology in the urban context to address city challenges and increase citizen engagement.



Interview: Policies that can enable the creation of denser cities may be fiscal but also administrative

Sameh Wahba's interview with the SmartCity Lab

During his participation in Smart City Expo World Congress 2019, Sameh Wahba, the Global Director for Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice, was interviewed by Smart City Lab to discuss the factors involved in the resilience of cities, a concept that is becoming increasingly relevant around the world.

[Read more...](#)

Blog: Smarter cities for an inclusive, resilient future

by Sameh Wahba

Technology is a critical enabler to help facilitate inclusion through: citizen participation, better targeting of government support and universal access to services, tailoring services for the community, and democratizing access to city policymakers.

[Read more..](#)

External Events

- [International Conference on Smart Cities and Sustainable Solutions ICSCSS on January 13-14, 2020 - Zurich](#)
- [4th Annual Smart Cities International Symposium & Exhibition, January 21-22, 2020 - Chicago](#)
- [Connected Smart Cities & Communities Conference \(CSCC\), January 22, 2020 - Brussels](#)

In the News

['Smart cities' urged to look beyond rich, white men](#)

Cities on a digital path to a greener future risk excluding the poor, elderly and disabled - and women need a bigger voice as well

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