



United Nations

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Shanghai 2010 World Exposition Executive Committee

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Shanghai Manual

A Guide for Sustainable Urban
Development of the 21st Century



城市,让生活更美好
Better City, Better Life

Shanghai Manual

**A Guide for Sustainable Urban Development
in the 21st Century**

FOREWORD – UNITED NATIONS

The Shanghai Manual for Better Cities is a concrete outcome of the World Expo 2010, Shanghai, China - Better City, Better Life. It is a product of fruitful collaboration between the Municipal Government of Shanghai, the Bureau International des Exhibitions and the United Nations. It addresses one of the most pressing challenges of our time – how to foster sustainable, livable and harmonious cities.

The World Expo 2010 Shanghai provided not only a platform for exhibitions and cultural exchanges, but also a forum where broad-ranging discussions on themes central to sustainable development took place and practical solutions to problems explored, based on lessons learned and best practices. I wish to commend United Nations agencies and Chinese partners that collaborated during the Expo in organizing thematic forums on sustainable urban development. At those forums, we received the insights of renowned academics, experts and practitioners, innovative ideas of business leaders, and the visions of mayors for the cities of tomorrow. This wealth of knowledge and experience has been truly enriching. The aim of this Manual is to support mayors and urban managers as they try to foster sustainable urban development in their communities. Through this Manual we seek to place effective policy tools and best practices at their disposal. This support is essential because cities are at the forefront of finding and testing development solutions. Cities are the most vibrant centres of human energy and creativity. They are at the nexus of new ideas, innovation and the knowledge economy. Moreover, cities are at the leading edge of efforts to address the challenges of climate change, and it is in cities that initiatives of the new green economy are being piloted.

Let us work together to implement forward-looking strategies of our cities with our combined dedication and vigour. It is our hope that with feedback and inputs from mayors, urban planners and managers, this Manual will become a living document, to be revised and improved while incorporating new visions, lessons learned and best practices.

Sha Zukang
Under-Secretary-General
Secretary-General for the Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

FOREWORD – BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DES EXPOSITIONS

A World Expo has as its ultimate goal the creation of a lasting legacy of education, innovation and cooperation. The success of such an event lies in the significance of the material and the intangible opportunities that are created for both the host city and country and for its ability to resonate beyond borders and people. In this sense, Shanghai 2010 was an outstanding event and this manual is one example of the spirit that drove it.

By selecting a theme such as *Better City, Better Life*, Shanghai 2010 was able to create a powerful virtuous cycle where the theme and of the universal objectives of Expos (i.e. to help create better cities) were one and the same. This choice has produced a powerful effect, where the messages and contents of the theme were amplified by the staging of the Expo itself, and, in turn, the Expo could be better appreciated for its direct contribution to the development of better urban environments.

This manual is an important and novel outcome of the legacy of Shanghai 2010. It fulfils the joint aspiration of the UN, the organizers of Shanghai 2010 and the BIE to work together to distil the lessons and the outcomes developed both within and beyond Expo 2010. With the view to maintain the same inclusive attitude of Shanghai 2010 - which for the first time in the history of Expos has invited cities to participate along national governments - this manual has included best practices that were not presented within the site or the forums of Expo 2010.

For this reason the BIE is indebted to both the UN, the City of Shanghai and the Chinese governments for working together to develop a framework and a set of materials that would foster and promote a better understanding of the objectives and values of Expos in general and of the achievements of Shanghai 2010 in particular.

While the UN has traditionally participated in Expos, in Shanghai 2010, for the first time it played an active role in orchestrating a global dialogue for the construction of better cities. To this end, it joined the Expo organizers and the BIE to co-organize the high profile international forums and to prepare the Shanghai Declaration. The depth of expertise and the reach of the UN were critical assets to help create the foundations for a lasting legacy of cooperation on urban sustainable development connected to Shanghai 2010.

When our organizations first discussed the idea of this manual, there was an agreement that the international community had failed to implement many of the social,

environmental and economic goals and objectives that were agreed upon within major international conferences. With this manual, our wish is to provide a concrete and practical contribution to fill a need of better training, knowledge sharing and expertise and to support urban managers in the decision-making process that helps achieve greater quality of life in their city and beyond.

Vicente González Loscertales
Secretary General

FOREWORD – CITY OF SHANGHAI

World Expo 2010 Shanghai China was a magnificent gathering of human civilizations. Built around the theme of *Better City, Better Life*, it championed the Expo concept of understanding, communication, gathering and cooperation and created a fascinating kaleidoscope of world civilizations. It will be marked in history as a successful, wonderful and unforgettable World Expo.

Expo Shanghai left behind a rich heritage. Through exhibitions, forums and various activities, participants showcased their achievements, shared urban best practices, disseminated advanced urban management concepts and arrived at important consensus. Eco-friendly, green and low carbon development is gaining new ground after having been put under the spotlight and into practice at the Expo. Meanwhile, technological innovation, sustainable development and the call for making the earth a better place have become our common aspiration, all of which are going to impact cities of the future in greater breadth and depth.

UN agencies, the BIE and Chinese scholars spent over one year putting together intellectual legacies of Expo Shanghai, and their hard work crystallized into this Shanghai Manual. Aiming at promoting Expo values, it details the experiences and practices of cities across the world in addressing common challenges and achieving harmonious development based on a wide selection of Expo cases, and is therefore of great theoretical and practical value. It is my belief that the Manual will pass on the Expo legacies and become a guidebook for city authorities and researchers over the world in their quest for innovative models of urban development, economic efficiency, eco-friendliness as well as social justice and harmony.

Han Zheng
Mayor of Shanghai

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