

Urban Infrastructure Initiative

Author: Matthew Lynch

Co-Chair Companies	Country
CEMEX	Mexico
GDF SUEZ	France
Siemens	Germany
Core Group Companies	Country
Acciona	Spain
AECOM	USA
AGC	Japan
EDF	France
Honda	Japan
Nissan	Japan
Philips	The Netherlands
Schneider Electric	France
TNT Express	The Netherlands
Toyota	Japan
United Technologies Corporation	USA

CONTEXT

- By 2050, more than 70% of the global population will live in cities. The scale of urbanization we will go through in the next two decades is unprecedented in human history. Cities and megacities are the future, and the sustainability battle will be won – or lost - there.
- Business plays a critical role in making cities more sustainable, as a key stakeholder in an integrated approach to identify cost-effective solutions to complex urban sustainability challenges.
- Businesses have traditionally worked with cities late in the planning/implementation life cycle where the opportunities to drive innovation and new solutions are limited. Business and cities need to develop new models to work together early in the planning process to realize the full capability of business to deliver innovative solutions.
- The UII has demonstrated the value of early involvement of a multi-sector group of businesses by working on the ground with 8 cities around the world in different economic, social, developmental and cultural contexts. The success of the UII makes a clear case for all cities to consider engaging with business early in the planning process to fully leverage the critical capability of business to deliver innovative solutions and to help cities and citizens make better decisions.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- Completion of four city transformation studies (Guadalajara, Kobe, Yixing & Philadelphia), with reports either completed or near-completion.
- Final transformation study workshop with sub-Saharan African cities now scheduled for May 2013.

OUTLOOK

- Publication of the five remaining transformation study reports.
- Publication of the final UII report with a supporting UII Video.
- Implementation of a comprehensive communications plan to ensure the key messages of the UII are communicated to the initiative's target audiences (primarily the leadership of the world's cities).
- Scoping of the next phase of work on sustainable cities will be launched at the Montreux meeting. The scoping process will examine in particular the linkages between the Action2020 Agenda and urban sustainability:
 - A key test of the quality and value of final revision of Vision 2050 will be how clearly it responds to complex, cross-cutting urban agenda. This agenda cuts right across the entire Vision 2050 Pathways. This includes obvious connections (mobility, buildings etc) but also pathways such as agriculture and forestry (already 80%+ of these resources are already consumed in cities).
 - The 'must haves' for sustainable cities will likely be a combination of sectoral must-haves (under the current pathways) combined with at least one over-arching objective for sustainable urban development (particularly for new urban expansion/extensions – critical for the fast growing cities of the developing world).