



MALAYSIA LAUNCHES AP-UAP, STRENGTHENING REGIONAL URBAN COOPERATION AT WUF13

BAKU, 19 MAY 2026 – Malaysia launched the Asia Pacific Urban Agenda Platform (AP-UAP), yesterday, marking another significant step in strengthening regional urban cooperation by shifting from fragmented discussions towards a more structured and action-oriented mechanism, during the Opening Ceremony of the Malaysia Pavilion at the 13th World Urban Forum (WUF13) here today.

The Malaysian delegation, led by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, who is also President of the UN-Habitat Assembly, Nga Kor Ming, said the AP-UAP is vital in transforming fragmented urban efforts across the Asia-Pacific into a collective, structured and action-driven ecosystem, enabling cities to move faster from vision to implementation, from dialogue to delivery.

“Born from a strategic partnership between the government of Malaysia and UN-Habitat, this platform is more than an initiative, it is a mission. It unites like-minded Member States to embed the New Urban Agenda (NUA) into the very fabric of national development in all countries,” he said in his opening address officiating the Malaysia pavilion at WUF EXPO.

The AP-UAP, developed through collaboration between Urbanice Malaysia and UN-Habitat, was introduced as a strategic regional mechanism to strengthen cooperation, accelerate the implementation of the NUA, and support the Sustainable Development Goals across 58 countries in Asia-Pacific region.

The Malaysian Pavilion also witnessed the launch of Think City’s latest publication titled “Housing the Poor: Malaysia’s Journey from Slums to Resilient Communities”, which reflects the country’s five-decade journey in advancing public housing innovation and strengthening social infrastructure for vulnerable communities which seen Malaysian’s home ownership surge to 77% now.

Available in both digital and physical formats, the publication highlights Malaysia's urban planning evolution, public housing policies, community-driven development approaches, and efforts to build more inclusive, resilient and people-centred cities.

Also present at the ceremony, H.E. Suhail Mohamed Faraj Al Mazrouei, UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure.

Earlier, at the official opening of the WUF13 Press Conference, Nga shared that the global housing crisis is affecting nearly 2.8 billion people worldwide, warning that rapid urbanisation, climate stress, and widening inequalities require urgent and coordinated global action.

Emphasising that urbanisation is not merely about statistics but about human lives and dignity, he called for renewed commitment to the NUA and accelerated progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

“Let us commit to Human-Centred Urbanism, and work collectively to bridge the estimated 5.4 trillion-dollar annual financing gap for climate-resilient infrastructure,” he said.

He added that as Malaysia prepares to hand over the United Nations Habitat Presidency to the United Arab Emirates and to take up the latter's seat in the UN-Habitat Executive Board next year, all stakeholders are encouraged to contribute to the WUF13 Call to Action to ensure it becomes a meaningful and inspirational legacy document.

At the same time, Nga expressed appreciation to the Government of Azerbaijan for hosting WUF13 and highlighted key messages from global leaders, including UN Secretary-General António Guterres and President of the UN General Assembly Annalena Baerbock, underscoring the urgency of strengthening multilateral cooperation in addressing global urban challenges.

Reflecting on Malaysia's national progress, he highlighted key achievements under the MADANI Government, including the delivery of over 1.1 million affordable homes, a 77% homeownership rate and the planting of more than 115 million trees nationwide as part of government's commitment towards SDG 2030.

The 13th Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13), co-organised by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Government of Azerbaijan, held from

17 to 22 May 2026 under the theme “Housing the World: Safe and Resilient Cities and Communities”, brings together more than 30,000 participants from 180 countries to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and strengthen global cooperation in addressing urban challenges.

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