

40
years

shaping the future
of metropolises

Attachment 2

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Metropolis 40th Anniversary Seoul Congress 2025

METROPOLITAN FUTURES

2025. 9. 29-10. 1

Dongdaemun Design Plaza (DDP), Seoul

Metropolis 40th Anniversary Seoul Congress 2025

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SEOUL METROPOLITAN
GOVERNMENT

For updated information



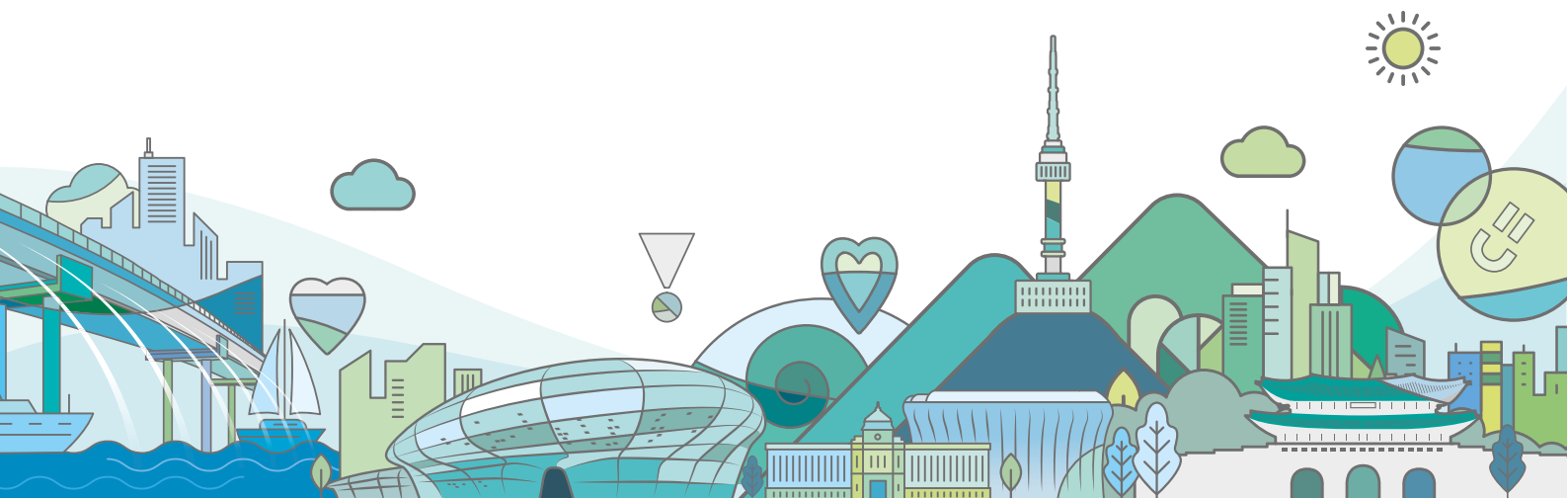
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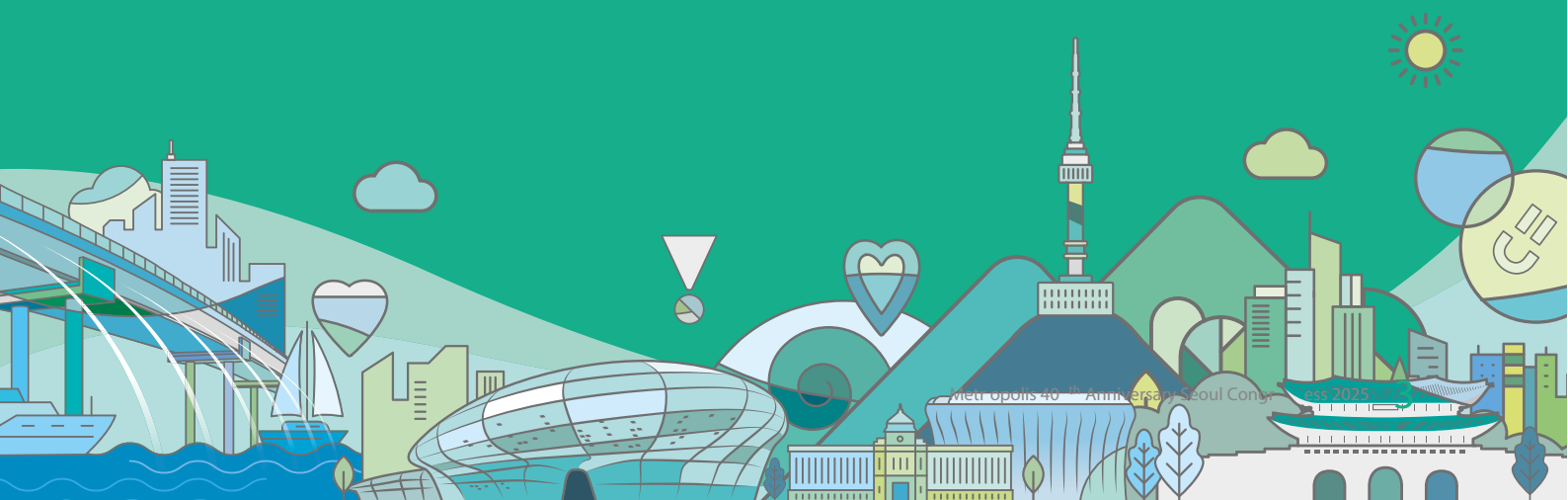
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Introduction

Welcome to Metropolis 40th Anniversary Seoul Congress 2025!

The Metropolis 40th Anniversary Seoul Congress 2025 invites you to reimagine the future of metropolises. In an increasingly complex global scenario, cities and metropolitan spaces are vital to address the shared challenges of present and future generations.

Seoul, a city known for its innovative and forward-thinking character, will be the scenario of a commemoration of four decades of collaboration.

Theme

Metropolitan Futures

We will be looking not at the past but at the future of cities, envisioning the possibilities of metropolitan action.

This extraordinary congress will offer high-level discussions, technical visits, and cultural presentations: an exceptional opportunity for exchange, networking and visibility.



Congress Venue

Dongdaemun Design Plaza (DDP)

281 Eulji-ro, Jung-gu, Seoul

Designed by Zaha Hadid, DDP is a multi-cultural complex located at Dongdaemun History & Culture Park Station in Seoul, Korea.

Since its foundation on March 21, 2014, DDP has staged diverse cultural events including exhibitions, fashion shows, product launch shows, forums, conferences and various cultural events.

Program

- Urban Solutions Spotlight:
Showcasing Metropolitan Innovations
(2 sessions)
- Metropolis Board of Directors Meeting
- Second Megacities Dialogue
- Global Cities Foresight Workshop
(two-day workshop)
- Metropolis International Training Institute
(MITI) Sharing Forum

Program Overview

Day 1 | Program

Monday, 29 September 2025

Time	Program	Venue
09:00	Global Cities Foresight Workshop	Design Lab, DDP
	Metropolis Board of Directors Meeting	Conference Hall, DDP
10:00	MeTTA Congress	Seoul On Studio, DDP
12:00	Networking Lunch	Art Hall 2, DDP
13:30	Official Congress Opening	Art Hall 1, DDP
	Megacities Summit	
15:00	Urban Solutions Spotlight	Conference Hall, DDP
	Digital Safety Forum	Seoul On Studio, DDP
	Global Cities Foresight Workshop	Design Lab, DDP
18:00	Gala Dinner	Shilla Hotel

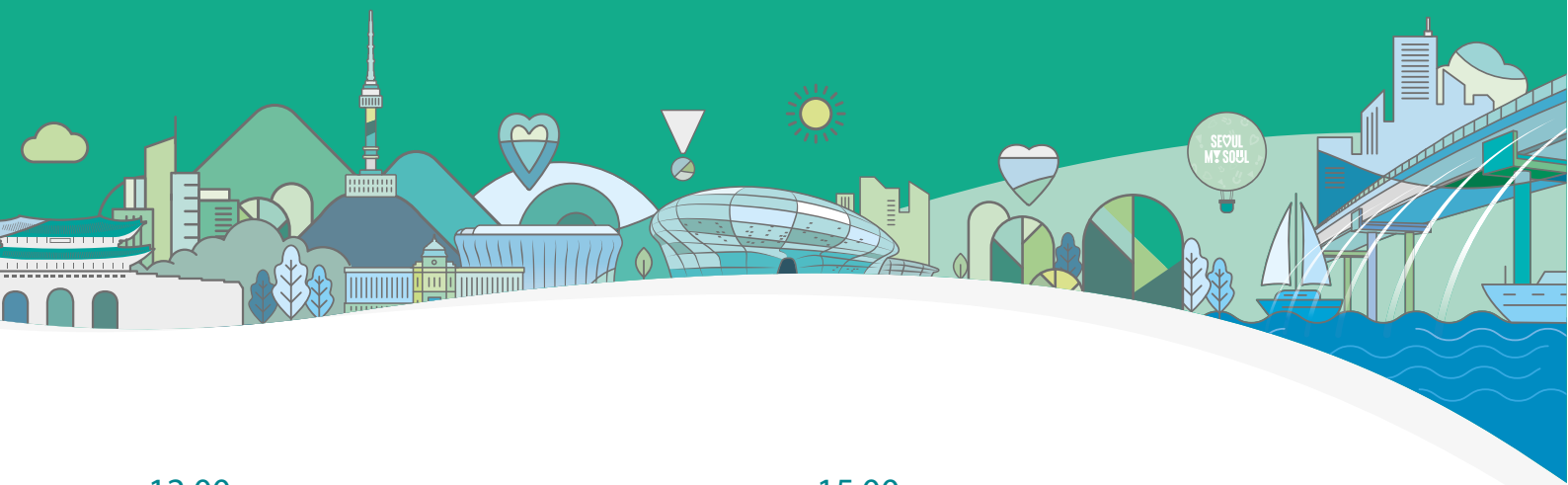
*Times subject to change

09:00
Metropolis Board of Directors Meeting
 Conference Hall, DDP

The annual in-person meeting of Metropolis' highest governing body, open to Board members, invited guests, and observers.

10:00
MeTTA Congress
 Seoul On Studio, DDP
 Organized by Seoul Institute

The high-level meeting of MeTTA (Megacity Think Tank Alliance) among member institutions, attended by representatives.



12:00

Networking Lunch

Art Hall 2, DDP

A buffet-style lunch will be provided for participants to dine freely and engage in informal networking in a relaxed setting.



13:30

Official Congress Opening

Art Hall 1, DDP

This opening address by global urban leaders will highlight the critical importance of metropolitan collaboration in addressing global challenges and ensuring the resilience of urban systems. The session will also serve as a call to action, inviting city leaders to share their visions, renew their commitments, and build collective momentum toward a more inclusive, sustainable, and future-ready urban agenda.

15:00

Megacities Dialogue: Leaving no one behind

Art Hall 1, DDP

Building on the success of the first Megacities Summit, hosted by the Metropolitan City of Istanbul on 8 October 2023, this year's edition in Seoul will take place alongside the Metropolis 40th Anniversary Congress. Leaders will explore how megacities can move from being sites of inequality to champions of shared prosperity.

This dialogue offers a unique opportunity to reimagine the future of megacities, addressing the core question: How can megacities ensure quality of life and opportunity for all?



Day 1 | Program

Monday, 29 September 2025

09:00

Global Cities Foresight Workshop (two-day workshop) *Invite Only

Design Lab, DDP

This exclusive two-day workshop will serve as a pivotal gathering for senior city leaders and decision-makers, specifically those holding high-level positions in foresight and strategic planning areas.

The workshop will offer a platform to co-create future urban scenarios through dynamic, scenario-based exercises, allowing participants to identify collaborative pathways and actionable solutions tailored to local contexts, while promoting global cooperation. This will provide an invaluable opportunity to exchange best practices, share experiences, and explore methodologies to help cities integrate foresight into their strategic planning processes.



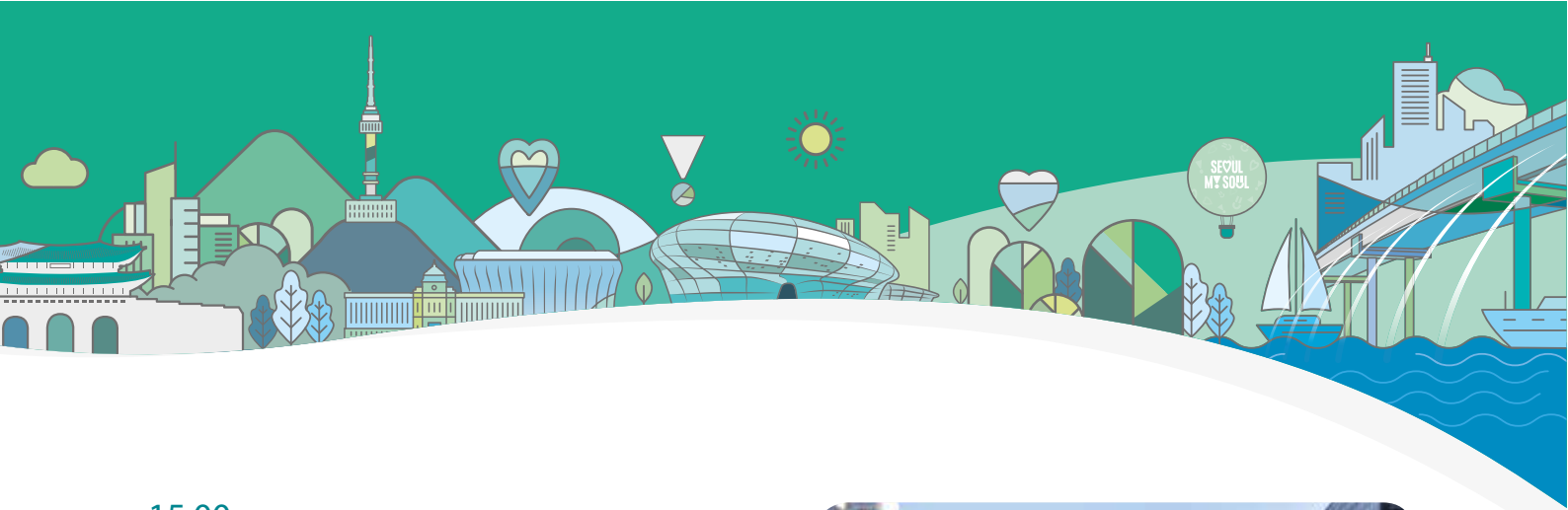
15:00

Urban Solutions Spotlight

Conference Hall, DDP

Session 1: The Role of Cities and Governance Models to Promote Transparency, Accountability, Inclusion, and Gender Equality.

As global challenges demand more open and responsive institutions, cities play a pivotal role in shaping governance models that uphold transparency, accountability, inclusion, and gender equality. This session will highlight innovative city-led approaches and policies that strengthen democratic values and social equity. Through knowledge exchange and case sharing, participants will explore how urban governance can be a powerful tool for building more just and inclusive societies.



15:00

Digital Safety Forum: Preventing and Responding to Digital Sexual Violence

Seoul On Studio, DDP

Organized by Seoul Foundation of Women & Family

As technology rapidly evolves, so do the risks of abuse within digital spaces. This session brings together global experts, policymakers, and civil society to explore effective strategies to prevent and respond to digital sexual crimes, including online harassment, image-based abuse, and non-consensual distribution of sexual content. The forum aims to foster international cooperation, share best practices, and strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks needed to protect victims and uphold digital rights.



18:00

Metropolis 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner

Shilla Hotel

As Metropolis reaches its 40th anniversary, we invite distinguished guests, global city leaders, and strategic partners to an extraordinary Gala Dinner in Seoul, the host of our Anniversary and World Congress.

This milestone event will be an elegant and immersive experience, celebrating four decades of urban collaboration, leadership, and innovation. The Dinner will be the scenario for The Pattis Family Foundation Global Cities Book Award ceremony, a moment to celebrate excellence in global urban writing.



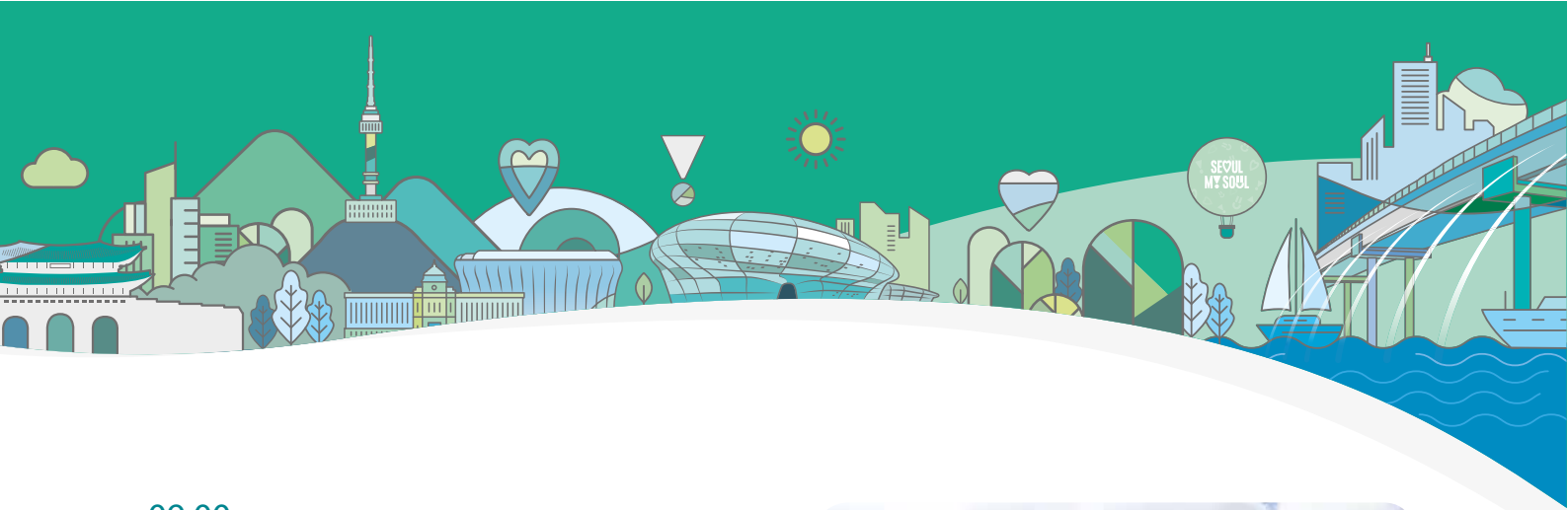
Day 2 | Program

Tuesday, 30 September 2025

Time	Program	Venue
09:00	Global Cities Foresight Workshop	Design Lab, DDP
	Urban Solutions Spotlight	Conference Hall, DDP
09:30	MITI Sharing Forum	Art Hall 1, DDP
10:30	DDP to COEX	*Bus provided
11:30	Networking Lunch	Room 317&318, COEX
13:00	Joint Program with Smart Life Week	COEX
19:00	Seoul Smart Life Week Official Dinner	The Westin Seoul Parnas

*Global Cities Foresight Workshop will continue at the same venue in the afternoon.

*Times subject to change



09:00

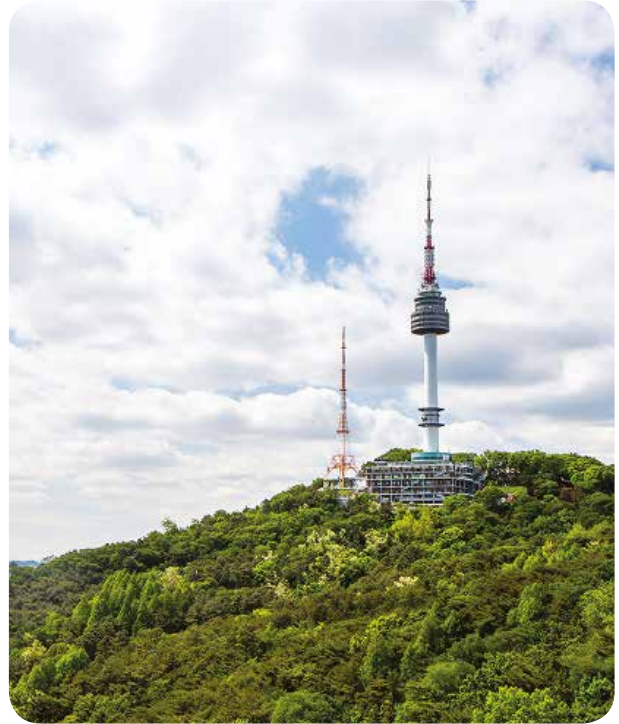
Urban Solutions Spotlight

Conference Hall, DDP

Session 2: Ensuring Balanced Urban Ecosystems and Improving Social Cohesion

This session will bring together cities showcasing practical solutions that foster a harmonious relationship between metropolises and their natural environment, while reducing ecological footprints and adapting to environmental change. It will highlight approaches such as nature-based solutions, sustainable mobility, and circular urban systems that promote efficient cycles of water, energy, food, and waste.

Additionally, the session will explore solutions for inclusive and effective governance, ensuring urban planning and policies are responsive to the needs of all inhabitants. By focusing on legal and institutional frameworks, citizen engagement, and bridging the rural-urban divide, these solutions aim to create more cohesive, sustainable, and inclusive urban futures.



09:00

Global Cities Foresight Workshop (two-day workshop) *Invite Only

Design Lab, DDP

On the second day of the workshop, participants will build on the foundations laid during Day 1, continuing discussions and refining collaborative strategies to design future-ready cities.

For a comprehensive overview of the workshop's objectives, methodology, and participant profiles, please refer to the Day 1 description.



Day 2 | Program

Tuesday, 30 September 2025

09:30

Metropolis International Training Institute (MITI) Sharing Forum

Art Hall 1, DDP

Seoul Metropolitan Government Human Resources Development Center (SHRDC) is the headquarters of the Metropolis International Training Institute (MITI).

As Metropolis celebrates its 40 years anniversary, MITI aims to increase its scope of local training institutes and expand opportunities for its members.

The MITI Sharing Forum marks the culmination of a decade-long journey of collaborative learning and capacity building among Metropolis members through the MITI centers and will be presenting the way forward for MITI's development.

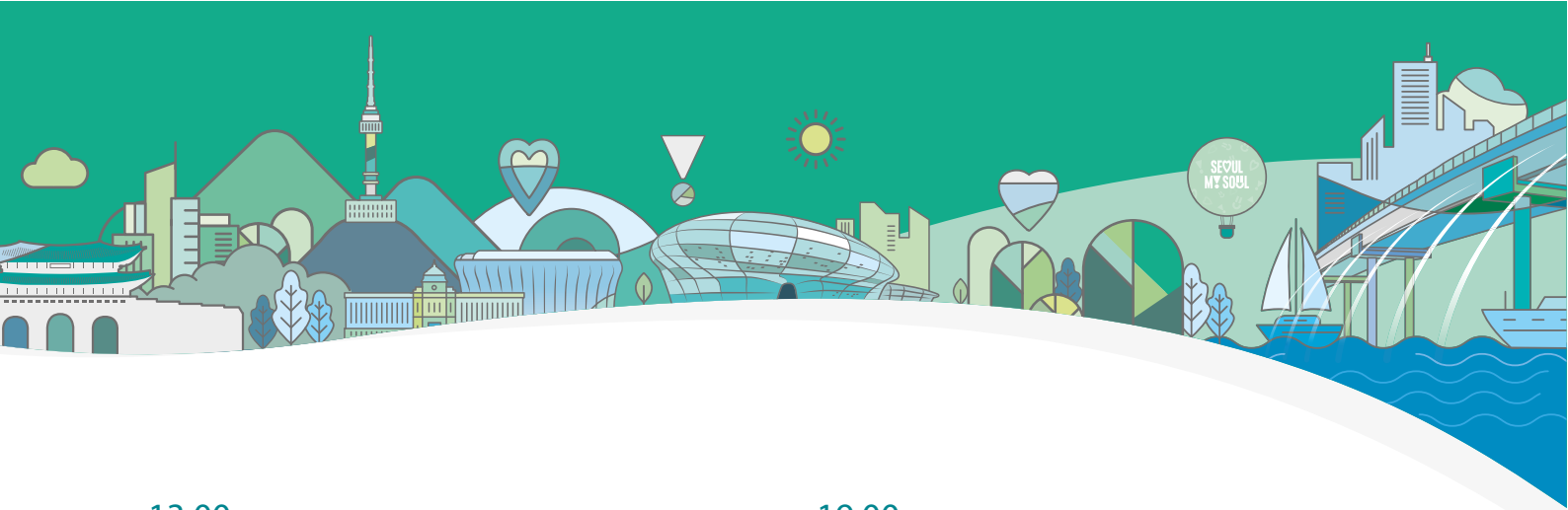


11:30

Networking Lunch

COEX 317+318

A buffet-style lunch will be provided for participants to dine freely and engage in informal networking in a relaxed setting.



13:00
Joint Program with Smart Life Week
COEX

Guided by the slogan “AI for Humanity, Smart Cities Leading Tomorrow,” this year’s event will be held under the theme “Inclusive AI for the Vulnerable.”

It will feature numerous exhibitions where participants can see the latest trends in AI, robotics, mobility, and assistive technologies, and also experience these technologies in person.

19:00
SLW Official Dinner
The Westin Seoul Parnas

Title		Key Attendees
9.30 (Tue)		
Mayors Forum		Mayors of global cities
Smart City Performance Sharing Conference		Award-winning cities of 2024
Science & Innovation Conference		AI experts from Quebec
Seoul Big Data Forum		Big data experts
Seoul C-Tech Conference		Climate tech experts
MeTTA Forum		Smart city specialists



Day 3 | Program

Wednesday, 01 October 2025

Time	Program	Venue
09:00	Site Visits: Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism or International Garden Show	Songhyeon Green Plaza or Boramae Park
12:00	Closing Plenary & Lunch	Novotel Ambassador

*Times subject to change

09:00 Site Visits: Seoul's Leading Urban Innovations

Participants choose from guided visits showcasing Seoul's latest urban projects, along with the opportunity to attend:

The 5th Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism (SBAU): "Radically More Human"

The 5th Seoul Biennale goes beyond viewing architecture purely from an aesthetic perspective. Instead, it focuses on the facades of buildings we encounter in our everyday lives and explores how architecture and urban environments can be made more enjoyable and engaging.

The Biennale will be held from September 26 to November 18.

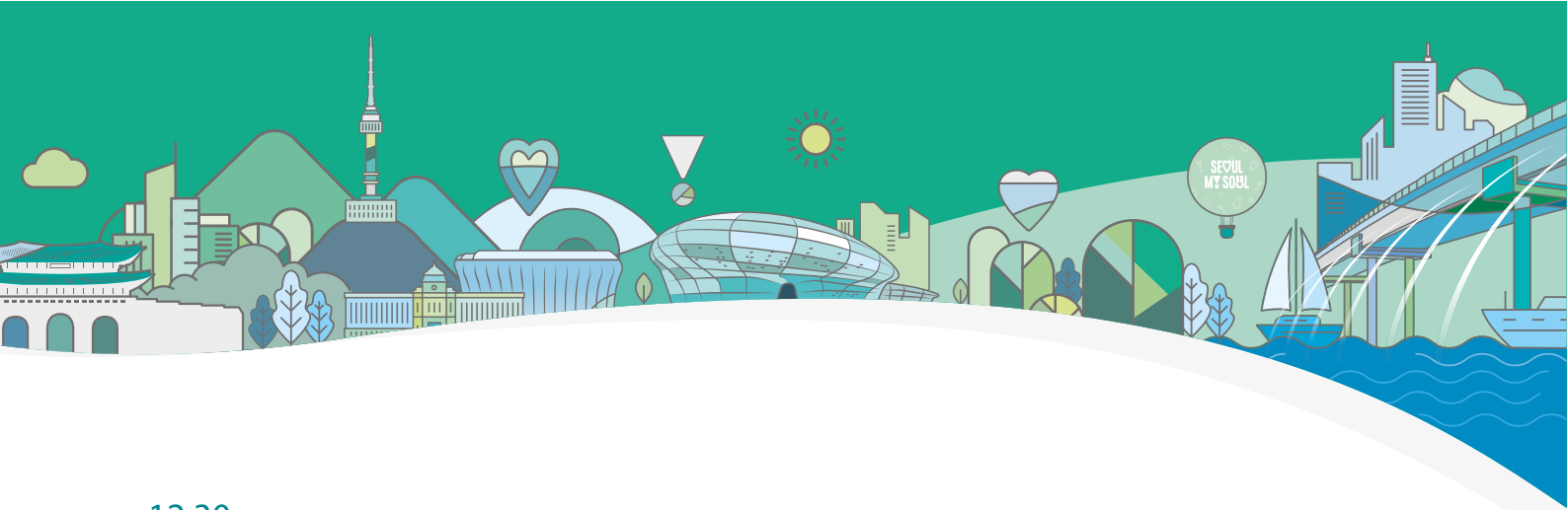


2025 Seoul International Garden Show (SIGS): "Seoul, Green Soul"

This year marks the 10th anniversary of SIGS since its launch in 2015. SIGS 2025 will feature the largest area and longest duration to date, with expanded content to match, aiming to grow the show into a festival that attracts over 10 million visitors this year.

SIGS will be held from May 22 to October 20.





12:30

Closing Plenary: A Vision for the Future & Lunch

Novotel Ambassador Dongdaemun

As we bid farewell to the Metropolis 40th Anniversary Congress, we invite all delegates to leave with the spirit and energy of Seoul My Soul—a lasting memory of our time together, marked by a special giveaway for each participant.

Buffet Lunch with a moment to unwind, reflect, and share final conversations with peers in a relaxed and inspiring setting with some closing speeches from the organizers.



Event Logistics



Registration

Prior registration is required to attend the Congress.

Please register online via our official website: <https://seoul2025.metropolis.org>

Once your flight and accommodation details are confirmed, you may update them through your registration form.

You may revise your registration information at any time using the email and password you provided during the registration process.



Ground Transportation

The host city provides one (1) vehicle per city for round-trip airport transfers, based on the Head of Delegation's flight schedule. Please confirm your travel details with the Congress Secretariat in advance at seoul2025.metropolis@gmail.com to make the arrangement.

Airport transfers are available during the specified dates below.

- Airport → Novotel: 27 or 28 September
- Novotel → Airport: 1 or 2 October

During the official program, such as site visits and official dinners, delegations will be traveling in groups by bus prepared by the organizer.



Accommodation

For Heads of Delegations and Speakers

For one (1) Head of Delegation (HoD) per city, the host city will cover a three (3) night stay at the Main Hotel (Novotel Ambassador Seoul Dongdaemun) from 28 September to 1 October, including breakfast. Accommodation for HoDs will be arranged by the secretariat; therefore, no individual reservation is required. Please note that any incidental expenses during the stay are not covered.

For Participants

Accompanying delegation members and individual participants are kindly requested to make their own hotel arrangements at their own expense.

A list of recommended hotels, including the main hotel and others offering congress special rates, can be found below or in the accommodation section of the official website.

Please proceed with your reservation by following the links or downloading the reservation forms available on the official website.

Useful Information

Climate

In late September and early October, Seoul experiences mild autumn weather. Average daytime temperatures range from 18°C to 24°C (64°F to 75°F), with cooler evenings. A light jacket is recommended.

For more details, please visit KMA website via attached QR Code



Voltage

The voltage used in Korea is 220volts with 60 Hertz. 2-round-pin plugs are used, so please purchase a plug adapter in advance if you use 2-flat-pin or 3-flat-pin plugs.

For more details, please visit the Visit Korea webpage via attached QR Code



Currency and VAT

The currency of the Republic of Korea is the Korean won (KRW).

Credit cards are widely accepted in Korea, including Visa, MasterCard, and American Express.

A 10% VAT is usually included in the price of goods and services, including hotel rooms and meals.

Explore Seoul

October is one of the best times to visit Seoul, when the city's vibrant culture meets the beauty of autumn. Explore iconic sites like Bukchon Hanok Village, Namsan Seoul Tower, and Gyeongbokgung Palace, where centuries of tradition blend seamlessly with modern life.

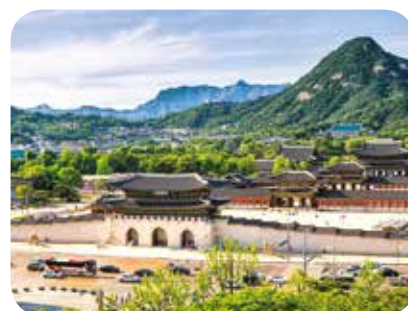
For more details, please visit the Seoul tourism web via attached QR Code



Bukchon Hanok Village



Namsan N Seoul Tower



Gyeongbokgung Palace

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