



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



FINANCE CENTER FOR
SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION
南南合作金融中心

BRIDGE FOR CITIES 4.0

Belt & Road Initiative:
Connecting Cities through
the New Industrial Revolution

3 to 4 September 2019
Vienna International Centre
Vienna, Austria

CONCEPT NOTE



Organizers:



Activity - Level Partners:



1 BACKGROUND

Organized jointly by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Finance Center for South-South Cooperation (FCSSC), “BRIDGE for Cities” is a large-scale annual event, which aims to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative. It encourages municipal officials and development stakeholders to scale up their engagement in inclusive and sustainable urban-industrial development initiatives, and establish a municipal platform through which cities can share their development successes and challenges, and ultimately scale up their capacities.

Through its many activities, including the high-level plenaries, the exhibition, city-to-city matchmaking sessions and cultural performances, the event provides ample opportunities for participants to forge partnerships and exchange best practices.

Since its inception in 2016, the “BRIDGE for Cities” event has been evolving continuously, introducing new features and attracting more participants every year. The increasing attendance not only validates the significance of the “BRIDGE for Cities” events as platforms for facilitating partnerships among cities, but highlights their importance in the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Both the many outcomes achieved and the participation of case cities testify of the growing momentum the event has gained.

1st “BRIDGE for Cities” event:



Event webpage:
[www.unido.org/
1st-bridge-cities-event](http://www.unido.org/1st-bridge-cities-event)

2nd “BRIDGE for Cities” event:



Event webpage:
[www.unido.org/
2nd-bridge-cities-event](http://www.unido.org/2nd-bridge-cities-event)

3rd “BRIDGE for Cities” event:



Event webpage:
[www.unido.org/
3rd-bridge-cities-event](http://www.unido.org/3rd-bridge-cities-event)

2 BRIDGE FOR CITIES 4.0: CONNECTING CITIES THROUGH THE NEW INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION¹

Based on the success of the previous events, BRIDGE for Cities 4.0 will explore the role of the Fourth Industrial Revolution in fostering urban innovation in cities along the Belt and Road and beyond. The “4.0” in the title symbolizes both the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the fourth edition of the event. It will aim at providing a wide and multidisciplinary perspective on how cities can tap into advanced technologies and new industrial solutions to enhance the quality of life for their citizens by reducing cities’ carbon footprint, improving public services as well as creating new jobs and attracting skilled labor.

Industrialization has been the most decisive factor for the growth of cities, both in terms of population and expansion. While the First Industrial Revolution has contributed to the urbanization of villages by offering opportunities for economies of scale, it was the Second Industrial Revolution and the electrification of

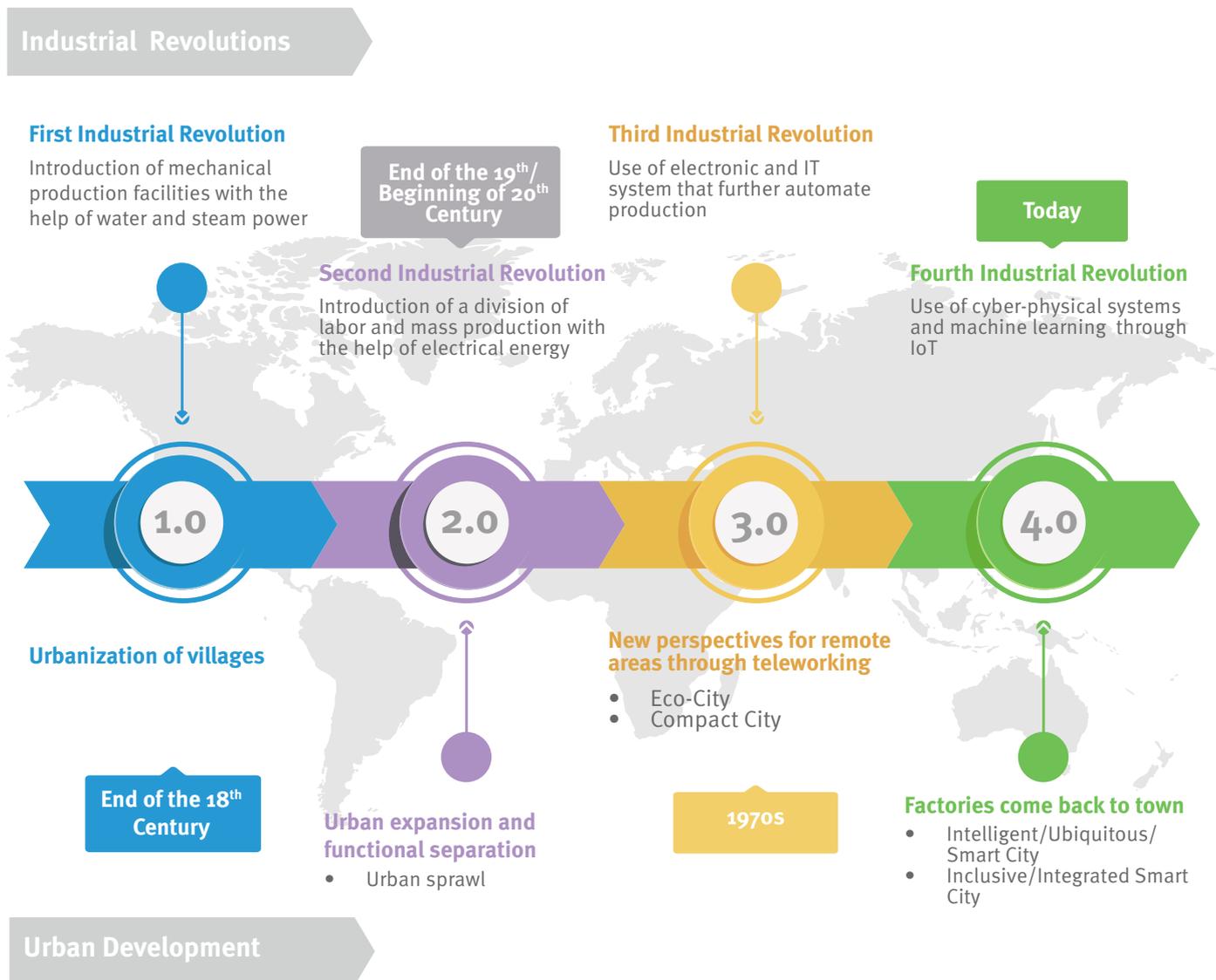
¹ The terms Industry 4.0 and 4th Industrial revolution are frequently used interchangeably, although they have no one-to-one correlation, or are not always defined or used consistently. Because ‘Fourth Industrial Revolution’ and ‘Industry 4.0’ tend to be more commonly used in policy circles, we use these terms interchangeably in this context.

industrial processes that shaped cities as we see them today. Cities grew bigger, but distances were reduced with the introduction of automobiles. Factories increased in number and size, thus leading to urban sprawl, congestion, pollution and environmental degradation. However, urbanization and industrialization also contributed to an overall improvement in terms of standards of living in those countries that industrialized first and organically. In developing countries, urbanization and industrialization have often been unbalanced and uncontrolled, leading to a highly uneven distribution of wealth, environmental depletion and unequal urban-rural relation.

The Third Industrial Revolution started changing this paradigm, as the automation of industrial processes and the introduction of computers allowed faster communication and eventually remote working.

This shift became evident when data processing and Internet started influencing industrial production by exploiting the disruptive potential of Internet of Things, automation, machine-learning and data analysis to enhance labour and resource efficiency, thus boosting productivity.

The Fourth industrial revolution will have a deep impact on urban development in the future by affecting the way in which cities will develop spatially and economically; resources and wastes will be (re-)used; and services will be provided to citizens. The concept of smart and sustainable cities is therefore linked to and based on how these processes and technologies will be applied in cities in the future.



Source: Müller Bernhard et. al. (2014) | Advanced Manufacturing/Industry 4.0 and Urban Development
Bonn: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

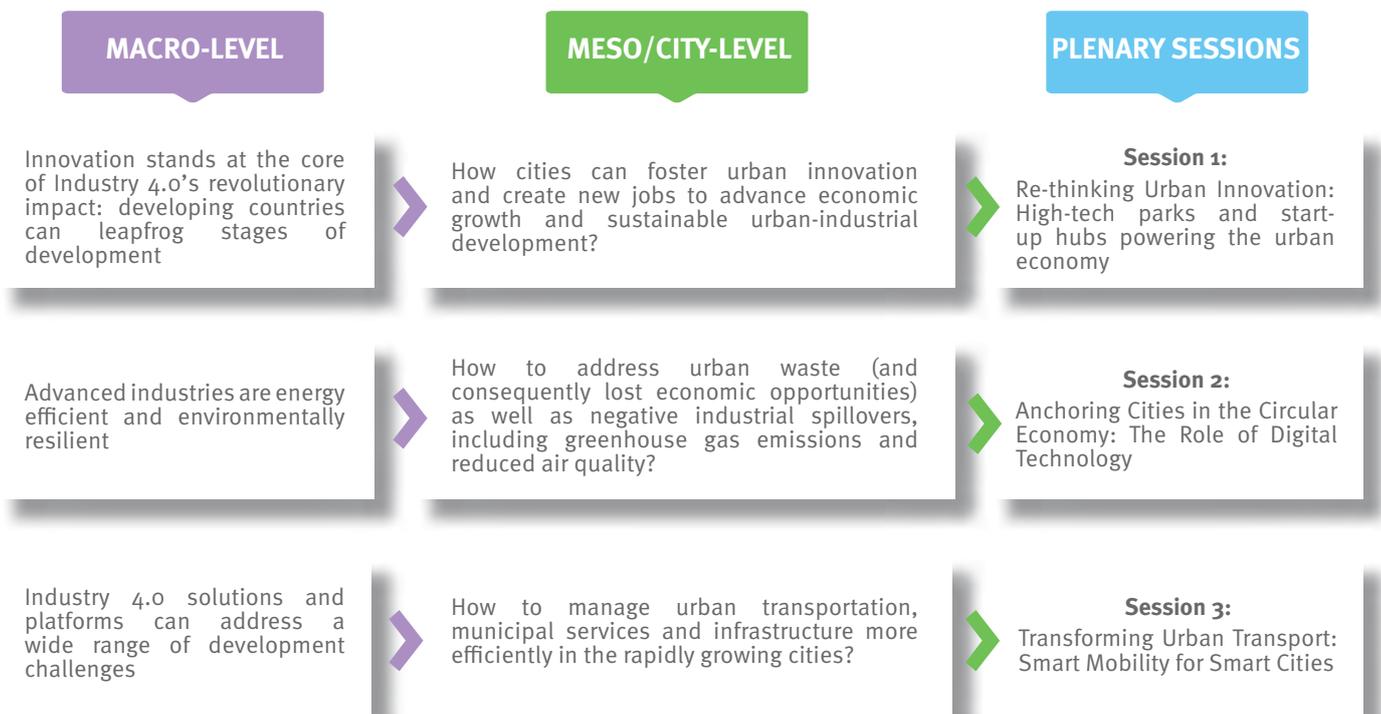
The Fourth “BRIDGE for Cities” event will provide a platform to discuss these crucial topics, with a specific focus on the Belt and Road Initiative, as it aims at fostering connectivity and knowledge-sharing among developing countries in line with the principles outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2.1. Concept

The concept of the two-day event will be revisited in this edition, with all sessions and activities focusing on “Industry 4.0”:



A. Plenary Sessions: The speakers and panellists invited to the Three Plenary Sessions will provide policy recommendations for urban-development stakeholders, aimed to attain sustainable urban-industrial development. Each Plenary Session will delve into addressing a specific set of Industry 4.0-related challenge at city level.



The first session will analyse **how High-tech parks and innovation hubs may power the urban economy**; the second one will explore **the role of digital technologies in fostering circular economy** while the third session will revolve around **smart mobility and how they affect smart cities development**.

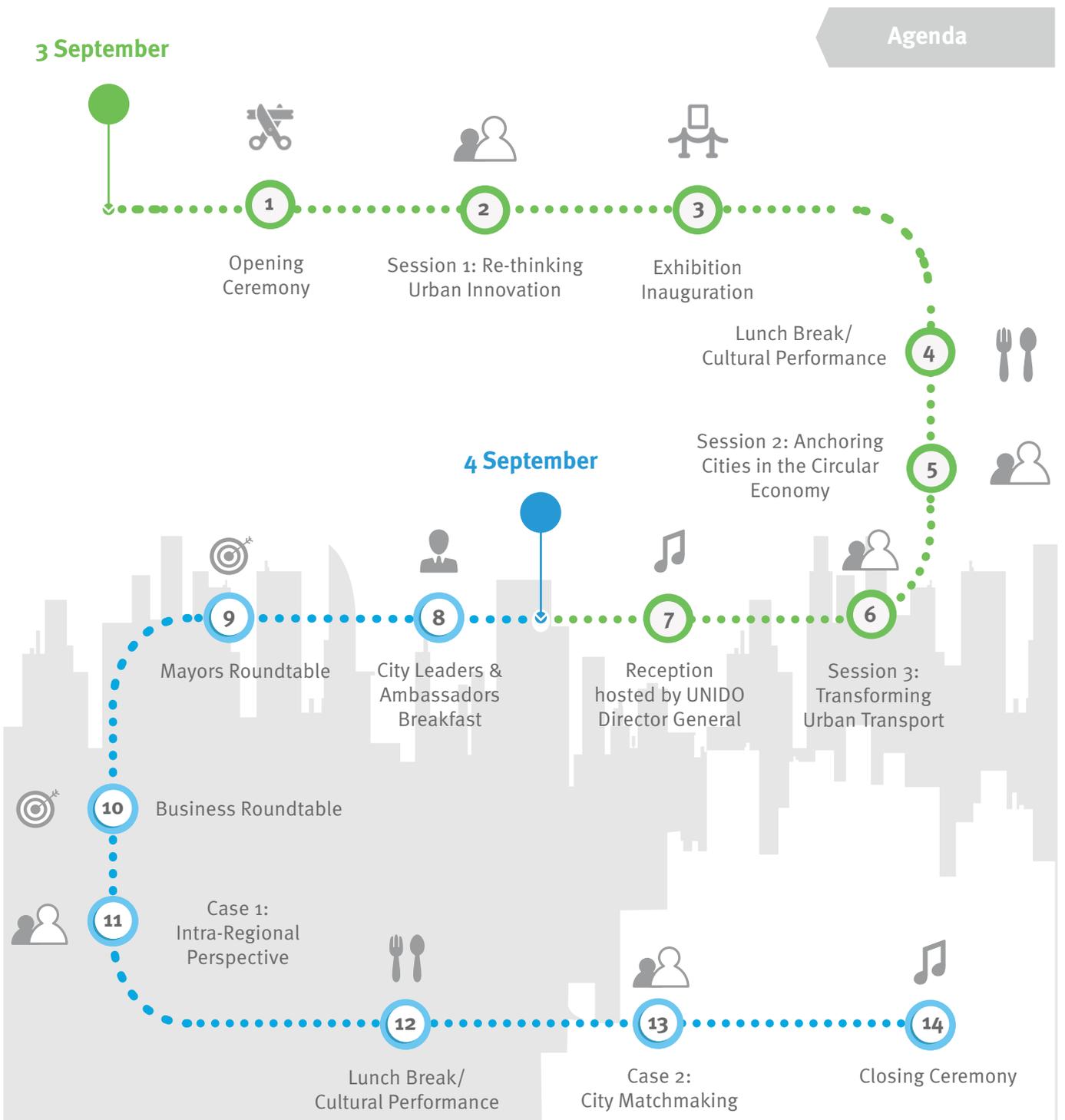


B. City-to-City Matchmaking: The City-to-City matchmaking is designed to showcase concrete urban-industrial development solutions and partnerships, bringing to the forefront urban stakeholders, mayors and decision makers from selected case cities and regions along the Belt and Road. The first session will focus on the regional perspective, highlighting interconnectivity and interdependency among a cluster of municipalities in the region. The second session will focus on building partnerships among case cities under the umbrella of Industry 4.0. In addition, a Mayors Roundtable will be organized to facilitate discussions among city leaders on challenges, opportunities, and concrete projects in the area of Industry 4.0 and smart cities.

C. Exhibition and Cultural Performances: The event will be enriched by cultural performances, reflecting the cultural heritage and tradition of the countries, regions and cities involved. Moreover, an exhibition focusing on practical urban solutions and advanced technologies will be on display throughout the event.

2.2. Structure and Session Design

A. Tentative Structure



B. Session Design and Responsibilities

All sessions will be designed in a discussion-oriented manner (“Davos style”). To stimulate exchanges with the audience, more time has been allocated for a general discussion at the end of each session. Each panel session will feature a moderator, a keynote speaker and an average of three panellists. The roles of the panel members are outlined below:

- a) *Moderator*: The moderator is responsible for opening the session, introducing the members of the panel, and moderating the discussion and the participation of the audience. The moderator must also ensure that the members of the panel adhere to the allotted time. Following statements by the keynote speaker and the panellists, the moderator will put questions to the panellists. The moderator will also take questions from the audience and address them to the relevant panellist(s). At the end of the session, the moderator will offer brief concluding remarks and summarize the outcome of the session’s discussions.
- b) *Keynote speaker*: The keynote speaker delivers a statement, establishing the session’s main theme.
- c) *Panellist*: The primary role of panellists is to share their views and experiences within the scope of the session. Following initial short statements, questions will be put to each panellist by the moderator or the audience. Panellists are therefore requested to kindly adhere to their prescribed time limits and to cooperate with the moderator.

3 CASE CITIES

Case cities will be at the core of the renewed event’s design. The solutions and challenges implemented locally will be showcased as examples for other cities and participants, so that case cities would gain visibility and attention from an international audience. Moreover, the event is aiming at connecting case cities and build partnerships among them, rather than assessing them as individual cases.

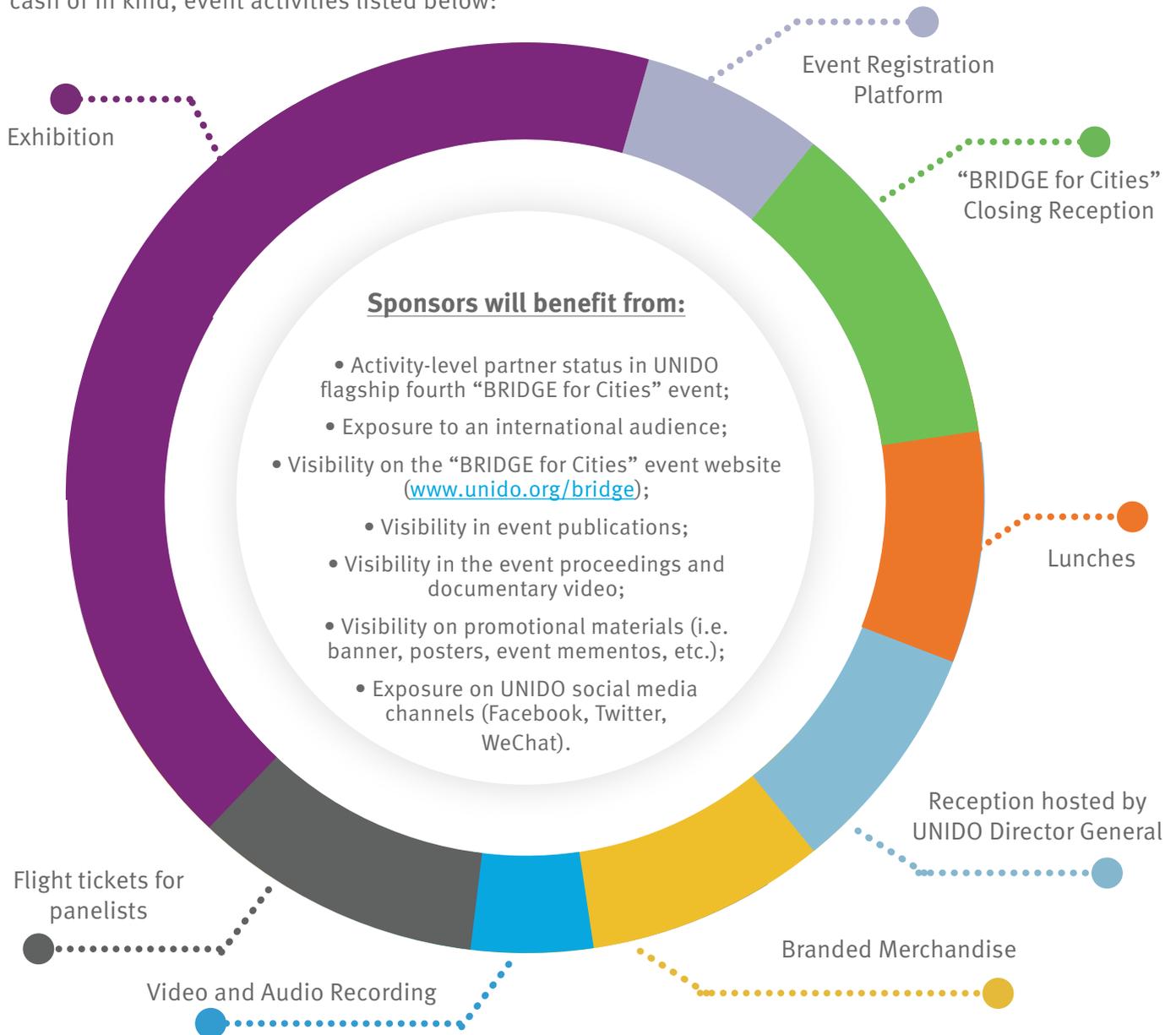


Mr. Li Yong, Director General of UNIDO launching the Case-City booklet during the 3rd “BRIDGE for Cities” event



4 SPONSORSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS

The event is open for sponsorship from partner cities, organizations and companies willing to support, in cash or in kind, event activities listed below:



Additionally, organizations and companies are invited to contribute to the event as *activity-level* partners in supporting the organization of the event by means of promotion, mobilization of speakers and attendees, identification of case cities. Activity-level partners will be visible on all event-related materials and on the event’s website.

5 PARTICIPATION AND REGISTRATION

Around 650 participants are expected to attend the event, including representatives from municipal governments, DFIs, non-governmental organizations, the business sector, chambers of commerce, international organizations, urban experts and academia.

Each event-related activity has a limited capacity, and seating is only available on a first-come-first-served basis. In order to participate in the event, registration is mandatory. A link to the registration platform will be available at www.unido.org/bridge as of May 2019.

For your information and security, the event's registration platform will comply with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

6 OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

English is the working language of "BRIDGE for Cities 4.0". Simultaneous interpretation into other official UN languages will be provided throughout the sessions, subject to actual demand and available budget. Official event proceedings will be made available in English following the event.

7 VISA REQUIREMENTS

Participants requiring a visa or travel permit to enter Austria are requested to make their own arrangements, ensuring that they also have the proper documentation in case they need to transit through other countries on their way to Vienna. However, neither UNIDO nor the United Nations have visa-issuing status, and are therefore not liable for any legal or political ramifications due to unauthorized travel and entry

Upon request, UNIDO may issue a formal invitation letter to expedite the visa application process. Requests should be addressed by email to bri@unido.org.

8 INQUIRIES AND CORRESPONDENCE

For more information, please visit the official event website at www.unido.org/bridge-for-cities.

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