



**FIRST INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON  
URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES**

**Songyang County** LISHUI CITY, ZHEJIANG PROVINCE,  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA | **10th -14th November, 2019**

**First International Forum On  
Urban-Rural Linkages**

**A REPORT**

**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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## OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION



32

Guest speakers



18

International Organisations



17

Countries



200

Participants

### The First International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages took place in Songyang County, Lishui City, Zhejiang Province, China, between 10 to 14 November 2019.

The Forum was attended by over 200 participants from 17 countries and 18 international organizations with 32 guest speakers in various sessions. The event was co-hosted and co-organized by UN-Habitat, Zhejiang Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, Lishui Municipal People's Government and Songyang County People's Government. It is a product of the Songyang Innovative Rural Development Programme and the collaboration between UN-Habitat and the Songyang People's Government.

The objectives of the Forum were to thoroughly analyse and capture the unconventional and inspiring practices implemented in Songyang County across the urban-rural continuum, and to better understand how such innovative interventions have contributed to revitalizing rural areas through the empowerment of local people **by offering financial and technical support based on Songyang agricultural, cultural and architectural traditions.**

The general aim of the Forum was to harness the successful story of Songyang's rural development in the context of urbanization and to provide valuable lessons and inspirations to other rural areas worldwide.

Good practices from urban-rural innovation in other parts of the world are expected to stimulate further innovations in Songyang and elsewhere in China. The hoped-for outcomes are that innovative and sustainable development initiatives will significantly strengthen rural areas and their linkages to cities, relieve the demographic pressure in urban areas, and extensively contribute to the overall prosperity of human settlements. In recent years, Songyang has actively explored a path of rural revitalization built from peoples' participation and local culture with favourable results. The Songyang Innovative Rural Development Programme is also comprised with a new and lively socioeconomic structure developed and implemented by Songyang Government in recent years, including a wide range of architectural interventions on a micro-level in cooperation with the respective village communities, and local craftspeople, namely "Architectural Acupuncture".

This Forum was a partial fulfilment of activities agreed upon in the letter of intent between UN-Habitat and Songyang People's government signed during the first UN-Habitat Assembly in May 2019.



**This first IFURL was also the first forum to promote the role of rural development within the continuum of human settlements since the launch of the “Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles (URL-GP) and Framework for Action”.** The Forum was designed to help the implement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda to ensure that No One and No Place is left behind. A broad base of stakeholders was convened for the Forum including Government authorities, selected international organization representatives, academia, and other stakeholders with many years of experience working in different capacities across the urban-rural continuum. Domestic guests included leaders of State Ministries, provincial, municipal and county leaders, academic experts and media and the private sector. The theme of the Forum “Rural Revitalization through Innovations and Valorisation” focused on sharing experiences of innovative approaches to rural revitalization and urban-rural linkages through sharing plans, strategies and policies in Songyang County, China at large, and other parts of the world.

The Forum was organized around a variety of sessions including keynote speeches, field visits with roundtables and parallel work sessions. Conference participants undertook various field visits to the Songyang ancient streets, the renovated ancient Shimenyu Bridge, Tofu factory, Pingtian village, Hengkeng village, Damushan Tea Garden and Brown Sugar Factory. During these visits, the participants were exposed to creative efforts to integrate culture, technology and architecture towards rural revitalization in Songyang County and several of the sites served as venues for the parallel work sessions and roundtables.

During keynote speeches and roundtable sessions, the participants contrasted the case of Songyang County with perspectives both of China and of other countries, sharing their experiences, strategies and new ideas for rural revitalization. The parallel side events with field trips provided a chance to broaden understanding of topics derived from the Forum theme. It also provided an opportunity to share experiences from different regions.

The Forum provided an opportunity for global challenges and national or local strategies for integrated urban and rural development to be informed by discussions and experiences of rural revitalization from many perspectives, to share reflections on urban and rural sustainable development, and within a broader scope, to call for the strengthening of sustainable innovation and development in rural areas of all countries.

The conference recognized a common aspiration and pursuit of “shared cities and regions for all” and “equal rights and opportunities for all residents in cities and all other settlements in the continuum of human settlements”. These and other sentiments were captured in a “**2019 Songyang Consensus**” drafted by the co-organizers, providing a brief summary. The Songyang Consensus is available in both Chinese and English. This report accompanies the Songyang Consensus with summaries of presentations and outcomes of the first International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages.



First day, registration and visiting ancient street

## DAY ONE: RURAL REVITALIZATION THROUGH VALORISATION AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

### FIELD TRIP 1

At the beginning of the first day, the hosting partner, Songyang County People's Government organized the first field trip and introduced all the participants to some of the signature rural architecture acupuncture sites in Songyang.

- ✓ **Shimenyu Bridge** was once dilapidated and deserted and has recently been transformed into a local market and leisure destination for residents on either side of the bridge after redefining its social functions. It also leads people to peripheral villages on the banks of Songyin River.



From Left: Shimenyu Bridge Right: local market and leisure destination

- ✓ The **Brown Sugar Factory** is a living rural museum and working factory that serves many functions. Primarily, it is a traditional brown sugar processing and production factory, but it also now serves as the workplace for the village committee, holds cultural activities and is also used for leisure, sightseeing and business demonstration.



Brown Sugar Factory

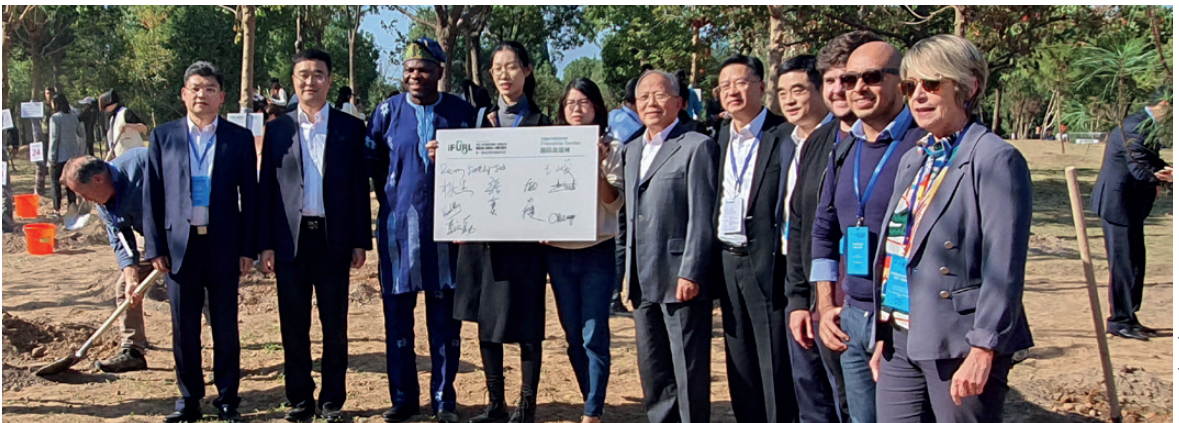
- ✓ **Damushan Tea Garden** is one of the top tourist attractions, given the first 4A grade from People's Government of China, that integrates sightseeing, sports, leisure, and cultural activities. Besides being a tea "garden" of more than 200 hectares in the central area, it vigorously promotes agro-industrial integration and has become the first demonstration park for the integration and development of primary, secondary and tertiary agro-food green and organic industries nationwide.



Damushan Tean Garden

## TREE PLANTING EVENT

The organizers and participants then held a Tree Planting Event in the International Friendship Garden, celebrating the collaboration between UN-Habitat, Songyang County and other URL-GP partners. All participants co-planted a tree, signed on the label of each tree and took a group photo.



Tree planting event

## OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony was inaugurated by high-level officials from the Zhejiang Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, Lishui Municipal People's Government, Songyang County People's Government and UN-Habitat.



Opening remarks by the UN-Habitat ED Ms. Mahmoud Maimunah Sharif

- In her video remarks, UN-Habitat Executive Director **Ms. Mahmoud Maimunah Sharif** highlighted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda (NUA), recognizing that urban and rural communities do not live in isolation from one another. She also stressed that in the Strategic Plan 2020-2023, UN-Habitat has proposed “enhanced prosperity of city and regions” as one of its four focus areas, and improved spatial connectivity and productivity as a key outcome. She concluded by highlighting the tools that UN-Habitat has developed to support Member States and other stakeholders in ensuring “no one and no space is left behind”.



Mr. Wang Jun, CPC Songyang County Committee

- The secretary of the CPC Songyang County Committee **Mr. Wang Jun** introduced the history of rural development in Songyang, recognized the role of UN-Habitat in organizing the Forum, and also extended his gratitude to UN-Habitat for inviting Songyang to participate in the UN-Habitat Assembly in May 2019, where a Letter of Intent between UN-Habitat and Songyang People’s Government was signed. He stated that the Forum will be the stage for gathering wisdom and providing more insights to contribute to solving the problems of sustainable development across the urban-rural continuum.
- **Mr. Remy Sietchiping** from UN-Habitat acknowledged the Forum as a historical moment and a major achievement for mainstreaming urban-rural linkages, in alignment with and supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA). He said this Forum will not only broaden the horizon of all participants, it will also revisit urban and rural agendas in all aspects to achieve the continuity of policies, planning, best practices and strategies. He also stressed that the Forum, as might be expected, will consolidate achievements of the past, but also form a new opportunity to improve our knowledge, technology, experience and tools going forward.



Remy Sietchiping, UN-Habitat



- **Mr. Xiang Yongdan**, the director of Zhejiang Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, also highlighted that Songyang would be viewed as a specimen of ancient Chinese counties and that the Forum would inspire reflections of rural development to advance sustainable urban and rural development elsewhere in the world.
- **Mr. Lou Zhijian**, the deputy mayor of Lishui Municipal People's Government, on the other hand, described Songyang County as a land of photogenic beauty, longevity and recreation with many features that make Songyang County a centre of ancient villages.



## KEYNOTE SPEECHES ROUND 1: RURAL REVITALIZATION THROUGH VALORISATION

After the opening session, keynote speeches were made by participants from China, Africa, Europe, Latin America and international organizations, sharing experiences from projects, strategies, plans and policies relevant to urban-rural linkages. The theme of the first round of Keynote Speeches was Rural Revitalization through Valorisation, moderated by **Prof. Dominic Byarugaba**, Executive Director of the African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD).

Most of the speakers shared the view that "rural areas shall be a luxury in the future" with the rapid development of urbanization, especially in developing countries. However, rural areas are and will remain vital for cities and innovations for rural revitalization are urgently required. Key messages of the speakers were as follows:



- **Prof. Byarugaba** stated that *"in the new era, the countryside is no longer synonymous with agriculture, and it also has vast potential for tourism, innovation and entrepreneurship ."* He further pointed out the importance of sustainable and inclusive agricultural development and empowering women in rural areas.



- The first speaker, **Mr. Li Xiaojie**, Chairman of the China Cultural Relics Protection Foundation, shared on the historical role and contemporary value of Chinese traditional villages. He reiterated the importance of the unique traditional architecture techniques and customs and the values of economic, social, ecological and cultural resources for rural development. He also stressed that Songyang County, a well-preserved specimen of ancient Chinese counties, is the perfect location for the First International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages.



- The second speaker, **Dr. Abdul Husaini**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands and Housing of Niger State delivered his speech on Rural Revitalization: Experience of Niger State, Federal Republic of Nigeria. He began his presentation by stating that “traditional villages shall be a luxury in the future” and raised the question: “how should rural areas serve as a catalyst for economic development, wellness and conservation?”. He used Nigeria as an example, where the education system is not comprehensive enough and not in tune with the major global policy statements calling for territorial planning to integrate urban and regional planning. As a result, planners are not well-equipped to address the sustainability challenges across urban-rural spaces in Nigeria. He also proposed that in traditional physical territorial planning, more attention should be paid to fiscal planning and economic development. He suggested that going forward, settlement planning solutions should not only be seen from the point of view of professional planners, and the opinions of the public should also be taken into account.



- **Ms. Maria Magdalena**, CEO of Mexico's National Environmental Authorities Association (ANAAE) and **Mr. Victor Alvarado**, Advisor for the National Commission of Biodiversity Knowledge and Use (CONABIO) of Mexico delivered a joint speech on the Role of Rural Biodiversity in Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages. Ms. Maria Magdalena first introduced the progress of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) towards the Post-2020 Framework being a long-term approach on biodiversity mainstreaming. It defines a specific set of targets on both national and sub-national levels and promotes nature-based solutions through the application of new technologies, new business models, financing and data mobilization. They introduced Mexico's National Strategy of Biodiversity: Action Plan 2016-2030, with six areas of action and a cross-sectoral mechanism for biodiversity mainstreaming. Next, they pointed out that political will is one, if not the most important element for action when it comes to mainstreaming biodiversity, that international cooperation for development is paramount, and that understanding the value of biodiversity across different sectors is also extremely important.



- The next speaker, **Ms. Arantza Leturiondo**, vice-councillor of the Ministry of Environment, Land Planning and Housing of Basque Region, Spain, delivered her speech on the Rural Discovery of the Basque Country, Spain. In rural areas, Spain is currently focusing on areas such as developing natural resources, building basic infrastructure and especially environmental protection. Adopting the Public Private Partnership approach has also promoted more comprehensive and efficient development.

## Discussion

- How can we promote female empowerment and improve women's position in the society?
- » Dr. Abdul Husaini addressed the question and pointed out that with the modernization of agriculture, we should also build capacity for modern management, especially focusing on the provisions for access to and ownership of farmland for women. He then introduced an example of how women in the countryside were given freezers and coolers so that they could preserve agricultural products to increase their incomes'.

- China has invested greatly in rural development. What lessons can we draw from the history of China's rural development?
- » Mr. LI Xiaojie explained that the government's support to rural areas has been improved over thousands of years of history. Currently in China, the agricultural tax and the agricultural special product tax have been abolished. At present, the Chinese government agricultural policy is to reduce surplus production, and this policy is still relevant. Therefore, farmers and agriculture continue to receive the full support of the Government. Speaking of the second point, he emphasized that villages are not the same as cities. Cities are characterized by a mixture of families from different regions, and rural areas are characterized by the surnames of primary families. He stated the role of clans in contemporary rural development and rural revitalization should be further emphasized for the development of rural tourism and other industries, as well as for the return of rural cultural and trade talent.

## KEYNOTE SPEECHES ROUND 2: RURAL REVITALIZATION THROUGH INNOVATIVE PRACTICES



The theme of the second round of keynote speeches was Rural Revitalization through Innovative Practices moderated by **Dr. Remy Sietchiping**, UN-Habitat. Speakers gave their perspectives and understanding of rural development and innovations based on the unique cases of their countries or regions. During the session, the key message was that rural development has the potential to reshape the identity of rural areas, which can in turn promote more balanced interaction between rural and urban areas.



- The first speaker, **Ms. Xu Tiantian**, an architect from Beijing, China, delivered her speech on: 'Architectural Acupuncture - The Songyang Story', describing several inspiring "Architectural Acupuncture" projects of Songyang. First, she emphasized the importance of engaging with local government, especially the technical team on the ground, local craftsmen and local residents. She then focused on the rural economy and in particular the rural factories that brought our attention to the rural economy represented by the rural factories that were the subject of architectural projects.

This provided the opportunity to build up a new economic supply chain, also pushing the development and integration of primary, secondary and tertiary agro-industries. By investing in tourism and improving basic infrastructure and cultural facilities, rural areas can serve both practical functions as well as cultural functions.

She highlighted again that the strategy of architectural acupuncture is to explore a sustainable and organic rural development model. In her words, "there is a strong cultural accumulation in rural areas, but it is often easily ignored in the development of modern society". She further pointed out that urban and rural areas are co-existent. *Rural development has the potential to reshape the identity of rural areas, which can in return promote the balance and interactions between rural and urban areas.* She mentioned that many young people from Songyang have returned home from big cities and started their own business, which has promoted urban-rural linkages. She concluded stating that rural development is a systematic social practice process that requires constant analysis, exploration and improvement.



- The second speaker, **Mr. Sangho Jun** from LX, a public agency on cadastral and spatial information of Korea, introduced the video clip on 'Drone Application for the Agricultural Spatial Information System in Korea.'



- The third speaker in this session, **Mr. Vicente Ruiz**, economist from the OECD Development Centre, delivered his speech on Intermediate Cities and Rural Development. He highlighted that intermediate cities help promote capital flows and population migration. However, they are facing challenges from the gaps between rural and urban areas in knowledge, policy and finance. He stressed rural development must be linked directly with small and medium-sized urban centres in a place-based territorial context. Finally, he emphasized the need for a new lens to address decentralized development and the economic and social transformations which developing countries will face in the future.



- The last speaker of this session, **Mr. Vincent Nji Ndumu**, Mayor of Bamenda City, Cameroon, shared his views of Improving Rural Areas through Urban-Rural Linkages in The City of Bamenda. Bamenda, the third largest city in Cameroon, is also the socio-economic, political and commercial hub for the region and promotes urban-rural linkages through projects, such as the construction of roads, development of decentralized market centres, and the improvement of water supply and public lighting. He highlighted that *inter-municipal collaboration, shared vision and urban-rural partnership contribute to an empowering rural governance and rural planning policies.*

## Discussion

- What are the land tenure rules and regulations in your countries? And how can they affect rural development?
- » Speakers shared their perspectives on this issue, since many cases presented are owned by multiple partners. Ms. Xu Tiantian, during the discussion with the audiences, stated that her collaboration with Songyang is actually more than just as an architect. They have also tried to explore the cultural heritage, the treasures in national and local culture, while promoting economic development. They hope that history can reshape the identity and renew the context of rural areas.
- » Following this, Mr. Vincent Ruiz stated that knowledge transfer is considered essential by the OECD. The OECD is launching a project next year to promote and strengthen knowledge transfer, collecting data from cities to inform policy makers at the national level. Because the regional governments of many developing countries are not fully aware of the development potential of their areas, the OECD is developing tools to collect and analyse data at the regional and national levels to help government officials make more informed decisions.
- Are issues of urban-rural linkages taken into consideration in territorial planning in your region?
- » Mr. Vincent Nji Ndumu. gave an example of local government's work on transportation, which supports farmers to bring their agricultural products to cities. He also reiterated the importance of the Paris Agreement signed in 2015 during the conversation and recalled the commitment countries had made to reduce carbon emissions.

## DAY TWO: FIELD TRIPS AND PARALLEL EVENTS

The second day was comprised of parallel events in different locations. The first set of parallel events was on rural architecture and innovations in tourism. The second set of parallel events was on innovations for rural economic development and innovations in rural agriculture, culture and heritage. The participants took different routes based on their interests.

### ROUTE 1A: RURAL ARCHITECTURE

- ✓ **Hakka Indenture Museum** is made of local stone slabs using traditional building techniques. The old indenture records on display are historical evidence of the periods of farming over the centuries. From the tradition of land contracts, visitors can gain a comprehensive understanding of Shicang Hakkas, e.g. their migration from Fujian Province, land purchase processes, Chinese medicine and smelting businesses, family lineage, ups and downs in local history, and learn about Shicang's past as a contractual society with a profound business ethic and rules observed by all over the generations.



Hakka Indenture Museum

- ✓ The **Tofu Factory** is a typical case of the "featured agricultural factories" in Songyang. Based on the preservation of traditional handicrafts, it introduces modern concepts and technology for the systematic construction of an industrial value chain. The entire chain was made visible, from planting to processing and sales, to the enrichment of villagers and the stimulation of the collective village economy. By developing diverse functions such as production and processing, cultural activities, leisure and sightseeing, the tofu factory demonstrated how to make optimum use of resources and fully integrate functions.



Tofu Factory

## PARALLEL EVENT 1A: RURAL ARCHITECTURE

This session was moderated by Ms. XU Tiantian, an architect from Beijing. She started the session by stating that rural architecture is more than just buildings in rural areas. She explained *rural architecture can interact with communities and play an important role in the connection between urban and rural areas, promoting urban-rural linkages*. Before inviting the first speaker, she also noted the other contributors behind rural architecture itself, as urban planning, urban design, government-level policies and economic pre-planning and so on.



- **Mr. Rafael Bernardo López Ochóa**, Secretary of Planning and Territorial Planning, Florencia Caquetá, Colombia, took the floor to deliver his presentation on 'Problems of Urban Expansion: Florencia Case'. He gave several examples of how territorial planning is implemented in different cities. To ensure the sustainability and practicality of territorial planning, they must consider the financial capacity, level of technological development and other factors. The formulation, monitoring and evaluation as well as implementation of the plans all follow rigorous rules and regulations. He also stressed the importance of involving communities in the process.



- The second speaker, **Dr. Anurima Mukherjee Basu**, assistant professor from the Faculty of Planning, CEPT University, Ahmedabad, India, gave a presentation on the 'Challenges of Governing and Developing RURBAN Areas in India. She discussed legislation for planning and approaches in India'. She stated that spatial plans for rural areas only exist as part of the planning area of a city or metropolitan region. According to Dr. Basu, sectorial plans for rural areas are mostly vertical and lack horizontal integration. Then Dr. Basu introduced India's national flagship programme, National RURBAN Mission (NRuM) launched in 2015. A RURBAN cluster is a cluster of geographically contiguous villages, generating advantages for economic development, capacity building, agricultural processing and agricultural services. She concluded recommending that governments should develop RURBAN clusters using an integrated, comprehensive and strategic approach.



- **Ms. Dunya Bouchi**, managing director from ANCB, the Aedes Metropolitan Laboratory, introduced Aedes' work in culture and communication. She recalled the international conference, 'Regions on the Rise' organized in 2018 in cooperation between Songyang County Government and the Aedes Architecture Forum & Network Campus Berlin. She ended her speech by expressing an interest to work with experts from different backgrounds hoping that with joint effort, more events and cooperation will take place.



- The last speaker of this session was **Mr. HUANG Yinwu**, the president of Shaxiyuan Rural Cooperation Centre, who spoke on "Towards Sustainable Vernacular Construction". Mr. HUANG first explained that the widening gap between urban and rural areas in China risks rural areas losing their identity and local culture by trying to conform to the norms of urban architecture in larger cities. At the same time, traditional rural architecture is not resilient and cannot adapt to the everchanging needs of modern society. With the presentation of successful practices in Shaxi, Yunnan Province, he explained how to revolutionize traditional building techniques in materials, structure, and functions, while preserving their cultural dimensions. He stressed the improvement of improving rural architecture rather than completely replacing it.

## Discussion

- Mr. Huang, could you tell us more about the waste management in rural areas?
  - » Mr. HUANG Yinwu addressed the question and agreed that waste disposal is a huge issue in rural development and introduced a recent garbage classification system as an effort to solve the issue. He also mentioned the use of a wastewater management systems in rural areas, separating wastewater and excrement so that it can still be processed for use as fertilizer for farmland.
- What strategies can be implemented to engage stakeholders at multiple levels?
  - » Mr. Ochóa and Mr. Ruiz answered with examples of multi-stakeholder planning projects covering topics such as culture, society, gender, etc.
- How can we convince the general public to keep the traditional architectural style?
  - » Mr. HUANG Yinwu pointed out the potential tourism values of traditional architecture. Also, local craftsmanship is valued as seen in the case of this field tour. This is why they chose to keep traditional architecture and only use modern techniques and materials to improve upon traditional architecture. Ms. XU Tiantian also added that using traditional architecture styles can also bring back traditional craftsmen and create more employment opportunities.
- Are there any challenges related to the legal framework or policies? If so, what are they?
  - » Dr. Basu agreed that there are challenges and explained that different states have their own laws in India and their own strategies and plans. According to her, while there are more rules and regulations in urban areas, this is not the case in rural areas.

## ROUTE 1B: INNOVATIONS IN TOURISM

- ✓ **Hengkeng Village**, founded in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), is a traditional Chinese village with the style and features from 400 years ago. It is home to intact historical constructions and ancient post roads such as the Ye Family Ancestral Hall, Anfy Temple, Wenwu Temple, and the ancient Gallery Bridge. Hengkeng village is of historical and research significance as well as artistic value for understanding the defining characteristics and means for external communication of mountainous farming settlements in Songyang. Rich in bamboo, it has built the Bamboo Pavilion using Moso bamboo and promoted bed and breakfast lodging for tourists and eco-agriculture.



Bamboo pavilion, Hengkeng village

- ✓ The **Bamboo Pavilion** is located in Hengkeng Village, which is known for Moso bamboo. The pavilion is a natural space with the quasi-dome made of bamboos bent downward and the auditorium paved with stones. People can stop for leisure and entertainment. The pavilion changes its shape each year as new bamboos supersede the old ones, which makes it a living structure.

## PARALLEL EVENT 1B: INNOVATIONS IN TOURISM



The moderator of the session, **Ms. XIE Yazhen**, deputy magistrate of Songyang County People's Government started the session stating that it is time to see the rural areas as an organic whole. In her opening, she highlighted that *rural development should aim for the integration of the primary, secondary and tertiary industries and the integrated development of agriculture, trade, industry, culture and tourism*.



- The first speaker **Ms. Inge Roecker**, Principal of AIR Studio, the University of British Columbia, Canada took the floor and gave her speech on 'Architecture and Tourism'. She shared an ongoing practice in the Fraser Lake incorporated as a village, in the north of Canada. Fraser Lake is suffering population decline due to a deterioration of the key historic industries of fishing and forestry. Since the village is located on the highway for travel to Alaska, her team decided to transform the place into an eco-friendly tourist attraction. Through engagement with local residents via an online survey, social media and face-to-face consultations, the team learned that food security and economic diversification are the main concerns of the community. The team introduced concrete actions implemented as a local bank founded to support small businesses and a community centre built to enhance cultural sustainability and inter-generational knowledge transfer.
- **Mr. Delani Khanyile**, from South African Local Government Association, started his speech noting that planning and policy generally serve urban areas, not rural areas. He then explained that resources needed for sustainable development are closely linked to urban interests and rural areas are marginalised in this matter. He stated that policy makers and planners should be aware of the discussion regarding how to make better use of land resources and capital to grow the rural economy.



- The next speech was by **Mr. LU Yuanzheng**, vice president and researcher at the Traditional Architecture Design Institute of Zhejiang Province, titled Embodiment of Core Elements in the Development of Traditional Villages. He argues that the first priority highlighted by people living in rural areas is housing - not only convenient and comfortable houses, but also to enhance the local environment and to support community culture. The next priority is the formation and development of organic connections between urban and rural areas, and between farming and trading. He also stressed the interconnection of culture, history, heritage and innovation that infuse modernity with tradition.



- The last speaker of the session was **Mr. LUO Deyin**, associate professor of the School of Architecture, Tsinghua University.

First Mr. LUO briefed participants on the five stages of the development of Songyang, which he described as "the last county specimen of ancient China". He recalled that while Zhejiang Province was highly industrialised, without benefiting much itself from its industrialisation, Songyang has defined itself as a tourist attraction with eco-friendly industries, which makes it stand out in both Zhejiang Province and sets it apart from neighbouring areas.



He highly appreciated Songyang. He said, it has insisted on its way of development and was never blinded by market needs. Nowadays, in the age of modernization, many places face the issue of redefining, rediscovering and reshaping themselves. Songyang has taken the lead in this respect and it has, to some extent, redefined China as well.

## Discussion

- In the following conversation, Mr. LUO Deyin pointed out that China's tourism market has transformed from the sightseeing era. This requires a tourist attraction to be more than just photogenic; it also needs to tell the story of the place in a way that can reach out to and touch people so that they want to visit.
- How can we engage the people who live in villages in the promotion of rural development?
- » Mr. Delani Khanyile said that preserving traditional architecture and values while at the same time integrating innovations and modern technology can help promote the rural economy and keep villagers' sense of belonging and their enthusiasm for development.
- Speakers agreed on the key takeaways, starting with the first: that culture is the essence of rural development. Preserving and promoting local culture can stimulate industrial development and engage villagers in the process. Secondly, rural values are international. Rural revitalization can be educational and inspiring to other countries and regions. Thirdly, rural revitalization is about agro-industrial revitalization, requiring an eco-friendly point of view and the rediscovery of the values of rural area.

## ROUTE 2A: INNOVATIONS IN AGRICULTURE, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

- ✓ **Pingtian Village** explores the rural stock of resources in line with the concept of "continued protection and organic development" via "TCM" (traditional Chinese medicine)- like modification and acupuncture-induced activation to promote deep integration and development of eco-agriculture, bed-and-breakfast businesses, cultural and creative industries and other industries related to rural tourism. Pingtian has attracted ambitious, dedicated and outstanding teams and young entrepreneurs to return to the countryside and help villagers start up their own businesses in local areas. As a result, the formerly deserted and empty village has taken on a new appearance and gradually transformed into a new rural community full of vitality. It has become a base for rural tourism, with a "relaxed lifestyle and leisure tourism model village" in Zhejiang Province, China.



Pingtian village

## PARALLEL EVENT 2A: INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE, CULTURE AND HERITAGE



The moderator of this session was **Dr. Florence Egal**, senior expert on food security and nutrition. She started the session stressing the relationship between food and local culture. She also mentioned the importance of the education of women to strengthen the food system, since it is mainly women in each household who oversee the preparation of food.



- The first speaker, **Ms. Tuyen Thi Thanh Huynh**, country coordinator from the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture, gave a speech on Elucidating Rural-Urban Linkages of Food Systems for Healthier Diets. She argued that rural and urban areas have different functions in the food system given that rural areas are the main provider of food for consumers, while the urban areas are the most important market. According to her, developing countries are facing the challenge of how to ensure that everyone has access to food. She also emphasized the importance of educating people on nutrition and health. Food diversity is another challenge for rural areas since many remote villages have less diversified choices of food. She then concluded that it is important to connect markets with the local resources available, narrowing the gap between urban and rural food systems.



- **Mr. XIA Yuqing**, executive president of Hangzhou B&B Industry Association, and founder of Jiesu B&B Accommodation. He presented the story of his bed & breakfast business in Songyang which had benefited from substantial support from the local government.



- The third presenter was **Mr. WU Yong**, the main designer of Hanyi Songyang Fonts. He gave a presentation on the culture behind Chinese characters illustrating the meaning and culture behind characters and different fonts. He stated that language and its written form are a part of the local culture and values and should be taken into account.



- **Mr. Ibrahima Camara**, director of National Directorate of Urban and Territorial Planning, Ministry of City and Territorial Planning, Guinea, talked about agriculture development in the Republic of Guinea. He presented the first three-year plan for the implementation of agricultural development, including a 1-year education course for farmers. Guinea has also started its urban-rural linkages programme with the support of UN-HABITAT in 2012 to promote the development of mining and agriculture and to promote the economic development of the country.



- **Mr. Karim Hussein**, international development specialist and senior advisor, took the floor to deliver a speech on Urban-Rural Linkages and Food Security in Africa. He explained that the use of innovative approaches and technologies in agriculture has pushed forward the development of many countries and regions in Africa. Encouraging knowledge transfer and communication and building partnerships is especially important in this context. He also stressed the role of small and medium cities, as in Tanzania where research found that population increase in small and medium cities and towns leads to a decrease in poverty. He argued that the power of migration should be harvested to create more job opportunities for sustainable urban and rural development. He concluded by saying that to achieve sustainable urbanization requires the maximization of the potential of agriculture and the food system, strengthening the relationship between cities and rural areas.



- The last speaker of this session was **Dr. Ajay Chandra Lal**, coordinator of the MSc of Urban Planning Programme, Pulchowk Campus, Institute of Engineering in Tribhuvan University in Nepal. He introduced the fact that Nepal faces problems of unsustainable and unbalanced development. According to Dr. Lal, to achieve the synergy between urban and rural areas and promote urban-rural linkages, four factors must be taken into account: participatory planning and management, basic infrastructure and capacity building, innovations and development, and knowledge and technology. He also pointed out the importance of the private sector in promoting the cooperation between urban and rural areas.

### Discussion

- Ms. Tuyen, could you speak more about on your collaboration with nutritionists in your work?
  - » Ms. Tuyen agreed that policy makers and planners need to enhance their collaboration with nutritionists when it comes to improving food systems to achieve the SDGs.
  - » Following the conversation, Dr. Lal stressed the connections with the urban-rural continuum, which are not only at the policy level, but also at the functional level as the functions of urban areas and rural areas are fundamentally different.
- What measures can be taken to narrow the education gap between urban and rural areas?
  - » Ms. Tuyen suggested the use of digital tools to help resolve this, and hosting summer camps and exchange programmes to promote communication between urban and rural areas.
- How can we encourage young people to devote themselves to rural development?
  - » Dr. Egal first said that there is a trend right now in many cities in Europe where people seek to return to rural areas because they are not satisfied with the opportunities available in cities and also that there are many who would like to experience a new way of life. Mr. Hussein added to this, saying that Songyang had done a great job in attracting young people to the countryside, as many people working in the B&B industry are highly educated young people.
- What's your opinion on rural revitalization?
  - » Dr. Egal invited Dr. Sietchiping to answer this question. He expressed his positive expectations regarding the potentials of rural areas. He gave the example of Kenya, as many graduate students would return to the villages after finishing their studies, possibly not working in traditional agriculture but rather in a different agriculture with new tools and modern practices.

## ROUTE 2B: INNOVATIONS IN THE RURAL ECONOMY

- ✓ **Shangtian Village – Banling Natural Village** is a reform pilot project of Songyang's revitalization. It is built on the collective economic system and characterized by diversified cooperation and development such as mixed-ownership and farmer specialized cooperatives, engaging the local government, village and villagers as a whole. It has not only fully lifted villagers' enthusiasm, but also contributed to a new rural construction model for realizing common prosperity.



Shangtian village - Banling natural village

## PARALLEL EVENT 2B: INNOVATIONS IN THE RURAL ECONOMY



This session was moderated by **Ms. Ivy Moraes**, Policy Director, Regions4. She highlighted specific terms which are interconnected in relation to this topic, such as government, social measures, response to challenges, ways of thinking, cross-integration between different topics, and finally, the need to strengthen government policy synergy. She stressed that policy makers and planners should collaborate to ensure synergy between different measures.



- The first speaker, **Mr. Li Hanqin**, magistrate of Songyang County spoke on the following topic: 'Discover Songyang Rural Values and Stimulate Economic Development Vitality'. He illustrated recent economic innovations in Songyang. According to Mr. LI, in the past five years, the average annual GDP growth rate of Songyang has reached 7.6%. At present, more than half of the administrative villages in the county have been implanted with new economic formats such as ecological agriculture, B&B business, cultural and creative industries, which has attracted over 5,700 people to return home to the countryside. He then proposed three breakthrough points and three key points for promoting innovation in the rural economy. The first breakthrough point is the environment. He showed that Songyang has vigorously invested in reforestation, river and lake management, cleaning air pollution and village landscaping. This work on ecology led to a booming tourism industry. In the first three quarters of the year 2019, Songyang received 1.819 million tourists and tourism created an income of 120 million RMB for the county: an increase of 15% and 21% respectively. The second breakthrough point was culture, as Songyang has hosted many arts events and festivals, opened many rural museums and workshops, and hosted contemporary rural art exhibitions to protect and promote its precious traditional culture. The last was the Internet. With the rise of e-commerce, social media and mobile payments, the importance of e-commerce

in Songyang has developed rapidly. The county's online sales reached 1.36 billion RMB in the first three quarters of 2019, with a year-on-year increase of 39.8%. He then moved on to discussing three key points. The first was co-construction, sharing and collective organization. The second was to adapt to local conditions. He emphasized that industrial development must be rationally arranged and planned based on the geographical conditions, resource distribution, and industrial foundations and the customs and traditions of each region. The third key point was quality first. He emphasized that green ecological production and lifestyle must be adhered to through the entire process of rural economic development. He ended his speech by hoping that all participants could learn from each other and build a better future for the rural economy.



- **Mr. Panagiotis Karfakis**, economist from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), delivered his speech 'A Vision for Rural Transformation in View of Rapid Urbanization'. He highlighted the importance of newly emerged rural towns in developing countries and of food processing after primary production. He also drew our attention to the importance of social protection policies in smoothing the sometimes-painful transition pathways for vulnerable smallholders to shift to higher productivity and more diversified agriculture. He also stated that the food system can create jobs by engaging and empowering small firms and farms to capture more value and integrate them into markets.



- The third speaker of the session, **Mr. David Suttie**, global engagement specialist from the International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD), took the floor and gave a presentation on Empowering Rural Communities. He stated that challenges are great to eradicate poverty in some underdeveloped rural areas with low productivity and bad ecological environment. This calls for the participation of young people in rural development. He also highlighted that improving local infrastructure and strengthening urban-rural linkages can increase farmers' participation in the market. He mentioned using technological innovations to promote the economy and he concluded pointing out the importance of land ownership and ensuring women's access to land and property in rural development.



- The last speaker of the session, **Mr. Thiago Soares Barbizan**, senior officer in Food Systems at ICLEI World Secretariat, was welcomed to the stage. He explained that a city-region approach coupled with multi-level governance mechanisms can create supportive policy environments since food systems transcend administrative and political boundaries in the urban-rural continuum. Then he explained that sustainable and resilient city-region food systems can enhance food security and nutrition for all, improve the livelihoods of urban, peri-urban and regional food producers and promote job creation. He also introduced the ICLEI-RUAF Cityfood Network, a project open to local and regional governments to help them implement the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.

## Discussion

- Following the presentations, an audience member summarized the session and added that in the urban-rural continuum, land ownership, land security and human rights issues are also of vital importance. Therefore, it is essential for policy makers to make data-driven and evidence-based decisions and to strengthen and promote public-private partnerships.
- Where else in the world has the Songyang approach on rural revitalization been implemented?
- » Mr. LI explained that although Songyang has made great achievements in its rural revitalization and economic development, compared to other big cities in China, Songyang still has a long way to go. He then added that regarding rural migration to big cities, a common problem in many villages in China, Songyang's way of preserving rural traditions and improving living standards in rural areas to attract young people to return home is worth promoting. He emphasized that we have to take into account and respect regional differences when implementing the same method in other cities or areas, because China is such a big and diverse country.

## DAY THREE: RURAL INDUSTRY REVITALIZATION PRACTICES

The last day of the Forum comprised of a Roundtable moderated by **Dr. Ahmad Elatrash**, Senior Urban Programme Officer UN-Habitat. Dr. Elatrash started the session with the appreciation that all of participants have an opportunity to listen to the different experiences from Africa, Asia and Europe. Summarizing the session, he mentioned the importance of rediscovering the value of rural local communities to lead their transformation of getting the central government to provide policy support to facilitate this. Then he stressed that policy makers and planners need to recognize the land values of rural areas and address land financing issues. Finally, he concluded the session stating that to attract more young talent and entrepreneurs back home, for example through the development of business as e-commerce and big data, all the issues related to rural revitalization need to be addressed from an integrated perspective.



- The first speaker, **Mrs. FOUDA OWOUNDI Anne Marguerite**, Head of the Studies, Planning and Cooperation Division, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Cameroon, was welcomed to the stage. First, she introduced Cameroon, a country of 30 million people with 52% living in cities. 60% of its urban population is concentrated in the two major cities, Yaoundé and Duala. Mrs. Fouda discussed how Cameroon has been responding to the development gap between urban and rural areas. She introduced various actions to improve transportation, energy and public infrastructure construction, maintenance, and basic social services, based on the balanced national urban structure of policy and planning. She concluded her speech stating the government's future work will also implement new cross-sector urban policies to promote urban and rural development and achieve SDGs.



- **Mr. Manohar Velpuri**, Institutional Partner to United Nations, Innovation Networks, shared thoughts on "Rural Industry Revitalization Practices and Disruption – To connect rural and urban areas". He first introduced the disruptive technology and ongoing innovations on rural industrialization using examples from Songyang, for example how Songyang can use technology to better protect its innovations and develop its practices. He delivered several examples of applications to achieve rural industry revitalization, social inclusion, traditional heritage and contributions towards an ecological civilization. He concluded his speech illustrating how we can change the structure of energy access and use it to cope with climate change.



- **Mr. Kayom Wilson**, Physical Urban Planner from Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development, Additional Financing (USMID-AF) Program, introduced their work on Uganda's municipal infrastructure development plan. He pointed out that infrastructure and management can be used to promote local sustainability, if policy and planning ensures participatory planning, appropriate methodology, land use plans, district (rural) profiles, management skills, integrating nature-based solutions and agriculture systems into spatial plans, strategic partnerships and diversification of infrastructure, including maintenance.



- The next speaker was **Ms. Eulalia Moreno De Acevedo Yague**, General Director, Urban and Territorial Planning, Regional Government of Extremadura, Spain. She explained that the subnational government has been implementing sustainable territorial and urban planning in the Extremadura Region, with unprecedented participation, and this was later enacted into law. She described this unique plan and law as “law of the subsoil, of the ground, of the flight, and of the sky” since this plan and law address protection of fertile land and soil underground, air quality along with strategic guidance for the future development of the region.



- Following the roundtable, **Mr. Zhu Qizhen**, Professor at China Agricultural University gave a presentation on the rural value of industrial prosperity and stressed the importance of rural production. He also highlighted the importance of the diversification and integration of rural industries, especially those related to agriculture, in order to increase incomes in rural areas, including existing rural industrial value chains and expanding their agricultural functions. In conclusion, he talked about the shape of the traditional village, including the importance of courtyards and farmers' associations and social standing in villages.



- **Mr. Rafic Khouri**, Member of the GLTN Steering Committee, gave a presentation on rural land consolidation in France. He introduced land consolidation in recent years with the reorganization of agriculture in France, aimed at improving agricultural conditions that reduce production costs, develop rural spaces and mitigate the negative effects of public works projects on farms. Land consolidation contributed to achieving more rational and effective allocation of plots, reducing the number of isolated plots and bringing these plots closer to the farm. Along with the process, public infrastructure improvement programmes were also implemented, such as the construction of road, community centres, residential plots etc., to foster further land integration. He ended by stressing that the land consolidation process led positive changes in the environmental value of rural land and strengthened biodiversity.



- The last speaker was **Mr. Wang Junlong** from the Zhejiang SOWIN E-commerce Company. He delivered the speech on behalf of the rural e-commerce practitioners, as an entrepreneur running Lishui local enterprises. He explained how rural e-commerce should be understood not just as scientific and technological innovation. He pointed out that the internet, can only create more opportunities and improve lives in rural areas if local governance, planning and industrial policy are integrated.



## Discussion

- We cannot have a one-size-fits-all solution. We see a lot of differences here in terms of urban-rural linkages. How can we empower local government to meet such specific terms?
- » Mr. Velpuri responded by saying that all participatory policy making processes must make decisions taking into account the overall policy agenda, even when applying very specific technologies. In other words, the global agenda should be tailored and localized to solve the precise challenge that a region is facing. Ms. Marguerite's answer focused on the "balance". She described Cameroon as a country with many minorities, considering language, religion, ethnic groups etc. Therefore, she emphasized the need for the government to fully address the need for balance in fiscal management and resource distribution to strengthen urban-rural linkages. In this way, urban and rural areas would have equitable access to government services and meet the needs of all people.



## CLOSING CEREMONY

Over the three days of discussions at the event, numerous pearls of wisdom emerged and a wide range of experiences across the globe were shared. The closing ceremony began the presentation of the Songyang Consensus 2019 in a ceremony led by the co-organizers of the Forum. The consensus was read aloud in Chinese and the English translation was displayed on screen. The representatives of the Forum co-organizers gave final remarks. **Dr. Remy Sietchiping** in his closing remarks expressed his gratitude to all levels of government that supported the Forum, especially to Mr. WANG Jun and Mr. LI Hanqin. He also thanked the volunteers and delegations from different countries and organizations who had made contributions to the event. In summary, he stressed that this Forum shared innovative solutions for fruitful urban-rural linkages and he requested all participants to implement these solutions in their own ways. Finally, he emphasized that the Forum in itself had provided evidence that small-scale initiatives at the local level can have a far-reaching impact, and he called on every participant with different resources, land and assets to plant these seeds in their home gardens.

**Mr. Wang Jun** in his final remarks indicated that most importantly, the innovative rural revitalization practices implemented in Songyang have increased the income and welfare of the people, and enhanced their sense of belonging and sense of identity as proud members of the community. This has in turn strengthened their belief in rural development.

Going forward, he proposed the following five strategies for rural revitalization. The first one is the new value orientation towards an ecological civilization; the second is a new mutually reinforcing and coexisting urban-rural relationship; the third is a new agriculture-based economic form integrating trade, culture, creative businesses and ecological symbiosis; the fourth is a more centralized and organized operating mechanism without fragmented and decentralized management; and the last one is a more inclusive cultural norm combining traditional with modern and urban with rural.

He concluded his remarks by indicating that he hopes that the "International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages" will be further developed as a platform to call on experts and practitioners in this field around the world to actively share information and experiences, promote the establishment of coordinating bodies and formulate corresponding action plans.



Group photo with volunteers

# ANNEX 01 THE SONGYANG CONSENSUS



## 松阳共识

The First International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages



200

Participants



18

International Organizations



17

countries



IMPLEMENTING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

The pursuit and desire for a better life is universal. Global agendas such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda recommend that we must “leave no one and no place behind”. This includes facilitating rural revitalisation, allowing rural and urban areas alike to simultaneously share the fruits of modern civilisation, alleviating urban problems, providing a more ecological and healthy way of life, and promoting sustainable development.

The First International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages was held in Songyang County, Lishui City, Zhejiang Province, China from November 11 to 13th, 2019. The forum was co-hosted and co-organised by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Zhejiang Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, Lishui Municipal People's Government and the Songyang County People's Government. The theme of the forum was “Rural Revitalisation through Innovations and Valorisation”. The forum has brought together more than 200 officials, experts, and scholars from 17 countries and 18 international

organisations. The forum probed topics of rural architecture, innovations in tourism, agriculture culture and heritage, rural economic development, among other topics, focusing on systematic thinking and innovative practices of rural revitalisation in the context of ecological conservation. It explored how to achieve urban and rural sustainable development through rural revitalisation and valorisation.

The forum showcased Songyang's and other places' innovative practices of reframing the rural value system and commitment to rural revitalisation. We are not alone in revitalising rural areas. The forum was organised in response to Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG11) among other SDGs in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which calls for cities and human settlements to be inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. In this context, the forum explored redefining urban-rural relations, strengthening cooperation, and exploring the positive links between urban and rural economy, society, and environment, in order to promote the sustainable development of urban and rural communities alike.

Challenges brought about by rapid urbanisation have made us reflect on the importance of rural areas. We realize that rural areas are indispensable in the development of humanity. The form of rural areas is undergoing major and profound changes. Some countries and

regions in the world have begun to explore rural revitalisation practices and have achieved preliminary results. Rural development is full of new hope, and people are full of expectations for the future of rural areas.



**We, the co-organizers have therefore reached the following consensus:**

**First**, rural value systems are essential to restore rural vitality. The countryside is the cradle of human civilisation. The ecological civilisation provides hope for rural and urban revitalisation. Therefore, it is necessary to give priority to rural development. Beautiful rural environments with clean water, green landscapes, vibrant biodiversity and ecologies and thriving communities have become scarce. The countryside is no longer only a place for agriculture; it also has other important functions, including ecological conservation, climate resilience, leisure and sightseeing, and unique cultural experiences. Countryside will become once again a space for people to improve their health and settle down after retirement, to innovate and start businesses, and to live in dignity and well-being. The economic, environmental, social, and cultural values of the countryside will regain prominence. Attaching importance to rural reconstruction using the “acupuncture” approach and restoring rural vitality will help improve the ecological environment, reduce poverty, increase employment opportunities, improve the quality of life, enhance social equity, and promote the development and prosperity of humanity and the environment.

**Second**, we shall strengthen the reform of the rural economic development model. Sustainable economic revitalisation is an important cornerstone for rural revitalisation. We will build a diversified economic system integrating the development of the primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors to achieve simultaneous value enhancement and benefits for rural and urban areas. The pursuit of a harmonious green development “metabolism” between humanity and nature will help form new economies of scale for efficient and integrated development across the urban-rural continuum, eradicate poverty, and achieve sustainable development. Rural areas can not only engage in agriculture, but also become an ideal place for developing modern enterprises including in health, environment, culture, tourism, and high-end service, which together will form functional territories through sustainable social and economic harmonious development. Through adjustment of production and lifestyle, people can enjoy employment opportunities and achieve a better quality of life. This new economy, with strong interactive urban-rural circulation, will expand the potential of rural development, and attract new population growth to the countryside of villages, towns and the rural landscape.

**Third**, rural culture is recognised as the “root” and “soul” of rural areas. Through creative transformation and innovative development, culture becomes the driver of rural revitalisation. Culture can awaken people's love for rural life and regain their confidence in rural areas. We need to pay more attention to the role of culture in promoting rural development. Culture can enrich rural areas, regain people's faith, pass

on civilisations' heritage, and inject lasting inner strength into rural areas. It is necessary to protect, utilize, and pass on the tangible and intangible natural and cultural heritage of countryside. The integration of traditional culture with concepts of modern lifestyle and the application of science and technology in rural areas will form a more diverse and vibrant contemporary rural civilisation.



**Fourth**, both urban and rural areas are human settlements indispensable for sustainable development. We need to reshape and promote interaction between urban and rural development, economic integration and mutual promotion, and cooperative coexistence. We should treat urban and rural areas as an organic whole, optimise overall regional planning and rural development planning, and support local institutions to ensure land rights and smooth channels for rational and

efficient two-way flow of talent, finance, science and technology, among other human resources that flow between urban and rural areas. We will promote the co-construction and sharing of urban and rural infrastructure, establish and improve policies and mechanisms for urban-rural integration, and transform urban-rural relations from mutual isolation through integration to mutual promotion.

**Fifth**, rural resources are essential for social development. Everyone should be encouraged to actively participate in rural revitalisation. It is necessary to ensure equal rights and opportunities in rural areas and share the fruits of rural revitalisation on an equal footing. We should respect the position of villagers, stimulate villagers' enthusiasm for independent development, strengthen the cooperation between villagers, and transform fragmented and parallel operations into efficient and supportive cooperation model.

It is necessary to give full attention to the role of each individual, so that all will have a sense of belonging and ownership and jointly build fair, safe, healthy, convenient, resilient and sustainable living spaces. Also, we need to protect the rights and interests of the elderly, women, children, youth, and other vulnerable groups, leaving no one behind. We shall protect the equitable provision of social amenities and services to all classes of the population and interest groups in urban and rural areas alike.

**Sixth,** we promote the development, documentation and dissemination of inspiring practices on strengthening rural revitalisation and urban-rural linkages.

Therefore, the International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages serves as a platform to call upon urban and rural residents around the world to cooperate and exchange, promote the establishment of coordination bodies for cooperation and liaison, formulate corresponding

action plans, and form exchange mechanisms to jointly build sustainable urban and rural communities, protect rural areas' original distinctive characteristics, culture, and ecology, and to achieve a balanced, inclusive, peaceful, and prosperous development.

**Songyang  
November 13th, 2019**



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## ANNEX 02 PARTICIPANTS LIST

### Opening Event



- **Wang Jun**, Secretary of the CPC Songyang County Party Committee, China. Wang Jun is implementing the “Two Mountains” Theory and exploring the county practice of ecological conservation. Guided by the concept of the “live protection and organic development”, under the great effort, a group of dying traditional villages in Songyang County have been revitalized, among which 75 villages are in the list of National Traditional Villages. Now, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the P.R.C. has named Songyang an exemplary county under the Conservation and Development Project of Traditional Villages in China. Songyang has also been chosen by the National Cultural Relics Administration as a pilot area for the National Traditional Village Protection and Utilization Project, and by the China Foundation for Culture Heritage Conservation as a pilot county of the “Save the Old Houses Initiative”. The concept and practice of village revitalization, as advocated by Wang Jun, initially explored the realization of the ecological potentials of villages and has since become a national model and pioneer, by raising awareness for valorization and village protection with positive impacts, not only in China, but also abroad. In 2016, Wang Jun was named one of the top ten “outstanding figures of traditional village guardians” in China. In 2019, he was nominated as “Zhejiang Provincial Responsible and Committed Official”.



- **Li Hanqin**, Deputy Secretary of the CPC Songyang County Committee, Magistrate of Songyang County People's Government, China.

- **Remy Sietchiping**, Chief, Regional and Metropolitan Planning, UN-Habitat, Nairobi, Kenya



**Dr. Remy Sietchiping** leads the Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit at UN-Habitat where he oversees the development of strategic programmes, including national urban policy, urban-rural linkages, metropolitan development, and the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning and its application to the health sector. His work includes an active global portfolio of over 40 countries. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Dr. Sietchiping was project leader of the Global Land Tool Network where he coordinated the work on tool development processes, particularly on access to land and tenure security, land management and planning, land information, land policy and legislation, and land-based financing. He has over 25 years of experience working in the UN systems, academia, the private sector, and the public sector and NGOs in Australia, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Jamaica, and worldwide. Dr. Sietchiping has written over 40 publications including books, peer-reviewed articles, papers in proceedings and reports. Dr. Sietchiping holds a PhD in Geography from the University of Melbourne, Australia.



- **Zhang Yi**, Deputy Director General of Zhejiang Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, China.



- **Lou Zhijian**, Deputy Mayor of Lishui Municipal People's Government.

## Keynote Speeches

- **Dominic Byarugaba**, Executive Director, African Institute for Capacity Development, Uganda



**Professor Byarugaba** is a distinguished scholar and Executive Director of the African Institute for Capacity Development. His interests in natural environments stem from his works at the prestigious Institute for Tropical Forest Conservation, Bwindi the home of Mountain Gorillas in South Western Uganda. His wide exposure gives him a planning scope with hands-on experiences of modern well-designed environments. Prof. Byarugaba holds a BSc, MSc and PhD. He has special interest and attachment to greening and multipurpose plant species having worked with WWF/UNESCO/ Kew Gardens Initiative as Local Coordinator for Africa from 1997-2007 promoted indigenous useful plant species for development in Africa for both medicinal purposes and the beautification of environments. Presently Byarugaba is an ardent advocate of replenished environments at the smallest unit of life with a view to promoting the expansion of all units of life in order to ensure the survival of humanity. Prof. Byarugaba consults for National Geographic on natural beauty, UNESCO, WWF, UNDP, WB Inc. and USAID.



- **Li Xiaojie**, Chairman of the China Cultural Relics Protection Foundation, former Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Culture, Former Director of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, China

- **Abdul Husaini**, Permanent Secretary, Niger State Ministry of Lands and Housing, Nigeria



Dr. Abdul Husaini was the pioneer General Manager of Niger State Geographic Information System (NIGIS) where he designed and implemented the reorganization of the Land Record management process of the State. His major contribution to the human settlement sector includes recognition and involvement of the local communities in planning. He prepared the first information index on basic urban services for two of the major cities of Minna and Suleja, where all the major urban activity areas were identified and mapped. Some of his most important areas of community service include the acknowledgement of Minna as one of the Regional Centres of Expertise (RCE) on ESD and securing funding from the German International Cooperation (GIZ). These funds were used to conduct a study on the state of planning on the fringes of Minna, using Gidan Kwanu. He is currently leading the Jhuhuci-Shata Residential Development Plan (JRD), a new neighborhood of 265.46 Ha on the fringes of Minna. This project was conceived to control the unplanned expansion of Minna.



- **Maria Magdalena Ruiz Mejia**, CEO, ANAAE, A.C. Mexico

Maria Magdalena Ruiz Mejia is a biologist from the University of Guadalajara and is currently studying towards a Masters in Philosophy and Social Studies in the Jesuit University of Guadalajara. She was the Secretary of Environmental and Territorial Development of the Mexican state of Jalisco from 2013 to 2018. Likewise, she was the Secretary of Environment and Ecology of the municipality of Guadalajara from 2010 to 2012. She was also the adviser for the Culture and Environmental Commission of the Municipality of Guadalajara from 2007 to 2009. Throughout the 1992-2006 period, she worked at Mexico's second largest public university, UdeG, and ITESO, as faculty, researcher and lecturer, for strategic programmes on conservation, environmental education, as well as conflict management. She was recently named executive CEO for the Mexican Subnational Environmental Authority Association (ANAAE, AC).





- **Arantza Leturiondo**, Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Environment, Land Planning and Housing of the Basque Government, Basque Region, Spain.

Arantza Leturiondo is a lawyer and civil servant. Her career has been focused on public management and governance with different roles and responsibilities on land planning, urbanism and environment at both local and regional levels. She was Vice Minister of Environment (2011-2013) in the Basque Government. The sub-department she leads is focused on the design of territorial plans to make affordable cities, and more pleasant, healthy and attractive towns and villages. Her work is also focused on reducing the distance between homes and workplaces and providing an urban environment accessible for all. Her main aim is to put people in the core of the territory and recovering the relationship between urban, rural and natural systems.



- **Xu Tiantian**, Architect, Beijing, China

Xu Tiantian is the founding principal of DnA\_Design and Architecture. She has received numerous awards such as the WA China Architecture Award in 2006 and 2008, the Architectural League New York Young Architects Award in 2008, and the Design Vanguard Award in 2009 awarded by Architecture Record. She has completed a number of projects such as Songzhuang Art Center and Ordos Art Museum. In the past years, she has engaged extensively in the rural revitalization process in Songyang and Zhejiang Province. She has used 'architectural acupuncture' to work with different contexts and the heritages of villages and rural regions. She has also initiated the Field Work Station in Songyang, as an open platform for artists and designers to exchange with rural culture. She received her Masters in architecture and urban design from Harvard Graduate School of Design and her baccalaureate in architecture from Tsinghua University in Beijing.



- **Sangho Jun**, Korea

Mr. Sangho Jun has been working for 22 years in the development of new business related to business performance, education business, spatial information and intellectual system in spatial information and cadastral surveying, and also regarding agricultural observation using drones. LX conducts research on spatial information and cadastral systems, technology development, standardization and education projects, introduction of foreign technologies on spatial information and cadastral systems, international exchange, cooperation and overseas projects, cadastral surveying, cadastral reinvestigation projects, etc.



- **Vicente Ruiz**, Economist, OECD Development Centre, France

Vicente Ruiz is an economist working for the OECD Development Centre. Vicente supports national and sub-national authorities through economic analysis and policy recommendations in order to enhance the effectiveness of territorial development strategies.

His work has focused on improving the design and coherence of both urban and rural policy in OECD countries, as well as in developing countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, South-East Asia, and Latin America. Before joining the OECD, Vicente worked as an econometrician for the Mexican Ministry of Environment where he addressed issues related to pollution control mechanisms in the manufacturing sector and water management. Vicente holds a Masters degree in environmental economics and a Masters degree in econometrics and statistics from the Toulouse School of Economics, as well as a PhD in economics from the Paris School of Economics.



- **Fouda Owoundi Anne Marguerite**, Head of Studies, Planning and Cooperation Division, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Republic of Cameroon

Mrs. Fouda is a Cameroonian town planner, designer and teacher. As an expert in urban planning, urban policies and strategies, Mrs. Anne Marguerite FOUDA has participated in the editing and monitoring of all urban planning projects in Cameroon since 2000. For two years, between 2007 and 2009, she was a member of the team of experts in charge of the drafting of the Cameroon Vision 2035, the Strategy Document for Growth and Employment (SDGE) and the Urban Sub-Sector Development Strategy. While assuming her responsibilities as Head of the Studies, Planning and Cooperation Division in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, she participated and followed up numerous projects among which the elaboration of the National Development Master Plan and the Sustainable Development of the territory, the National Zoning Plan, National Urban Policy, National Housing Policy of Habitat. She is the focal point for the Urban Rural Linkages project in Cameroon.

#### Side event



- **Xie Yazhen**, Deputy Magistrate of Songyang County People's Government, China

- **Rafael Bernardo López Ochóa**, Secretary, Planning and Territorial Planning, Florencia Caquetá, Colombia.

He is a specialist in road engineering and has professional experience spanning eleven and a half years, in the public and private sectors, always with a high degree of responsibility, ethics and loyalty to the institution for which he works. In the private sector, he has worked as a resident engineer, study and design coordinator, construction coordinator, road specialist and deputy director in concessions. In the public sector, he worked with the National Roads Institute as a technical contract manager and currently he works as a municipal planning secretary. He has always liked to learn and know new things that enrich him both personally and professionally.



- **Anurima Mukherjee Basu**, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Planning, CEPT University, Ahmedabad, India

Anurima teaches at the Faculty of Planning at CEPT University, Ahmedabad since 2010. She has over 17 years of experience in teaching, research, consulting and advisory roles. Her research interests are related to Urban Governance, Rural-Urban Linkages and Public Finance. She has been part of research and consulting teams working on local governance & finance and issues of equity and access in Indian cities.



- **Dunya Bouchi**, Managing Director, ANCB the Aedes Metropolitan Laboratory, Germany

Dunya Couchi is the Managing Director of ANCB Aedes Metropolitan Laboratory in Berlin, a cultural and educational platform focusing on the future of our cities, which maintains an intensive exchange with the Chinese built environment, urban culture and rural development. Before joining ANCE in 2010, Dunya was a consultant with GIZ in Damascus on sustainable urban development strategies for Syria. Previously, she worked on city centre revitalization of small- and medium-sized East German towns on behalf of the German government. Dunya holds an M.A. in History, Political Science and Communication Studies from Freie Universit't Berlin and has lived, studied and researched in Paris and London.





- **Huang Yinwu**, President of Shaxiyuan Rural Cooperation Centre, a part-time associate professor of the School of Architecture of the University of Hong Kong, a Swiss representative of Shaxiyuan Reconstruction Project, an expert of the working group of experts on the protection and development of traditional villages of the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, and a member of the Hong Kong Institute of Architecture Heritage Protectors, China.

Huang Yinwu graduated from the department of Architecture of Nanjing Southeast University in 1996, worked in Southeast University and Nanjing University, then studied in Swiss Federal University of Technology and Hong Kong University, mainly engaged in architectural design, cultural heritage protection, graphic design, etc. He has successively won domestic and foreign awards issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and the Ministry of Education, the World Memorial Building Foundation, UNESCO, etc. In recent years, he has been invited to give public lectures in Switzerland, Hong Kong and the mainland many times, and has taught part-time at the University of Hong Kong.



- **Inge Roecker**, Principle, AIRstudio, Canada

Inge Roecker has been active globally from the start of her career. After studies in Canada and abroad, and several years of work experience in Germany, she heads her own practice on each continent and develops an architecture that embodies an independent form of modernism and is free of stylistic compulsions. Her work demonstrates a commitment to sustainable building practice and an investigation into its relationship with cultural issues. Her architectural practice focuses on contemporary programming, cultural context and sustainable building. The work of her practice has been recognized internationally through awards, publications and exhibitions. Inge is a Professor at UBC and leads a community outreach studio in partnership with communities, including the City of Vancouver's Chinatown Revitalization Program to explore the possibilities of transforming the historic district into a contemporary neighborhood. Her focus in recent projects is on the resilience of rural communities in Northern Canada.

- **Mohamed Habib** Head, Geospatial, Research and Documentation Unit, Commission for Lands Dept. of Urban and Rural Planning, Zanzibar, Tanzania



- **Lu Yuanzheng** Executive Vice President Researcher. Traditional Architecture Design Institute of Zhejiang Province, China.

Focus on the protection and utilization of cultural heritage, complete a number of traditional villages and traditional architecture research topics, and responsible for the technical support of Songyang mode of action "Saving the Old Houses". The director of the "research team of vivid protection and development of traditional villages" of Zhejiang Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism, has actively carried out the practice of protection and development of traditional villages in the context of culture tourism integration.



- **Xia Yuqing** Executive President of Hangzhou B&B industry Association, Founder of Jiesu B&B Accommodation, China

He is a senior media expert and worked on the Zhejiang TV station, City Press, and worked as an executive producer in "Zhejiang One Week", founded by "Shanghai One Week". In 2006, he founded the first B&B Accommodation Yiyuan in Moganshan, and B&B Accommodation the Vine Home in Songyang. In 2016, he founded the B&B +lifestyle platform "Jiesu" B&B Accommodation. This platform has organized and held dozens of Asian and International conferences focused on the B&B industry, which has put the residential host in the spotlight, and in this way contributing to making B&B accommodation a major industry. For three consecutive years, he has released the China B&B Accommodation List TOP50, which has deeply affected the industry.

He is the initiator of the B&B accommodation cluster and has successfully built the first residential accommodation cluster named "Yellow River Residential Set", which has become an explosive high-end travel and holiday destination in 2019. He is also the founder of the Brand of "Feijiaoji" B&B accommodation.



- **Florence Egal**, Independent Expert on Food Security and Nutrition, France

Florence Egal is a Medical Doctor with a Master's in public health. She joined FAO in 1990 as food security and nutrition expert and worked on local strategies and urban related issues in both emergency and development contexts in Africa, Asia and Latin America. From 2002, she became actively involved in the Standing Committee on Nutrition and eventually chaired the working group on Household Food Security. Since her retirement in 2013, Dr. Egal has pursued her support for the promotion of sustainable diets and food systems. She has provided technical assistance to the development of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact and Guiding Principles on Urban-Rural Linkages.



- **Tuyen Thi Thanh Huynh**, Country Coordinator of Agriculture for Nutrition and Health Program International, Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Vietnam

Tuyen Huynh is a CIAT member of staff working on Sustainable Food Systems in Asia. She also works as a Country Coordinator of the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) based in Vietnam. In Vietnam, she leads activities of the cross-centre A4NH program in its support for the national government, international agencies and movements in building sustainable food systems (SFS) at national level and along the rural-urban transect. This program seeks to ensure the production, delivery and use of healthy food, providing economic, social and nutritional benefits to all consumers while minimizing the environmental footprint.



- **Luo Deyin**, Associate Professor of School of Architecture, Tsinghua University, Vice Chairman of the Traditional Village Expert Steering Committee of the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, China.

Luo Deyin, associate professor of School of Architecture, Tsinghua University; vice chairman of the traditional village expert Steering Committee of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Rural Development, chairman of the rural renaissance forum and vice chairman of Academic Committee of Residential Architecture, is mainly engaged in the research and protection of traditional settlements and local architecture.

He has set up courses, such as “local architecture” and “local settlement research” to track and study village protection and development in Songyang, Zhejiang Province/ Xinxian, Henan Province/ Yongtai, Fujian Province/ Meixian, Guangdong Province, etc. over many years. Besides, he presided over dozens of village protection and development projects nationwide, including Quanfuzhuang village, Hani terrace World Heritage Site in Yuanyang County, Yunnan Province, Xihe village in Xinxian County, Henan Province, Pingtian village and Jieshou village in Songyang County, Zhejiang Province, etc. His design works were awarded the first prize for rural architecture by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Rural Development; nearly 100 papers were published, including Research and Exploration of Local Settlements, Walking Reading of Chinese Countryside, Traditional Villages: From Concept to Practice, Ancient Castle in Yu County, Xianxia Ancient Town Tao, Hani Terrace Settlement, Qingyuan City in the Middle of Shanxi Province, five books fold houses and other works.

- **Fayaz Ahmed Memon**, Deputy Director, Ministry of Climate Change, Islamic Republic of Pakistan



Mr. Fayaz Ahmed Memon holds a Bachelors degree in Architecture (B. Arch) from Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Jamshoro. From 2012 to date, he has been working in this field and currently he has been in the position of Deputy Director in the Ministry of Climate Change in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan. He now deals with Climate Change Policy and the framework for implementing climate change policy with the provinces and other stakeholders, addressing Sustainable Urbanization in Pakistan supported by UN-Habitat and initiating awareness programmes on climate change. He promotes the use of green technology and best practices for low carbon sustainable and inclusive development of the region.

He also contributed on the preparation of the Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptive Capacity Assessment report of Islamabad, and participated in the process of preparation of the National Report of Pakistan for HABITATIII. He worked for OSMANI & COMPANY (PVT.) LIMITED as a Consulting Engineer, Architect and Planner from April 2005 to 2012.

- **Wu Yong**, Main Designer of Haiyi Songyang Fonts, China



Deputy Director of Book Design Art Committee of China Publishing Association, Member of Graphic Design Art Committee of China Artists Association and Executive Director of the Design Education Committee of the Chinese Society of Higher Education. Member of AGI Dean and Professor of Design Department, Changjiang School of Art and Design, Shantou University.

- **Karim Hussein**, International Development Specialist and Senior Advisor, Italy



Mr. Karim Hussein is a senior international development specialist and advisor with a focus on inclusive agricultural and rural development research, policies, strategies and programmes. He has 10 years experience in development research and more than 15 years' experience working in senior roles in international organizations (IFAD, OECD). He is Editor-in-Chief for the UK Journal Ag4Dev and was lead strategy development expert for the development of IFAD's new country strategy (COSOP) for Ghana 2019-2024.

From 2016-2018, he was Executive Secretary leading the Secretariat of the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS). Prior to that, he held positions as Policy and Research Adviser, Strategic Planning and Knowledge Officer and Regional Economist Western and Central Africa at the International Fund for Agricultural Development. In these roles, he led analytical and policy works on rural-urban linkages and represented IFAD in WUF9, in the UN technical task team for Habitat III and Habitat III PrepCom.



- **Ajay Chandra Lal**, Coordinator of the MSc Urban Planning Programme, Pulchowk Campus, Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Dr. Lal has extensive experience in integrated Urban Development Planning, Urban Resilient Planning, City Region and Urban-Rural Linkage Planning, Building Byelaws and code of conduct. He has been working in national level institutions with international development partners for over 25 years. He also has experience in academic research in urban issues in Nepal, Germany and Indonesia. Mr. Lal has contributed as local government technical advisor to the government of TUVALU and Fiji through UNDP. Dr. Lal has led a team of experts in comprehensive municipal planning, urban rural-linkages, building code enforcement, SEZ and Industrial Estate Planning. He contributed to the preparation of National Urban Policy 2007, National Disaster Policy 2019. With leadership and coordinating skills, he has conducted various municipal capacity development trainings and carried out research on city planning, rural-urban linkages, urban DRP and climate change under municipal, national and international development partners.



- **Ivy Moraes**, Policy Officer, Regions4, Brazil

Ivy Moraes is the Sustainable Development Policy Officer at Regions4. She is committed to social and environmental responsibility, and brings experience in advocacy, research, policy analysis and program management, with a focus on international cooperation and sustainability. At Regions4, she leads on the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. She strives to improve the capacities of subnational governments in the process of localizing the SDGs and reporting their progress within their territorial perspectives. She also manages collaborative projects, providing expertise and tools that could be replicated and showcased. In her career, she has been consistently highlighting and promoting greater coherence and stronger partnerships across various stakeholders as well as fostering transparency, accountability, and social control. She holds a Bachelor's degrees in International Relations and in Social Sciences, and a Masters degree in Public Administration and Government.



- **Panagiotis Karfakis**, Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization, Greece

Panagiotis Karfakis is an economist that joined FAO in 2003. He has worked ever since on structural transformation, agriculture and food system's transition, poverty and vulnerability analysis, social and economic impacts of climate change in Africa, Asia and Latin America. He represents FAO on a number of working groups in the intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder Committee on World Food Security (CFS). This support contributed to the successful endorsement of the policy recommendations on Linking Smallholders to Markets in 2016.

He has had the same role in the working group of the CFS on the theme of Urbanization and Rural Transformation. Before joining FAO, he was working as a researcher in the University of Athens where undertook studies in economics. During his studies he obtained two MSc degrees, the first in Applied Economics and Policy and the second in Economics. Currently he is at the final stage of his PhD research.



- **David Suttie**, Global Engagement Specialist, IFAD, UK

David Suttie is responsible for engaging in global policy processes, advocating for key rural dimensions and stakeholders including smallholder farmers, rural youth, rural women in the context of international policy debates and outcomes. He also produces policy products to share IFAD's experience and knowledge on inclusive rural transformation with a global audience. Before joining the Fund, Suttie worked at FAO where he authored publications on gender dimensions of rural employment, as well as for several NGOs working with migrants and refugees in South-East Asia. Since 2012, he has been a visiting lecture in Rural Development at the School of Economics, University of Rome Tor Vergata. David Suttie holds master's degree in Rural Development and Change (distinction) from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and in Development Economics and International Cooperation from University of Rome Tor Vergata, in addition to a B.A. in Business.



- **Thiago Soares Barbizan** Senior Officer, Food Systems at ICLEI World Secretariat, Portugal

Thiago works at ICLEI World Secretariat in Bonn, Germany as Senior Officer, Food Systems managing the Food Systems Program and the ICLEI-RUAF CITY FOOD Network activities. CITY FOOD aims to accelerate local and regional government action on sustainable and resilient city-region food systems by combining networking with technical expertise through training and policy guidance. Before joining ICLEI, he worked for the Sao Paulo Municipality informal settlements upgrading program and applied an integrated approach to urban development in projects in Morocco, Egypt, South Africa and Chile. Thiago is an Architect and Urban Planner, holds an MBA in Project Management and a M.Sc. in Urban Management from the Technical University of Berlin.

## Round-Table Forum



- **Moderator. Ahmad Elatrash Sr.** Urban Programme Officer, UN-Habitat, Jordan

Ahmad Elatrash is a Palestinian spatial planner and urban development specialist. He has extensive experience working with think-tanks, academic institutions, NGOs, and UN agencies in issues related to geo-political and strategic planning, governance reform, resilience, and sustainable development. Ahmad is currently leading the spatial planning and development programme at UN-Habitat in the West Bank. Ahmad holds a BSc in Civil Engineering, MSc in Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture, and a PhD in Spatial Planning from TU-Dortmund University in Germany.



- **Eulalia Moreno** General Director of Urban and Territorial Planning, Regional Government of Extremadura, Spain

Eulalia Moreno is an architect from the Technical High School of Architecture of Seville (ETSA), Spain. She holds a post-graduate degree in theory and practice of architectural and urban rehabilitation with specialized training in environmental and urban law. Over the last 20 years, she has exercised her career in different fields. In the private sector, she has been working with her architectural studio. Since 2002, she has been working in the local administration as director of the urban planning office of the community of Gata. From 2008 to 2011, she was the manager of the urban planning offices of Extremadura. Eulalia has also participated as a speaker at national and international conferences related to urban planning and land law. Since 2015, she is the General Director of Urban and Territorial Planning of the Regional Government Extremadura and has directed: "Law of Territorial Planning and Sustainable Urban Planning of Extremadura" , "Law of Intersectoral Coordination for streamlining and simplification of procedures" and the "Technical Standards for the integration of the gender dimension in planning" .



- **Zhu Qizhen** Director and Professor of the Institute of Farmers' Issues, China Agricultural University, China

Zhu Qizhen is an expert on agriculture, rural areas and farmers. He is the director of the Institute of Farmers' Issues of China Agricultural University and the Agricultural Culture Research Center. He has successively served as the director of the Department of Sociology and the vice president of the College of Humanities and Development. At the same time, he served as a consultant of the central radio station on issues concerning agriculture, rural and farmer affairs, executive dean of History of the National Economic Association, poverty alleviation consultant of the all China Federation of Industry and Commerce, member of the expert group of the National Committee of People and Biosphere, etc. He is a visiting professor and part-time researcher in many universities and research institutions. Professor Zhu Qizhen has been engaged in the research of "rural-agriculture-farmer issues" for a long time. He has presided over more than 30 national and provincial research projects related to "rural-agriculture-farmer Issues", published more than 300 papers and investigation reports, and published more than 40 textbooks and academic works. Especially in agricultural sociology, rural sociology, rural value and rural construction, the cultivation of new business subjects and other fields. His work has provided the basis for effective decision-making and successfully transforming practice.





- **Manohar Velpuri** Institutional Partner to United Nations Networks, India

Manohar Velpuri has been actively working in projects related to Urban rural linkages and other conventions in the UN system. Actively involved in developing ecosystems related to Disruptive technologies and Innovative technologies - at the same time as designing plans for Cybersecurity and National Security master plan.



- **Rafic Khouri** Member of the GLTN Steering Committee, France

Mr. Khouri is a senior consultant for GLTN for Land Governance in Arab States. He holds a PhD in development economics from Sorbonne University. He has been in charge of the European and international relations of the Order of French Surveyors for 15 years as a major actor behind the creation of the Federation of Francophone Surveyors. He is also one of the three principal authors of the GLTN book: "Women and land in the Muslim World". Currently, he is an advisor to the president of the Arab Union of Surveyors for inter-national relations.



- **Liu Shouying** Secretary of Party Committee and President, School of Economics, Renmin University of China

Liu Shouying is a professor and doctoral supervisor at the School of Economics of Renmin University of China. He has held titles such as Deputy Secretary General of the Academic Committee of the Development Research Center of the State Council, Vice-Minister of Rural Affairs, Head of the Urban-Rural Coordination of the Development Center of the State Council, and President and Editor-in-Chief of the China Economic Times. Liu Shouying has served as Executive Director of China Land Science Society, Vice President of the China Urban and Rural Development Exchange Association, and Vice President of the China Rural Property Rights Association. He is also the thematic leader of the flagship projects China: 2030 and China's Efficient, Inclusive and Sustainable Urbanization by the Development Research Center of the State Council, in cooperation with the Development Research Center of the State Council, in cooperation with the World Bank. Liu Shouying coordinates land resources and sustainable development strategies for the Ministry of Land and Resources.



- **Kayom Wilson** Physical/Urban Planning Specialist, Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development Program (Usmid programme)

Wilson Kayom holds a PhD in Urban Planning together with other land use planning qualifications. Dr. Kayom worked in local governments and central government institutions, including the National Planning Authority of Uganda for about 20 years. He is currently working with the country's largest urban development project funded by the World Bank (360M USD) - Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development (USMID) Program as an Urban/Physical Planning Specialist. Wilson's major competencies and/or professional interests include: inclusive urban planning, applications of geomatics in urban planning, urban green infrastructure, urban planning processes and outcomes, and tackling urban planning challenges of intermediate cities/towns. Dr. Kayom has been part of several global and/or International Expert Group engagements. Wilson also has strong links with academia, and he is currently serving as an External Examiner of postgraduate students in Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda and Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy.



- **Wang Junlong** Zhejiang SOWIN E-commerce Company, China

He has been honoured as the leader of rural e-commerce in China, the leader of rural youth, the entrepreneurial leader of rural e-commerce, and as one of the top 100 e-commerce teachers in Zhejiang Province. At the same time, he is one of the top ten news figures in Zhejiang agricultural and rural areas, and one of the top 10 business leaders etc.

## ANNEX 03 QUOTES



**Mr. Vicente Ruiz** "Songyang is the perfect example of urban and rural integration and the world needs to learn from Songyang."

**Ms. Dunya Bouchi** "the Forum is a unique international platform with government officials, architects, planners as well as researchers in the area"



**Ms. Xu Tiantian** "Rural development has the potential to reshape the identity of rural areas, which can in return promote the balance and interactions between rural and urban areas.", "Rural architecture can interact with communities and play an important role in the connection between urban and rural areas, promoting urban-rural linkages."



**Ms. XIE Yazhen**, "Rural development should aim for the integration of the primary, secondary and tertiary industries and the integrated development of agriculture, trade, industry, culture and tourism"



**Mr. Víctor Alvarado** "It was indeed a very rich and inspiring event. I had the chance to engage in networking with extraordinary people and I brought with me to a lot of innovative ideas shared by the participants. I already look forward to talk about them with our National authorities in Mexico and with Oliver Hillel for CBD's biodiversity mainstreaming agenda."

**Mr. Manohar Velpuri** "Perhaps the efforts to safeguard over 6000 traditional villages by Batching in China is first of its kind and the Songyang experience is worth a mention in many member countries. ("Demonstration County of Protection and Development of Chinese Traditional Villages" under the Demonstration Zone for the Conservativation and Utilization of Traditional Villages, the only pilot county propelled forward with "Operation to Rescue Old Houses"). The 1406km of Songyang might also need a satellite-eye for the preservation to continue longer as each village has its own unique shared memory to preserve."



**Mr. Thiago Soares Barbizan** "I really appreciated the content of discussions and the opportunity to learn from other participants while sharing the work ICLEI is developing in this field."



**Ms. Morgane Chiochia** "Now I believe we can as well continue to move forward with a common approach of URL & land degradation neutrality to be jointly understood and implemented."

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**Dr. Anurima Mukherjee Basu** "The Forum was extremely well organized, and one can imagine the amount of effort that all of you have put into it... The last few days has been an enriching experience, got to know so many people, their interests and perspectives"

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**Mr. Ignacio de la Puerta** "the Basque Country Delegation want to thank you the opportunity to share our experience in such an interesting event. Congratulations to organizers and co-hosts. It has been a successful conference, plenty of ideas and different experiences that have highlighted our knowledge."

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**Ms. Ivy de Moraes** "I thank you for the invitation and congratulate you for the organization of interesting discussions and field visits. We hope to continue our collaboration and that new partnerships can emerge from the exchanges we had last week with the broad range of participants."

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## ANNEX 04 MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE FORUM



**People's Daily** (China's largest newspaper group) "During the Forum, the guests shared their experiences, strategies and new ideas of "village revitalization" from various perspectives. Field trips were also conducted, focusing on on-site exchanges on related topics, such as agricultural industry innovation, culture and heritage, and rural economic innovation. Through the exchange of the overall strategies and practical experiences of global rural rejuvenation, the Forum has built confidence and identity in rural development. The Forum has, through the discussions and reflections, has deepened understanding of sustainable urban and rural development issues, improved the ability of sustainable innovation and development in rural areas around the world, in order to achieve the common vision of leaving no one and no place behind."

(To see the entire news article, please go to <https://wap.peopleapp.com/article/4801490/4688633?from=timeline&isappinstalled=0>)

**Xinhua News Agency** "Songyang's development strategy is based on the principle of minimum intervention, preserving the most representative aspect of the culture and traditions. It uses rural public spaces as a tool to reshape rural identity and promote rural revitalization."



(To see the entire news article, please go to <http://xhpfmapi.zhongguowangshi.com/vh512/share/6618885?channel=weixin&from=timeline&isappinstalled=0>)



**Lishui Daily** "The Forum is aimed at promoting global dialogues and knowledge transfer..... Through keynote speeches, side events and roundtables, the Forum has dived deeply into issues of rural architecture, rural tourism development, rural economic innovations and rural cultural heritage preservation."

(To see the entire news article, please go to [http://paper.lnews.com.cn/lrb/pc/content/201911/12/content\\_156240.html?from=timeline&isappinstalled=0](http://paper.lnews.com.cn/lrb/pc/content/201911/12/content_156240.html?from=timeline&isappinstalled=0))

**Inter Press Service** "The multi-stakeholder approach and process of IFURL is timely and will prove to be of critical importance to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda over the long term in order to leave no-one, and no place, behind. We look forward to the next IFURL, planned for 2 years' time!"



(To see the entire news article, please go to <http://www.ipsnews.net/2019/12/fostering-sustainable-urbanization-mutually-beneficial-rural-urban-linkages-inclusive-sustainable-development-rural-urban-areas/>)

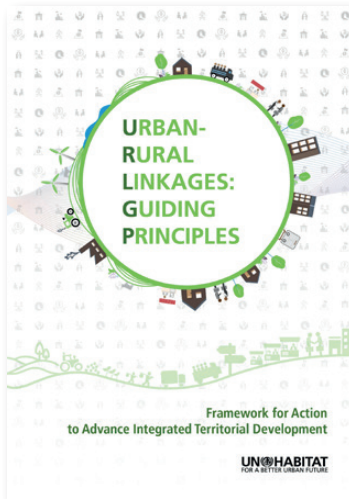
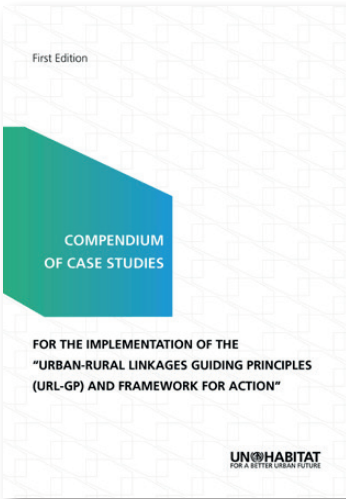
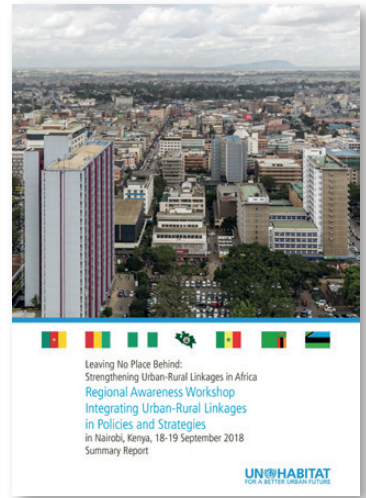


**ISOCARP** “In recent years, Songyang has been putting rural development in the context of urban-rural integration by focusing on culture and architecture and implementing the “architectural acupuncture” strategy to systematically promote economic and social restructuring in rural areas. It actively explores a road of rural revitalization built on culture and has achieved favourable results.”

(To see the entire news article, please go to <https://isocarp.org/events/first-international-forum-on-urban-rural-linkages/>)

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# URL PUBLICATIONS



FIND MORE HERE:







In recent years, Songyang has actively explored a path of rural revitalization founded on peoples' participation and local culture with impressive results. The First International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages (IFURL) was held in Songyang County, Lishui City, Zhejiang Province, China, from 10 to 14 November 2019 to harness the success story of Songyang's rural development in the context of urbanization, and to draw out valuable lessons and inspirations for other rural areas worldwide.

Participants learned that the Songyang Innovative Rural Development Programme, at the heart of the success story, included a wide range of micro-level architectural interventions undertaken in collaboration with village communities and local craftspeople – a process referred to as "Architectural Acupuncture". The IFURL captured the unconventional and inspiring practices implemented in Songyang across the urban-rural continuum to better understand how such innovative interventions, based on empowering rural people, can contribute to revitalizing rural areas. Good practices from urban-rural innovation in other parts of the world were also debated to stimulate further innovations.

The Forum intended to generate innovative and sustainable development initiatives that significantly strengthen rural areas and their linkages to cities, relieve the demographic pressure in urban areas, and contribute to the prosperity of all human settlements. The importance of making available financial and technical support available to build on agricultural, cultural and architectural traditions was highlighted.

Over 200 participants from 17 countries and 18 international organizations took part in the Forum, with over thirty guest speakers contributing to the sessions. The event was co-hosted and co-organized by UN-Habitat, Zhejiang Provincial Department of Housing and Urban- Rural Development, Lishui Municipal People's Government and Songyang County People's government.

The Forum emerged from the Songyang Innovative Rural Development Programme and was the fruit of the collaboration between UN-Habitat and the Songyang People's Government.

**United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**


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