

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Between

ICLEI East Asia Secretariat (hereinafter called “ICLEI”)

and

The International Nordic University
(hereinafter called “NIU”)

On Strengthening the Regional Cooperation in Sustainable Urban Development

This Memorandum of Understanding, dated 24 August 2023, is made by and between ICLEI East Asia Secretariat and NIU in order to lay out the basic framework of cooperation of both organizations, seeking to maximize the benefits each partner gains in pursuit of their mandates and goals.

§ 1 The Partners

1.1 **ICLEI**, (ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability) is a global network of more than 2,500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125 countries, ICLEI influences sustainability policy and drives local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. ICLEI’s members and team of experts work together through peer exchange, partnerships and capacity building to create systemic change for urban sustainability. ICLEI is represented at global level through its World Secretariat based in Bonn, Germany; in the East Asia region through its East Asia Secretariat based in Seoul, South Korea; and worldwide through a total of 24 offices.

1.1. **NIU**, was established under the agreements achieved at the 10th meeting of the foreign ministers of Uzbekistan and Finland on political consultations and cooperation in the field of education agreements. NIU is a non-governmental higher education organization based on the advanced achievements of Northern European countries and provides higher education services under the license No034528 issued by the State Inspectorate for Supervision of Quality in Education under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

§ 2 Background

This MoU is entered into with an intention to strengthen the regional cooperation in East and Central Asia (Uzbekistan) in climate actions and sustainable urban development, including areas of low carbon

development, renewable energy, sustainable transportation and building, and urban biodiversity by establishing a cooperative relation between ICLEI and NIU.

§ 3 Purpose and objectives of cooperation

This MoU is intended to provide a framework for intensifying exchange and cooperation between the two organizations and for driving forward joint activities and projects. The parties agree on general cooperation, including:

1. exchanging information related to climate change and urban sustainability issues in Central Asia and cooperating closely in order to promote knowledge sharing;
2. providing periodical publications, case studies and statute books;
3. inviting the other to their relevant activities and conferences to promote best practices and projects;
4. exploring opportunities to develop joint activities or projects, such as technical assistance to local governments and promoting green businesses and investments in East Asia and Central Asia ;
5. NIU will support ICLEI to attract and recruit central Asian local governments (cities and regions) as ICLEI members;
6. supporting each other for mutual development and friendship promotion on a regular basis;
7. working with each other in enhancing transparency, accountability and credibility of climate action of East and Central Asian cities and regions.

§ 4 General cooperation

General cooperation between the partners shall include:

1. naming each other as a Partner, where appropriate, in documents and websites;
2. featuring each other in newsletters, websites, and other information materials;
3. putting each other in relevant mailing lists for newsletters and the mailing of announcements of events etc;
4. inviting each other to endorse, develop and implement events, programs or projects;

5. inviting each other to (annual) meetings and conferences of the organization;
6. informing each other on key developments in the organizations, which might have an impact on this agreement.

§ 5 Mutual references

- 5.1 The use of the logo of the other partner for any purpose – apart from featuring the cooperation on the general websites – shall be subject to prior approval by the partner.
- 5.2 Any public announcements through press releases, media advisories or other similar means regarding this MoU or joint initiatives under this MoU shall require the prior written approval of the partner.

§ 6 Cooperation process

- 6.1. Both partners agree to meet – be it in person or virtually – at least once in a quarter in order to review the implementation of this agreement, and to exchange general matters of the cooperation.
- 6.2. Towards the end of each year, the partners will consult on agendas for collaborative activities for the upcoming year.
- 6.3 ICLEI nominates as its contact partners:
Ms Siqiao Yuan , Program Manager , ICLEI East Asia (siqiao.yuan @iclei.org)
Ms Ge Liu, Strategy Manager, ICLEI East Asia (ge.liu@iclei.org)
- 6.4 NIU nominates as its contact partner:
Mr.Eldor Sobirjonov , Director of international department, Nordic International University
(e.sobirjonov@nordicmail.uz)

When a revision of the person in charge of contact is made, the other party shall be notified.

§ 7 Character of this agreement

- 7.1 This MoU shall not constitute any legal or financial obligation between the partners.
- 7.2. Both partners maintain their full independent decision-making autonomy with regard to their own respective affairs and operations.

7.3. Each party shall not provide or disclose 'Confidential Information' obtained from the other party to any third party without the other Party's consent.

§ 8 Duration and termination


- 8.1. The terms of this MoU are valid for a period of one (1) year, effective from the signature of this agreement. This MoU shall be automatically extended unless one party gives any written notice to the other party prior to the expiration date.
- 8.2. This MoU can be terminated at any time in mutual agreement between both partners. It can be terminated by one partner by informing the other partner at least two months in advance, with an explanation of reasons for such early termination.

ICLEI and NIU abide by and faithfully execute this agreement in accordance with the principle of good faith. In witness whereof, both parties keep one copy each after signing this MoU in two original copies to verify the smooth implementation of this agreement.

For
The Nordic International University
24 August 2023

For
ICLEI East Asia Secretariat
24 August 2023

Professor Sherzod Mustafakulov
Rector, Nordic International University



Shu Zhu
Regional Director, ICLEI East Asia Secretariat

