



WALCC

World Alliance for Low Carbon Cities

» *Newsletter*
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Forming the cities of tomorrow through progressive public-private partnerships



On March 31st, the World Alliance for Low Carbon Cities gathered together a group of experts, from both private and public sectors, with interests in the development of the cities of the future. Inspired by the publication of a report for the recently completed city development research project Systemic Architectures for Sustainable Urban Innovation (SASUI), the Alliance gathered together these experts to engage in a far reaching discussion regarding the implications of the project's findings and the development of new forms partnership in demanding urban development situations.

Participants at the workshop, held at the Urban Mill in Espoo, Finland, included city or regional representatives like Markku Markkula, a member of Espoo's City Council and President of the European Committee of Regions; and Leena Vuotovesi, CEO of the municipality of Ii's industry strategy and development organization Micropolis; and private companies, such as Janne Öfversten of WALCC member organization Kone.

The SASUI project's findings, as presented by one its contributing researchers, Simo Syrman (Aalto University), led into presentations from Antti Paulanne, head of Schneider Electric's healthcare segment, and Kari Mikkilä, of urban innovation support agency Urban Mill, who addressed different perspectives on the support major corporations and cities can support the development of new innovations, services, and companies.

The Alliance's Vice-chairman Johan Wallin (Synocos Group) closed the afternoon with an acute assessment of the various ways in which the Alliance supports the complex ecosystems which bring together the expertise and experience of various private sector organizations in collaboratively advancing the goals of cities' as they address the challenges posed by transforming to sustainable cities of the future.

Visit the Alliance's website for a link to download the SASUI project's report.

The subjects addressed at the Urban Mill workshop form the core of this year's Autumn forum. Titled Business ecosystems in a low-carbon economy, the forum will cover themes such as:

- Two-way district heating, opportunities for innovations
- Urban Knowledge Alliances; learning to learn faster
- Mobility-as-a-Service; how to speed up the transition?
- Circular economy; how SMEs can access global markets
- Smart City Experiences, what we can learn from each other
- Battery technologies supporting distributed energy solutions

Visit our website for up-to-date information and details on how you can join us in Turku, Finland October 5th - 7th!



Exploring new frontiers at 10th low-carbon forum in Chongqing, China

This May (14-15), the Chinese city of Chongqing will host the first of the Alliance's two annual Low-Carbon Development forums, providing the Alliance and its members an opportunity to explore a new area in the expanding frontiers of China's burgeoning wave of low-carbon cities. The forum will see the Alliance bring its high-level collection of industry experts, researchers, and public officials from among its global network to Chongqing, lending their insights on a variety of issues and themes central to sustainable and low-carbon development. The themes addressed at the forum will include:

- **Health and Retirement Services Innovation:** Exploring innovations and developments in the health and wellbeing services provided for the expanding senior citizen population. Bringing a wealth of insights and examples from across the Alliance's international network on innovation models and cooperation, health care services, big data applications and promotion, and the pension services industry.
- **Renewable energy and new energy:** Engaging in a dialogue with industry leading experts on smart micro-grid technologies, energy storage, smart energy applications, new-energy vehicles, new-energy and renewable energy policies, and future development trend analysis.
- **Urban Innovation:** Studying urban development innovations in various European cities to offer experiences gathered in pushing today's aging cities towards a sustainable model of the future and utilizing green and low-carbon technologies in urban transformations.
- **Smart and green manufacturing:** Offering insights on the future of Chinese manufacturing, with an eye on domestic production in 2025 and exploring examples from leading European regions such as Germany's innovative industry model, and addressing the impact and benefit of such evolving trends: cloud computing, big data, and technologies enabling modern manufacturing processes. This theme will also touch on the groundbreaking work done in the Nordic region to develop a circular economy model.
- **Networks and new logistics services:** Studying the development prospects of intelligent logistics, logistics and finance to lead the new concept of new business models, networking and intelligence, logistics, and drawing insights from the European logistics market and future trends.

We hope to see you at the forum in Chongqing this May! Please follow the Alliance's website for continuing updates on the forum's agenda and details on attending.

Member news: Visit to Ecoful town, Japan

A pioneer of the core principles that would come to be defined as lean management in the 1990s, Japanese automobile manufacturer Toyota implemented the core ideas and philosophy of lean management in its Toyota Production System decades earlier. Lean management principles have gained considerable traction over the last three decades among business for their value in increasing efficiency and profitability by streamlining processes and eliminating waste. Lean principles now find a new, natural application in the effort to increase environmental sustainability.

This March, WALCC Vice chairman Johan Wallin visited Toyota's headquarters in Japan to study first-hand the implementation of these principles and explore the company's forward thinking efforts to reduce the impact of climate change. During his time in Tokyo, Dr. Wallin also had a chance to familiarize himself with the city of Toyota's pioneering, environmentally friendly concept town Toyota

Ecoful Town. Additionally, his tour of Japan took Dr. Wallin to several other companies who have implemented lean principles in improving their efficiency, these included Mazda, Denso, Toshiba, and Makino.

The tour concluded with a visit to the University of Tokyo where professor Takahiro Fujimoto, a leading researcher in the field of lean management who e.g. has published some of the most incisive and comprehensive studies of the Toyota system. Professor Fujimoto gave a lecture on the theme of "Good Flow of Good Design Information Makes Manufacturing Firms Grow", providing a deep background of the Japanese market and the role of lean management and productivity improvement in Japan.

The insights from lean management in Japan are also widely relevant when considering the reduction of carbon emissions. In both cases the ambition is to minimize waste.

