

MARUF23

Navigating Climate-Resilient Cities: Urban Leadership in Sustainable Development Across the Middle East

Panelists from the International Metropolitan Fellowship Arabia Chapter

Format: Panel Format

Duration: 90 Minutes (including Q&A session)

Speakers:

Prof. Wafa Al-Daily

Prof. Omar Amireh

Arch. Saja Zeadeh

Description:

This panel brings together experts and professionals from five Middle Eastern countries, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen, to delve into the critical intersection of sustainable urban development, climate change, and effective urban leadership in the Middle East. With a focus on fostering climate-resilient cities, the panel will explore strategies, challenges, and innovative approaches to sustainable urban development in the face of climate change impacts.

Format Overview:

1. Introduction (5 minutes):

The moderator will kick off the panel by providing an overview of the session's objectives and the importance of addressing climate change in urban development. They will introduce the panelists, highlighting their expertise in sustainable urban development and urban leadership.

2. Keynote Address (10 minutes):

A distinguished keynote speaker, preferably a renowned climate expert or a visionary urban leader, will present an inspiring keynote address emphasizing the urgency of sustainable urban development in the Middle East and the role of effective urban leadership in mitigating climate change impacts.

3. Climate-Resilient Urban Strategies (15 minutes):

Each panelist will deliver a brief presentation (approximately 7-10 minutes) showcasing successful climate-resilient urban strategies implemented in the Middle East. Panelists will discuss innovative initiatives, green infrastructure projects, climate-adaptive urban planning, and policies that have demonstrated positive outcomes in the region.

4. Urban Leadership in Climate Action (20 minutes):

The panelists will engage in a discussion on the role of urban leadership in driving climate action at the city level. They will share examples of successful urban leadership practices, inclusive governance, and multi-stakeholder partnerships that have fostered sustainable urban development while addressing climate change challenges.

5. Q&A and Audience Interaction (20 minutes):

The moderator will facilitate an interactive Q&A session, allowing the audience to pose questions to the panelists. Attendees can actively participate through the conference's virtual platform or by using on-site microphones. The panel can also integrate live polls to gauge the audience's perspectives on urban leadership and climate-resilient development.

6. Panel Discussion and Recommendations: (15 minutes)

The panelists will engage in a dynamic discussion, drawing insights from the case studies and their expertise, to identify common challenges and opportunities in achieving sustainable urban development with a focus on climate change resilience. They will collectively propose recommendations for fostering effective urban leadership and sustainable practices in cities across the Middle East.

7. Closing Remarks (5 minutes):

The moderator will conclude the panel, summarizing key takeaways and emphasizing the critical role of urban leadership in creating climate-resilient cities. Attendees will be encouraged to incorporate the panel's insights into their initiatives and work towards a more sustainable and climate-resilient urban future in the Middle East.

Objectives of the Panel:

1. **Raise Awareness:** The panel aims to increase awareness among attendees about the urgency of sustainable urban development in the Middle East and the need for effective urban leadership to address climate change impacts. By highlighting successful climate-resilient strategies, the panel will underscore the importance of proactive action for building climate-resilient cities.
2. **Promote Knowledge Sharing:** The panel will facilitate knowledge exchange among experts and professionals from Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen, fostering a collaborative learning environment. Attendees will gain insights into innovative approaches, policies, and practices that have proven effective in promoting sustainable urban development and climate resilience.
3. **Showcase Best Practices:** Through case study presentations, the panel will showcase successful climate-resilient urban strategies implemented in various Middle Eastern countries. Attendees will learn from real-life examples and be inspired to replicate or adapt these practices in their respective cities.
4. **Encourage Policy Recommendations:** The panelists will engage in a comprehensive discussion to identify common challenges faced by Middle Eastern cities and propose recommendations for policymakers and urban leaders to foster effective climate action and sustainable urban development.

Outcomes of the Panel:

1. **Increased Awareness:** Attendees will leave the panel with a heightened understanding of the critical role of urban leadership in creating climate-resilient cities in the Middle East. They will recognize the importance of integrating sustainable practices into urban planning and development strategies.
2. **Enhanced Knowledge:** By sharing best practices and innovative approaches, the panel will empower attendees with valuable knowledge and insights to address climate change impacts in urban settings. This knowledge exchange will foster cross-country collaboration and idea-sharing.
3. **Policy Insights:** The panel discussion will generate policy recommendations and insights for policymakers and city officials to develop climate-responsive urban policies. These insights can serve as a foundation for creating actionable plans to enhance climate resilience in Middle Eastern cities.
4. **Collaborative Networking:** The Q&A and interactive sessions will encourage networking and collaboration among attendees, panelists, and stakeholders from different countries. This exchange of ideas and experiences will potentially lead to joint initiatives and partnerships for sustainable urban development.
5. **Inspiration for Action:** The panel's discussions and case study presentations will inspire attendees to take actionable steps towards implementing climate-resilient urban strategies in their cities. Attendees will be motivated to drive change, working towards building more sustainable and climate-adaptive urban environments in the Middle East.