

## The 10<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Weeks Berlin 2015

### I. Key Issue: *Smart Cities*

The 10<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Weeks (APW) will be taking place in Berlin from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, 2015. The **topical framework *Smart Cities*** draws on the results of the Asia-Pacific Weeks 2013.

On a global scale, making cities better for their citizens and businesses by intelligently connected management is becoming increasingly prevalent and urgent. Pressing **issues concerning urban infrastructures** – traffic, energy and water, urban planning, waste management – manifest in differing complexities and dimensions throughout European and Asian megacities, yet the basic questions on how to use urban potentials intelligently are of the same tenor. Thus, **dialogue and cooperation based on partnership** are indispensable for coping with challenges and creating cities that are worth living in. The key issue *Smart Cities* matches the **sectoral competencies of Berlin**, especially energy, mobility and logistics, environmental industry as well as ICT, media and creative industries.

**Berlin** is already making a name for itself as a creative and green city as well as a scientific hub, a place for interdisciplinary research and the development of the technologies and concepts shaping our future. Clean-tech spans from the use of new materials, water- and cycle-based industries, energy efficiency, renewable energies and storage technologies all the way to innovative procedures of intelligent regulation. Since Berlin is a center of renewable energies and innovative mobility systems the city also presents itself as an internationally renowned and leading metropolis of electro mobility. Therefore the Smart City Berlin is effectively engaging itself in the dialogue with the Asia-Pacific region.

In 2015, in a first, the participants of the Asia-Pacific Weeks will experience a **synergistic interplay of events, metropolis and trade fair**:

While in 2013 the theme *Smart Cities* was presented according to its individual aspects in their respective economic sectors (mobile, safe, green and creative city), in 2015 the APW focus on an integral approach with cross-cutting issues, e.g. funding, business concepts, integrated planning, innovative procurement and sales.



**Expert tours** complement the broad range of offers to inform, connect and cooperate at the APW: You can visit actual Smart City solutions at innovative flagship sites in Berlin.

When **Metropolitan Solutions, the trade fair for urban innovation and infrastructure solutions**, moved from Hannover to Berlin, it became an important addition to the conferences and urban flagship projects by presenting comprehensive technological solutions for urban challenges.

The very successful **Development Policy Dialogue** of the APW 2013 took a closer look at the conceptual and strategic side of the Smart City as well as the perspectives and needs of Asian cities. During the first week of the APW 2015 this demand-side perspective will be integrated into the main conferences on politics and trade which tend to have a classical supply-side approach. The tension between the desired sustainable Smart City solutions as well as the respective financial and organizational capacities is a global challenge as well as the focal point of our dialogue with Asian partners. We are relying on the established close cooperations and collaborations with the State Office for Developmental Cooperation Berlin (Berliner Landesstelle für Entwicklungszusammenarbeit - LEZ), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung - BMZ), the German Society for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit - GIZ) and with other partners.

For the further development of **Berlin's twin city partnerships in Asia** with Beijing, Tokyo, Jakarta as well as cooperations with other cities in Southeast Asia, e.g. in Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, and with Chinese mega cities, the APW have an increasingly high relevancy. Both sides profit from the dialogue: Berlin as well as Asian metropolises can present model cases for Smart City solutions, learn from each other and develop new applications together. In this context the newly founded city platform Connective Cities can be made use of.

## **II. Organizational Partners and Pillars of the APW Program**

The Berlin Ministry for Economic Affairs, Technology and Research (Senatsverwaltung für Wirtschaft, Technologie und Forschung) is in charge of the political and strategic overall coordination of the APW. Further **strategic partners** are Berlin Partner for Business and Technology (Berlin Partner für Wirtschaft und Technologie GmbH) as well as the Asia-Pacific



Forum Berlin e.V. (APFB). The events are conceptualized and – in part under the full authority of each partner – organized and funded together with the German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt), the Federal Ministries for Economic Affairs and Energy (Bundesministerien für Wirtschaft u. Energie – BMWI) and additional institutional partners and associations working in foreign trade and development.

The **program pillars** are:

- The **Political Impulses for Smart Cities** in the German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt) are the prelude to the Asia-Pacific Weeks. The opening speech of the German Federal Foreign Minister is followed by a moderated podium discussion with impulse statements of high ranking representatives from the economic, scientific and political communities of the Asia-Pacific region and Germany.
- The **official opening ceremony** in the German Federal Foreign Office includes a variety of guests: high ranking representatives of the German Federal Government, the Mayor of Berlin, the chairman of the Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business (Asien-Pazifik-Ausschusses der Deutschen Wirtschaft - APA) as well as leading political and business representatives of the Asian-Pacific partner countries.
- During the **Asia-Pacific Embassy Day** in the German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt) the embassies will inform extensively on the respective economic conditions of their countries. They will lead business conferences, seminars for company founders and investors, expert meetings on foreign trade, as well as showcase highlights of their respective culture.
- The **Business and Technology Conference *Smart Solutions for Urban Challenges*** at the CityCube Berlin, organized by Berlin Partner for Business and Technology (Berlin Partner für Wirtschaft und Technologie GmbH), will inform about business and funding models, standards/metrics, Open Data, integrated planning, innovative procurement, urban technologies for Smart City solutions and provide a platform for business-to-business talks and offer expert tours to Smart City flagship sites in Berlin. The Business and Technology Conference takes place on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> within the conference area of the CityCube Berlin next to the Metropolitan Solutions trade fair.



- An extensive and diverse **Partner Program** including exhibitions and events will complement the conferences at the German Federal Foreign Office and the CityCube Berlin, coordinated by the Asia-Pacific Forum Berlin e.V. (APFB). Public institutions, museums and galleries will take part as third party organizers, either focusing on Smart Cities or on selected cultural, societal, political or economic aspects of the Asia-Pacific region. The organizers make use of the umbrella brand Asia-Pacific Weeks in form of manifold opportunities for cooperation between partners in Berlin as well as the topical, organizational and financial synergy effects due to early-on fine tuning of their programs around the key issues Asia-Pacific and Smart Cities.

The biennial return of the APW creates the challenge of maintaining the dialogue between organizers and participants, companies and institutions in the meantime. Therefore we are creating an **APW Online Platform** which will provide a unified registry for events as well as an online space for finding relevant information, and for connecting and cooperating with other users. The subsequently emerging **Asia-Pacific Online Community** will fire off impulses for future Asia-Pacific Weeks. We hope to witness a transformation of the Asia-Pacific Weeks from a periodically recurring event towards a continual Asia-Pacific dialogue.

More **information on the Asia-Pacific Weeks** is available under:

[www.APWberlin.de/en/](http://www.APWberlin.de/en/)

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