



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

## OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

The First International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkage took place in Songyang County, Lishui City, Zhejiang Province, China, between 11 to 13 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 purposes 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 empowering local people **through financial and technical support building upon 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 implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda vision 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. 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 round tables and parallel work sessions. Conference participants undertook various field visits to the Songyang ancient street, 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 from perspectives both from China and from other countries, sharing their experience, strategies and new ideas for rural revitalization. The parallel side events with field trips, provided a forum to broaden understanding of topics derived from the Forum theme, also sharing 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 a 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 very 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.



- 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 of the village committee, holds cultural activities and is also used for leisure, sightseeing and business demonstration.



- 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.



The organizers and participants then had 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 each tree's label and took a group photo.



## OPENING CEREMONY

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



- 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 towards supporting Member States and other stakeholders in ensuring “no one and no space is left behind”.

- The secretary of the CPC Songyang County Committee **Mr. Wang Jun** introduced the history of rural development in Songyang County and recognised the role of UN-Habitat not only in preparing the Forum but also previously in the invitation to 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, linking global and common language and providing more insight to solve 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 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 revisit urban and rural agendas in all aspects and 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 forms a novel opportunity to improve our knowledge, technology, experience and tools going forward.

- 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, defined Songyang county as a land of photogenic beauty, longevity and recreation with many features that make Songyang County a center 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 in 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 AICAD. Most of the speakers shared the view that “rural areas shall be a luxury in the future” with the rapid spread 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 are as follows:



- **Prof. Byarugaba** stated *“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 importance of economic, social, ecological and cultural resources for rural development. He also stressed that Songyang County, being a well-preserved specimen of ancient Chinese counties, is the perfect location for the First 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 raising the question “how rural areas should serve as a catalysis 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 proclamations 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 solution should not only be seen from professional planners’ point of view, and the opinions of the public should also be included.



- **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 how the value of biodiversity across different sectors is also extremely important.



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

## Discussion

- The first question was addressed to Dr. Abdul Husaini, regarding more information and examples empowering women and women's position in the society. He stressed that in the modernization of agriculture, we should also build modern management capacity, especially focusing on the provision of access and ownership of farmland for women. He introduced an example of practices, which offered freezers and coolers to women in the countryside after consultation with them, so that they could freeze and preserve their agricultural products and later sell them.
- The next question was addressed to Mr. Xiaojie Li, regarding lessons from the history of China's rural development. Mr. Xiaojie Li explained that the government's support to the rural area has been improved through thousands of years of history. Currently in China, the agricultural tax and the agricultural special product tax has been abolished. At present, the Chinese government policy on peasants is to reduce surplus, and now it is not redundant. Therefore, farmers and agriculture are completely under the support of the government. Speaking of the second point, he emphasized that villages are not the same as cities. Cities are characterized by mixed families of different regions living in cities, and rural areas are characterized by surnames of primary families. He stated the role of the 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 balanced interaction between rural and urban areas.



- The first speaker, **Ms. Xu Tiantian**, an architect from Beijing China, delivered her speech on the Architecture Acupuncture -- the Songyang Story-- describing inspiring “Architectural Acupuncture” projects of Songyang. First, she emphasized the importance to engage with local government, especially the technical team on the ground, local craftsmen and local residents. She then 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, said XU Tiantian, 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 argumentation, exploration and improvement.



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



- The third speaker in this session was **Mr. Vicente Ruiz**, economist from OECD Development Center, giving 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 centers in a place-based territorial context. Finally, he emphasized the need of 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 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 centers, and improvement of water supply and public lighting. He highlighted that *inter-municipal collaboration, shared vision and urban-rural partnership contribute to empower rural governance, and rural planning policies.*

## Discussion

- The first question was raised regarding land tenure. Speakers shared their concern as well, since many of cases introduced are owned by multiple partners.
- Ms. Xu Tiantian, during the conversation with the audiences, stated that her collaboration with Songyang is actually more than just as architects. 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 OECD. They are launching a project next year to promote and strengthen knowledge transfer, collecting data from cities to inform policy makers on the national level. Because the regional governments of many developing countries are not fully aware of the development potentials of their areas, OECD is developing tools to collect and analyze data from regional and national levels to help government officials make better informed decisions.
- Two more questions went to Mr. Vincent Nji Ndumu. The first one is whether issues of urban-rural linkages are taken into consideration in territorial planning. He 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 Paris Agreement signed in 2015 during the conversation, and recalled the commitment countries made to reduce carbon emissions.

## DAY TWO: FIELD TRIPS AND PARALLE EVENTS

The second day was comprised of parallel events in different locations where the work sessions related to the field trips as inspiration. 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 in the themes.

### ROUTE 1A: RURAL ARCHITECTURE

- ✓ **Hakka Indenture Museum** is made of local stoner slabs with traditional building techniques. The old indenture records on display are historical evidence of the periods of farming over centuries. From the tradition of land contracts, visitors can have comprehensive insight of Shicang Hakkas, e.g. their migration from Fujian Province, land purchase, Chinese medicine and smelting business, 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.



- ✓ **Tofu Factory** is a typical case of "featured agricultural factories" in Songyang. Based on the preservation of traditional handicrafts, it introduces modern concepts and technology for the systematic growth of an industrial value chain. The entire chain was made visible, from planting to processing and sales, to enrichment of villagers and 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.



## PARALLEL EVENT 1A: RURAL ARCHITECTURE

This session was moderated by **Ms. XU Tiantian**, Beijing architect. 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 Bernando 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 ample examples of how territorial planning is implemented in different cities. To ensure the sustainability and practicality of the territorial planning, they must consider the financial capacity, 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 on 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, with advantages in economic development, capacity building, agricultural processing and agricultural services. She concluded recommending that governments develop RURBAN clusters with 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 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 Center, titled "Towards Sustainable Vernacular Construction".

Mr. HUANG first explained that the widening gap between urban and rural areas in China risk 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 practice 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 traditional rural architecture rather than completely replacing it.

## Discussion

- First question went to Mr. HUANG Yinwu, regarding waste management in rural area. He 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.
- Another question was addressed regarding strategies to engage multi-level stakeholders. Mr. Ochóa and Mr. Ruiz answered with examples of multistakeholder planning projects covering topics such as culture, society, gender, etc.
- Mr. HUANG Yinwu, during his conversation with the audience, answered a question about how to convince people to keep the traditional architecture style. He pointed out the potential that tourism values 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 job opportunities.
- The last question was addressed to Dr. Basu, asking if there are any challenges with the legal framework or policies. 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 industry* and eco-agriculture.



- **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, it is noted 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, principle of AIR Studio, the University of British Columbia, Canada took the floor and gave her speech on Architecture and Tourism. She shared a practice ongoing in the Fraser Lake incorporated as a village, in the north of Canada, suffering population decline due to the deteriorating main 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 the engagement with local residents via an online survey, social media and in person 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 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 marginalized 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 of Traditional Architecture Design Institute of Zhejiang Province, titled Embodiment of Core Elements in the Development of Traditional Villages. In his argument, people's first appeal in the rural areas is their need for accommodation including not only convenient and comfortable houses but also for the local environment and for cultural factors in the community. The next priority is the need for development, forming organic connections between urban and rural areas, between farming and trading. He also stressed on interconnection of cultural and historical aspects and heritage and innovation to 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 the five stages of the development of Songyang, which he called as "the last county specimen of ancient China". He recalled while Zhejiang Province was highly industrialized, but without much advantage in its industrialization, Songyang has defined itself as a tourist attraction with eco-friendly industries, making itself stand out in Zhejiang Province and neighboring 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

Dr. Remy Sietchiping, Mr. QIU Shaomin, artist, Mr. ZHANG Wenqing, a local traditional Chinese medicine doctor, residents in Hengkang village and investors in bed & breakfast businesses were invited for further discussion.

- In the following conversation, Mr. LUO Deyin pointed out that China's tourism market has transformed from the sightseeing era to the relaxation era, requiring a tourist attraction to be more than just photogenic, telling the story of the place that can reach out and touch the customers.

- Later, answering the question on how they can engage the villagers to promote the development of the village, Mr. Delani Khanyile said that preserving traditional architecture and values with 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, stressing culture as 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 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, home-stay economy, cultural and creative industries and other industries related to rural tourism. Pingtian has attracted ambitious, dedicated and outstanding teams and young entrepreneurs back to the countryside and helped villagers start up their own businesses in local areas. As a result, the formerly desolated empty village has taken on a new look and gradually transformed into a new rural community full of vitality. It has become a base of the rural tourism, with a "relaxed lifestyle and leisure tourism model village" in Zhejiang Province, China.



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



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



- The first speaker, **Ms. Tuyen Thi Thanh Huynh**, country coordinator from International Centre for Tropical Agriculture, was invited to the floor to give a speech titled Elucidating Rural-Urban Linkages of Food Systems for Healthier Diets. She argued that rural areas and urban areas have different functions in the food system as rural areas are mostly the provider of food while urban areas are the market. According to her, developing countries are facing the challenge on 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 area since many remote villages have less diversified choices of food. She then summarized that it's important to connect markets with the local resources, 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 took the floor. He gave the story of his bed & breakfast business in Songyang with enormous 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 is a part of the local culture and values and should be taken into account.



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



- **Mr. Karim Hussein**, international development and specialist and senior advisor, took the floor to deliver a speech on Urban-Rural Linkages and Food Security in Africa. He explained 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 partnership 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 maximizing 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.

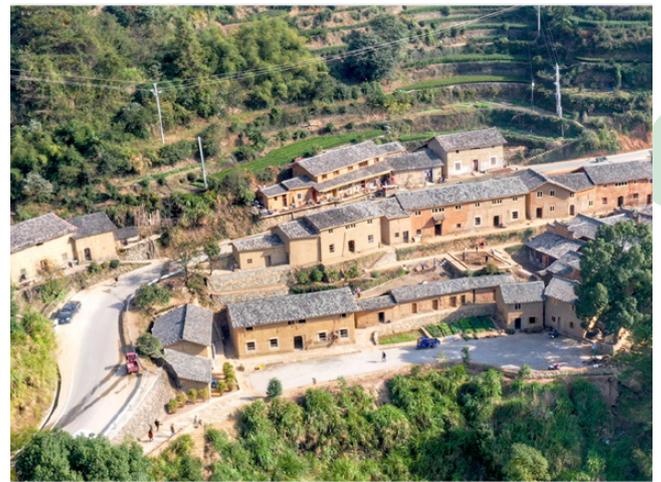
## Discussion

- The first question, addressed to Ms. Tuyen, asked about collaboration with nutritionists in her work. Ms. Tuyen agreed that policy makers and planners need to enhance their collaboration with nutritionists when it comes to improving food system to achieve the SDGs.
- Following conversation, Dr. Lal stressed the connections with the urban-rural continuum, which are not only on the policy level, but also on the functional level as the functions of urban areas and rural areas are fundamentally different.
- One audience member asked about narrowing 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 programs to promote communication between urban and rural areas.
- Another audience member asked Mr. Hussein about ways to encourage young people to devote themselves to rural development and participating in agricultural production. Dr. Egal first commented and said that there is a trend right now in many cities in Europe where many people seek to return to rural areas because they are not satisfied with the opportunities in cities and also they want to experience a new way of life. Mr. Hussein added to this, saying that Songyang has 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.

- Speakers were asked about whether they are positive about rural revitalization. Dr. Egal invited Dr. Sietchiping to answer this question. He expressed his positive expectation about the potentials of rural areas. He gave an example of Kenya, as many graduate students would return to the villages after finishing their studies, possibly not working in traditional agriculture but rather agriculture with new tools and modern practices.

## ROUTE 2B: INNOVATIONS IN 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.



## PARALLEL EVENT 2B: INNOVATIONS IN RURAL ECONOMY



This session was moderated by **Ms. Ivy Moraes**, Policy Director, Regions4. She brought attention to specific terms which are interconnected on this topic, such as government, social measures, response to challenges, ways of thinking, and 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 was invited to give his speech titled 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 to the countryside. He then proposed three breakthrough points and three key points for promoting innovation in the rural economy. The first breakthrough point was the environment. He showed that Songyang has vigorously invested in reforestation, river and lake management, cleaning air pollution and village landscaping. These works on ecology led to a booming tourism industry. In the first three quarters of the year 2019, Songyang has received 1.819 million tourists and reached an income from tourism of 120 million yuan, an increase of 15% and 21% respectively. The second breakthrough point introduced was culture, as Songyang has hosted many art 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 Internet. With the rise of the e-commerce, social media and mobile

payments, Songyang's e-commerce has developed rapidly. The county's online sales reached 1.36 billion yuan in the first three quarters of 2019, with a year-to-year increase of 39.8%. He then moved on to discussing the 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, an industrial foundation 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 can learn from each other and build a better future for rural economy.



- **Mr. Panagiotis Karfakis**, economist from Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), delivered his speech titled A Vision for Rural Transformation in View of Rapid Urbanization. He highlighted the importance of newly emerged rural towns in developing countries and 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 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 discussed that improving local infrastructure and strengthening urban-rural linkages can increase farmers' participation in the market. He mentioned using technological innovations to promote the rural economy. He concluded pointing out the importance of land ownership and ensuring females' 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 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 stated the importance of land ownership, land security and human rights in the urban-rural continuum. To do so, he stressed data-based policy and planning, and public-private partnership.
- One audience member asked Mr. LI Hanqin where else Songyang County approaches had been implemented, in China or abroad. 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 was comprised of a Roundtable which was moderated by, **Dr. Ahmad Elatrash**, Senior Urban Programme Officer from 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 to rediscovering the value of rural local communities to lead their transformation and 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 integrated perspective.



- The first speaker, was **Mrs. FOU DA 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, which is a country of 30 million with 52% living in cities. 60% of this urban population is concentrated into the two major cities, Yaoundé and Duala. Mrs. Fouda related how Cameroon has been responding to the development gap between urban and rural areas. She introduced various actions to improve road, 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 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 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 introduced that the subnational government has been implementing sustainable territorial and urban planning in the Extremadura Region, with unprecedented participation, and 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 came forward with a presentation about the rural value of the industrial prosperity and stressed rural production. He also stated the importance of diversification and integration of rural industries especially those related to agriculture, in order to strengthen comprehensive income for rural areas, including existing rural industrial value chains and expanded agricultural functions. Concluding his speech, he expounded on 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 the agriculture in France, aimed at improving agricultural conditions to reduce production costs, develop rural spaces and mitigate the negative effects of public works projects on farms. Land consolidation also has contributed to achieve more rational and effective allocation of plots and to reduce the number of isolated plot and bring these plots closer to the farm. Along with the process, public infrastructure improvement programmes also implemented as the construction of road, community centres, residential plots etc., for further land integration. He ended stressing the land consolidation process also had led positive changes in the environmental value of rural land and contributions to strengthen biodiversity.



- The last speaker was **Mr. Wang Junlong** from 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, only with the integration of local governance, planning and industrial policy creates more opportunities and makes the countryside better.

## Discussion

- During the discussion, an audience member had a speech, saying “I know we cannot have a one-size-fits-all solutions, 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, all participatory policy making process must make decisions with the global agenda in the core, even when applying very specific technologies in certain local area. In other words, the global agenda should be tailored and localized to solve the precise challenge the region facing.
- Ms. Marguerite answer focused on the “balance”. She described Cameroon as a country with minorities, considering language, religion, ethnic groups etc. Therefore, she emphasized the need for the government to fully address the balance in fiscal 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

The three days of event produced a series of sparks of wisdom and experiences across the globe were shared. The closing ceremony began by the presentation of the SONGYANG CONSENSUS 2019 in a ceremony by the co-organizers of the forum. The consensus was read aloud in Chinese and the English translation was displayed on a screen. The representatives of 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 made contributions to the event. In summary, he stressed that this Forum shared innovative solutions and he requested all participants to implement these solutions in their own ways. Finally, he emphasized that the Forum is evidence that small examples have a far-reaching impact, and called on every participant with different resources, assets and pathways to plant these seeds in their home gardens.

- **Mr. Wang Jun** in his final remarks indicated that most importantly, after implementation of the innovative practices, people in Songyang have increased their income and welfare, with more understanding of rural values and culture, hence becoming more self-confident adding to the love of home and expanding their belief in rural revitalization.

On the next steps, he proposed five new strategies to rural revitalization, first the new value orientation towards an ecological civilization, second the new urban-rural relationship mutually reinforcing and coexisting, third the new economic form with high-quality agriculture-based, integrated agriculture, trade, culture, creative industry and ecological symbiosis, fourth the new operating mechanism from atomized, fragmented, independent and decentralized management. Finally and fifth, the new cultural norms that will come from the mix of traditional, modern, urban, rural and inclusive cultural forms.

He concluded his remarks indicating that he hopes the international forum on Urban Rural Linkages will be further developed as a platform to call on urban and rural people around the world to actively carry out cooperative exchanges, promote the establishment of coordinating bodies for cooperation and liaison and formulate corresponding action plans.





## ANNEX 01 The Songyang Consensus



# Songyang Consensus 2019

The First International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages



200

Participants



18

International Organisations



17

countries



IFURL BRIEF REPORT



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-organisers 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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Mr. Julius Mwelu	Photographer	UN-Habitat
Mr. Thiago Soares Barbizan	Senior Officer	ICLEI
Mr. Vicente RUIZ	Economist	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development(OECD)
Mr. Thomas Forster	Director, Practice2Policy	UN-Habitat
Mr. Thierry GIORDANO	Deputy Director	CIRAD
Ms. Morgane Chiocchia	Associate Programme Officer	UNCCD
Dr. Florence Egal	Independent expert food security and nutrition	
Mr. Panagiotis Karfakis	Economist	Food and Agriculture Organization(FAO)
Mr. Manohar Velpuri	Partner, United Nations and Innovation networks	FIG (International Federation of Surveyors)
Ms. Ivy Moraes	Policy Officer	nrg4SD
Mr. Karim HUSSEIN	International Development Specialist and Senior Advisor	
Ms. Tuyen Thi Thanh Huynh	Country Coordinator of Agriculture for Nutrition and Health Program	
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Ms. Txari Vallejo	Responsible for Promoting social housing	Kingdom of Spain
Mr. Ousmane Sow	Directeur	Republic of Mali
Delani Khanyile	Manager	Republic of South Africa
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Mr. MUNKHZUL GALDNAА	Senior officer	Mongolia

## ANNEX 03 QUOTES

**Mr. Vincente Ruiz** “Songyang is the perfect example of urban and rural integration and that 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 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 Conservative and Utilization of Traditional Villages, the only pilot county propelled with “Operation to Rescue Old Houses”). The 1406qkm 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 on 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.”

**Dr. Anurima Mukherjee Basu** “The forum was extremely well organised, 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”

**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”

**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.”



**Thank You**  
**谢谢**