

From Containment to Mitigation to Recovery – How can we build back better?

The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the worst crises that has hit humanity in recent history. The number of countries and people affected is unprecedented. More importantly are the social, economic and cultural consequences of prolonged physical distancing and lock-down of entire countries, regions and cities.

There is no doubt that the Coronavirus crisis has highlighted, as never before, the consequences of social, economic and gender inequality and lack of social justice. Worldwide, this crisis has shown that we neglect primary health care, basic infrastructure and services, decent housing and decent work at our own peril. Never before has a singular event revealed the weaknesses and failures of the systems and their governance.

The Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation, designed as a knowledge sharing system for sustainable urban development, recognizes the unique challenges of the COVID-19 crisis. It is therefore expanding the scope of the 2020 Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation to include the following key issues and lessons learned from experience in recognizing the front-line role of local authorities. We are particularly interested in learning about the outstanding changes your local authority undertook or is undertaking in terms of policies, strategies and administrative procedures in order to:

- Meet the emergency response to the pandemic, especially for the most vulnerable groups;
- Manage the delicate balance between containment and mitigation and what this entails in terms of delivering basic infrastructure and services;
- Transitioning from emergency response and mitigation to recovery.



广州国际城市创新奖

Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation

Rm 2507, Building A, Nanfang Media, No.289

Guangzhou Dadao Zhong, Yuexiu District,

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For the 2020 Guangzhou Award for Urban Innovation, we are subscribing to the principles and guidelines of the Secretary General of the United Nations. These include:

- Implementing a robust and cooperative health response to the crisis, especially for the most vulnerable;
- Undertaking the necessary measures to cushion the knock-on effects on millions of people's lives and livelihoods and the real economy;
- Learn for the crisis and build back better.

In terms of the specific focus areas, the 2020 Guangzhou Award is particularly interested in forward looking initiatives in the following areas:

- Rethinking local governance mechanisms including the respective roles and responsibilities between different departments, sectors and tiers of government;
- Rethinking urban morphology and typology including new perspectives on density, compactness and mobility;
- Addressing the unacceptably high consequences of the COVID-19 crisis on the exacerbation of social, gender and racial inequalities in cities;
- Improving the resilience of the urban economy and reducing the risk of failure.



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