



# UNIVER-CITIES 2023 (UC2023)

19.-20. November 2023, Zurich, Switzerland

Univer-Cities and changing environments



## UC2023 Introduction

We are pleased to invite you to Univer-Cities 2023 (UC2023), a conference comprising keynote speeches, thematic sessions, and a mini-conference that focuses on the role of universities in urban development and climate change. UC2023 will be held in Zurich, Switzerland, on 19-20 November 2023, and is organized by a team of experts in urban studies, sustainable development, and higher education.

UC2023 aims to bring together academics, policymakers, and practitioners from different fields to explore the symbiotic relationship between universities and cities in the context of climate change and changing environments. The participants will discuss and strengthen a White Paper on Univer-Cities and changing environments.



### **Why UC2023 is different from other Climate Change-themed conferences:**

- UC2023 offers a unique narrative and setting, combining academic excellence with urban innovation, and showcasing the best practices & applied research of Univer-Cities from Asia and the Western world.
- UC2023 focuses on the practical implications of Univer-Cities for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and explores the role of universities in developing sustainable solutions for urban environments.
- UC2023 encourages cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral collaborations, by bringing together scholars, policymakers, and practitioners from different fields, and by providing a platform for networking, learning, and sharing applied research experiences.

### **Confirmed Speakers:**

- Prof. **Gianmaria F. Ajani**, Past-President of University of Turin
- Prof. **Bertil Andersson**, Advisory Board Univer-Cities & Trustee, Nobel Foundation, Stockholm
- Prof. **Asit K. Biswas**, Stockholm Water Prize Winner, Glasgow University
- Sir **L. Borysiewicz**, Emeritus Vice Chancellor of University of Cambridge
- Prof. **Ben Horton**, Dean Earth Observatory Singapore (EOS), NTU
- Dr **Gordon Johnson**, Former Deputy Vice Chancellor, Cambridge & Twice President of The Royal Asiatic Society
- Mr. **Lim Chern Yuan**, Group Chief Executive Officer, Yinson Holdings Berhad, Kuala Lumpur
- Prof. **Katharina Michaelowa**, Dean Faculty of Philosophical Sciences, University of Zurich
- Prof **Cecilia Tortajada**, Glasgow University & Mexico Water Institute, Glasgow

**Conference Patron:** Sir L. Borysiewicz

**Research Phase Joint Leads:** Prof. B. Andersson & Dr Gordon Johnson

**Global Guests of Honour:** HE Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, CBE; UAE Minister of Industry & Advanced Technology, President-Designate

**Conference Manager:** Dr. Nicole Bender, University of Zurich, [nicole.bender@iem.uzh.ch](mailto:nicole.bender@iem.uzh.ch)

**Conference Secretary & White Paper Research Officer:** Mr. Marcus Chua, Yale-NUS College, and NUS College, National University of Singapore, [marcus.c@nus.edu.sg](mailto:marcus.c@nus.edu.sg)



## Univer-Cities UC2023 Agenda

**Day 1 (chairs and speakers only): Sunday, 19 November 2023**

**Location:** [Restaurant Storchen](#), room Limmatsaal, Weinplatz 2, CH-8001 Zurich

### Opening

**Time:** 18.30-22.00

**Chairs:**

Prof. Frank Rühli, Dean, University of Zurich

Prof. Anthony Teo Soon Chye, Singapore University of Social Sciences

Opening ceremony, welcoming words, and dinner

**Day 2 (all attendees): Monday, 20 November 2023**

**Location:** University of [Zurich Main Building](#), Senate Room (KOL-E-13), floor E, Rämistrasse 71, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland

Time: 7.30-8.15 **Registration** in front of the Senate Room

**Time:** 8.15-8.30

**Speaker:** Rector of the University of Zurich, Prof. Michael Schaepman

Greeting words

**Time:** 8.30-8.40

**Speaker:** Prof. Anthony Teo Soon Chye, Singapore University of Social Sciences

Introduction

### Session 1: Water stressed cities

**Time:** 8.40-9.25

**Chair:**

Dr Gordon Johnson, Former Deputy Vice Chancellor,

A dynamic and engaging discussion on the important topic of water scarcity in urban areas, and how universities can play a crucial role in addressing this issue with innovative solutions. The session also explores through his personal and advisory roles in exemplary cities such as water-



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<p>Cambridge &amp; Twice President of The Royal Asiatic Society</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b>          Prof. Asit K. Biswas, <i>Stockholm Water Prize Winner</i> &amp; Glasgow University           Prof Cecilia Tortajada, Glasgow University &amp; Mexico Water Institute</p>	<p>stressed Singapore, a city that has become self-sufficient in water with a strategic past and a half century look ahead.</p> <p><i>Actioning Water Stressed Cities</i></p>
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**Session 2: Existential Sea level rise**

<p><b>Time:</b> 9.25-10.10</p> <p><b>Chair:</b>          Prof Gianmaria Ajani, University of Torino, Italy</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b>          Prof. Ben Horton &amp; Dean Earth Observatory Singapore (EOS), NTU</p>	<p>An eye-opening session on the rising sea levels and its impact on coastal areas. Ben Horton will discuss the alarming projectable effects of sea level rise based on research refreed published dig into 10,000-age depth zone in near-shore Singapore, the Arctic with Norwegian and Antarctic with international partners. This is a pressing issue for countries with coastlines and littoral territories. Shed light on the challenges that cities face due to the rising sea levels and what strategic short, medium to long term measures can be taken to combat this issue.</p> <p>EOS research rich <i>Global Sea-Level Threats</i></p>
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**Time: 10.10-10.40 | Coffee break**

Optional Rolling TV ~ Movie about climatic change, by Nash Michael

Thought-provoking session on the impact of climate change through the lens of a documentary by Nash Michael.

This powerful film, "Climate Refugees", focuses on the human impact of climate change, particularly on those who are most vulnerable to its effects. It highlights the issue of climate refugees' displacement due to environmental factors such as rising sea levels, drought, and extreme weather conditions.

**Session 3: Practised Investible & Calibrated Clean Energy Portfolios**

<p><b>Time:</b> 10.40-11.25</p> <p><b>Chair:</b>          Prof. Bertil Andersson, Advisory</p>	<p><i>Practical guides for investing in assessable clean energy projects</i></p>
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Board Univer-Cities & Trustee,  
Nobel Foundation

**Speaker:**

Mr. Lim Chern Yuan, Group Chief  
Executive Officer, Yinson Holdings  
Berhad, Kuala Lumpur

**Session 4: Integrating Panel's Session**

**Time:** 11.25-12.10

*Univer-Cities - Actions Direct*

**Chair:**

Sir Borysiewicz, Emeritus Vice  
Chancellor of University of  
Cambridge

**Panellists:**

Prof Gianmaria Ajani  
Dr Gordon Johnson  
Prof. Katharina Michaelowa, Dean  
Faculty of Philosophical Sciences,  
University of Zurich  
Prof Cecilia Tortajada

**Time:** 12.10-12.15

Closing words

**Speakers:**

Prof. Frank Rühli  
Prof. Anthony Teo Soon Chye

**Location:** [Restaurant UniTurm](#), University of [Zurich Main Building](#), floor N, Rämistrasse  
71, 8001 Zurich

**Time:** 12.15-13.30

Lunch and networking



## UC2023 Organisers:

**Prof. Dr. Dr. med. Frank Rühli** is one of the co-founders of the Crisis Competence Center of the University of Zurich, Switzerland. He is full Professor for evolutionary medicine, and Dean of the Medical Faculty of the University of Zurich, as well as Director of the Institute of Evolutionary Medicine in Zurich.

Frank Rühli's research and practical experience in relation to crisis knowledge are diverse: academically, he studies the impact of crises by using historical data and applying evolutionary perspectives. He also has experience in planning medical crisis scenarios for the Swiss Armed Forces as well as practical political and academic governance experience related to crisis management.

**Prof. Anthony Teo Soon Chye** is Adjunct Professor at Singapore University of Social Sciences. He is a Harvard-trained banker, consultant, business and entrepreneur turned educator, and an Emeritus visiting fellow at the University of Cambridge, Wolfson College, Chevalier of the Order Palmes Académiques and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Pioneer Educator Award 2015.

His academic engagement includes lecturing at NTU's Nanyang Technopreneurship Centre, INSEAD's Professor Henri Claude De Bettignies SE Asia Executive Programmes, Munich-based TUM's "Re-Attracting Overseas German Talent" and Air Liquide Global Senior Executive Development Programme. He is the series-editor of the book-series *Univer-Cities* (4 volumes, World Scientific Publishing).

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