



Press release

21 November 2023

MBMB, Zurich Malaysia, Z Zurich Foundation, and Resilient Cities Network collaboration to strengthen community climate resilience

- *Two communities in Melaka, Kampung Morten and Pantai Peringgit, will implement projects to build resilience to floods and extreme heat.*
- *The communities will benefit from the local climate action through the Resilience for Communities program.*

Melaka, 21 November 2023 – The Mayor of Melaka, Majlis Bandaraya Melaka Bersejarah (MBMB) announced the communities selected for the **Resilience for Communities (R4C)** program. Resilience for Communities is a new initiative under the Urban Climate Resilience Program supported by Z Zurich Foundation to strengthen the resilience of communities in Melaka against climate related disasters including floods and extreme heat. Melaka is among a group of eleven cities in nine countries participating in this global program.

The announcement was made with joint partners from Zurich Malaysia, Z Zurich Foundation and Resilient Cities Network (R-Cities). The selection process marks the first step communities have taken in this 3-year program engaging with the local government.

“Being a historic city with UNESCO World Heritage status, we recognise the importance of building community resilience to carry our cultural heritage forward in the face of climate challenges. Thus, it is with great enthusiasm that the City of Melaka is joining the new Resilience for Communities program. I look forward to working closely with Zurich Malaysia, Z Zurich Foundation and R-Cities to create a more sustainable and resilient future for our communities, our city, and our country,” **said YBhg Datuk Hj. Shadan Hj. Othman, Melaka Mayor.**

Through the R4C program, the communities of **Kampung Morten** and **Pantai Peringgit** will each receive funding from the Z Zurich Foundation to implement projects that enhance their resilience to floods and heatwaves. The selection of these communities took into consideration factors such as their exposure to climate hazards, the socio-economic challenges they face, the presence of active communities in the area and the current level of support they receive from the local government and other local organisations.

Using the Climate Resilience Measurement for Communities (CRMC) tool will lead to the clear identification of priority actions in the selected communities. The tool was developed by Z Zurich Foundation and Zurich Insurance, alongside the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, through more than a decade of climate resilience work in communities across the world. “Building resilience in urban communities is dependent not only on local action but on the systems which impact those communities. By working directly through our partners with the local authorities, we aim to influence the ways in which systems can be adapted to better support vulnerable communities,” **said David Nash, Head of Adaptation to Climate Change, Z Zurich Foundation.**

Zurich Malaysia aims to take a leading role in driving impactful changes in the adaptation of systems in selected cities in Malaysia, ensuring enhanced support for vulnerable communities, “We are thrilled to launch the Resilience for Communities program in Melaka and look forward to a meaningful three-year collaboration that aligns with Zurich’s sustainability ambitions as well as the core of our ‘Care For What Matters’ brand campaign,” **said Junior Cho, Country CEO/Head of Zurich Malaysia.**

The R4C program will actively listen and engage with the residents of **Kampung Morten** and **Pantai Peringgii** to identify their specific needs that can help them become more resilient. Together with MBMB, the communities will select and implement the solutions that will help them better prepare and equip themselves for climate emergencies. On the other hand, the R-Cities will help identify resilience gaps, guide the engagement and participatory process, lead project development, and support the implementation of pilot programs. By understanding how communities perceive risks and the barriers they face, MBMB can better help local communities become more resilient.

The implementation team started engaging with the community leaders and members in the last month. “We are on the ground, listening to the communities,” **said Katrin Bruebach, Global Director of Programs and Operations at Resilient Cities Network.** “In the next 3 years, we will amplify their voices, collectively assess priorities and, most importantly, implement co-produced solutions that will enhance Melaka’s resilience,” she added.

Kampung Morten is a Malay heritage village gazetted under the Cultural Heritage Conservation and Restoration Enactment 1988 (Enactment No. 6 of 1988). Recently, this village has been exposed to flood disasters and the authorities remain committed to continuing to preserve heritage assets that are in the midst of rapid urban development. Meanwhile, **Pantai Peringgii** is an area exposed to the risk of flooding and this community takes various initiatives to improve homes and neighborhoods.

The R4C Champion representing various departments at MBMB has been identified as having a role to support throughout the implementation of this community and climate resilience initiative. Furthermore, this champion will be the main pillar in channelling information and be responsible for formulating potential solutions for these two locations.

Through this implementation, the Melaka Urban Resilience Unit, MBMB also plays a strategic role to ensure that collaboration with partners through this program can be seen comprehensively in terms of technical aspects, planning and appropriate methods in line with the program’s goal to increase resilience in among the community, especially the citizens of the city.

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Notes to editor:

More about community resilience

Community resilience, or the ability of a community to bounce back and adapt to climate change, depends on its unique physical, social and economic characteristics. Resilient communities can withstand, recover from and thrive in the face of climate disasters. By understanding how communities perceive risks and their level of awareness, alongside any particular barriers that communities may face, local governments can better help local communities to become more resilient.

About Majlis Bandaraya Melaka Bersejarah

Majlis Bandaraya Melaka Bersejarah (MBMB) or Melaka Historic City Council, is the governing body entrusted with the development, preservation, and administration of the historic city of Melaka, Malaysia. MBMB’s mandate is to drive Melaka City towards sustainable growth, resilience, dynamism, smartness, and prosperity, while safeguarding and promoting the unique cultural, historical, and architectural heritage of Melaka. MBMB will continue to improve its quality of service towards residents of Melaka and tourists,

with the vision to lead the world class cosmopolitan city. For more information, visit <https://www.mbmb.gov.my>.

About Zurich Malaysia

Zurich Malaysia is a collective reference term for the Zurich Insurance Group (Zurich) business subsidiaries operating in Malaysia: Zurich General Insurance Malaysia Berhad, Zurich Life Insurance Malaysia Berhad, Zurich General Takaful Malaysia Berhad and Zurich Takaful Malaysia Berhad. Zurich Malaysia offers a broad range of comprehensive insurance and takaful solutions; helping individuals as well as business owners understand and protect themselves, their businesses and their assets from risk. Zurich Malaysia has an integrated branch network in major cities nationwide as well as dedicated agency and distribution channels nationwide to serve the needs of its customers. For further information on Zurich Malaysia, visit www.zurich.com.my.

About Z Zurich Foundation

The Z Zurich Foundation works alongside Zurich Insurance Group employees and other stakeholders as well as with governments and NGOs in pursuit of a future where people can thrive in the face of increasing climate hazards, where those of us feeling the stresses of life are empowered to speak up, and where the marginalised in our society can reach their full potential.

The Z Zurich Foundation is a Swiss-based charitable foundation established by members of the Zurich Insurance Group. It is the main vehicle by which Zurich Insurance Group delivers on its global community investment strategy.

Visit the Z Zurich Foundation's website to learn more about its work: <https://zurich.foundation>. Follow Z Zurich Foundation on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

About Resilient Cities Network (R-Cities)

Resilient Cities Network (R-Cities) is the world's leading urban resilience network. It brings together global knowledge, practice, partnerships, and funding to empower its members to build safe and equitable cities for all. Its unique city-led approach ensures cities drive the agenda to benefit the communities they serve. At work in nearly 100 cities worldwide, the Resilient Cities Network supports on-the-ground projects and solutions to build climate resilient, circular and equitable cities while also facilitating connections and information-sharing between communities and local leaders. For more information, please visit <https://resilientcitiesnetwork.org/>.