

## Bilbao City Hall tops 78 nominations to clinch the inaugural Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize

Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Secretary, Larry Ng Lye Hock, confirms in Bilbao awarding of the Nobel Prize in cities

Bilbao City Hall has been named the inaugural Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Laureate in recognition of its integrated and holistic approach in urban transformation. Bilbao's success is founded on visionary leadership, commitment to long-term planning, strong processes and supporting infrastructure.

Jointly co-organised by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), Singapore's land-use planning and conservation authority, and the Centre for Liveable Cities, the biennial international Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize seeks to generate positive social, economic and environmental impact in cities around the world. It provides a platform to highlight and celebrate urban solutions and to spur further innovation in the area of sustainable urban development and city excellence.

The award focuses on the four key pillars of liveability, vibrancy, sustainability, and quality of life, which are instrumental to the success of every city and its quality of urban life. These qualities were evidently demonstrated in Bilbao's radical transformation from a post-industrial city to a vibrant metropolis.

The 78 worldwide nominations for the Prize were carefully considered through a rigorous two-tier process comprising a Nominating Committee and a Prize Council. Both jury panels were particularly impressed with what Bilbao had achieved, through a chronological and systematic order of development over a period of 25 years that was both well-integrated and skilfully executed. Bilbao City Hall has improved Bilbao's environment and quality of life significantly, strengthened its social cohesiveness and cultural vibrancy, as well as sharpened its economic competitiveness.

Member of the Nominating Committee for the Prize and CEO of URA, Mrs Cheong Koon Hean, commented, "Bilbao City Hall's strong leadership and commitment to a systematic and long-term plan has rejuvenated a post-industrial city and transformed it into a definitive cultural landmark in Spain and Europe. Bilbao is an exemplary city that continually re-invents and evolves itself amidst dynamic changes. Cities all over the world will be able to draw inspiration and learning points from its success."

Mayor of Bilbao City Hall, Dr Iñaki Azkuna will receive the award from Singapore's first Prime Minister and present Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew at the Lee Kuan Yew Prize Award Ceremony and Banquet on 29 June 2010. The Prize comprises of S\$300,000 (about US\$218,000) cash, a gold medallion and an award certificate, fully sponsored by Keppel Corporation.

Mr Choo Chiau Beng, CEO of Keppel Corporation, extended his congratulations to Bilbao City Hall, "Through strong leadership, Bilbao City Hall had galvanised the people of Bilbao to see the industrial doldrums in the 1980s not as a crisis but as opportunity. Bilbao City Hall had the wisdom and tenacity required to transform, renew and rejuvenate a city during a period of great uncertainty and despondency. Such an overcoming spirit is what Keppel is akin to. We extend to Bilbao our sincerest congratulations."

Even as Bilbao City Hall takes centre stage as the inaugural Prize Laureate, three nominees have been selected for special mention:

- City of Melbourne, Australia
- Jamie Lerner (former Mayor of Curitiba and Governor of the State of Parana, Brazil)
- Sheila Dikshit (Chief Minister of New Delhi, India)

These cities have been highlighted as their experience could serve as useful learning points for other cities. Please refer to [Annex C](#) for the factsheet on these three nominees.

The Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize will be presented at the Lee Kuan Yew Prize Award Ceremony and Banquet (which includes a Dialogue with Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew) during this year's World Cities Summit (WCS), which will take place from 28 June to 1 July 2010. The WCS is a premier international event focused on issues of urban leadership and governance, the building of sustainable and eco-friendly cities, and the fostering of harmonious and sustainable communities. WCS will bring together over a thousand international delegates, including ministers, governors, mayors and senior officials, who will interact with business leaders, industry professionals and other policy experts.