

Committee: UN Habitat

Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Topic: Building Sustainable and Smart Cities of the Future

United States of America is the fourth largest country in the world with the third largest population of 347 million people on a 3.6 million square miles land located in North America. Neighbors of the USA are Canada, Mexico, and Russia. USA was declared in 1776, and has a diverse culture and history. USA is one of the five permanent members of the UN. Currently, USA has the largest economy in the world with over \$30 trillion by nominal GDP, and the second largest economy by purchasing power parity. US economy is very strong due to production, well developed transportation infrastructure, and its natural resources. While the USA has a good level of healthcare and university education, they are not for free.

As the world population is growing, population of the urban areas will be growing faster, and urban areas will become more populated. As this urbanization continues, cities have to become smarter in order to improve the citizen experiences and keep the cities sustainable. The idea of smart cities goes back to 1970s. In 1974, Los Angeles created the first urban big data project which is called A Cluster Analysis of Los Angeles. For the first time in history, Community Analysis Bureau used computer databases, cluster analysis, and infrared aerial photography to gather data, produce reports on neighborhood demographics and housing quality. The main idea is to direct resources to ward off blight and tackle poverty. In 1994, Amsterdam created a virtual digital city to promote internet usage which is called De Digital Stad. These events were followed by investments of Tech Giants like Cisco and IBM for smart cities. Countries and organizations from all around the world such as USA, Japan, China, EU, etc. followed, and took actions such as providing funding for smart grid projects; increasing ratio of smart meters to consumers; deploying data driven urban systems including public transit, parking, and street lighting; announcing more smart cities to apply more technology to make the urban areas smarter, and more sustainable. In 2010, Japanese government named Yokohama as a smart city demonstrator project. In 2013, Mayor of London created Smart London Board to shape London's digital technology strategy. In 2013, 2014, and 2015, China announced a total of 277 cities, districts, and towns as pilot smart cities.

Market size of the US smart cities is expected to grow from \$153 billion in 2024 to \$448 billion in 2033 with a 12% growth rate. The US Department of Transportation and the Department of Energy are introducing initiatives and pilot programs encouraging the deployment of connected infrastructure and clean technologies. Federal and state governments are increasingly offering funding and policy assistance to drive smart city development. US has been the pioneer in the development of the smart city programs, and US will stay as the leader in this area.

References:

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