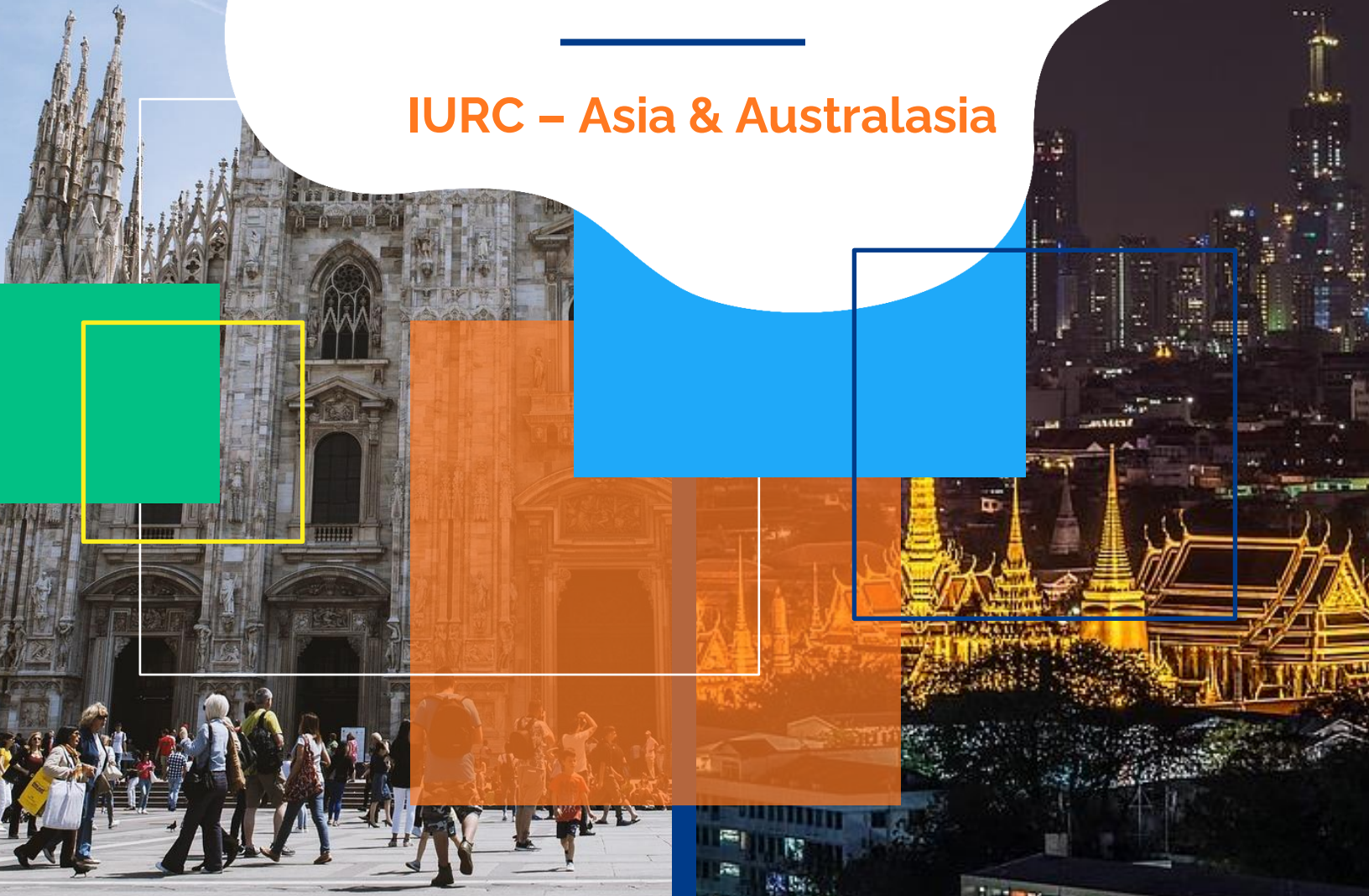


CASE STUDY

Milan – Bangkok

IURC – Asia & Australasia



JULY 17- 2023

Thematic Network(s): Ecological Transition – Green Deal

Thematic Cluster(s): Sustainable agriculture, circular economy

Cross-cutting challenge(s): Energy Transition – Climate Change

Topic keywords: food policy, food system, food waste

Milan – Bangkok

IURC – CASE STUDY

*Bangkok's District Food Management Sandbox:
Applying the MUFPP to the Thai context*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The District Food Management Sandbox, an initiative led by the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), takes inspiration from the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) and adapts its six categories to the specific context of Thailand. The main objective of the Sandbox is to promote sustainable management of the food system at the district level, encompassing activities from the upstream to the downstream, while involving diverse stakeholders.

As of May 2023, the Sandbox has been successfully launched in two prominent street food districts of Bangkok: Samphanthawong and Huai Kwang. Samphanthawong is historically known as China Town, where Chinese migrants settled many centuries ago. It remains a vibrant area with numerous Chinese businesses, including restaurants. On the other hand, Huai Kwang has emerged as the "New China Town" in recent years, witnessing the establishment of various Chinese restaurants within the district.

Given the abundance of food-related activities in these districts, the BMA has implemented the Sandbox to specifically address challenges related to food surplus and waste generated by households, temples, hotels, shopping malls, restaurants, and government offices. The primary focus is to ensure food safety and accessibility for all residents, including vulnerable groups such as the elderly, people with disabilities, and those experiencing homelessness.



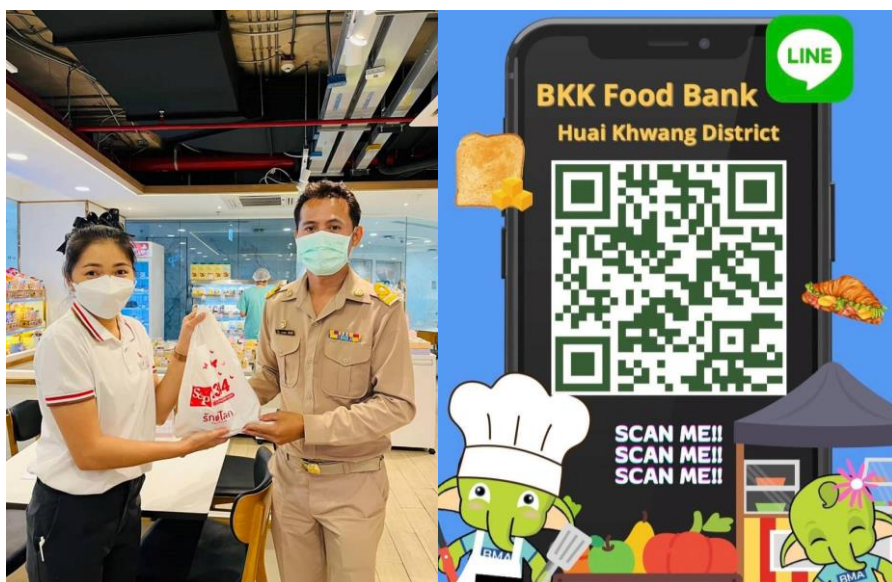
Picture 1: Bangkok's Chinatown in Samphanthawong District

MAIN CHALLENGE AND SOLUTION

The current administration in Bangkok has implemented various programs addressing different aspects of food, such as production, safety, accessibility, nutrition, school meals, and food waste. However, there is currently no comprehensive urban food policy that effectively integrates and streamlines all these sub-policies and programs. The collaboration between Milan and Bangkok aims to establish a comprehensive policy that provides a holistic view of the city's food system and highlights the interconnectedness of different initiatives.

“Through this cooperation, we are transferring knowledge from Milan’s food policy to achieve food sustainability in Bangkok.” Dr Suksan Kittisupakorn, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration

To work towards this objective, a pilot action has been initiated to facilitate the development of a food strategy or policy. The District Food Management Sandbox serves as the BMA’s initiative to map out existing and new food programs based on the six categories outlined in MUFPP. Of particular importance is the engagement of multiple stakeholders, aligning with the quadruple helix approach of IURC. Through the implementation of the Sandbox, the BMA aims to gather valuable experience and outcomes, allowing for the expansion of the initiative to all other districts while obtaining essential data to inform the development of a city-level food strategy or policy.



Pictures 2-3: BKK Food Bank, an important component of the District Food Management Sandbox

RESULTS AND IMPACT

Results based on the six categories of the MUFPP:

1. Governance: Within the BMA, a dedicated food policy committee has been established, engaging the district offices as important stakeholders.
2. Sustainable Diets and Nutrition: Schools under the supervision of the BMA are required to provide nutritious meals to students. Additionally, data on students' nutritional status is collected as an important indicator. These meals are managed by the BMA Thai School Lunch platform.
3. Social and Economic Equity: The districts collaborate with food establishments to offer food discounts and ensure the redistribution of surplus food to vulnerable groups in the community. This is part of the “BKK Food Bank” campaign.
4. Food Production: Both districts actively promote community and school gardening initiatives, as well as local fish farming, to encourage sustainable local consumption.
5. Food Distribution: Rigorous food safety inspections are conducted at markets, schools, hotels, and other food establishments to ensure high standards of hygiene and safety.
6. Food Waste: In an effort to reduce food waste, food banks have been established. The “Mixed No More” campaign has also been launched to promote waste segregation, separating dry waste (such as plastic) for upcycling into craft products, while wet waste (organic waste) is either distributed to farmers as animal feed or transformed into compost, EM solution (bioextract), biogas, and biodiesel.

KEY FIGURES

808 kg
of food surplus
redistributed to **1,215**
persons

53,760 kg
of food waste reduced

5,180 kg
of organic fertiliser
produced from food
waste

134,855.35 kg
of CO₂ emissions
reduced

444
food establishments
inspected for food
safety

1,819
food samples
inspected





Picture 4: “Mixed No More” Waste Segregation Campaign

“Bolstering sustainable food production, ensuring food security and fair distribution, enhancing food nutrition, promoting food waste management are the foundation of an equitable food system. Such is a vital issue for the BMA and we can learn a lot from Milan.” Mr

Pornphrom Vikitsreth, Advisor to Bangkok Governor




Pictures 5-6: District Gardening



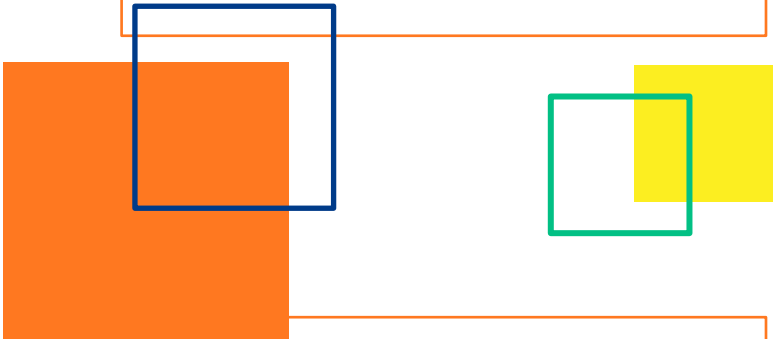
Pictures 7-10: Bangkok-Milan Cooperation Dialogue, May 2023



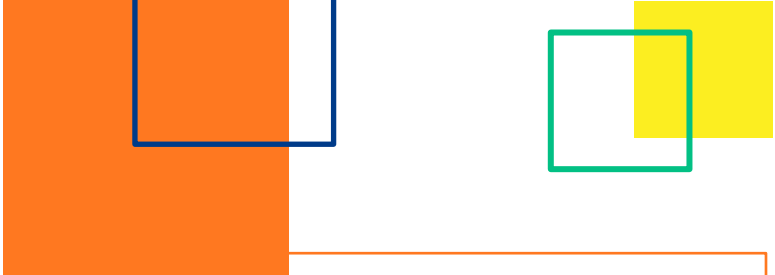
LESSONS LEARNED



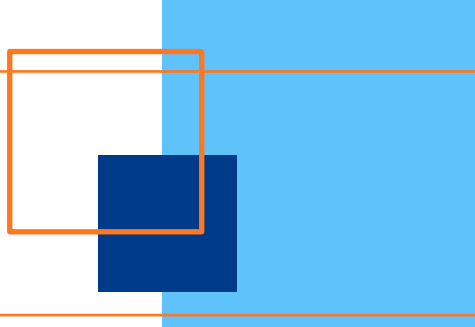
The Sandbox has resulted in stronger collaboration among the public and private sectors and civil society, on programmes such as food discounts and vouchers.




More green areas can be increased through partnerships with the private sector. In the Sandbox, small plots of land have been identified for urban farming, particularly the growing of organic vegetables.



Waste does not have to be wasted. Waste can be upcycled into a commercial product, such as the production of calcium from fish bones by a restaurateur.



The BMA Thai School Lunch programme can be enhanced in the future, through the setting up of central kitchens cooking meals for all the schools under the BMA supervision.



THE IURC PROGRAMME

The International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) programme enables cities in different global regions to link up and share solutions to common problems. It is part of a long-term strategy by the European Union to foster sustainable urban development in cooperation with the public and private sectors, as well as representatives of research and innovation, community groups and citizens. Through engaging in IURC, cities will have the chance to share and exchange knowledge with their international counterparts, building a greener, more prosperous future.

The IURC programme is an opportunity for local governments to learn from each other, set ambitious targets, forge lasting partnerships, test new solutions, and boost their city's international profile. Its activities will support the achievement of policy objectives as well as major international agreements on urban development and climate change, such as the EU Urban Agenda, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Agreement.

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Acknowledgments: -

Links to related outputs: -