



International Urban & Regional Cooperation Programme (IURC) in Malaysia

Profiles of Visiting Delegates



**12 September to 15 September 2023
(4 working days)**

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Vila Nova de Famalicão



Resident population (2021) (n°)	133 590
Average annual growth rate of population (2011/2021) (%)	-0,2
Crude educational attainment rate (Secondary education) (2018/2019) (%)	112,0
Area	201.6 km ²
Export Volume (2020) (€)	1.8 billion
Annual precipitation (mm)	1563
Average temperature range (°C)	6 to 26

Source: INE (RSYB); o IGP (CAOP)

Introduction:

Located in the heart of Minho, in the Northwest of Portugal, Famalicão benefits from the beauty of a green landscape, marked by hills and valleys. Famalicão is currently an important cultural, industrial, commercial and farming hub. It is one of the most enterprising city councils in the country. Its dynamic youth, the efficiency and diversity of its workforce, the quality of life, the innovation ecosystem and sustainable growth make Famalicão a great place to visit, live and invest.

Economy:

Famalicão has a strong and dynamic entrepreneur DNA, which helps the achievement of businesses deals. It is one of the most industrial municipalities in Portugal and it is the 3rd exporter of the entire country, and the biggest exporter in the north of Portugal. Companies are a reference in **textile, metal works, engineering, automobile components and agrofood**, with nationally and internationally renowned companies. See [Famalicão MadeIN](#) – an Investment and Entrepreneurship Agency that plays a crucial role in this dynamic.

IURC thematic priorities in sustainable urban development:

- Education, jobs & skills – clusters innovation centres
- Circular economy – waste management
- Urban agenda / Planning, SUD strategies

City Council websites:

www.famalicao.pt and www.famalicaomadein.pt

Interests:

Famalicão is interested in participating in the IURC program to deepen knowledge related to some of the main challenges of the city, developing an IURC action plan, integrated with municipal strategies and planned actions and supported by IURC learning exchanges, knowledge sharing and research activities.

Objectives:

- A well-developed methodology for sustainable urban development
- A structured approach to innovation
- Sharing experiences, challenges, opportunities and difficulties
- Implementation of concrete actions to and from the territory
- Create a network of contacts and create synergies
- Create an action plan that is practical and replicable

Participation in EU and international Projects:



Portuguese Visiting Delegation



Ms. Raquel Azevedo

Coordinator of the Eco Schools Programme at the Camilo Castelo Branco School Group, Famalicão, Portugal

Raquel Azevedo has a degree in Mathematics Teaching from the University of Minho and a postgraduate degree in Educational Technologies from the same university. She is the promoter of the portal math project, a pedagogical consultant for school projects and teacher-author on the EducFrame platform. Developed in the Ribeirão School Group the SPS project - Student Promoters of Success, was published by the Portuguese Ministry of Education and recognised by Microsoft Education in the Leadership and Innovation category, the Municipality of Vila Nova de Famalicão and received the Visão 25 Seal award.

She is currently teaching Mathematics at the Camilo Castelo School Group, in Vila Nova de Famalicão which also promotes the “100 limits” projects within the scope of the Mathematics discipline and the “bIN, Be part of the solution” “less IS more, B Creative” projects within the scope of the Eco-Schools Program and the Project Blue School. She has a keen interest in the ‘intelligent and sustainable development of your territory’, Vila Nova de Famalicão. Her commitment towards education also covers active citizenship, supporting humanism, promoting responsible practices related to adaptability and boldness capabilities, has leveraged the creation of innovative territorial intervention projects.

Chef Ricardo Lanção

Professional Cooking & Pastry Technician at the AE Camilo Castelo Branco (AECCB), Famalicão, Portugal

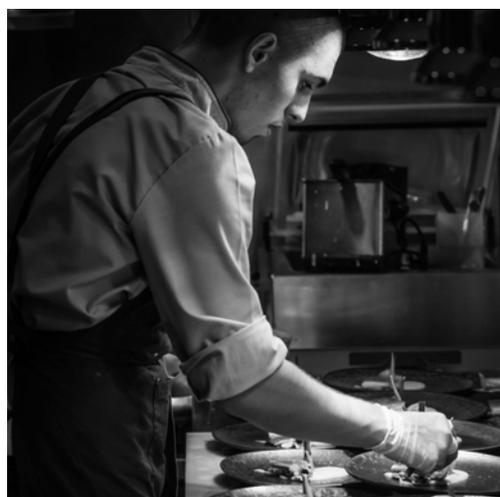


Inspired by his family’s background, he began training as a Level IV Hotel Management Technician at the Porto School of Hotel and Tourism, later graduating in Hotel Management from the Higher Institute of Administration and Management of Porto - Faculty of Porto. His passion for cooking combines traditional and local food, which seeks, to enhance the skills of human hands, to value the identity and culture of territories, led him to become a Master in Food - Sources, Culture and Society at the Faculty of Arts at Coimbra University.

Understanding the importance of a journey in three periods: past, present and future for the affirmation of the relationship between societies and their gastronomic heritage, culture and identity, the PhD in Food Heritage is being carried out at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Coimbra. : Cultures and Identities, Specialization in Food Heritage.

Youths are important mobilizing agents in the transformation of the gastronomic identity of a community and a territory. As a teacher, either in the Professional Cooking and Pastry Technical Course, at the AE Camilo Castelo Branco (AECCB) - Famalicão, or in the Tourism, Hotel and Restaurant Management, at the Higher Institute of Management and Technology (ISLA) - Gaia, he anchors learning in a narrative of memory, discovery, sharing, proximity, experimentation, inclusion, emotion and innovation.

He also seeks to inculcate dialogues with our gastronomic heritage, respecting memories and emotions, to find creative solutions for greater connection between local communities and their products, believing in their potential as a response to the current challenges that climate change has brought to the community.



Mr. Gabriel Torres

Student at Professional Cooking and Pastry Course, AECCB, Famalicão, Portugal

Second-year student of the Professional Cooking/Pastry Technician Course at the Camilo Castelo Branco School Group, passionate about the flavours of traditional gastronomy, he also intends to challenge recipes with small changes in the ingredients and cooking processes, in order to give them a different and modern touch. He seeks to develop a

cuisine that is sensitive to the aromas of the earth, the textures and the beauty of small things.

Mr. João Fontes

Student at Professional Cooking and Pastry Course, AECCB, Famalicão, Portugal

Third-year student of the Professional Cooking/Pastry Technician Course at the Camilo Castelo Branco School Group, passionate about exploring the tastiest delicacies of world cuisine. He completed a professional internship at The Vintage House Hotel which allowed him to experience modern and creative cuisine, never forgetting traditional flavours. His great passion is being able to travel the world and discover the gastronomic heritage of other countries.



International Urban Regional Cooperation for Asia & Australasia (IURC- AA)



Asia & Australasia

Sustainable and innovative cities and regions



How does it work?

The project facilitates knowledge exchange through a combination of online tools and face-to-face support such as study visits, participation in thematic and networking events or capacity building. The cooperation is developed as:

- **Pairings / work groups:** Cities from the EU and one regional country hold bilateral/multilateral study visits creating synergies and added value.
- **Thematic clusters / networks:** A group of cities sharing similar topics of cooperation working either within the Asian / Australasian region or beyond (global network). IURC topics include green deal, urban renewal, public space, culture, innovation and economic growth among others.

What is IURC?

As the second phase of the International Urban Cooperation programme (IUC) (2017-2020), the International Urban and Regional Cooperation programme (IURC) is a programme of the European Union (EU) promoting decentralised multi-city cooperation on sustainable urban development, building partnerships between EU and non-EU cities at global scale. Through thematic online workshops and onsite field visits, local governments will be enabled to implement pilot projects engaging research, civil society & business partners.

Based on the capitalisation of results and lessons learned from the previous phase, the new programme optimises the added value of international cooperation, transforming IURC into a global network of reference for urban and regional innovation.

Financed under the Partnership Instrument and jointly implemented by the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments and the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission, this EU programme will contribute to the objectives of the UN New Urban Agenda, the Agenda 2030 (SDGs), the Urban Agenda for the EU and the European Commission's priorities for a "Stronger Europe in the World" with the European Green Deal and the NextGenerationEU (post COVID-19 recovery plan) at the centre.

IURC Asia & Australasia works in nine countries, namely **Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Thailand and Vietnam.**

Planned **activities** include:

- 84 cities from the EU and Asia / Australasia to be involved in **thematic clustering, training and networking** events.
- Delegations from 45 EU cities to undertake thematic study visits to the region.
- Delegations from 39 non-EU cities to undertake thematic **study visits** to the cities in the EU.
- Publication of 10 **thematic reports**.
- Elaboration of a **knowledge platform** with case studies from across the globe.



Where to find IURC?

The IURC Asia & Australasia project team is coordinated from **Bangkok** with focal points in **India** and **Japan**. The team will be supported by national experts / teams in all countries of activities, **providing cities with administrative, logistical and technical support, coaching and mentoring services, financial liaison** to pairing cities, as well as to other national or regional institutions interested in cooperating with the IURC Asia & Australasia project.

Website: www.iurc.eu/australasia/

Email: info-aa@iurc.eu

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/iurc-aa/

Twitter: https://twitter.com/iurc_aa

Why join IURC?

- To get inspiration from different realities to implement sustainable urban development and innovation actions.
- To be part of a global network accessing direct experiences and lessons learned 'dos & don'ts'
- Benchmarking and international positioning
- Opening doors for your stakeholders to international markets & cooperation opportunities
- To showcase your experiences in an international multi-governance and multi-level framework

Timeline

Apr 2021-Sept 2023: Implementation phase

- Selection of EU and non-EU cities
- Online and onsite meetings, trainings, thematic cluster events
- Bilateral city study visits
- Networking events
- Pilot projects / plans
- Urban knowledge hub

Jan-Mar 2021: Inception phase

Definition of the project implementation



Oct 2023: Closing phase

Reporting results
Preparing an exit strategy

Examples of City Pairings in the IUC programme with Asia

Cities	Farkadona + Trikala + Meteora, Greece & Leh, India
Topics	Air quality; climate adaptation; smart cities and regional/urban innovation and competitiveness; urban mobility; water, waste management and sanitation
Description	The City of Leh partnered with three Greek towns to exchange best practices, focusing on various sustainable urban development issues. This supported all involved to align their urban development targets with international best practices and experience sustainable benefits for the cities.

Cities	Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain & Hirosaki, Japan
Topics	Climate adaptation; energy transition; integrated urban-rural development; urban mobility
Description	It was decided that the cooperation between Donostia-San Sebastián and Hirosaki would focus on smart cities, solar panels in municipal buildings and former landfill sites, mobility, and ICT for citizen information and participation purposes.

Cities	Barcelona, Bologna, Rome & Stuttgart with Yangzhou, China
Topics	Urban planning, energy efficiency, horticultural expo 2021
Description	Garden pavilions developed by Barcelona, Bologna and Rome have been constructed in China. Stuttgart has joined the expo international pavilion. Cities showcase sustainable urban development concepts & best practices from Europe. Between April and October 2021, a series of online exchanges and onsite events are taking place.

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Ms. Jacqueline Chang

Country Coordinator, Malaysia | Circular Economy Specialist, IURC Asia-Australasia



Ms. Jacqueline Chang was born on 5 February 1977. A senior international development expert with **18 years** of extensive senior-level project management experience and **25 consultancy assignments in international cooperation**. She has performed the roles of key expert, senior non-key expert, and project manager working with international donors, development partners, regional bodies and national governments and has proven organisational, communication, coordination, facilitation and management skills.

Her portfolio has covered **19 countries (Southeast Asia, Europe, North Asia, Australasia, North and South America)**. She has implemented 19 projects (mostly funded by the European Union and some by UK Prosperity Fund) in collaboration with countries in ASEAN. She has also promoted EU-Malaysia-ASEAN cooperation both at country and city level in [circular economy initiatives](#), [SCP policy support \(Prime Minister's Department\)](#) to accelerate the development of a green and blue economy.

For the UNEP & COBSEA's regional SEA circular project, she supervised and monitored the completion of circular economy pilot projects and case studies in [Penang \(circular plastic solutions\)](#) and [Petaling Jaya \(voluntary EPR\)](#) during the Covid-19, contributed in the Policy Working Group towards [Ministry of Environment & Water's National Marine Litter Policy and Action Plan 2021-2030](#).

Most notably, her circular economy experience includes working on circular cities ([Malaysia's Blueprint for Circular Cities](#)) for the IUC-Asia project (2017-2020), which is now in its Phase 2 under [IURC Asia & Australasia](#), and she is the CEC Leader for [Circular Economy Clubs](#) in Malaysia implementing various circular economy initiatives (e.g. [Circular Cities Week 2019-2021, closing the loop & advancing plastic recycling case study](#)). She holds a **master's degree in international business** from the **grande école IÉSEG École de Commerce, Université Catholique de Lille (France)** and completed the **Business Sustainability Management certification at Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership**. She is also certified in Project Cycle Management, Proposal Writing for Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities, (**European Commission**), Principles & Business Models in a Circular Economy (**Circular Economy Institute**), Circular Economy and the 2030 Agenda (**UN System Staff College**), Nature-based Solutions for Disaster and Climate Resilience (**UN Environment Programme**), Climate Change and Sovereign Risks (**Asian Development Bank**), Cities and Marine Plastic Pollution: Building a Circular Economy & Integration of SDGs into National Planning (**United Nations ESCAP**) and Sustainable Urban Design and Development (**ISOCARP Institute, Centre for Urban Excellence**). She is currently pursuing Religions and Ecology: Restoring the Earth Community at **Yale University School of Forestry & Environmental Studies** (part-time).

Languages: She is fluent in English and Bahasa Malaysia. She also converses in Cantonese and obtained her FLE (Français Langue Etrangère) B1 certificate in 2011 (Lille, France).

Causes: animal welfare • arts and culture • children • education • environment • science & technology.

Passion and hobbies: swimming, ballet, wakeboarding, hiking, abseiling, music (Baroque, indie rock) and romance languages (French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese; yet to attempt learning Romanian).

LinkedIn Profile [here](#)