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# PRESS RELEASE

## ASIAN CITIES DOMINATE RANKING OF WORLD'S BIGGEST AND BUSIEST METROS

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**Asian cities dominate the ranking of the world's biggest and busiest metro systems according to a new report from UITP, the International Association of Public Transport.**

The report, '[World Metro Figures](#),' is a comprehensive study on the current state of the world's metro networks and highlights potential future developments. The report shows that in 2014, 156 cities around the world had a metro system in operation, nearly two thirds of which were in Asia and Europe.

The **world's busiest metro network is the Tokyo metropolitan area**, with almost 3.6bn passenger journeys per year, a 10% increase compared to 2012. Chinese metro systems have also enjoyed significant growth and **Beijing** (3.4bn, +39%) and **Shanghai** (2.8bn, +25%) are 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively. Rounding out the top five are **Seoul** (2.6bn, +8%) and **Moscow** (2.4bn, -1%). Metros carry over 160m passengers per day (+7.9% compared to 2012), nearly half of which are in Asia.

Asian cities are also on top when it comes to the world's longest metro networks, with the Chinese cities of Shanghai and Beijing boasting 548km and 527km of lines respectively, while London rounds out the top three with 436km. In 2014 alone, more than 500km of new lines were added in cities around the world.

### **Going automatic**

The report also reveals that nearly a quarter of the world's metro systems have at least one fully automated metro line. There are 732km of automated metro lines in 35 cities around the world, with **Dubai** (80km), **Vancouver** (68km) and **Singapore** (65km) at the forefront in terms of infrastructure length.

In the 40 years since the first fully automated metro line, the growth in automation has accelerated exponentially with every decade: current forecasts estimate the total to exceed 2,200km by 2025, with the MENA region and Asia spearheading this growth.

"Cities have always been at the core of growth and development and will continue to be the main engine of economic activity, entrepreneurship and creativity," said UITP Secretary General, **Alain Flausch**. "To fully reach this potential, we need to make sure people move seamlessly and can both access and contribute to the wellbeing



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of their cities. Metros play an instrumental role in helping cities to achieve their potential in today's fast-changing world".

#### NOTE TO EDITORS

**Metros** are high capacity urban guided transport systems, mostly on rails, running on an exclusive right-of-way without any interference from other traffic or level crossings and mostly with some degree of drive automation and train protection. These design features allow high capacity trains to run with short headways and high commercial speed. Metros are therefore suitable for the carriage of high passenger flows and as such constitute the backbone of many public transport systems. Automation brings many operational advantages, in particular, increased safety and flexibility in operation, unrivalled reliability and more attractive job profiles for the staff on the line.

The International Association of Public Transport (UITP) is a passionate champion of sustainable urban mobility and is the only worldwide network to bring together all public transport stakeholders and all sustainable transport modes. We have 1,400 member companies giving access to 16,000 contacts from 96 countries. Our members are public transport authorities and operators, policy decision-makers, research institutes and the public transport supply and service industry. Visit our website [www.uitp.org](http://www.uitp.org). Follow us on Twitter: [@UITPpressoffice](https://twitter.com/UITPpressoffice)

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