



CENTER FOR INNOVATIVE  
GOVERNANCE RESEARCH

# **BUILDING THE FUTURE OF GOVERNANCE**



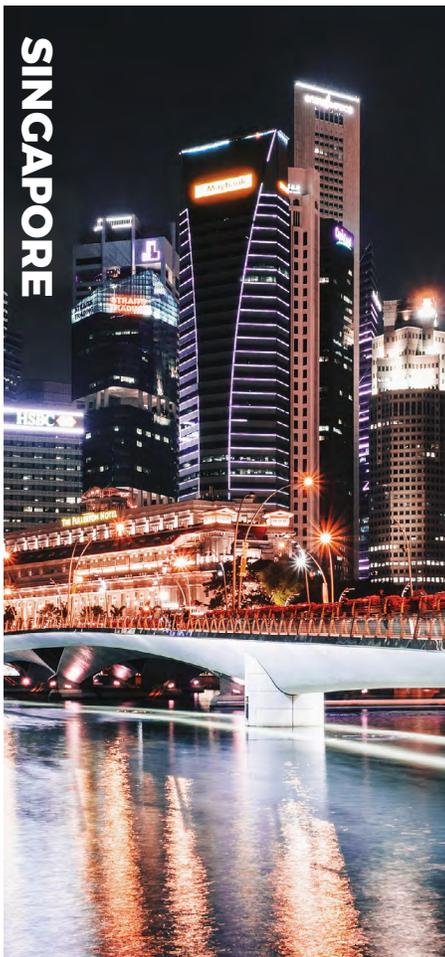
# WHAT ARE CHARTER CITIES?

## WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO LIFT 10 MILLION PEOPLE OUT OF POVERTY?

### OUR ANSWER IS SIMPLE: **IMPROVE GOVERNANCE.**

The Center for Innovative Governance Research is building the ecosystem for charter cities—new city developments with special jurisdictions which adopt the best practices in commercial law from around the world. Charter cities are a policy tool to implement good governance; they improve the lives of their residents by creating an environment in which sustained economic growth is possible, and can serve a model for reforms in the host country and surrounding region.

In the long run, the quality of a country's governance is the single best predictor of its economic trajectory. More so than a country's share of natural resources, proximity to natural waterways, or its informal institutions, governance—broadly defined as a country's set of formal institutions—can either constrain or accelerate a country's economic development. Singapore, Shenzhen, and Dubai, for example, all demonstrate the power of good governance to turn cities into global powerhouses.



**SINGAPORE'S** per capita income was under \$500 in 1960. Thanks to good governance and visionary leadership, Singapore now boasts one of the world's highest standards of living.



**DUBAI** was little more than a desert in 1960. After introducing numerous special economic zones and importing common law, today Dubai is a global destination for tourism, finance, and innovation.



**SHENZHEN** was a fishing village of 30,000 residents in 1980. Today it is the manufacturing capital of the world, boasting a metropolitan area of more than 16 million residents.



# WHAT WE DO

The Center for Innovative Governance Research aims to replicate the success of Dubai, Singapore, and Shenzhen. We bring together new city developers, entrepreneurs, investors, policy experts, and government officials to develop a shared understanding of charter cities and foster the relationships necessary to incubate new cities.

## THE CENTER FOR INNOVATIVE GOVERNANCE RESEARCH HAS THREE PROGRAMS:



### CONTENT

We produce original content including

- Research to help guide entrepreneurs and relevant charter cities decision makers
- Charter Cities Podcast to build a publicly available set of charter cities knowledge
- Innovative Governance Blog to spark conversation



### COLLABORATION

We work with new city developments and their host countries to pass charter cities legislation and implement their governance structure.

- Nkwashi is our first new city partner. It is a 3100-acre new city development outside of Lusaka, Zambia. When completed it will feature 100,000 residents, a university, business district, and industrial park.



### EVENTS

We host a variety of events to convene charter cities stakeholders. The Inaugural Charter Cities Conference will be held in Johannesburg on Oct 2nd-3rd 2019.



“The Center for Innovative Governance Research has been a great ally of ours. Mark and the team have introduced us to a host of very interesting institutions, individuals and events that have all proven to be useful to us.”

*Mwiya Musokotwane, co-founder and CEO of Thebe Investment Management, developer of Nkwashi*

Recipient of an Emergent Ventures Grant from Tyler Cowen

“The Center for Innovative Governance Research is driving change around the role of cities in development. Special economic zones have been shown to work, what if we were to expand them to encompass entire municipalities?”

*Cyude Moore, Visiting Fellow at the Center for Global Development Former Minister of Public Works for Liberia*

“CIGR is providing valuable thought leadership and on-the-ground assistance to advance charter cities. I greatly appreciate their efforts to use these cities as spaces for prosperity, justice, sustainability, and inclusion.”

*Michael Castle Miller, founder and CEO of Politas Consulting, founder of Refugee Cities.*

