Challenges for Sustainable Urban Development in Asia
Michael Lindfield
A Conceptual Framework for Sustainable Urban Development
An Implementation Framework for Sustainable Urban Development

Sustainable Development Goals

Implementation Framework

- Investment
- Institutions

Policy and Planning

Knowledge

Finance

Project Development
Cities provide up to 80% of the economic base— but large disparities have emerged as poverty has urbanized— over 200 million people live in poverty in Asia’s cities and many more are vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks.

Addressing the needs of these cities requires:

> New forms of engagement
> New forms of finance and
> The flexibility to adapt to the circumstances of each community
# Asia's Surging Cities

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: Cities located near a large water body (sea, river or delta)

: New megacities

Source: UN-HABITAT 2008
This means 44 million more people every year: 120,000 each day

Requiring over 20,000 new dwellings, 250 km of new roads and more than 6 megalitres of potable water EACH DAY.

**Figure 1  Asia’s Urban and Rural Population (1950–2030)**

Mega Trends
– the rise of the urban region

- Cities are not just about the city – they are about the logistics corridors linking them to their economic hinterland and other cities.
Asia’s Urban Environmental Challenges

City Region Economies and the climate issues

- Cities use about 85% of energy and generate about 75% of GHGs to produce about 80% of the GDP – over half the global BAU increment will come from Asia’s cities.
- CO₂-emissions are per capita in many third world cities as high as in cities of high income countries and pollution is much worse.

Asian Cities

- show an enormous population growth (average 3 %/a) compounding their global environmental impact.
- are especially vulnerable to climate change.

Rise in pollution and sea levels puts trillions in economic output and hundreds of millions of people at risk.

Urgent need for efficiency gains, reduction in pollution and GHGs and integrated planning for adaptation and mitigation.
The association between density and energy use is striking. Transportation fuel consumption per capita declines by one-half to two-thirds as urban densities rise from 16 to 48 persons per hectare.

Canadian research shows that fuel production, vehicle manufacturing, vehicle maintenance, road construction and maintenance, and leakage of refrigerants, account for fully half again the emissions of tailpipes.

The problem is that Asian cities are becoming LESS dense and car dependent – rapidly.

(World Bank - Angel)
Urban Economic Giants
- Agglomeration economies ever more important

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<td>China</td>
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<td>365.6</td>
<td>10.1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>152.5</td>
<td>115.6</td>
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Megacities are nation-sized in population and economic product

But developing nation cities often contain a large informal economy
SO WHAT DO WE DO?
What Cities Can Do for Inclusive, Resilient ‘Planet Positive’ Growth?

♦ **Local land use and transport.** City land use and public and private transportation planning decisions directly influence whether all citizens and businesses will have mobility choices that allow them to save energy and money.

♦ **Building construction and energy efficiency.** Through zoning codes, infrastructure provision, building codes and the permitting process, cities can encourage building designs that are affordable, save energy and resources.

♦ **Local economic activity.** City initiatives can encourage, and catalyze, inclusive economic development in low-energy, zero-carbon directions, by both incentive and example.
Investments for Green Cities

Sample Investments are:
- Low Carbon Transport
- City Greening (park, etc)
- Green, Resilient Infrastructure
- Eco-industrial Complexes
- Energy Efficient Buildings
- E-governance systems

What are the investment priorities for the urban environment?

What institutions do we need to make them happen?
Green Cities

Example: Low Carbon Transport

Case study: Guangzhou Bus-Rapid Transit (BRT) system

- Integrated with metro system and other non-motorized transport means
- Integrated with surrounding buildings
- Pedestrian-friendly and accessibility features
- Passenger information services
What About Poverty?
With growth and urbanization, poverty also urbanizes

- Over 240 million urban dwellers live on less than $1/day in Asia
- Poverty has income, access, and power dimensions
- The poor are most vulnerable to environmental problems and the effects of climate change
- The Asia-Pacific region remains host to over half of the world slum population: in 2010 this amounted to an estimated 505.5 million people of world slum population of 828 million people.

> Vulnerability to Climate Change

![Graph showing Prevalence of slums in Asia’s cities (% of urban population)](source: State of the world's cities 2008/2009)
Investments in Inclusive Cities

Sample Investments are:
- Land development, housing and settlement upgrading
- Support to livelihood and commerce
- Local Transport links/non-motorized transport
- Community facilities (health, basic education)
- Local infrastructure, eg., water, sanitation

What are the investment priorities for the urban social development?

What institutions are needed to implement these investments?
Inclusive Cities

Example: STEP-UP in Philippines

Strategic Private Sector Partnerships for Urban Poverty Reduction (STEP-UP) in Metro Manila, Philippines

STEP-UP is important for Government’s response to urban poverty. Implemented by the Philippine Business for Social Progress, an NGO supported by the CSR contributions, the project had 3 components:

♦ strategic partnership building, focused on coalescing three groups deemed critical to urban poverty reduction: business; local government and the homeowners associations

♦ housing improvement; microenterprise support; upgrading of community infrastructure (roads, drainage, water supply, multipurpose centers, and access to health/sanitation)

♦ risk reduction and management issues relating to natural and artificial disasters.
Competitive Cities – Growing a City’s Assets
Investments for Urban Economic Infrastructure

Sample Investments are:

- Economic Infrastructure (e.g., logistics)
- Skills Development
- Technology Development/Dissemination
- Enabling Institutions and regulatory systems
- Business systems (specialized financing institutions, etc)

What are the investment priorities for the urban economic infrastructure?

What institutions are needed to build such infrastructure?
Investments in Green and Inclusive Growth: Tianjin Eco-city Integrated Transport and Land Use

**Green Transportation**
An efficient and easily accessible public transport system focusing on ‘Green trips’, which include public transportation, cycling and walking. The target is for at least 90 per cent of the trips within the Eco-city to be via walking, cycling, or use of public transport.

**Use of Clean, Renewable Energy and Ecologically Friendly Waste Management**
Particular emphasis on the "3Rs" of waste management - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

**Balance of Economic and Social needs**
- **Preservation of Heritage**
  Conservation through adaptive reuse or partial rebuilding.
  Cross subsidy of low income housing. But needs incentive finance.
A best practice infrastructure framework:

- Policy and planning providing effective coordination across levels, sectors and jurisdictions
- Defines agency responsibilities and funding for project development and performance-based implementation
- Integrated with appropriate government and capital market financing mechanisms
Policy and Planning Practice

Framework needs to provide an enabling environment:
• Form of the strategy/plan:
  • includes agency responsibilities
  • matches responsibilities with budget allocations
  • embody mechanisms for involving both the private sector and the community;
• Effective ‘nesting’ set of strategies/plans:
  • national strategy complements strategies of other levels of government,
  • provides mechanisms to enhance collaboration between agencies in preparing strategies
• The cross-sectoral reach:
  • encompasses all types of infrastructure
• Guidance on implementation of other strategies through the strategy/plan
• Effective linkages with other relevant strategies.

In addition to exhibiting these characteristics, best practice frameworks for planning:
• Are cross-jurisdictional in reach
• Are flexible, performance-based and responsive to changing circumstances
• Are enforced.
Framework needs to provide an enabling environment:

- **For small scale projects** which need:
  - An adequate planning context
  - An asset management plan identifying the investment and a budget for it
  - To be subject to cost benefit analysis.

- **For large scale projects determining urban economic, social and/or environmental outcomes**, which need:
  - Concepts developed in the context of comprehensive socio-economic assessments
  - Performance criteria developed so investment solutions are not predetermined
  - Prefeasibility studies done to assess investment options and potential implementation and financing structures
  - Feasibility study and due diligence processes which preserve the potential for options for innovative project solutions from contractors and financiers
  - Market sounding and bid preparation processes responsive to market conditions
  - Bid processes which are efficient and effective – ensuring competition but providing incentives for physical and financial innovation
  - Transparent bid assessments based on defined performance criteria and including cost benefit analysis.
Thank You