

Urbanization and Sustainability in Asia

Urbanization and Sustainability in Asia

Case Studies of Good Practice

Edited by Brian Roberts and Trevor Kanaley



Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums

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Foreword

Development in Asia is tied to the growth of sustainable cities. Economically dynamic cities are central to future economic growth and continuing reduction in poverty. Cities are the main locations of production, trade, and productivity growth, which provide the basis for rising standards of living. Perhaps, for too long, the discussion of development in Asia has ignored its spatial dimensions.

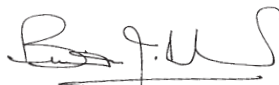
Over the next 25 years, Asia's urban population will grow by around 70% to more than 2.6 billion people. An additional billion people will have urban habitats. This transformation will involve major change for Asian societies with new forms of housing, employment, consumption, and social interaction for individuals and communities.

In view of this situation, the Asian Development Bank is preparing a new urban services initiative. However, little literature has been published on good practice sustainable urban development in Asia. Most studies focus on specific case studies with little reference to cross-country lessons. Therefore, it was decided to commission a book with the primary objective of disseminating knowledge about good practices in sustainable urban region development in Asia.

The Cities Alliance, a global coalition of cities and their development partners committed to scaling-up successful approaches to poverty reduction, was a natural partner for the book, and has cofinanced its production. The Asian Development Bank is an active member of the Cities Alliance, working with other members to support cities implementing financially sustainable strategies to upgrade slums and promoting inclusive long-term development strategies.

The book provides an overview of urban region development in Asia and considers how it might be made more sustainable. It examines urban development policies and "good practice" case studies in 12 countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

We hope the book will encourage discussion on the development of Asian cities and help in the development of policies and more sustainable practices.



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Preface

Urbanization in Asia is associated with social, economic, political, and environmental transformations of unprecedented proportions. These transformations are affecting the two most populous countries in the world, the People's Republic of China (PRC) and India, and are redefining the global economy, global environmental issues, and the geopolitical landscape. Economic growth and the rapid growth of cities have brought enormous change to most Asian countries, raising living standards and reducing poverty, but at considerable social and environmental costs. The projected continuation of the urbanization process will further strain the sustainability of Asia's cities unless major improvements in city governance and management, and massive programs of infrastructure investment are implemented. The continuation of present practices and levels of investment could well see the sustainability of many Asian cities undermined, periodic urban environmental crises, and the gradual erosion of quality of life for the majority of urban populations.

This book considers urbanization in Asia and presents case studies of sustainable development "good practice" from 12 Asian countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, PRC, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Each country chapter starts with a fact sheet on urbanization and economic development for the country. This country profile was derived from the databases of international agencies and provides a consistent basis for comparisons between countries. Importantly, data within the country chapters are often from internal country sources and may differ for definitional or other reasons from the country profile.

The country chapter provides an overview of issues related to urbanization and sustainability in the country concerned. Authors then present three case studies that are considered good practice. The case studies are presented under seven basic themes of sustainable urban region development. Lessons from the case studies are identified and strategies to improve the sustainability of urban development suggested.

A chapter has also been included to give examples, small vignettes, of global best practice in sustainable urban development. These case studies may not be transferable to many cities in Asia now, but provide a guide to future directions and approaches.

The final chapter presents common themes and lessons drawn from the country and case studies. The chapter then focuses on approaches for

improving the enabling environment for urban governance and for strengthening local government performance. The book concludes with some thoughts on a way forward to achieve more sustainable urban region development in Asian cities.

The coeditors of the book are **Professor Brian Roberts** and **Trevor Kanaley**. Brian Roberts is Director of the Centre for Developing Cities at the University of Canberra, Australia. He chairs the Australian Capital Territory Government Sustainability Expert Reference Group. Trevor Kanaley is an Adjunct Professor of Development Studies at the University of Canberra, attached to the Centre for Developing Cities. He is an economist and planner and the former Director-General of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

The coeditors wish to acknowledge the substantial contributions made by the following authors in preparing chapters or parts of chapters in the book.

Professor Nazrul Islam, Department of Geography and Environment, University of Dhaka, and Honorary Chairman, Centre for Urban Studies, Dhaka, authored the chapter on Bangladesh.

Dr. Beng Hong Socheat Khemro, Deputy Director General, Department of Land Management and Urban Planning, Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, Cambodia, authored the chapter on Cambodia.

Professor Aprodicio A. Laquian, Professor Emeritus of Community and Regional Planning at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, authored the chapter on the PRC. He was Country Representative of the United Nations Population Fund in the PRC in 1984–1990 and is the author of *Beyond Metropolis: the Planning and Governance of Asia's Mega-Urban Regions* (2005), which included studies of Shanghai; Beijing; Tianjin; Guangzhou; and Hong Kong, China.

Professor Om Prakash Mathur, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, India, authored the chapter on India.

Dr. Wicaksono Sarosa, Executive Director, Urban and Regional Development Institute, Jakarta, Indonesia, authored the Indonesian chapter.

Richard Mabbitt, an international urban development specialist, who has been involved in urban development projects over many years, authored the chapter on the Lao PDR. He has worked on several projects in the three case study areas and other urban centers, and conducted many interviews in late 2005 to update information for this chapter.

Associate Professor Belinda Yuen, School of Design and Environment, National University of Singapore, who has worked extensively in Asia on urban planning and development projects, coauthored the chapter on Malaysia with **Professors Supian Ahmad** and **Chin Siong Ho**, Fakulti Alam Bina,

University of Technology, Malaysia. She also wrote the case study on Singapore on the global best practice case studies.

Dr. Murtaza Haider, Assistant Professor, School of Urban Planning, McGill University, Montreal, coauthored the Pakistan chapter with **Irteza Haider**. Murtza Haider was born and educated in Pakistan and has undertaken studies related to the urban sector there. Irteza Haider is a senior program officer with the National Rural Support Program in Islamabad where he is currently monitoring rehabilitation of housing and public infrastructure in the earthquake-hit areas in Northern Pakistan.

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Dr. Chamniern Vorrattchaiphan, Thailand Environment Institute, Bangkok, coauthored the chapter on Thailand with **David Villeneuve**, freelance consultant working with the Thailand Environment Institute.

Dr. Nguyen To Lang, Dean of the Faculty of Urban Management, Hanoi Architectural University, authored the chapter on Viet Nam.

Professor Hugh Swartz, Visiting Professor of Economics at the University of the Republic in Uruguay, wrote the global good practice case study on Curitiba, Brazil. He is the author of the book *Urban Renewal, Municipal Revitalization: The Case Study of Curitiba, Brazil*.

Johnny Carline, Commissioner and Chief Administrative Officer of the Greater Vancouver Regional District, and **Lynda King**, Division Manager, Corporate Strategies, Greater Vancouver Regional District, coauthored the global good practice case study on Greater Vancouver.

John Orange, Chief Executive Officer, Brisbane City Enterprises and former Manager of Regional Collaboration, Brisbane City Council, Australia, and **Peter Cumming**, the former Chief Planner of the City of Brisbane, wrote the case study on Brisbane for the global good practice case studies with Brian Roberts.

Joe Ravetz, Deputy Director, Centre for Urban and Regional Ecology, School of Environment and Development, Manchester University, United Kingdom, wrote the case study on Manchester for the global good practice case studies and recently published a book on integrated planning for sustainable development at the city-region scale.

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The book is intended to help national and local governments in Asia, urban development practitioners, international development agencies, and academics and students—anyone with an interest in sustainable urban development—looking for information and examples to assist them in their work. We hope readers find the book useful in applying best practice ideas and initiatives and that it makes a modest contribution to the growth of more sustainable cities in the Asian region.

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