URBAN GREEN GROWTH IN DYNAMIC ASIA: CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

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Outline of the presentation

1. OECD’s approach to urban green growth
2. Key issues to consider for Asian cities
3. Overview of the ongoing project - urban green growth in dynamic Asia
The OECD Green Growth Strategy

Our work starts with the premise that there is no necessary conflict between pursuing economic growth and doing so in a green way. We need growth and it needs to be green.

“Green and growth go hand-in-hand”

Urban Green Growth: Cities matter

Cities are part of the problem:
- Cities play an outsized role in national growth and the generation of environmental externalities.

Cities must be part of the solution:
- Urban policies can lower the costs of national environmental policies.
- Cities are key spenders on infrastructure relevant to green growth.
- Concentration of people, activity and infrastructure can also generate economies of scale for measures that address climate change adaptation.
The world’s urban population is projected to more than double during 2000-50

Growth of world urban population in absolute numbers of new urban dwellers, 1950-2050

Right now, about 60% of the planet’s new urban residents are in Asia (and one in five is in China).

The relationship between urbanisation and income is complex

Convergence vis-à-vis US GDP per capita

Vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters

Top 20 cities most exposed to floods in terms of population in the 2070s (FAC scenario)

Altogether, the ten countries with the largest populations in low-lying coastal zones have some 400m inhabitants living in such places.

- China: 143.9m – 11% of the population
- India: 63.2m – 6% of the population
- Bangladesh: 62.5m – 46% of the population
- Vietnam: 43.0m – 55% of the population
- Indonesia: 41.6m – 20% of the population


Air Pollution: obstacle for long-term economic development

Estimated premature deaths from PM$_{10}$ air pollution per million inhabitants

Asia includes West, South, Southeast and East Asia
South Asia includes the following countries: India, Nepal, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Bangladesh

1. Promoting urban **resilience**
2. Addressing **poverty** and social equity
3. Pursuing **long-term** economic development goals
4. Adopting proactive green **infrastructure** strategies
5. Aligning **environmental** actions along with economic growth

**Urban sustainability must be pursued in all its three dimensions**

*Identifying and promoting links between economic, environmental and social goals is both possible and critical to building cities that work.*

| Sustainable development requires a search for policy complementarities |
|---|---|---|
| **Efficiency** | **Equity** | **Environmental sustainability** |
| Economic policies | **Sustained growth** | Economic reforms may increase equity | Green growth policies can improve sustainability |
| Social policies | Social cohesion can increase efficiency (e.g., trust, security, knowledge) | **Social cohesion** | Inequality can be reduced without environmental harm (e.g., replace fuel subsidies with transfers) |
| Environmental policies | Green growth policies can boost innovation and efficient resource use | Environmental degradation tends to hit disadvantaged groups more | **Environmental sustainability** |
Integrated urban policy framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes / sectors</th>
<th>Energy</th>
<th>Land use / transport</th>
<th>Buildings</th>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Solid waste</th>
<th>Green goods / services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green jobs &amp; innovation</td>
<td>Invest energy efficiency techniques</td>
<td>The development of public transport</td>
<td>Retrofitting the existing building stock</td>
<td>Invest water efficiency techniques</td>
<td>Sustainable Waste Management (SWM) create jobs for the urban poor</td>
<td>Recycle of industrial waste; eco-efficient industrial processes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inclusiveness</td>
<td>Improved access to electricity</td>
<td>Improved mobility and higher ability to seek income-generating activities</td>
<td>Proper housing conditions</td>
<td>Improved access to clean water</td>
<td>SWM can be enhanced by involving the urban poor</td>
<td>Sustainable Materials Management can get the urban poor involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change adaptation &amp; mitigation</td>
<td>Reduced GHG emissions</td>
<td>Reduced GHG emissions; risk-sensitive land use and preservation</td>
<td>Reduced GHG emissions and the urban heat island</td>
<td>Managing excess water can reduce risks of inland floods</td>
<td>GHG emissions and local pollution are reduced</td>
<td>Green manufacturing can reduce GHG emissions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthier local environment / urban attractiveness</td>
<td>Cleaner energy production can reduce pollution</td>
<td>Compact cities can reduce air pollution and preserve farmland and biodiversity</td>
<td>Increased quality of in-house environment</td>
<td>Degradation of lakes and rivers is reduced</td>
<td>SWM can reduce landfill and related pollution created by solid waste</td>
<td>Green manufacturing can reduce air pollution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Urban green growth in dynamic Asia project

1. **Concept paper**: launched in June 2014
2. **Case studies** (2014-15)
   - Bangkok (Thailand)
   - Hai Phong (Viet Nam)
   - Johor Bahru (Malaysia)
   - tbd (Indonesia)
   - ...
3. **Knowledge sharing**
   - Bangkok workshop (6-7 August 2014)
   - Tokyo high-level seminar (14-16 October 2014)
   - ...

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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