Building Resilient Cities: Lessons Learned from Four Asian Cities

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PL-2: Building Resilient Cities in Asia: From Theory to Practice

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Introduction

- **Objective:** To review and discuss the experience of four Asian Cities (Cebu, Nonthaburi, Ho Chi Minh, Shanghai) and identify progress, challenges and key recommendations in planning and implementation of resilient cities.

- **Methodology:** Literature review, case study analysis and focus group/workshop
Literature review: Resilient City framework

The IPCC defines resilience as "the ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning, the capacity of self-organization, and the capacity to adapt to stress and change." [IPCC, 2007].

City-to-city collaboration for building resilient cities in Asia

Key challenges faced by the case study cities

Governance (institutions)
- Lack of local policies for disaster management
- Lack of political support
- Lack of coordinating mechanisms for multi-stakeholder participation
- Lack of budget allocation for disaster management
- Lack of capacity of officials in disaster risk planning and management methods and tools

Software (social agents)
- No effective education and training programmes
- Limited capacity among CBO and NGOs.
- Limited social safety net work

Hardware (infrastructure)
- Limited budget for infrastructure development
- Weak enforcement of building and planning regulations
- Increased unauthorised and slum areas
- Lack of proper operation, monitoring and information sharing system
- Lack of capacity and awareness on new technologies, planning and monitoring mechanisms

Some of the areas that developed cities can share (Japanese Cities)

Governance (institutions)
- How to develop the local policies and institutions
- Preparing disaster risk reduction and management plans in consultation with all stakeholders
- Tools and methods for disaster risk identification

Software (social agents)
- Assist for developing modules and contents for environmental education and training programmes (schools and neighbourhoods).
- Training and capacity building for teachers, officials and NGOs on how to use the above tools

Hardware (infrastructure)
- Development, operation, monitoring of early warning system and information sharing
- Planning of energy efficient and low carbon cities
- Establish new funding mechanisms to support larger infrastructure development
Collaboration with international platforms for building resilient city in Asia

- Encourage city-to-city cooperation for sharing knowledge, technology, expertise, best practices and lessons learned in Japanese Cities which have a long history and good experiences in Asia in building climate and energy resilient cities.
- Similarly, the research findings put on the Resilient City policy model and share with international platforms of these to contribute in building resilient cities in Asia.