Urban Resilience and Disaster Vulnerability in the Asia-Pacific Region

Rajib Shaw
E-mail: shaw@global.mbox.media.kyoto-u.ac.jp
Web: www.iedm.ges.kyoto-u.ac.jp/



Kyoto University Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies



Contents

- Urban Resilience and Disaster Vulnerability
 - Urban
 - Disaster vulnerability
 - Resilience
- Regional Task Force





Defining Urbanization

- Urban as infrastructure development
- Urban as industrial development
- Urban as the economic growth
- Urban as socio-political growth
- However, with the growing notion of development, the concept of urbanization is changing...



Kyoto University Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies



Concept of Sustainable Urban Development

- 1970s: Urbanization and industrialization
- 1980s: Sustainable development and urban growth
- 1990s: Sustainable cities and eco-cities
- 2000s: Resilient urban growth and urban ecosystem
 - High economic efficiency
 - Social equity in distribution of city development
 - Generation of financial resources
 - Community based approaches





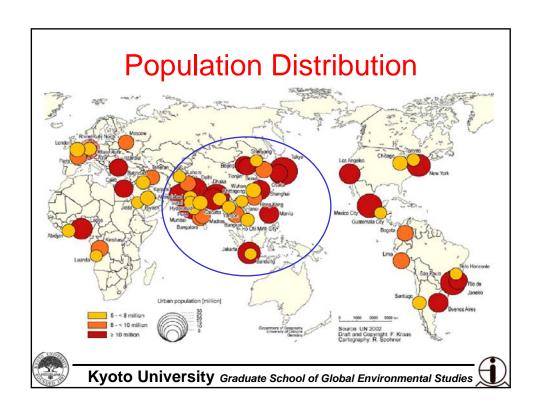
Urbanization and Asia

- Urban Population: 2.5 billion in 1994 to 5.1 billion in 2025
- Developing countries urban population: in 1970, 50% of urban population lived in those countries, which rose to 64% in 1994 and 80% projected in 2020

Population (Million)	1970	1990	2020 (projection)
Total regional population	2148	3403	4843
Total regional urban population	503	1159	2615
Level of urbanization (%)	23	34	54
Cities of over 10 million	2	10	19

Population change in Asia (million)/ ADB

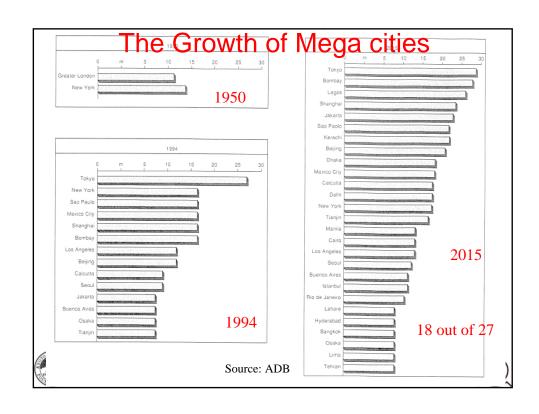




Characteristics of Asian Urbanization

- Functions of several demographic factors
 - Natural increase
 - Rural-urban migration
 - International migration
 - Boundary expansion
- Distribution of urban growth
 - Major informal growth in the outer fringe of the cities and vulnerable areas, along the rivers, mountain slopes, coastal areas
- Labor force trend
 - Urban growth is directly proportional to the growth of labor force
- Emergence of mega cities
 - Mega city size is changing from 8 million (1980s) to 10 million (1990s)
 - Mega city boundary is expanding
- · Importance of small and medium sized cities
 - Rapid emerging numbers of small and medium sized cities with high economic and political importance





Asian Mega cities

- Japan
 - Tokyo
 - Osaka
- China
 - Beijing
 - Shanghai
 - Tianjin
- Indonesia
 - Jakarta
- Philippines
 - Manila
- South Korea
 - Seoul

- Thailand
 - Bangkok
- Vietnam
 - Hanoi
 - HCMC
- Bangladesh
 - Dhaka
- India
 - Chennai
 - Delhi
 - Kolkata
 - Mumbai
- Pakistan
 - Karachi

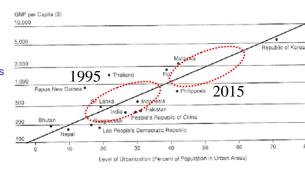


Kyoto University Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies



What makes mega city different?

- Economic development
- · Level of urbanization
- City size
- · Attraction to informal sector industries
- Migration impacts
- · Role in global economy
- Quality of life
 - Contrast in lifestyle
 - Urban poverty
 - Environmental impacts

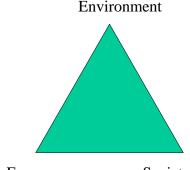






Mega city management issues

- Infrastructure
 - Water supply, sanitation
 - Waste management
 - · Sewage: people, industry,
 - · Solid waste
 - Drainage
 - Disaster Management
 - Transport
 - Urban slums
 - Health, housing, education
- Management System
 - Environmental control
 - Air, Water, Noise control
 - Financial control
 - Land-use management and control







Kyoto University Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies

Re-defining Mega city

- How do we define mega-city?
- It is not only the population, but combination of different aspects
 - Population has been a traditional measure
 - Absolute population or relative population (relative mega-city concept)
 - Economic approach
 - Function approach
 - Ecological approach
 - Societal approach





Small and medium cities

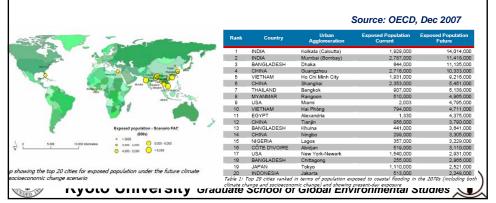
- Significant focus has been given on megacities, however small and medium sized cities were rather neglected
- Medium sized cities (of population 500,000 or 1 million) are becoming economically important growth points
- Resource constraint is a crucial issue for the small and medium size cities
- Thus, there needs to be a balanced focus of mega-city and small and medium size cities

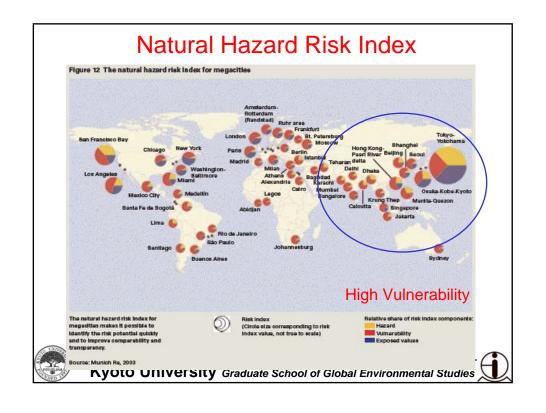
Kyoto University Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies



Vulnerable Cities of Asia Pacific

15 of top 20 cities ranked in terms of both POPULATION EXPOSED to coastal flooding in 2070 (including both climate change and socio-economic change) and showing present- day exposure.





Continuum of Risk

Nature of event	Disasters	Small disasters	Everyday risks
Frequency	Generally infrequent	Frequent (often seasonal)	Everyday
Scale	Large or potential to be large: 10+ killed, 100+ seriously injured	3–9 people killed, 10 or more injured	1–2 people killed, 1– 9 injured
Impact on all premature death and serious injury/illness	Can be catastrophic for specific places and times, but low overall	Probably significant and under-estimated contribution	Main cause of premature death and serious injury

Source: Provention Consortium, 2007

Accumulated Risk



Kyoto University Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies

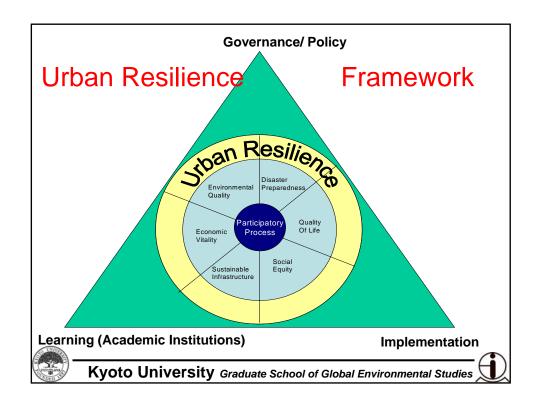


Resilience

- Resilience is the proactive stance to risk
- Resilience to unanticipated change such as natural disaster shocks
- Resilience is important for high vulnerability areas like informal settlements
- Resilience is important for the areas of interaction with eco-system like coast line, mountain areas







10 points of Sustainable Urban Management

- Provide a long-term vision for cities based on: sustainability; intergenerational, social, economic and political equity; and their individuality
- Achieve long-term economic and social security
- Recognise the intrinsic value of biodiversity and natural ecosystems, and protect and restore them
- Enable communities to minimise their ecological footprint
- Build on the characteristics of ecosystems in the development and nurturing of healthy and sustainable cities
- Recognise and build on the distinctive characteristics of cities, including their human and cultural values, history and natural systems
- Empower people and foster participation
- Expand and enable cooperative networks to work towards a common sustainable future
- Promote sustainable production and consumption, through appropriate use of environmentally sound technologies and effective demand management
- Enable continual improvement, based on accountability, transparency and good governance

Contents

- Urban Resilience and Disaster Vulnerability
 - Urban
 - Disaster vulnerability
 - Resilience
- Regional Task Force



Kyoto University Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies



Regional Urban Task Force

- Task force is *not* an implementing body
- Members of the task force will implement project, share project results, enhance networks
- Immediate needs and priorities
 - HFA reporting framework on urban risk
 - Mapping of urban risk and resilience in the Asia-Pacific region





Proposed Task Force Activities

- Networking and knowledge sharing
 - Presentations and participation in the major global and/or regional forum
- Developing knowledge products
 - Knowledge repository, training and capacity building programs
- Initiative and/or provide link to country activities
 - Country specific actions and dissemination



