

Summary of Thematic Session B3 “Sustainable City Planning”

a) Background

Asian cities are rapidly urbanising. People are moving to cities and it is estimated that as much as 44 million new urban residents move into Asian cities every year, according to an ADB report. Rapid urbanisation has also been the key driver of Asia’s dynamic growth as the same report estimates over 90% of wealth is produced by the urban population in East Asia and over 70% in Southeast Asia and South Asia. However, as cities grow, they inevitably create suburbs often in an uncontrolled way causing traffic congestion and environmental problems. As Goal 11 highlights the necessity of making cities sustainable, this session focuses on how to ensure the quality of urbanisation in Asian cities.

b) List of Speakers

No.	Name	Title	Affiliation
Moderators			
1	Dr. Tadashi Matsumoto	Senior Policy Analyst	OECD
Panellists			
1	Mr. Tetsuya Nakajima	Executive Director for Development Cooperation, International Affairs Bureau	Yokohama, Japan
2	Engr. Frediswinda de Leon De Guzman	Engineer III, Green Building Unit, Department of the Building Official	Quezon, Philippines
3	Dr. Xiaomei Tan	Climate Change Specialist	GEF
4	Mr. Takashi Otsuka	Director	ICLEI Japan
5	Dr. Quang Nguyen	Viet Nam Programme Manager	UN-Habitat
6	Mr. Amit Bhatt	Director-Transport	WRI India

c) Summary of Discussions – challenges

- Clear need for transport oriented development. However there are issues with silos within cities – land use and transportation departments do not always effectively collaborate.
- Currently there are inadequate levels of public consultation leading to the establishment of infrastructure which creates social segregation or is built in areas without demand.
- Citizens are not adequately consulted on urban development leading to the creation of social segregation or infrastructure which lacks demand.
- Urban greening/agriculture or forestry are not always well supported in cities in both developed and developing countries leading to a lack of green public space.
- Inequity and segregation in cities (large shopping centres, gated communities)
- Financing is a key issue for infrastructure planning. Cities are unable to access adequate levels of funding and need to be able to attract inward investment.
- What goes wrong in cities in Asia? Congestion, urban sprawl and inefficient land use.

d) Key Recommendations to Stakeholders

- Prioritize key projects, both land use (such as improvement of central business districts) and infrastructure (such as public transport).
- Apply a holistic approach in planning , ensuring that the organizational structure of the city encourages cross-department collaboration. In particular, pursue transport oriented development based on the Avoid-Shift-Improve model.
- Work with the citizens to raise awareness and understanding of city planning, and lead to more integrated land use.
 - Encourage green public spaces, even smaller ones, to create people-friendly, walkable areas which attract local businesses, both creating a lively atmosphere within the city and boosting local incomes.
- Create incentives to attract inward investment. Well planned infrastructure will boost green growth and pay for itself over the longer term.
- Reduce infrastructure costs by more efficient land use planning. Introduce mechanisms to capture value increase.