



# The State of Asian Cities 2010/11

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# **The State of Asian Cities 2010/11**

## **Structure of the Report**

### **Six parts:**

- **Overview and Key Findings**
- **Urbanizing Asia**
- **The Economic Role of Asian Cities**
- **Poverty and Inequality in Asian Cities**
- **Urban Environment and Climate Change**
- **Urban Governance, Management and Finance**



## Part 2: Urbanizing Asia (1)

1. Asia is urbanizing rapidly (1.75 B urban in 2010, i.e. 42 %, to reach 2.17 B in 2020)
2. Urbanization rates vary greatly across subregions, e.g.
  - 33% in South Asia
  - 50% in East Asia
3. Asia features decreasing annual urban growth rates, averaging 2.2 % in 2010 (against 3.8 % in the 1980s)
4. Asia will become 50 % urban in 2026
5. Between 2010-2020, Asian cities will absorb 2/3rd of the world's urban growth



## Part 2: Urbanizing Asia (2)

1. Asia has 11 out of 21 mega-cities in the world
2. Demographic evolutions (ageing, migrations) create new needs
3. 60% of Asia urban population lives in small and medium-sized cities (i.e. under 1 million)
4. Asian cities are characterised by high population densities
5. Mega urban regions/ corridors become the new urbanization pattern in Asia



## Part 3: The Economic Role of Asian Cities (1)

1. Asian cities are engines of economic growth
2. Asian cities are highly productive
  - 42% population living in urban areas contributes 80% of region's GDP
3. Asian cities have capitalised on globalization
4. Asian cities are economically resilient
5. Urbanization policies must become part and parcel of national development policies



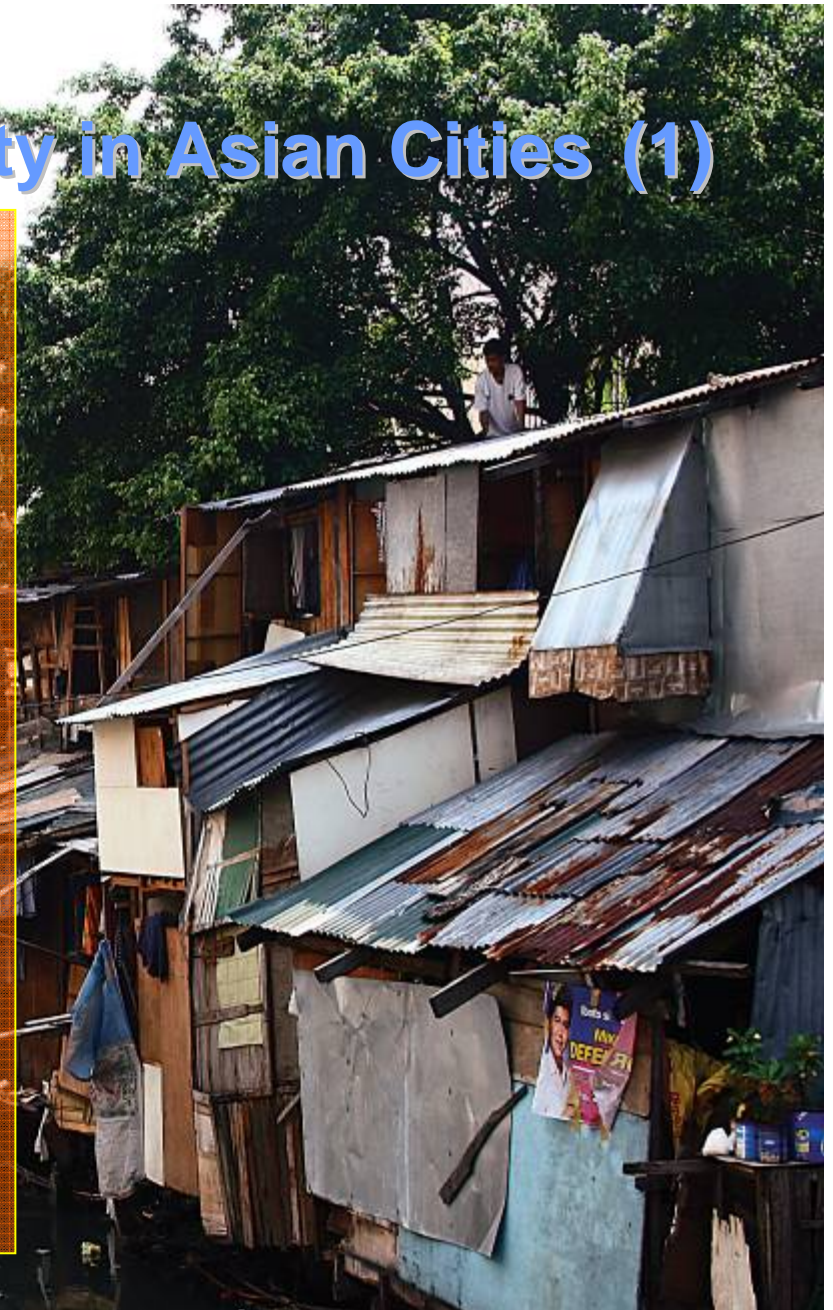
## Part 3: The Economic Role of Asian Cities (2)

1. Synergies between the formal and informal sectors explain the socio-economic dynamism of Asian cities
2. Asian cities are diversifying their economy
  - From being the “factories of the world” to innovative service providers (“knowledge centres”)
3. Asian cities need to develop their human capital to meet economic challenges
4. Asian cities are drivers of rural development.



## Part 4: Poverty and Inequality in Asian Cities (1)

1. The Asia-Pacific region is leading the reduction of overall poverty in the world and the attainment of MDGs
2. However, economic growth has not benefited all urban dwellers equally
3. Poverty in urban areas is declining more slowly than in rural areas
4. Urban inequality is rising in many Asia-Pacific countries





## Part 4: Poverty and Inequality in Asian Cities (2)

1. In Asia since the year 2000, the lives of 172 million slum-dwellers have been improved
2. However, the region has half of the world's slum population (500 m)
3. Most Asian cities are close to achieving the MDG target on access to drinking-water
4. Despite considerable progress on providing access to improved sanitation, many Asian cities are likely to miss the MDG target on sanitation.
5. Housing conditions are improving in Asia but comprehensive land and housing policies are still missing in a majority of countries





## Part 5: The Urban Environment and Climate Change (1)

1. The “tale of two cities” in Asia-Pacific: sustainable cities are still the exception.
2. Current consumption patterns in most Asian cities are unsustainable (e.g. transport models)
3. Urban growth without adequate infrastructure and services poses serious liveability problems
4. Air pollution in Asia causes over 500,000 premature deaths every year
5. Water supplies and food security are becoming a critical challenge in many cities



## Part 5: The Urban Environment and Climate Change (2)

1. Asia-Pacific coastal areas and river basins stand to be the most affected by climate change (floods)
2. Climate change and natural disasters will have an increasing impact on cities
3. Poor settlements are most vulnerable to climate change
4. Some countries are more critically exposed to climate change than others
5. Huge adaptation investments call for decentralised and participatory governance





## **Part 6: Urban Governance and Finance (1)**

- 1. Scope of urban governance in Asia has broadened beyond governments**
- 2. Civil society and economic actors are founding an expanded role in urban governance**
- 3. Decentralization drive is helping devolve powers to local authorities in many countries**
- 4. Participatory budgeting leads to improvements in service delivery and accountability**



## **Part 6: Urban Governance and Finance (2)**

- 1. Small urban settlements need adequate human and financial capacities**
- 2. Emergence of mega urban regions poses new challenges to urban planning, management and governance**
- 3. Asian cities are using innovative financial models to expand/improve infrastructure**
- 4. City-to-city cooperation need to be enhanced at all levels**



**Thank you All !**

