



# THE URBAN GREEN GROWTH CONCEPT AND RELEVANCE TO ASIA

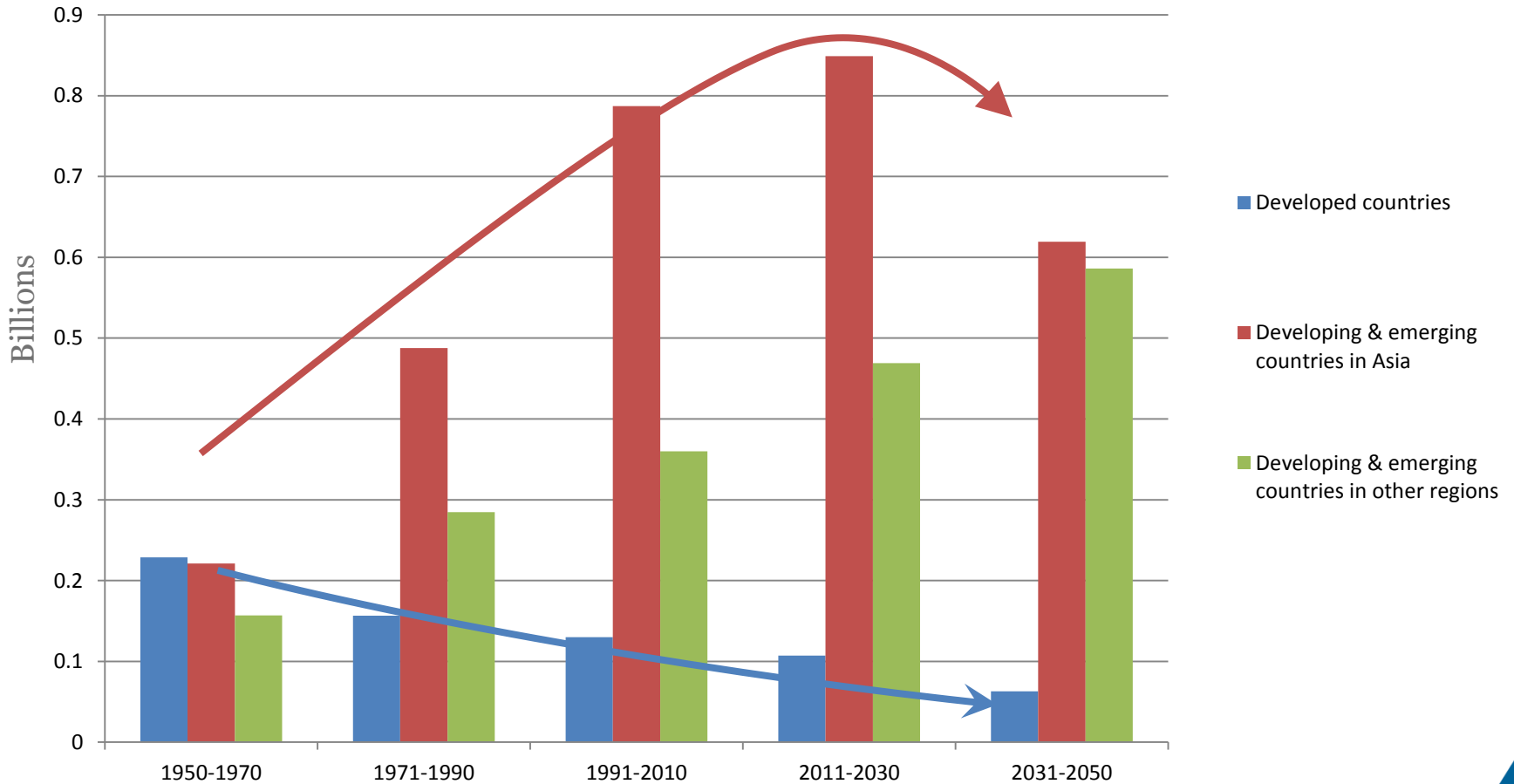
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Presentation at the Tokyo Policy Forum on Urban  
Development and Green Growth,  
15 October 2014, Tokyo, Japan



# Urgency in Asia: the world's urban population is growing at the fastest speed

New urban dwellers in absolute numbers (1950-2050)

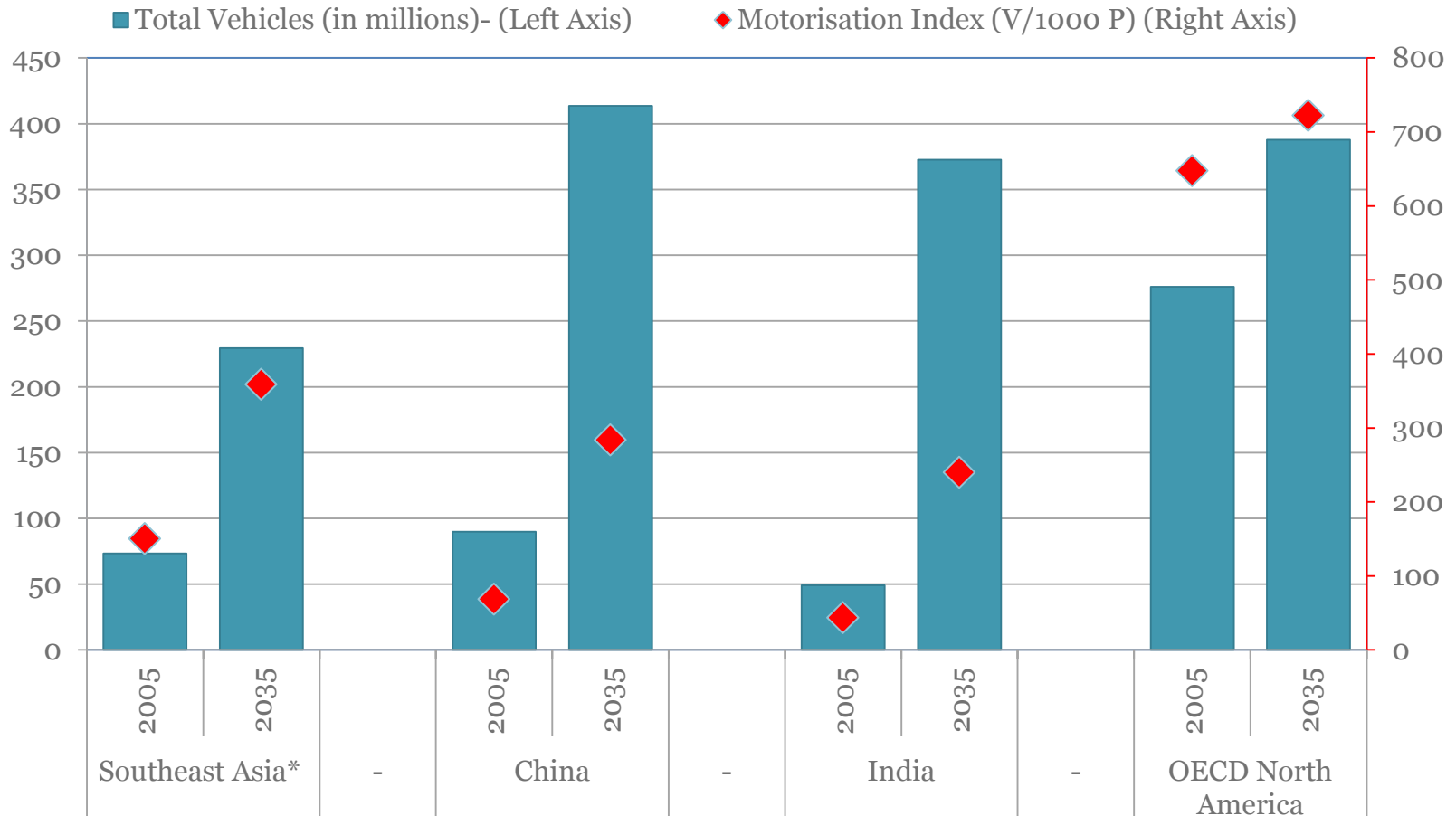


Source: UNDESA Population Division (2012), *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2011 Revision*



# Urbanisation is accompanied by motorisation at an unprecedented speed and scale

Number of registered cars and motorisation index (2005-2035)



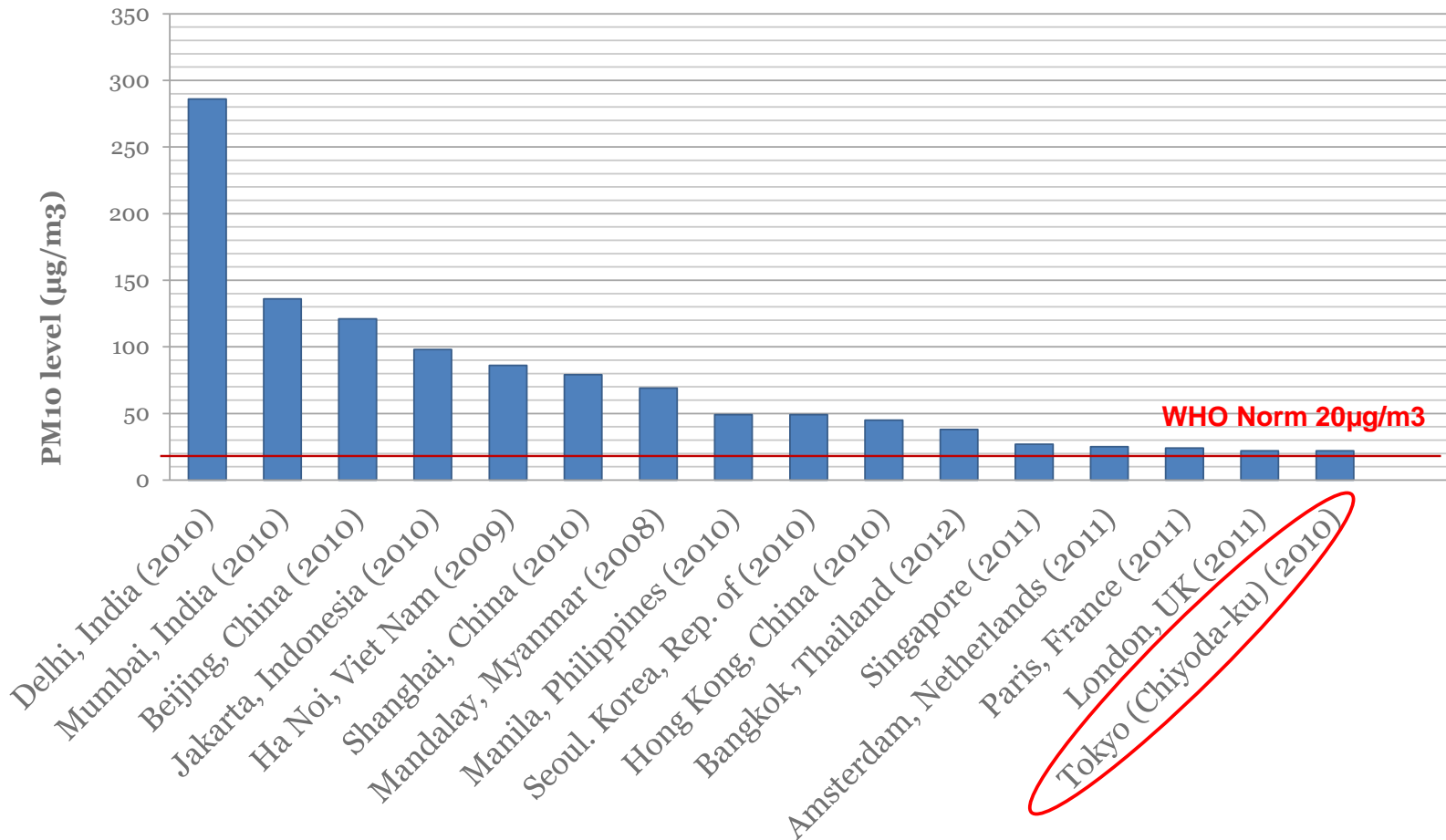
Note: Southeast Asia here refers to Indonesia, Viet Nam, Philippines and Thailand.

Source: UN ESCAP, KOICA (2012), Low Carbon Green Growth Roadmap for Asia and the Pacific. "Urban Transport: policy recommendations for the development of eco-efficient infrastructures", Bangkok, Thailand



# Air pollution : Risk for human health, urban attractiveness and economic development

Annual mean PM10 (Particulate Matter up to 10 micrometers in size) level , 2008-12

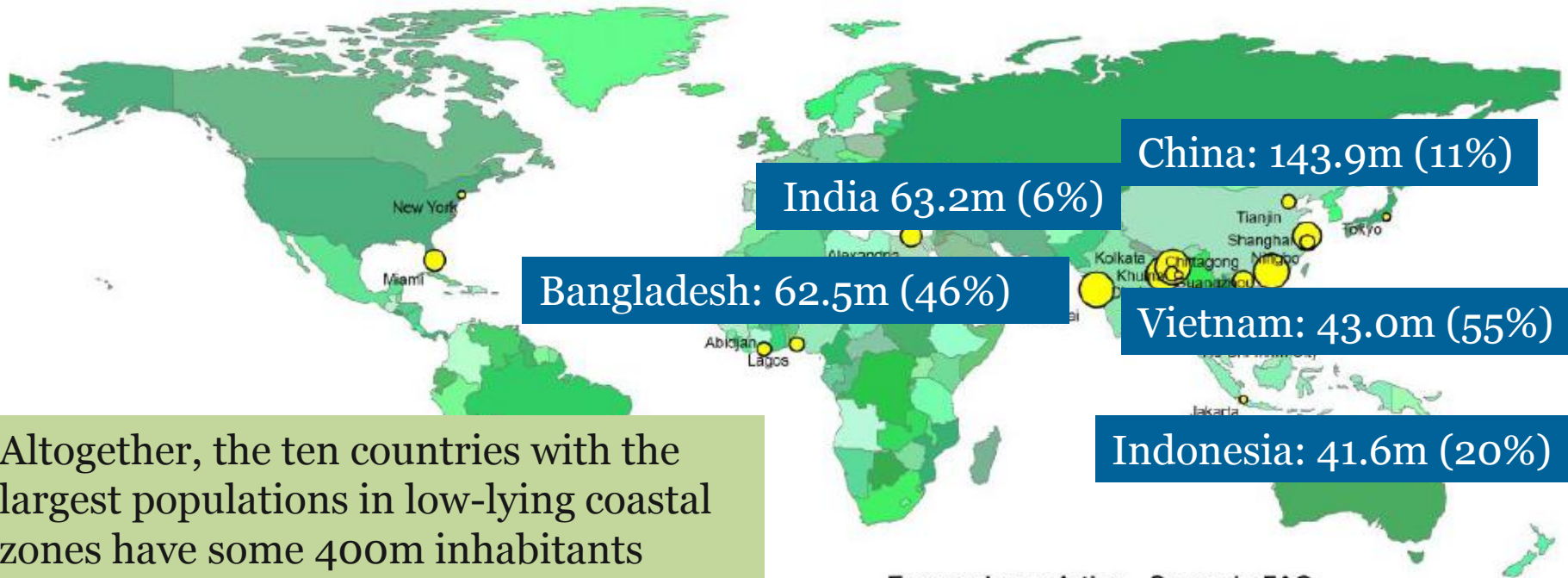


Source: World Health Organisation (WHO) Ambient (Outdoor) Air Pollution Database by Country and City (2014), [http://www.who.int/phe/health\\_topics/outdoorair/databases/cities/en/](http://www.who.int/phe/health_topics/outdoorair/databases/cities/en/)

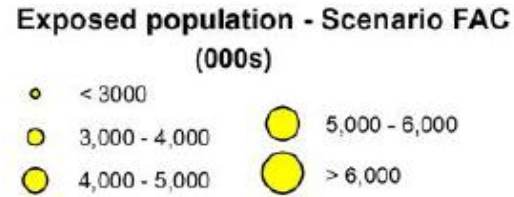
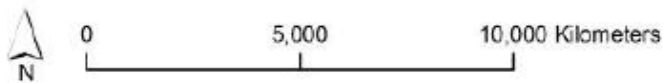


# Asia's vulnerability to floods

Top 20 cities most exposed to floods in terms of population in the 2070s



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

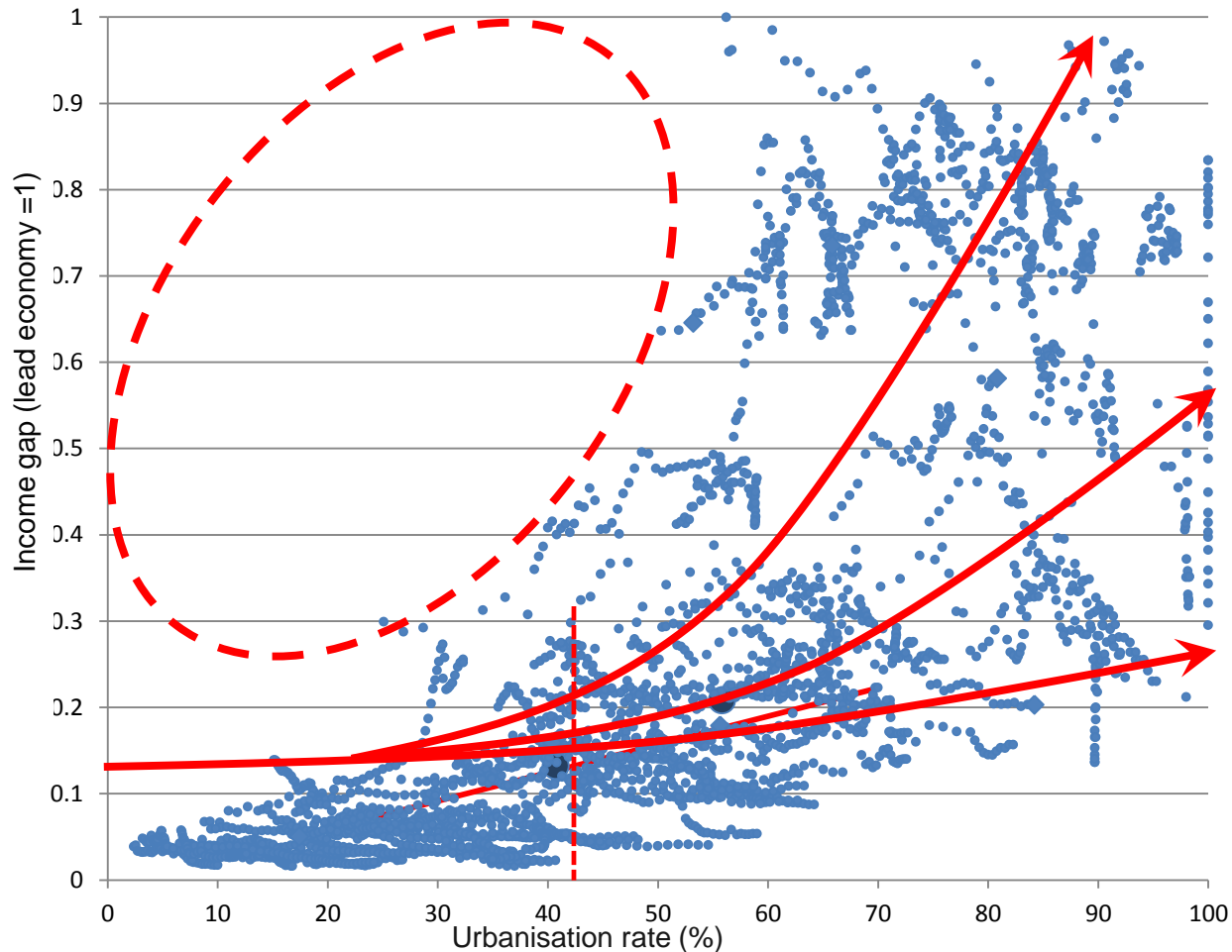


Source: Hanson, S. et al. (2011), "A Global Ranking of Port Cities with High Exposure to Climate Extremes", Climatic Change, Vol. 104, Issue 1, pp. 89-111.



# Income growth comes with urbanisation; however urbanisation doesn't guarantee it

GDP *per capita* gap vs urbanisation rate



Country Group A  
(urbanisation hand-  
in-hand with  
income growth)

Country Group B  
(intermediate)

Country Group C  
(urbanisation  
doesn't bring  
income growth)



## What is green growth in cities?

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*Fostering economic growth and development **through urban activities** that reduce negative environmental externalities and the impact on natural resources and environmental services*

“**Green**”: urban activities (public and private) that reduce negative environmental impact (land-use, transport, buildings, energy, waste, and water)

“**Growth**”: GDP growth primarily, but also urban quality of life







# Urban Green Growth: Cities matter

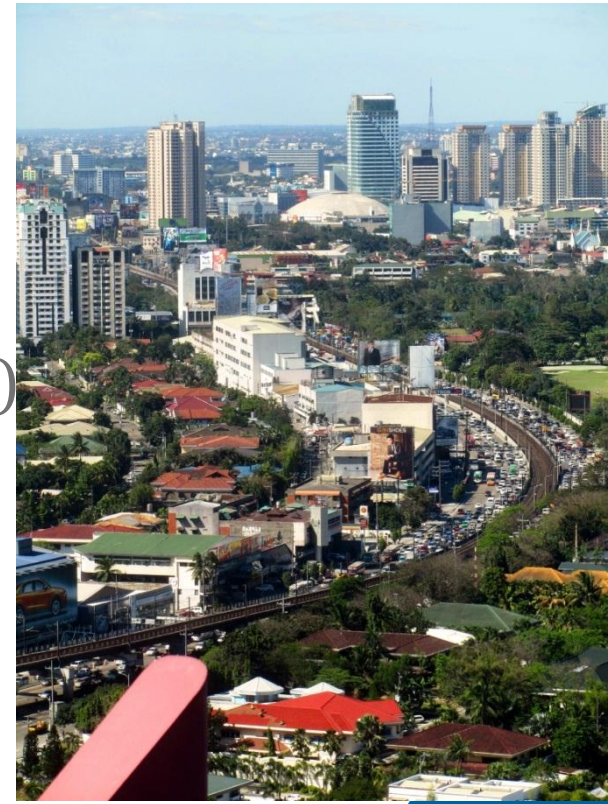
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## *Cities are part of the problem:*

- Cities play a critical role in national growth and the generation of environmental externalities.

## *Cities must be central to the solution:*

- Urban policies can **lower the costs** of national environmental policies.
- Cities account for 70% of public **direct investment** and 50% of public **procurement** (on average at the OECD)
- Cities offer **economies of scale** for measures that address climate change adaptation.







## Policy challenges (and opportunities) for fast-growing cities

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- Greener products/services
- Sustainable urban spatial form
- Urban resilience – climate-change adaptation
- Affordability and mobility
- Multi-level policy coherence
- Financing urban green growth



## Green growth in cities: Key lessons

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- National price signals and policy frameworks are crucial.
- At local level, there is often no trade-off between mitigation and abatement (→ “no regrets” strategies are possible).
- *Displacement* of pollution is usually undesirable: cities should focus on real mitigation and on specifically urban environmental challenges.



## Green growth in cities: Making it happen

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- Align local and national green growth objectives and harmonise monitoring tools.
- Increase inter-municipal co-operation.
- Reform urban revenue structures to align with green growth goals.
- Mobilise private finance for green infrastructure investments.



# Urban sustainable development calls for integrated urban policy framework

Outcomes / policy levers	Energy	Land use and transport	Buildings	Water	Solid waste	Green goods and services
Green jobs and innovation	....	The development of public transport	Retrofitting the existing building stock	....	....	....
Inclusiveness	....	Improved mobility and higher ability to seek income-generating activities	Proper housing conditions	....	....	....
Climate change adaptation and mitigation	....	Reduced GHG emissions; risk-sensitive land use and preservation	Reduced GHG emissions and the urban heat island	....	....	....
Healthier local environment; urban attractiveness	....	Compact cities can reduce air pollution and preserve farmland and biodiversity	Increased quality of in-house environment	....	....	....



## OECD's urban development programme

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- Thematic projects
  - **Urban green growth in dynamic Asia**
  - Compact city policies
  - Resilient cities in ageing societies
- Territorial / metropolitan reviews
- National urban policy reviews
- Metropolitan/regional database
- OECD Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers

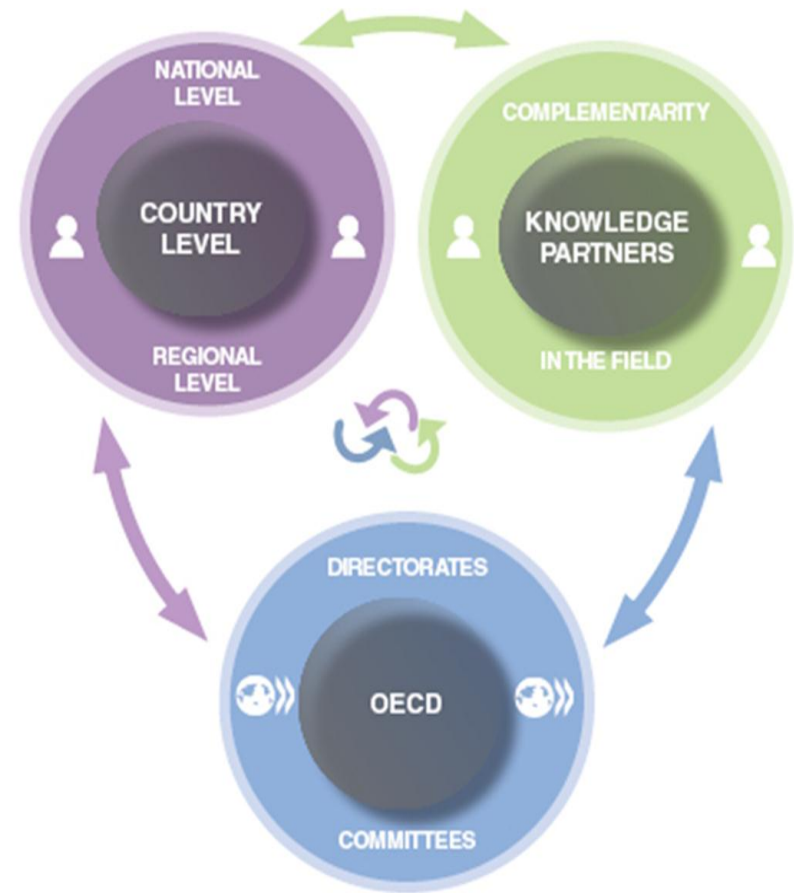


# Knowledge Sharing Alliance in practice

- Towards universal approach to development (Post 2015) -Learning on equal footing
- From analysis, measures, standards, and guidelines, to mutual learning from implementation in the field
- New ways of collaboration: learning loops and the 3 criteria of KS: new substance, new processes and new partnerships



## FOCUS: THE LEARNING LOOPS



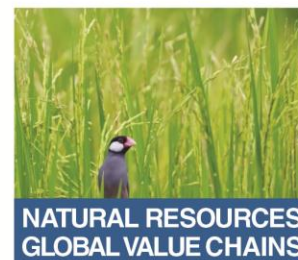
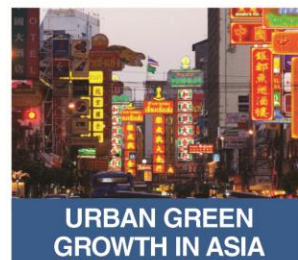
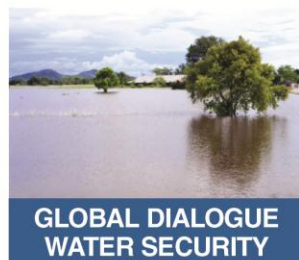


# Knowledge Sharing Alliance Programmes & Platforms

The OECD Knowledge Sharing Alliance supports projects in collaboration with several Directorates of the OECD.

In partnerships with emerging and developing economies, these projects were established on the basis of joint learning and equal footing, including external agencies working on the ground.

## Methodologies and tools:







THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION.